

# A Real and Present Impact

## A Study for the Ride Back Home

*This study is designed to help participants articulate what they experienced and learned during the Gathering. It is largely conversational and reflective. Depending on how much sleep your group got (or didn't get) this weekend, conversation may be slow in developing.*

*As the leader of this study, be patient. Don't rush through the discussion questions. Allow some time of silence, if necessary, to give youth opportunities to recall and reflect.*

### INTRODUCTION

Wow!

What. A. Week.

Do you remember arriving in Minneapolis? Much has happened since then. We packed U.S. Bank Stadium. We made friends from across the nation. We dove into the Psalms. We explored a new city. We even survived the mosquitos!

**What is something you learned about the city of Minneapolis?**

*This question is designed simply to get the youth talking.*

As you travel back home from the Gathering, you're taking all kinds of experiences with you. Whether you're traveling by bus, plane, van, Uber, or scooter, we're going to take some time in this study to reflect on our time in Minneapolis and how it will impact our lives back home.

### THE IMPACT MOMENTS IN MINNEAPOLIS

The Gathering is full of moments. There were probably a few moments that especially stood out to you.

Whoever is traveling next to you right now, tap them on the shoulder, persuade them to take out their AirPods—don't worry, just for a few minutes—and together share some of your biggest "impact moments" from this week:

*You have two options for this exercise.*

*1. Have pairs consider one question at a time, and then come back together after each question for large group discussion.*

*2. Let pairs consider all four questions, and then come back together at the end for large group discussion.*

**What was something you SAW that most impacted you?**

**What was something you HEARD that really spoke to you?**

**What was something you DID that you've never done before?**

**What was a KEY PHRASE that really hit home for you?**

*Examples of key phrases include, but aren't limited to:*

*"The trouble is real, and so is the refuge"*

*"Not just questions, but promises."*

*"Because Jesus is real, I can be real."*

*"Jesus is our safety and security"*

*"God is all powerful and all personal"*

### THE IMPACT OF PSALM 46

This week we've spent some time in the Psalms. Maybe you were already familiar with the Psalms. Or maybe this week was the first time you've ever read them. Either way, let's revisit Psalm 46 one last time (for this week, at least).

As we read it, identify ONE PHRASE that you think will have the biggest impact on your life back home.

*Ask for a confident reader to read Psalm 46 slowly out loud.*

- vs 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- vs 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- vs 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
- vs 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- vs 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.
- vs 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- vs 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- vs 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- vs 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks his bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.
- vs 10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
- vs 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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*After reading Psalm 46, ask for volunteers to share the phrase that stood out to them. Ask these types of questions to follow up:*

*Why is this phrase significant to you?*

*What more did you learn about this during the Gathering?*

*How does this phrase help you understand Jesus? Yourself?  
The world?*

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, you are always with us. You've been with us these past five days, and we trust you're with us now. Safely guide us as we journey home. When we get home, help us continue the work you began in us at the Gathering. Help share what we've experienced with our family, our friends, our church, and our neighbors. Continue to impact all of our relationships with your life-changing love and forgiveness. We pray this in the name of our refuge, our safety and security, our risen Lord, Jesus. Amen!

## THE IMPACT BACK HOME

This week we have encountered your Real. Present. God. in a unique way. You heard his Word through a variety of engaging speakers. You sang his praise with thousands of people during Mass Events. You spoke to him in prayer. You tasted his body and blood in a massive worship service. You experienced the life-giving forgiveness of sins through the death and resurrection of the Son of God.

Now you're heading back home, and your Real. Present. God. goes with you. He goes with your group as you gather together around his Word. He goes with you as you worship and commune with your congregation. He goes with you as you come to him in prayer and praise.

But going home from the Gathering isn't just about you—it's about the people God has put (and will put) in your life. The impact of the Gathering extends beyond you and your youth group as he works through you in real and present ways.

*These questions are not for sharing, but for reflection. Read them slowly, asking the youth to consider the people God has placed in their lives.*

*Can you think of a strained relationship in your life?*

*Can you think of someone who's going through a difficult struggle?*

*Can you think of someone who's having a hard time believing in Jesus?*

God isn't just sending you home. He's sending you back to your family, your congregation, and your community to have an impact. Like he used speakers and leaders at the Gathering, he uses YOU to bring his love to more people. He uses YOU to heal relationships with words of forgiveness. He uses YOU to bring peace in times of struggle. He uses YOU to speak God's promises in Christ to those who need God's safety and security.

This may seem intimidating...overwhelming...maybe even impossible. If that's what you're thinking, you're right. But God is Real and Present here, too. He will use YOU to impact others with his life-giving promises in Jesus!