

Prologue

AN OPEN FIRE

A story about loving others.

*“Have you ever walked past an open fire that wasn’t yours? I mean you didn’t build it, you aren’t tending it, you weren’t involved in providing the necessary fuel to ignite or sustain it...but you walked by it, and when you did, you instantly felt the heat that it produced. You may or may not have acknowledged it, and you may or may not have paused and wandered closer...but regardless, **you felt the heat.**”*

For those of us that claim the name of Christ, and desire to follow Him faithfully, this image should be inspirational. In fact, it is the way that Jesus lived His life on earth. His actions, His interaction, and His insights provided warmth not only to those that were huddled around the fire of His life, but to passers by as well. In fact, it was often those on the periphery that were attracted the most magnetically to the heartbeat of Jesus.

They felt the heat before they embraced the fire.

...I used to think of myself as a flamethrower. Today I have a different picture. One that’s not only more inviting to others, but frankly, one that generates significantly more heat than the old model.

I want my life to be a bonfire of grace and love. I want the flames to generate warmth, not only for friends and family, but for strangers and skeptics. I want my life to warm hearts as a part of the process of the Spirit igniting them.

I want the brokenness, disappointment, challenges and joys of my own life to provide ample kindling for the kind of fire that attracts and engages.

I want to be a beautiful bonfire of grace, humility and love...and I believe that it’s there that warmth captivates the rigid, lifeless and cold heart. Perhaps most often, to people who just happen to cross my path, who just happen to wander past the fire.”


- Dan Wolgemuth (President of Youth For Christ)

SO...

Sharing Jesus’ love is about more than “evangelism.” It’s living like Jesus did...as a warm bonfire of grace and love. Loving and sharing with people like Jesus did is a way of life. It’s NOT about selling your faith or judging others or having all the answers. It IS about loving, learning, sharing and meeting people where they are at. Just like Jesus! It’s time to put down our flamethrowers and simply BE the fire!

THAT’S what this workbook is about.

Keep this in mind as you work through what we think are the essentials for any group of friends who desire to impact their campus and love their peers for Jesus!



Jesus on Campus

**How Does Jesus Want to
Use You on Your Campus?**

(Turn these pages to find out!!)

A Student Ministry Workbook From:

**Southern California Youth For Christ
(www.socalyfc.org)**

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loving Jesus and loving my friends...

THE ESSENTIALS

Introduction

*What does Jesus want to do through me on my campus
and how will this workbook help me?*

Introduction

READ THIS FIRST!!

Okay, if you've opened this book and read this far, chances are you understand and believe Jesus has placed you on your campus for a reason. Going to school every day, you know you have a greater purpose than simply passing classes and getting into college. You walk the halls and sit in class each day, surrounded by your peers, knowing that Jesus loves them and wants them to know His love.

So? What's your role? How do you extend the love of Jesus to your friends? How can you and your friends be a light on your campus?

That's what this workbook is for...to walk you through those questions. The good news is this: loving your friends for Jesus is not a to-do list! It's not some formula or program. It's a way of life...a way of loving. It's being transformed by the love of Christ, living accordingly and being a friend to others... loving them the way Jesus loves you.

What does that look like? Well, you've come to the right place! We know there are tons of different ways to do on-campus ministry and tons of great resources out there to help make your ministry stronger, but this workbook is different. We're going to get to the heart of the matter by focusing on the six essentials we think are most important in shaping and transforming your on-campus ministry!

This workbook is intended to be simple, straightforward and interactive. We want to get your heart involved and to help you do some work with Jesus so that the result is a lifestyle of love...a way of living...and not a program or to-do list!

The six essentials are as follows:

- * Brokenness
- * Abiding
- * Community
- * Finding a Coach/Mentor
- * Relationships
- * Holy Experiments

Each section will include verses, a short introduction, a story to read, a solo exercise for YOU, and a group exercise for you and your friends (or your team) to do together.

Time to dive in!