

THE CARSON COLLECTIVE

June 2025 Update



Close Up Summer Conference

On the first night of Close Up, Kurt was asked to pray over our time. He hesitated, saying he was not good at praying and felt uncomfortable doing it in front of others. I told him that was totally fine, then asked, "If you could ask God for anything tonight, what would it be?" He said he wanted to hear from the Lord, to have real bonding with the guys, and to let go of distractions from home.

I told him that sounded like a prayer to me. He paused, then asked, "Can I actually pray?" What followed was one of the longest and most sincere prayers I have ever heard from a student. When he finished, we all sat in stunned silence as none of us had ever heard him pray like that before. The whole room could feel something shift. That moment set the tone for everything else that happened during the week.

The next night, Victor shared his testimony for the first time. He talked about the difficulties he faced growing up: conflict at home, loneliness, and addictions, things he had never shared before. Then he told us how he had been assigned a seat next to Daniel in class. As they left the room that day, Daniel invited him to Parable. He teared up again and said that if it had not been for that moment, he never would have come to Parable, never joined Bible study, and never come to know the Lord. Suddenly, he forced the emotion down, gritted his face, and said, "I am tough. Men do not cry." I told him that was not true, and that real men know how to share their emotion. Without hesitation, he started crying again and finished his story. Afterward, I asked the group to speak encouragement over him. He tried to hold back tears but could not. It was a breakthrough moment.

What none of us realized until the end of the week was that the girls from our schools had been praying for our guys each night before their own small groups. On the first night, they prayed specifically for Kurt to have a breakthrough. On the second night, they prayed that Victor would be bold in his faith and honest in front of his friends. They had no idea what had happened in our group. But as they were praying, those very prayers were being answered in real time. What happened with them was not unique. Stories like theirs were unfolding across our group, as God met student after student in personal and powerful ways!



Prayer Update

Our previous system using Remind for prayer requests is no longer active.

We are now testing a new system that will send prayer requests directly to you via text. If you would like to receive these notifications (which may be sent multiple times a week), please send us a message to opt in.

Thank you!



Carsons and Gunters at VBS



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