

Rebekah Kenway, Where It All Starts



"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev 1:8)

As many of you know, I recently started hosting Youth Alpha at YFC. The reasons given by the youth for attending this program range from: "My parents are making me," to "I was invited," to "I want to go deeper in my relationship with God." Even the mention of free food came up as some of their reasonings!

But whatever their reason may be, my prayer and hope is that each youth will have a deepening of their understanding and experience of who God truly is and come to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.

At my recent YFC credentialing interview, I was asked how I would explain the Trinity to a youth. As I was giving my answer, I realized that since God is so vast and infinite, it's tremendously helpful that He breaks Himself down into different aspects. Just as a man can be a husband, a father, a friend and a leader all in one, so God and Jesus can play different roles in our lives. In the group who are currently attending Alpha, I have youth who are fostered or adopted, youth who are being bullied, and all of them at different places in their faith. But whatever they each need of God, I know He's faithful to provide. Whether it's a father, a friend or a leader, I pray that as we journey through Alpha together, every youth will experience God in their area of need.

Robbie Taylor, Point of Contact



If there is one sport I'm not great at, it's got to be golf. Golf is one of those sports that really finds you out pretty quick. If you're like me, you do more landscaping on the

course than golfing, and by the end, the math is too hard to add up, so you don't even bother. If there's something I've learned through golf, it is the concept of "Point of Contact." The point of contact on the driver when looking down the fairway really exposes how off you are when you first contact the club to the ball. If you're off slightly by a few degrees, it might look good the first 100 yards down the fairway, but the further it travels, the more it will bend off from the centre, and the

destination aimed for. Why is this important, you may ask. Jesus says if you know the truth, it will set you free. Like the truth, if we are off a few degrees or compromise slightly, it is not till later on down the road we may see the problems or effects. If we're not free, we become enslaved and deceived.

When working with many young people today, they're often at their destination confused, or the trajectory they are on isn't great. Where they are going is off because of the first "Point of Contact," be it mental, physical, emotional or spiritual. As I lead a team of fantastic youth workers, I watch them serve youth weekly and help in trying to lovingly course correct. Helping students recognize where they are and find themselves. And then point them

to Jesus the truth and help them change that trajectory of their lives. The stats show that youth feel very alone and unknown, with a sense of disconnect.

As the staff mentor young people today, we are pushing back the lies youth believe and replacing them with truth helping youth flourish. Our work has shown time and time again to be transformative in a young person's life. We believe young people today need freedom, which comes through knowing the person of truth, Jesus, and as they know him more, they become free. As we remind youth of God's truth and love them on the journey, we trust God's Spirit will continue to do the work of course correction and that future moments will hit the "Point of Contact" true and centre.



QUARTERLY SUMMER 2022

Justin Streeton, Ask, Seek, Knock



"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

One-on-one mentorship has been a big part of my year, and it has shown me how important it is for students to have someone to talk to. For about eight months now there has been a student having some troubles at school, skipping and getting into things he shouldn't. I wanted to come alongside him and help him with whatever he was going through, but I only knew him through one of his friends, and at the time his friend was quite concerned for him.

So out of not being able to do much, I decided to start praying for the student. I prayed for somebody to be able to come alongside him. If it was me that would be great, and if not, that would be okay too; I wanted it to be the Lord's will, and that whoever it was could help him in his walk of life.

After eight months of prayer, a local counsellor asked me if I would be able to do one-on-one-mentorship with this student. This has filled me with joy, because I had wanted to walk alongside this youth but left it to the Lord, and after the eight months a door was opened for me!

This student's year has been full of ups and downs, but after only two meetings so far, we have talked a lot, and he has already shared so much about his struggles. I can already see the Lord's work helping this youth, and slowly the cloud over his head is fading away. Through this situation I have learned that sometimes all we can do is pray, ask for guidance, and wait for the Lord to do amazing things.

Welcome Levi Coates!

