

Branson Fall Retreat: Dec 26th – Dec 29th

A Week in the Book of Esther

- The Book of Esther is the only glimpse we have into what happened to the Israelites that did not obey God and return to the Promised Land after the Exodus
- Through this story about Queen Esther, we can learn many things, including how God is still at work and faithful even when we decide to turn our backs on him
- This story and our studies will be
 - a great lesson to our students on what happens when we start walking a different path than the one God has in store for us
 - a great encouragement that when we do turn away, God's love is big enough to still be there working, trying to pull us back to him. They will also be reassured how the cross is sufficient to cover those "mess-ups" instead of living a life of defeat.

Lodging

- House that holds 40
- 3 stories
- 10+ bedrooms
- 10+ bathrooms
- 2 bunkrooms
- Game Room
- Indoor Pool
- Huge Kitchen/Dining Area

Retreat Structure

- We will have a posted daily schedule with times for worship, group discussions, ms/hs breakouts, games, free time, meals, showers, lights out, trip outings. Very much like a crossings camp schedule.
- Will be very structured
- Will be enforced house rules that students and parents will read over together before the trip.
 - No rough-housing
 - Assigned same-sex bedrooms. No opposite sex allowed in rooms at any time. The open game room/living rooms/etc is available for "congregating"
 - Drinks and food only in kitchen

Chaperones

- 8 adults (male and females)
- 3 volunteers will help handle meal preparations/serving behind the scenes as the leaders oversee activities with the students.

OUTINGS

- The last day we will go watch the theatrical production of Queen Esther at the Sights and Sounds Theatre in Branson. I've been told by multiple people the shows are truly amazing.

- Fun trip to Branson Wonderworks
- We will go watch the Branson Landing Water and Fire Show. I've read that the same group that helps with the light show at Disney help with this show as well. We also plan to challenge the students in a witnessing "mission project" while we are here.

FAQ

- **When would we leave Benton?** Around 11am on Dec 26th
- **When would we return to Benton?** Early afternoon on Dec 29th
- **What does a trip like this cost for around 30-40 people?** For the lodge, tickets to theatre, tickets to Wonderworks, meals, etc... Around \$13,000
- **What would be the cost for the student to go?** \$150.
- **How so cheap?** Fundraising that you all have already helped us with, a recent very generous donation, and Three Crosses graciously contributing towards the lodge rental.
- **What all does this cover?** Everything (lodging, all meals, all tickets, etc.)
- **When would the student fee be due?** \$75 in August/\$75 in October

What do we need from you right now?

YES: We are very interested, and given no unforeseen circumstances, they will want to attend. We will plan on working our schedule around Dec 26th – Dec 29th to the best of our ability so they can attend.

NO: I know right now that my child will not be able to attend.

*Please return attached form next Wednesday if possible

