

## **CLOSER (MAY 21-June 5)**

**Series Focus:** Helping people increase their personal connection with God

**Tagline:** Discover your soul's path to God

**Feel:** Consider summer vibes and the feel of connecting on a deeper level, Ben closes with worship moments (song, or new call and response moment)

**Why:** People are going away on vacation, getting into their summer rhythm, and we want to inspire and equip them with some of the ways they can connect with God and know God more throughout the summer

**Invite Pitch:** Connecting with God is foreign. You can't see him. You can't hear him. You can't reach out and touch him. But, if he exists, wouldn't you want to know him? Wouldn't you think he has some things he wants us to know about him? What many don't realize is that there are unique and distinct ways people feel closer to a God who feels distant. What works for you doesn't always work for others, but one thing is certain – our God wants us to know him and when we do, it's the most fulfilling way to live.

**Shorter Pitch:** Connecting with God is pretty foreign. You can't see him. You can't "hear" him. You can't reach out and touch him. But, if he exists, wouldn't you want to know him? Discover the path God intended you to take to draw closer.

**Theme verse:** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. James 4:8

### **Weekly Topics:**

#### **Week 1: May 21/22: Spiritual Pathways/Temperaments**

Bottom line starter: You have a sacred way you connect with God.

Key Passage: 1 Kings 19:9-13

#### **Week 2: May 28/29: Spiritual Disciplines/Practices, Andy Rectenwald. Memorial Day Weekend**

Bottom line: What happens behind the door always affects what's outside the door

Key Passage: 1 Timothy 4

#### **Week 3: June 4/5 Pre-Record Message from Ben: Spiritual Conversations**

Bottom line starter: Investing in others helps you grow closer to God.

Key Passage: Acts 8; Colossians 4:2-6

### **Goals:**

#### **What next steps will we ask people to take?**

Summer with CedarCreek Opt-In Text Campaign

- When: Week of June 6 - Week of August 1 (9 weeks)
- Weekly Timing: 2X/week (Mon/Thursday)
- Content focus: For those who want to know God more this summer

- Format: Encouragement, whether you joined us this weekend or not..., read this, reflect on this, 1-minute investment into their life with the point to something deeper like LIO, John reading plan, Prayer Night, Serve Day, 21 Days of Prayer in August.

### **How are we measuring success of engagement in weekend service?**

- Total number of people who opt-in to Summer with CedarCreek - 700

### **Ministry Calendar and Holidays:**

May 28/29 Group Leader Training

June 4/5 Baptism & Group Leader Training

June 6 Prayer Night

June 11/12 Summer Groups Launch

### **Series Resources:**

#### **Next Steps**

Spiritual Pathways Assessment:

<https://groupleaders.org/curriculum-feed/spiritual-pathways-activity#personal-assessment>

### **Family Ministries**

Students: A 28 Day devotional book designed for students.

<https://store.thinkorange.com/collections/students/products/know-god-a-28-day-devotional-experience-for-students>

Kids: Elementary God Time Devotionals provide an opportunity for parents to help their child draw close to God and build a personal relationship with him. CedarCreek.tv/Elementary

Jesus Storybook Bible

<https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Storybook-Bible-Every-Whispers/dp/0310708257>

### **Other Verses:**

Psalm 63

Jeremiah 29:13-14