Hello, my name is Levi Coates and I am excited and grateful that the Lord is leading me to serve with Youth Unlimited™ YFC Comox Valley. My primary role will be to build relationships in various ways with the youth in the community. With God's help, I will seek to support and mentor while modelling Gospel living and sharing the unconditional love of Jesus. I have sensed God calling me to the Comox Valley to share the truths that I have found in Him with young men as I serve there.

I recently completed two years at Capernwray Harbour Bible School. In the first semester of my second year, I visited the YFC facilities on a leadership retreat, to share a meal together and read through James chapter 5. During this time, a question entered my mind: "Should I work here?" After leaving YFC that night, the thoughts in my head nagged me until I could no longer deny that maybe the Lord was calling me, and I began a discerning process. I felt strongly that God asked me to trust that He had a plan for my life despite my own agenda. This brings me to today, planning and trusting that God will provide for my every need, that He will calm my fears and that He will use me to impact each person that comes across my path.



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SUMMER DAYZ 2022

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WEEK 1: July 12th-14th
Adventure Dayz | 9-3
Come join us on some local hikes!
Cost is \$10 per day and rides are provided.

WEEK 2: July 19th-21st
Serve Dayz | 9-12
Join us as we serve the community together!
Check our website or weekly email for locations.

WEEK 3: July 26th-28th
Sports Dayz | 9-12
Join us for team games, competitions and fun!

WEEK 4: August 2nd-4th
Create Dayz | 9-12
Let's get creative and try new art projects!
Cost is \$20 for the week.

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MONDAY

Bible Journaling** | 10-12
Kaylee Crisfield
Contact Kaylee for location
Mountain Biking** | 10-12
Justin Streeton
Cumberland
Disc Golf** | 3-5
Justin Streeton
Comox
Fireside** | 6-8
Kaylee Crisfield
Kye Bay Beach

TUESDAY

Adventure Dayz | 9-3 July 12th
Kaylee Crisfield
YFC
Serve Dayz | 9-12 July 19th
Taeryn Novak
YFC
Sports Dayz | 9-12 July 26th
Justin Streeton
YFC
Create Dayz | 9-12 Aug 2nd
Taeryn Novak
YFC

WEDNESDAY

Adventure Dayz | 9-3 July 13th
Kaylee Crisfield
YFC
Serve Dayz | 9-12 July 20th
Taeryn Novak
YFC
Sports Dayz | 9-12 July 27th
Justin Streeton
YFC
Create Dayz | 9-12 Aug 3rd
Taeryn Novak
YFC

Serving At Local Youth Groups
Elevate Youth CPC
Northgate Youth
CFBC Youth Jr High

THURSDAY

Adventure Dayz | 9-3 July 14th
Kaylee Crisfield
YFC
Serve Dayz | 9-12 July 21st
Taeryn Novak
YFC
Sports Dayz | 9-12 July 28th
Justin Streeton
YFC
Create Dayz | 9-12 Aug 4th
Taeryn Novak
YFC
Game On* | 3-5:30
Kaylee Crisfield
Lake Trail Field
Youth Alpha | 6-8
Rebekah Kenway
YFC

FRIDAY

Mentorship Days 9am-5pm
YFC Staff
Register with staff
YFC CAMP OUTS
Thursday 8pm- Friday 9am
July 21st-22nd
Aug 4th-5th
Aug 18th-19th
Kaylee Crisfield
Cost \$5.00

* Starts July 7th ** Starts July 11th

Elena Harper, Draw Close



This season has been full of beautiful moments where I have seen God move. I get to be very involved in my church's youth ministry and through this opportunity I have the privilege of being a mentor for Grade 8 girls and some Grade 11 girls. What a joy it is to watch these young ladies encounter Christ! Getting to show them Christ's love and the hope that He brings, and seeing them fall deeply in love with Him, is my greatest gift. I'm often reminded of the fact that these students are the next generation. The ways we pour into them contribute to shaping them to be people who love and abide in Christ Jesus.

