

אֵנָה, אֵלֶיךָ מְרוֹחָד; וְאֵנָה, מְפֹיָד אֲבָרַח.  
אִם אֶסֶק שָׁמַיִם, שָׁם אֶתֶּה; וְאֶצִּיעַהּ שְׂאוֹל הַנֶּזֶד.  
אֲשֶׁא כְנָפַי-שָׁחַר; אֲשַׁכְנֶה, בְּאַחֲרֵית גִּם.  
גִּם-שָׁם, יָלַד תִּנְחֹל; וְתֵאחֲזֹנִי יִמְיָד.

we are not alone...

Mid School Choir Tour 2007

# schedule

## Sunday, June 3 ~

- 7:45am Bring luggage to bus
- 8:00am Rehearse in Sanctuary
- 8:30am Sing in early Service
- 9:30am Board Bus Depart for Florida

## Monday, June 4 ~

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 8:30am Leave for Soup Kitchen
- 9:00-1:00 Help set-up, serve lunch and sing
- 2:30pm Sing at Good Samaritan Rehab Center

## Tuesday, June 5 ~

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 8:30am Leave for Soup Kitchen
- 9:00-1:00 Help set-up, serve lunch and sing
- 2:30pm Sing at Tandem Health Care

## Wednesday, June 6 ~ Free Day at Disney

## Thursday, June 7 ~ Free Day at Disney

## Friday, June 8 ~

- 8:00am Bring Luggage to Bus & Eat Breakfast
- 8:30am Board Bus

## Sunday, June 10 ~

- 5:30 Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- 6:30 Home Concert

Psalms 139:7 **Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?**

<sup>8</sup> **If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

<sup>9</sup> **If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,**

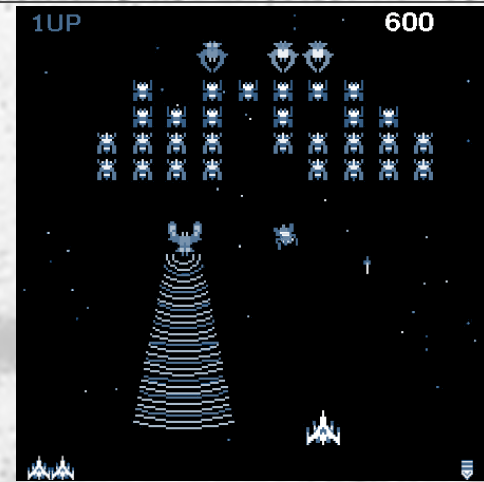
<sup>10</sup> **even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**



Far and away my favorite alien movie, probably my favorite movie is Signs. Not because it is scary, it really is not terrifying. Nor because the aliens, I think they are actually a little a goofy. Instead, I love this movie because it tackles the question of whether we are alone, not in the ET sense, but the question of God.

I challenge you to take a moment and watch this movie. Sit back and ask how God speaks through the movie. Looking for God in a movie might seem weird, but it is not. He is everywhere, not just in church or in the Bible. Anytime you encounter truth, you encounter God. So open your eyes, not just as you watch the movie Signs, but all the time. You will find God is at work where you never imagined!

Truly, we are not alone.



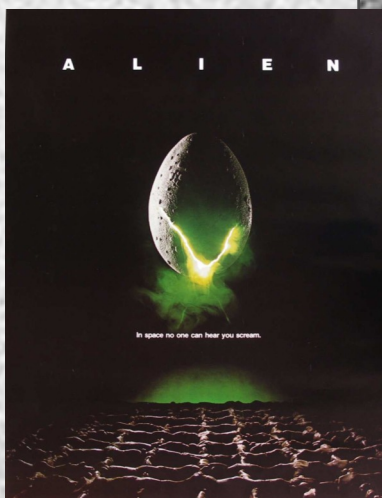
If the planet was invaded by aliens today our only prayer would be that they were peaceful. In the movies the big green goobers always have a fatal flaw, from water allergies to inability to stop the one lone hero, but in reality we would not stand a chance. If they can fly across the galaxies and study us undetected, we all be quickly vaporized or eaten like escargot! This is part of why the old arcade game Galaga makes so much sense. My dad, my brother, and I could drop a quarter into the game and destroy the aliens. My little brother was especially brilliant and could literally play the game for 30, even 45 minutes, blasting aliens before dying. Yet he could never beat the game, he would get to level 20 something and the critters would get too fast and overwhelm him! Overtime we found out that no one can beat the game, it just keeps getting faster and faster, until you die! Victory is impossible!

