

THE KEY

As she stepped up to the podium for her first talk, Holly Melton, our Fall Retreat speaker, fumbled with her keys. Loud, clunky and high pitched, the shaking of her keys gained the attention of the room as students wondered if she had forgotten to lock up her car.

In fact, Holly was using her keys as a visible—and audible—demonstration of the Holy Spirit. She explained that the key to living a life empowered by God is the Holy Spirit. He unlocks the kingdom of God for us as we allow Him to equip us for every good work, convict us of sin, and pursue the lost. From that illustration, she built upon the theme of freedom, and how the Holy Spirit, the key to living a life empowered by God, calls us to freedom through forgiveness and surrender. Having such a familiar, every day illustration for the power of the Holy Spirit was beneficial for students, who look upon keys every day! All of us present in the audience will never look at keys the same way again!



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DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS

FALL RETREAT PIX: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTION!

We are still basking in the joy of Fall Retreat and marveling at what the Lord did. This year we hosted 100 students from five different colleges at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg, VA. The setting and weather were beautiful, the worship was on point, and our speaker, Holly Melton (Cru staff and author of the book *Follow My Lead*) spoke life changing truth into the lives our students. Below are some Fall Retreat moments to give you insight into how the weekend went—enjoy!



As staff we are available throughout the weekend for prayer and encouragement



A game of Family Feud provided fun and excitement! Andrew on one side and Olivia on the other!



Holly (on left) gave riveting talks centered around the Holy Spirit



From our costume contest, a taco and Belle (Get it?)



Students led a worship service around a bonfire Saturday night



Logan's Friend, Samuel and Logan with staff and students

So many things to be grateful for: a tight-knitted community across five campuses, myriad students asking God to fill them with the Holy Spirit, students repenting from sin and making decisions to turn from it, our family getting to enjoy the sweet-ness of fellowship in Christ. We are grateful to all our staff and student leaders from across the ministry who put time, talent and energy into making the Fall Retreat an event where the gospel was proclaimed and God was glorified. Last year we had one Lynchburg area student and this year we had 30!

As a result of this corporate effort, we saw FOUR STUDENTS pray to receive Christ! Holly also gave students an opportunity to ask the Holy Spirit to direct their lives and 50 prayed to that end! We are in awe of the will of God to reconcile us to Himself through any means, even at a Fall Retreat. We praise Him that their lives — and ours — will never be the same!

PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Praise God for the 4 students that prayed to receive Christ and the 50 that prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit!
- Please pray for students' energy and mental health during this mid-term season, that they would know their ultimate worth in Christ.
- Pray for our staff to have deep and meaningful times of fellowship with the Lord and times of rest in Him.
- Pray that staff and students at UVA and Central VA would grow in love for, submission to, and dependence on the Lord.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

With love, Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel