



Elevation Family  
Ministries  
September 2023

# YOU ARE BELOVED

## OUR FOCUS

As we welcome students back this year, our focus is to instill in them the assurance of God's love. We desire for every student to know that they are treasured and beloved by God, and to know who they are in Christ. Throughout the year, we will be working with students to help them understand who God is, and how great His love is for them. "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8, NKJV).

## IDENTITY

While many get their identity from the things they do and have, God tells us our identity is in Him, but in order to understand who we are in Him, we must first understand who He is. This year, students will explore God's self revelation through scripture.



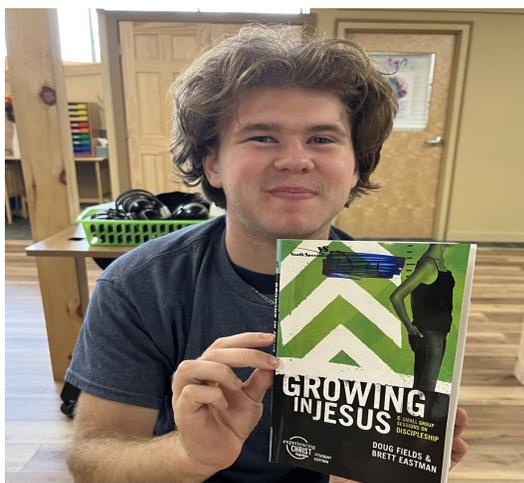
## WISDOM

This month, students are learning about wisdom. We will be exploring the book of Proverbs to see how God gives us wisdom for life, why our character matters, why patience matters, and why our words matter.



## DISCIPLESHIP

Our goal for each of our students is for them to become a devoted disciple of Christ, and to then become a disciple-maker. We work closely with each student to help them on their own, individual, journey.



**Trust in  
the LORD  
with all your  
heart and  
lean not  
on your own  
understanding.  
(Prov. 3:5, NKJV)**

As Marlee learns  
to claim her  
belovedness, her  
identity will be  
secure.



# Marlee

## God's Beloved

Marlee is new to Elevation, and it is only through God's provision that she is with us. She is the foster daughter of pastors Paul and Lori Sommerville (The pastors of the church where Elevation is located). Marlee's dad died of an overdose when she was just four years old, and her mother is currently in recovery. Within the public school system, she was encouraged to choose her sexual preference and gender identity. Now, she is learning daily that her identity is the beloved daughter of God. As we come around Marlee as a community of believers, she is teaching us that her success is dependent on us surrounding her with love, and this challenges the entire Elevation community to reexamine basic assumptions of our own self-oriented lives.

Like Marlee, we too hear the still small voice that whispers softly and declares loudly, "You are my Beloved." We are called to equip Marlee to hear that voice in a world that shouts, "You are no good, you are worthless, you are nobody." Nouwen (1992) wrote, "Every time you listen with great attentiveness to the voice that calls you the Beloved, you will discover within yourself a desire to hear that voice longer and more deeply." Considering the trauma Marlee has been exposed to at such a young age, the statistics are not in her favor. By God's grace, we have the privilege of equipping her with bread for the long journey ahead. As she learns to claim her belovedness, her identity will be secure, and she will be able to live both successes and failures as the beloved.

### *Funding the Journey*

*Our goal is for financial constraints to not be a barrier to finding hope and healing in Christ.*

*With your financial support, we can do just that.*

*You may donate online at [elevationfamilyministries.org](http://elevationfamilyministries.org) or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.*