As we head out on tour, we go to proclaim the story of the day our planet was visited. This visitor could have overwhelmed us with destruction, but instead he came in peace; more, he came to save us. This simple fact runs so deep, we will never be able to experience the complete truth of our God. Knowing Him is like playing Galaga, always another level to experience. Over the coming days join in learning more of one who has come from above!

# psalm 139:1-12

Late one night I could not drift off to sleep. I was at

scout camp, lying on a cot in my tent. Most camps come with cabins and air-conditioning, but here only counselors slept in luxury. We, the scouts, slept in canvas tents with a wood floor. The only air-conditioning was provided by mosquitoes' wings as they swarmed. Needless to say, I didn't sleep very well. Of course, while I slapped mosquitoes, my tent mate snored soundly on the other cot. Slowly, my weary body joined him in sleep... bump. I felt something under my cot, but surely it was in my dream. Then I felt it again, like a hand hitting underneath my cot. Adrenaline rushed and my voice wavered as I said, "Dennis"? His only answer was a mumbled snore. Then I heard scratches against the wood floor. Slowly I reached for my flashlight; then with my heart pounding, I flashed the bulb underneath my cot. Two glowing eyes stared back at me as I let out a yell. The raccoon didn't seem to mind though and continued munching on my Twizzlers...



Realizing you are not alone can be the scariest feeling. One second you are calmly laying in your bed, the next you are being mauled by a raccoon (actually it just ran off). Of course Dennis never would have known there was an intruder had I not gone crazy yelling "Twizzler thief"! Often we live life like we are all alone, as though we are the only creatures in existence. Yet we are not alone; in fact, our planet has been visited...

# question

† Our camp theme this is Lead the Way (check out the logo). If Jesus is the way, what are the characteristics of his way?

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† How will your life look when you are traveling the way of Jesus?

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† What stuck out to you from the Bible passage? What did God say to you?

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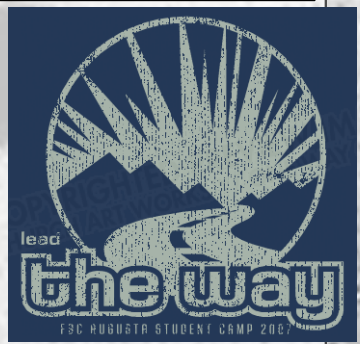
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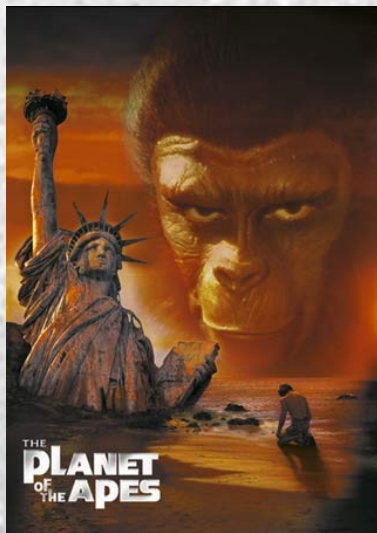


# john 14:1-6

The sound of crushing metal, as the cars collided,

startled me. Outside the coffee house two cars were crumpled from the accident. Though I knew people were hurt, I calmly went back to sipping coffee—the squad would be here soon. When the van arrived, two men in long red coats got out, then poof—it was two minutes earlier. As I looked out the window the two cars drove slowly past one another, the drivers faces white as they focused...

Science has changed nearly every facet of our life, but it has not developed a way for us to go back into time. At least not yet. Going forward in time, though, is a proven possibility. Einstein's Theory of Relativity has revealed time is not a constant, but is instead dependent on the speed we are moving. If we could travel at the speed of light we would literally age days, while the people on earth age years! So as we travel home today on this bus, we will age less than everyone sitting at home, though the difference will be too small to notice. (The Planet of the Apes uses this mathematic finding for amazing entertainment!)



The clock is not constant. We think every event occurs at this exact time and lasts for a certain amount of time. But if our speeds were to change, so would time! For us in the US this is amazing, yet troubling. If time is not a constant, then what is?...

# question

† Describe a time when you were alone. How did you feel?...

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† Though God is always with you, do you ever like He far away? Why is it amazing that He is close?

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† What stuck out to you from the Bible passage? What did God say to you?

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# hebrews 11

Snap, crackle, pop...

