

Hey everyone,

When you're reading this, the school year is just about wrapped up, and what a full, meaningful first year it's been.

Looking back, I don't just see programs or meetings. I see faces, conversations, and small moments that quietly turned into trust. What started as quick hallway check-ins at Liberty turned into real conversations. One-on-ones became honest, open talks. Even lunch supervision changed over time; students who were once guarded are now laughing, talking, and letting me into their world. That's been this year: consistent presence turning into real relationships. About nine students came in and out of Bible studies, some bringing friends. I also walked closely with five students through Check & Connect meetings regularly, encouraging them, and walking with them through life. And honestly, it wasn't big moments that shaped the year. It was showing up again and again.

Middle School Bible Studies: What Started as a Question

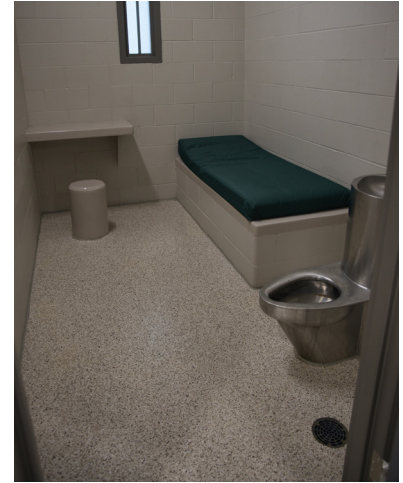
One of the clearest pictures of this year started with a simple email a couple of weeks ago: "Is Bible study still a thing?"

That question turned into something much bigger. A student showed up... came back... and started inviting others. Over time, a small group became a space where students felt like they belonged even when I wasn't there. They even talked about needing a bigger space so more students could come. Something has clearly shifted. Students have moved from quiet observation... to real questions. From just listening... to wrestling with faith in honest ways. One morning, several students brought friends from church. We read Matthew 18:1-10 and talked about childlike faith and humility. When we shared prayer requests, one asked for prayer for a friend and wisdom to respond with grace. Another asked for a prayer for an upcoming baptism, and that scheduling wouldn't get in the way. Simple moments but deeply real. We then read Matthew 21:28-32 and talked about obedience, not just saying the right things, but living them out. Afterward, students asked to study Job and Revelation next. Not easy topics, but a clear sign they wanted more. Another morning, we slowed down and talked about what the Bible is: 66 books, written over 1,600 years by about 40 people, stories, letters, poetry, and history. We talked about Scripture being both written by people and fully inspired by God. We read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, God-breathed, teaching, correcting, and shaping us. Then John 20:30-31 showed the purpose: that people would believe Jesus is the Son of God and have life in His name. That led to a simple takeaway: love God and love others. Then something shifted from information to honesty. One student shared discouragement about reading the Bible consistently. Another talked about struggles in sports. Another wanted to go deeper. So, we set a simple challenge: 3-5 verses a week, reflect on God and life, and focus on consistency over pressure. We ended in prayer. It was simple, but students weren't just learning Scripture anymore. They were engaging with it personally.

Check & Connect: The Moments You Don't See

Some of the most important moments this year didn't happen in groups. They happened in hallways, walking through the school, or sitting in common areas, small conversations that slowly turned into consistent relationships and, over time, a big brother/mentor role in students' lives. One student started very quiet. Early conversations were short and surface-level. Over time, that changed. Now we talk about family, stress, school, friendships, and what's really going on. That trust didn't come quickly, but it's real. Another student lit up, explaining the Pythagorean theorem, proud of finally understanding something they had struggled with. I could connect in that moment, too, because math wasn't my strength either. That shared honesty turned into encouragement and confidence. Another student loves talking about football, NFL free agency, team moves, all of it. The joy in those moments might seem small, but they've built a real connection. Sometimes it's even simpler, joking, laughing, random conversations about the day. Those moments matter more than they look like. I've sat with students ready to give up on assignments, helping them push through. I've had conversations that started with jokes about pirates and Halloween and slowly turned into real talks about relationships, boundaries, and home life. I've also walked with students through anxiety about summer—helping them move from fear into something steadier. There have also been moments where I've needed to step in and correct language or behavior—not to shame, but to help them grow in respect, awareness, and character. None of these moments are flashy. But together, they matter deeply.

Because consistency builds trust and trust opens the door for everything else.



A cell at the WC Juvenile Center

Juvenile Center: Hope in Hard Places

Another place I've seen God move this year is the West Central Regional Juvenile Center.

I serve there twice a month on Wednesday nights, helping lead church-style youth ministry in the boys' pods alongside my co-worker Ben. I also help lead a Thursday Bible study with my co-worker Danielle in the non-secure boys' and girls' unit. There is a different kind of openness there. Students lean in. Ask questions. Want to understand Jesus. One night, a quiet student suddenly started asking question after question, not to challenge, but because they genuinely wanted to understand who Jesus is. Another time, a student said they had never clearly heard the Gospel explained before in the way we explained it. In a place where many assume is closed off, I've seen the opposite: openness, curiosity, honesty, and students leaning in. Some are processing church hurt. Some are hearing about Jesus for the first time. Some are just trying to figure life out. Some are surviving hard home situations. And in all of it God is meeting them there.

Rebalance: Creating Space for Healing

At the end of April, I traveled to Colorado for training on a new program called **Rebalance**, coming to Red River Youth for Christ this summer with a full launch in the fall. While I was there, I kept thinking about students I've met this year—carrying anxiety, unspoken pain, and a sense of not belonging. Rebalance is designed for them. It begins with belonging. Before anything else, students are seen, known, and welcomed. From there, they are guided to process life, build healthy habits, and find hope. Through activities, group conversations, and coaching, students grow in self-understanding, make healthier choices, build stronger relationships, and find hope for their future. At the heart of it are two goals: helping students heal and helping them know they belong. This isn't just another program; it's a space for healing. And because of your support, we get to bring it to students who need it most.



Noah, Tasha, & Ben at Rebalance training with YFC leaders from across the US.

Personal Note & Thank You

I'm getting ready to move from Moorhead into Fargo to be closer to the middle school. Right now, I'm driving there Monday through Friday, including early mornings, so this move will help me be more present with students (and save a little gas too). By the time you read this, I'll be in the middle of packing for a June 1st move-in. And yes... I have more stuff than I thought. A few weeks later is our annual peach sale, so I'll either be packing boxes or loading peaches into cars.

Why This Matters

Every story in this letter, every conversation, every moment, every bit of growth is possible because of people like you. When you give, you're not just supporting a ministry. You're helping students be known, heard, and cared for. You're creating space for belonging and for some, hearing about Jesus for the first time. You are part of these stories.

As we head into summer and prepare for another school year and the launch of Rebalance, I invite you to continue being part of what God is doing. Through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support—you are making a real and lasting difference. If you'd like to connect this summer, I'd love to talk: ☎832-641-7987 ✉noahjedlicka@redriveryfc.com. This isn't just something I do, it's something we do together.

Prayer Requests & Praises

Please pray for:

- A smooth and safe move
- Students over the summer—that what's been planted would grow
- The launch of Rebalance
- Continued opportunities to build relationships and share the Gospel

Praises:

- Students who kept showing up
- Quiet but real growth throughout the year
- The ways God has been moving



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Thank you, Grateful for you,

Noah Jedlicka

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