



**MARANATHA**

*gospel centered camp  
for the whole family*

## **OUR COMMITMENT TO GOSPEL UNITY**

At Camp Maranatha, we seek to *inspire life-changing encounters with Jesus*, knowing God alone has the power to transform hearts. In order to encourage others in this, we have to honestly look at ourselves, grow in our understanding of the gospel, and let God continually transform our hearts. We believe that living out the truths below fosters gospel unity in the Church—regardless of denomination. So we commit to *living in awe of God, in light of Scripture, with a biblical view of man and sin—knowing that our influence is short term, but with the aim of lasting growth.*

### **VIEW OF GOD** (*Living in awe of God...*)

- We aim to **exalt God** as beautiful, great and the only One worthy of praise (Ps. 69:30). We talk to guests in a way that magnifies God, promotes Scripture and lets God work, so He increases and we decrease (Jn. 3:30). We give glory to God, who alone saves and sanctifies (1 Pt. 2:9). We base everything on this view of God.
- We showcase a **high view of God**, which lowers our opinion of ourselves and helps us see ourselves more accurately (Jn. 3:30, Rom. 12:3). We teach humility— to care more about what God thinks, and less about ourselves or what others think.
- We **view life from God's perspective**—fixing our eyes on Him and His truth instead of fluctuating circumstances (Pr. 3:5-6). We trust in Him when life is hard—not looking for other forms of security or hope (Jer. 17:5-8).
- **Sin distorts our view of God**, causing us to exalt, glorify, and trust in ourselves (Pr. 14:12). We need Jesus to change our hearts to help us honor and trust in Him daily.

### **VIEW OF SCRIPTURE** (*in light of Scripture....*)

- **Scripture is not about us, but God revealing Himself to us.** God's redemptive plan is the overarching story (2 Tim. 3:15, Lk. 24:27, 44–45, Gal. 4:4-5). Jesus is foreshadowed in the OT and revealed in the NT (Jn. 5:39-40, 1 Tim. 3:16).
- The inspired, infallible **Word of God is the final authority**, holding everything we need for life and godliness (2 Tim. 3:16, Jam. 1:22-25). God reveals His will for redemption and sanctification in His Word (2 Tim. 3:16, Matt. 7:24, Jn. 14:26, Eph. 3:9, Heb. 1:1-2).
- We **handle Scripture carefully** and seek to be true to its original meaning and context (Jam. 3:1, 2 Tim. 2:15). Scripture interprets Scripture, with clearer passages helping make sense of unclear passages. We aim to use Scripture in context, not cherry picking passages to prove a point or create our own meaning (2 Pt. 1:20-21). We don't read Scripture simply for application, encouragement, or what to do, but to grow in our love for God and relationship with Him.
- **Scripture humbles us.** We do not have to be the one *with* the answers. We lead by asking questions and guiding. We *want* people to question—not defiantly, but to work out their salvation and pursue God for themselves (Heb. 4:12, Jn. 15:4-5, 1 Thess. 2:13). We encourage guests to compare teaching to Scripture (Ac. 17:11). We want to grow in reading Scripture carefully, viewing circumstances in light of God, and fighting lies with truth.

### **VIEW OF MAN AND SIN** (*with a biblical view of man and sin...*)

- We have value because we're made in the **image of God** (Gen. 1:26, Jam. 3:9). And yet the image of God in us has been distorted because of sin (Rom. 5:12). We need Jesus to save us, and through the

sanctification process, He works to change us, restoring the right image of God in us (Rom. 8:29, Col. 3:9-10).

- **Man sins by nature and by choice** (Rom. 3:10-12, 23, Jer. 17:9, Eph. 2:1-3). Sin is an **offense against a holy God** and breaks our relationship with Him. All sin must be taken seriously. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves (1 Jn. 1:8-10). We can't please God on our own, which is why we need a Savior (Rom. 8:7).
- **Sin comes from within** our hearts (Mk. 7:20-23). We sin in thought, word, action, and by doing or not doing what we're called to do (Jam. 1:14-15, Rom. 6:12-14). All **sin is a form of idolatry**—loving ourselves or something else more than God, and originates from our desires (Jam. 1:14-15). We need continual cleansing from our pursuit of our own idols.
- Sin causes us to **exalt and trust in ourselves** (Gen. 3:6-7, Pr. 14:12). So our greatest need isn't for higher self-esteem or feeling as "good enough", but to recognize our need to continually depend on Jesus (Rom. 7:24-25, 1 Jn. 1:7-9).
- We emphasize sin not to discourage and condemn guests, but to **point them to Jesus as the only One who can rescue them from themselves**, offer forgiveness, give them new desires, and the power to obey Him (Rom. 8:1-11).

#### **VIEW OF DISCIPLESHIP** (*knowing our influence is short term...*)

- We know **camp influence is short term**. We're not trying to replace anything lacking in churches or families' discipleship, but rather reinforce dependence on Christ and need for the gospel for salvation and sanctification.
- We encourage guests to study God's Word for themselves and **pursue a vibrant relationship with Jesus**.
- We encourage guests to **ask questions** and have spiritual conversations with other godly people they know. Their ongoing growth is dependent on this.
- We **encourage active church community**. Local church engagement is vital to spiritual growth, so all our teaching and conversations should encourage and support guests' involvement in their local churches. (Heb. 10:25, 13:7; Eph. 3:10, 1 Cor. 12:12, Acts 2:42-27).

#### **VIEW OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH** (*with an aim of lasting growth*)

- **Transformation occurs through encountering God** (Is. 6:5, 2 Cor. 3:18, Jn. 4:7-29), so we want to continually bring guests back to God through Scripture and prayer, to see Him for who He is and their sin for what it is before a righteous God.
- The **more deeply we grasp the gospel, the more we grow spiritually**—it propels our love for God and others. It's where we see the greatest love ever demonstrated, and receive grace and forgiveness. Sanctification happens as we look to Jesus and set our minds on eternal things (Heb. 12:1-3, Col. 3:1-4, Rom. 13:14).
- **Spiritual growth is not simply about doing the right thing, but with the right motive** of loving God (Matt. 23:27-28). Even our good works will be tested (1 Cor. 3:13, Jer. 17:10). We need God's grace to change our hearts and grow our desires of love and obedience to Him.
- **Growth in holiness isn't always immediately noticeable**, but there should be gradual growth in love, trust, and obedience to Jesus (Heb. 4:16). Temptation comes from within us and around us, so spiritual growth must start with facing our hearts (Jam. 1:14-15, 1 Cor. 10:13, Jam. 4:1-3, Gal. 6:1, 1 Pet. 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:33). Similarly, we don't want to force behavioral change, but we always want to encourage guests to respond to the truth of God in Scripture.