

# RIVERS

OF LIVING WATER

February 2019



## Identity & Spirit: An Interview with Tim Stodolka

**NBC Core Outcomes 1 & 2: Self-Identity Rooted in Christ & Spirit-Empowered Walk with God**

**What did "identity" mean to you in High School, and how did God begin to get ahold of your heart over the summer before you came to Nipawin as a student in 2015?**

My identity in high school meant both everything and nothing to me all at the same time. I considered myself a "bouncer" in school, meaning I bounced from one friend group to the next. So, my identity was wrapped up in being the guy who was able to fit into the most friend groups I could. However, the problem was I knew that if I clung too hard to the "bouncer" label I wouldn't be able to fit into all the different groups I was part of. So consequently I held the identity loosely and wasn't really sure who I was or where I fit best. Identity meant being all things to all people for the sake of fitting in and being accepted.

The summer before heading off to Nipawin, my identity began to undergo a deep transformation. God took ahold of my life while I was serving at Southern Alberta Bible Camp and began revealing to me the basic truths of what it meant to be a follower of Christ. For instance, it meant being a child of God, it meant being washed clean of all my guilt and shame, it meant being able to walk in a new way of life, and much more. I was able to start to live these truths more and more as the summer went on and I rapidly progressed in my spiritual walk. The camp entrusted me with more responsibility and I was given opportunity to put into practice the character God was building in me. I began sharing the amazing truths that God had been teaching me to other staff and campers. That really was a time in life where God clearly shifted my understanding of identity from being that high school "bouncer" to being a Spirit-empowered child of His, so it's a summer I won't ever forget! That shift was really something God used to prepare me for my time at Nipawin, giving me enough of a foundation to launch into the purifying fires of Nipawin Bible College.

*...continued on page 3*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**three60five YOUTH RETREAT**  
MARCH 8-10

**LECTURESHIP COURSE**  
MARCH 11-15

**CAMPUS DAYS**  
MARCH 24-25

**DESSERT THEATRE**  
MARCH 29

**GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
APRIL 14

**ENCORE SENIORS' RETREAT**  
JUNE 3-7



# SET FREE

ROMANS 6:17-18



**three60five 2019**

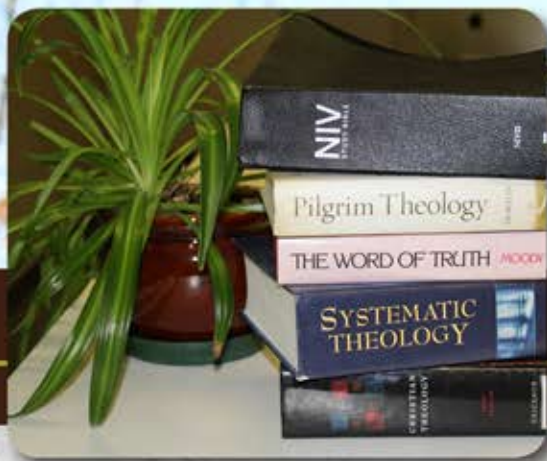
**MARCH 8-10**

**A YOUTH RETREAT FOR  
GRADES 9-12**



**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.nipawin.org](http://www.nipawin.org)





# Theology: The Study of God

Joel Houston

I have the distinct pleasure of teaching one of the freshmen classes in theology. The class I instruct is called God and the Bible: a course that serves as a basic introduction to the evangelical doctrine of the person and work of God, as well as the Holy Scriptures. This year, I noticed a distinct shift in the way incoming students think about theology at the beginning of the course and the way they think about it near the end. Often, a misconception shared by newcomers to theology is that it is an arid topic; the subject of stuffy old professors, beavering away in a library at an ancient university. When I surveyed the class about their initial thoughts and impressions of theology, images such as "grey hair" and adjectives such as "dry" and "boring" were close at hand.

However, as the course continued on, the awareness of theology as "queen of the sciences" dawned on the students (and is impressed afresh upon myself, as well!). Instead of a dead discipline, we were reminded that theology is the joyful discovery of the revelation of God, and one of the instrumental means by which we apply our understanding of the scriptures in everyday life. This insight is summed up well by the inestimable C.S. Lewis. In a short lecture entitled "Is Theology Poetry?" (now assembled in the collection of essays, *The Weight of Glory*) Lewis confessed, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." As with Christianity, so with theology, which is itself, 'the study of God.' Our theology is to result in doxology—our praise of God and all his works—but also in discipleship: the living out of our beliefs with the aim of bringing glory to God and making disciples of all people.