Recently I've been reflecting on three things that I feel that God has been showing me through times of prayer and worship: to be authentic, to be intimate, and to trust His voice.

I've been praying this over my life and my student's lives, that we would be brought into deep moments with our Father and have authentic time spent with Him.

He loves the sound of our voice and wants to hear from us. He is our King but also our friend, and we have the opportunity to delight in Him, and to be close to Him, sharing things from the depths of our heart.

I encourage you this season to create time in your week to spend in deep connection with our Father and to trust His voice. He is speaking and sharing truths with us. We just have to be attentive, ready and available to listen. I love that He speaks to His kids so intimately and so uniquely. Through relationship with Him we can find unity within the body of Christ, realize His grace for us and be able to stand out in the confidence of Christ. Let's believe and pray that God will send revival to the Comox Valley and beyond as we abide in Him. He is a God who desires to draw close to us.

Taeryn Novak, A Ministry of Presence



Walking alongside a student in mentorship sometimes feels comparable to a long hiking journey. It has its highs and lows, times of struggle and times of celebration. It's long, and unlike an actual hike the goal you're moving towards often shifts and adjusts. But just as Jesus walked alongside people here on earth, and continues to patiently work in people's lives by his Holy Spirit, I press on in relationship with the youth that God has placed in my life.

There is a girl that I have been mentoring for about a year now. When we first started meeting, she was reserved and didn't know how — or didn't want — to talk about her feelings. But eventually she really opened up; we would walk out of the school doors to go for a walk and immediately she would start telling me all about the drama of the past week.

Then one day I arrived and she seemed very quiet and unresponsive. She still wanted to go for a walk, but I could tell this wasn't going to be a day where she'd share everything with me. Instead we just walked, talked about little things, and then sat behind the school looking out at the forest. We talked about the trees, and how they can teach us about how to have a strong foundation (which for us looked like family, friends, and healthy habits). Later we found a field of dandelions and picked as many as we could hold. As we were heading back to the school I asked her, "What is one thing you're thankful for today?" She replied simply, "You."

Even on days where I find it harder to connect with a student and get to the deeper heart issues, it's moments like this that remind me that sometimes simply being with them on the journey is enough. It is more than enough.

Jesus had a ministry of presence: never rushing, always loving and seeking to truly see people. How is the Lord calling you to slow down and notice people this summer? There are endless things to do, and responsibilities. But being present, noticing and investing in the people around us— that is going to have an impact far beyond what we can see, like a million dandelion seeds spreading and bringing hope to the world.

Kaylee Crisfield, He > I

Sometimes, the world seems too big and scary. Sometimes, it feels like there is too much hurt and brokenness around me. Sometimes, this work feels hopeless and like a shot in the dark. It's in these moments that I want to stop. I want to quit. I want to tell God that it's too hard and I am too small, too weak, too fragile, that it's all too much.

It's in these moments where I am reminded that my weakness is where the power of God is made perfect. It's in these moments that I am reminded that in my boasting of my own weakness, I am given the opportunity to boast in the strength and might of God. It's in these moments that I am reminded that falling to my knees with tears on my cheeks is what God seeks. He isn't looking for me to be strong enough for this work, to be so smart I don't need Him, to be capable on my own; what God desires is my

obedience and my faith in His ability and to trust in His power and plan. This is where I will rest.

1 John 4:4 reads, "... for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world," and this is where I will find my strength, trusting in His faithfulness and believing that even when I can't see it, God is working all things out for the good. I will choose to believe that God is faithful to the end and I will choose to believe that He has a different understanding of what the end is and what it looks like. Where we see hopelessness, God sees opportunity and purpose. Where we get stuck in the lacking, God is preparing an overflow of abundance. Where we see loss, God sees opportunity to provide in ways we've never experienced before.



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