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Community Based | Personally Engaged | Outreach Oriented | Worldly Aware

Dear Future ReCreatures...

Every summer, thousands of teenagers just like you descend on Weaverville, North Carolina and wreak some holy havoc. They come with energy, enthusiasm, work gloves, and a willingness to do whatever needs to be done to serve others. By the end of their time houses have new roofs, peeling paint is gone and newly drying is left, and many, many septic systems are installed.

"Well, that's good," you may say, "but why are we going? Why does the church get involved with this stuff?" All through the Scriptures we find these themes that God cares deeply for the poor, for the widow, for the orphan. The houses we work on are filled with people God loves, people who can't pull together the resources they need to make their house a more hospitable home. And so we get to go and tangibly share God's love with them through home repair.

Maybe you had a good idea of why we serve others. After all, we do it every other Wednesday night and it's something that I talk about fairly regularly. But have you ever wondered what all it is that God does want you to do? You've been around church long enough to know that there seems to be a pretty challenging list: reading your Bible, going to church, serving others, honoring your parents, not throttling your siblings...the list seems to go on and on and can be a little overwhelming.

That's why I chose this book What Does God Want From Me? by Mark Matlock for us to read together in preparation for our trip. I think it's a great question to ask and should make for some interesting discussion as we prepare together. One thing that I know that God wants for you this summer is to have an incredible time serving him through serving others. For your eyes to be opened to his love for you so that you can live out that same love to the people that we serve in North Carolina and also to the people that God has placed around you every single day.

So I hope that you'll join me in the next couple months in not just reading a book because you have to, but taking advantage of an exciting opportunity to learn about God's desires for your life. And trust me, his desires are better than ours every day of the week!

Here's how this is going to work. Every week you'll have reading that you need to do (you'll find the reading schedule on the back of this letter). Then you'll need to log onto <http://flipd6.wordpress.com> and join in the conversation. You'll find a post for each week's reading and you need to respond to the questions in that post. You'll also need to visit the post from the prior week and interact with at least 1 of your teammates responses.

Can't wait to be on the road with you this summer...

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Reading Plan (all reading/posting is due by the end of the day **Saturday, the date listed**):

- April 24 Read Chapter 1 - What do you give the God who has everything?  
May 1 Read Chapter 2 - If you really love God, you'll live like this...and other myths.  
Respond to prior week's conversation
- May 8 Read Chapter 3 - If you love me, you'll obey me.  
Respond to prior week's conversation
- May 15 Read Chapter 4 - And the award for the greatest commandment goes to...  
Respond to prior week's conversation
- May 22 Read: week off of reading because of the MMT  
Respond to prior week's conversation (do *before* we leave for MMT)
- May 29 Read Chapter 5 - You didn't ask for number two, but I'll give it to you anyway.  
June 5 Read Chapter 6 - What does it look like to "do justice"?  
Respond to prior week's conversation
- June 12 Read Chapter 7 - You just gotta love mercy.  
Respond to prior week's conversation
- June 19 Read Chapter 8 - Walking humbly with God.  
Respond to prior week's conversation
- June 26 Read Chapter 9 - People versus peoples: God's commission to those who follow him.  
Respond to prior week's conversation
- July 3 Respond to prior week's conversation  
July 11 Leave for North Carolina!