E.S.P.—Extra Sensory

Perception—is the ability to acquire information by paranormal means independent of any known physical senses or deduction from previous experience. Or at least so says Wikipedia. This sounds like a very exciting trait to have, but really it depends on what you are able to sense. Take a boy in Oregon who was sitting at home



when he began hearing snap, crackle, pop. What he heard sounded just like what you hear when you pour milk over a bowl of Rice Krispies, though there was not any cereal around. It seemed he was able to sense when

others were eating the cereal. Of course when he told his mom she took him to the hospital (how many potential super heroes were succumbed by mothers who went to the doctor?... “mom I can fly” “what? We are going to the doctor for a pill”). When the doctor looked into the boy’s ears, he saw something. So he sprayed a fluid into the ear and as it flowed out, two spiders exited his ear. It seems the boy’s ESP was actually spiders trying to make a home in the wrong place. (story posted in USA Today, May 7th)

In the movie ET, the Reese's Pieces loving creature was trying to get home. Of course, with his glowing finger, it was obvious he didn't belong on earth. Sometimes, it is a little more difficult to sense where home is. Especially when physically you look like everyone else...



# question

† Before now how did you picture the mustard plant? Why do you think Jesus choose a big bush it to describe the Kingdom of God?...

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† The world values stuff. What does Jesus value?

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† What stuck out to you from the Bible passage? What did God say to you?

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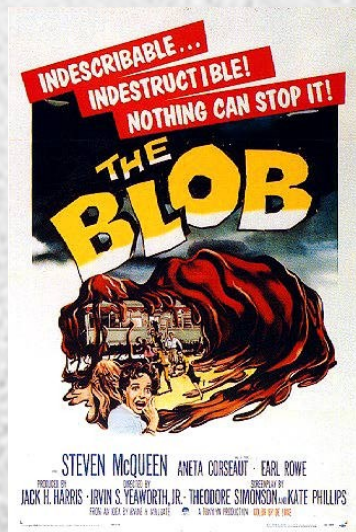
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# matthew 13:31-32

For Calvin the dinner was a death sentence. His mother assured him the green goulash was edible. Yet, she had no idea the power of the mushy mass. As she placed it steaming in front of her son, Calvin's mom could not comprehend how over cooking the stew would unlock the ancient power of the food. As the plate came to rest, Calvin leaned back with his fork raised in defense. But no one could stop the quick food gone bad, up from the plate the goulash arose in order to eat the eater...

Calvin and Hobbies is by far my favorite comic book. He often battled his mother's cooking and believes what I am sure we have all felt—that the food was out to eat us! In the old screamfest, The Blob, a mass from outer space begins eating and never stops. Much like Calvin's out of control dinner, it keeps eating and growing. Soon whole buildings and towns are consumed.



Sometimes Americans think that is what we are supposed to do. We need to consume more and more stuff. If we get the next thing we will be happy; of course, we continually desire more. Like the Blob, we are never satisfied!

Something I love about Jesus is that he was not concerned about big and better. He tells the story of the mustard seed, and as a boy I always pictured this tiny seed growing to become a huge redwood. Yet, as I have studied I discovered the mustard plant typically grows eight to ten feet tall. This is a far cry from grandeur; yet, the kingdom of God is always surprising ... always requiring a fresh look.

# question

† Check out verses 13—16, where is your home? Is it hard to think of heaven as home? Explain.

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† This is a long list of people, who is your favorite? Why?

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† What stuck out to you from the Bible passage? What did God say to you?

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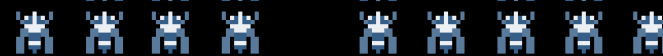
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# mark 9:34-38

“Beam me up Scotty”

Moving to Georgia has made me jealous of Star Trek. Here I am in this new state, while my family is in Missouri and friends are in Texas. They are a 300 dollar plane ticket or a 18 hour car ride



away. Of course if I was on Star Trek I would only hail Scotty and tell him to beam me home. *Poof*—I would transverse the country and land at their house in seconds. Of course, teleporting is only a special effect dreamed up by someone in

Hollywood. For that matter it is not even a very special effect, because it is created by pouring sparkles into a bowl of water and stirring. This is filmed and then placed over the Trekkies before they jettison.

We are people who love shortcuts. “Are we there yet?”, is not just the words of toddlers, but we all ask ourselves this. We want results, and we want them now. In the church we focus on heaven. We walk down the aisle, say a prayer, so we can go to heaven when we die. Yet, heaven is not a place to which we are teleported (if it was you wouldn’t be sitting here reading this gibberish!). Instead heaven is a place toward which you journey with Jesus.

As you go you will discover heaven is not like Disney World, with games at every turn. Instead, heaven is continuation of the journey, another step with the Creator.



**EXPENDABILITY**

KIRK, SPOCK, MCCOY, AND ENSIGN RICKY ARE BEAMING DOWN TO THE PLANET. GUESS WHO'S NOT COMING BACK.

# question

† Jesus’ command is figurative—we are not to literally die on a Roman cross. So what does Jesus mean when he commands us to “take up our cross”?

† Is it easy to love Jesus more than others—more than even yourself?

† What stuck out to you from the Bible passage? What did God say to you?