The transformation in the students is evident. On a recent mid-year survey, 100% of our students agreed that being at NBC was "spiritually worthwhile", with comments such as "I have grown and learned so much in the classroom, more so than I ever thought I would" and "this is the best place I can imagine dealing with [life], because I am constantly reminded to look to God." Speaking as an instructor, it is plainly evident that the more our students pour themselves into the study of God, the more they "put on Christ" (Rom. 13:14), and seek to emulate him in word and deed. Yet the question remains: what is it that is actually causing the transformation? Is it simply the academic topic, theology, that compels our interest? Is it the acquisition of clever arguments or complex philosophy? By no means! The transformative element of studying theology is not a proposition but a person. The psalmist says that those that make, and trust in, idols become like them. How much more then, do we, as we learn about, adore, and study the living Christ, become like him? As students, freshmen and senior alike, devote themselves to understanding Christ, He transforms them, more and more, into his image and likeness.

Perhaps you have some of your own misconceptions about theology? What better way to dispel them than to renew your own commitment to theology. Be it in your times of personal devotions, or perhaps through our upcoming modular course in March (12th-15th). The opportunity to learn more about, and be transformed by Christ, is waiting for you.

Dr. Joel Houston  
Academic Dean



## CAMPUS DAYS • MARCH 24-25, 2019

Do you want to grow in your relationship with Jesus? Do you desire to know God and His Word better? Do you want to make a difference in this world for Christ? Nipawin Bible College can help you grow in these worthwhile, challenging, and God honouring goals for your life. Come and spend a couple days with us! We're confident that you will see God at work here, and will sense NBC is a place with tremendous value for your life and walk with God.

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.nipawin.org](http://www.nipawin.org)

You don't have to be a college student to be in the classroom. Join us March 12-15 for

### INCARNATIONAL MINISTRY

with Sean McGeever, PhD  
Area Director, Young Life Pheonix, AZ;  
Adjunct Faculty, Grand Canyon University



In this class, we will discover the theology and practice of incarnational ministry through the lens of how God "dwells among His people." By the end of this class students will have a better understanding of exactly how God works through His people to achieve His plans in the world.

*Registration Deadline is a week prior to the start of class and fees are \$300/credit or \$150/credit to audit. Please contact Joel Houston at 888.862.5095 if you would like to register or have any questions.*



## How have you come to understand and sense the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?

That's a big question. Off the top of my head, the two biggest ways the Spirit's been involved in my life would be the way He's been making me sensitive to God in situations and His conviction. Before I was a Christian, God seemed to be nowhere. I didn't see him in a situation or person or in what someone said. I saw life simply as just the outside world and me.

But when I became a Christian and the Holy Spirit started working in my life, I started to see God all over. Situations and people weren't just what they were, as the Spirit began opening my eyes to wondrous ways God was moving in them. I remember one time my brother damaged his shoulder from pitching so much in baseball. He had to go in for surgery, which hindered him from playing anymore. This was crushing because baseball meant a lot to him. The situation had the potential for looking pretty bleak to me, not to mention for my brother. And it would have been if I didn't have the Holy Spirit's directing. Instead of accepting my brother's position, the Spirit presented it as an opportunity to pray that my brother would rely on the Lord through that time. So, I took the chance to pray for him, and my brother became a lot closer with the Lord while he was healing from surgery. It was amazing to experience how by God's Spirit I was able to see Him work through this seemingly grim circumstance and turn it into glorifying Him.



Now, I am no perfect Christian. There are many times where I have reacted in ways I shouldn't have or have been lazy to respond to something I know I should. It is in these times that the Holy Spirit convicts me to either ask for forgiveness or act upon a situation. Unfortunately I have not always heeded these convictions. But it is encouraging to know the Spirit is working in me, ridding me of my sinful desires, and perfecting me in the holiness of God. Either through the prick of the conscience, a rebuke from a fellow brother or sister, or being humbled through some situation, I am confident the Spirit has taken a great interest in helping me in my journey to becoming more like Christ. Now if only I wasn't so stubborn...

## Do you see a way God is enabling you to use your Christ-rooted identity and Spirit-empowered walk in your job on a daily or weekly basis?

Definitely. Most of my confidence and stability is rooted in my identity in Christ and the leading of the Spirit. When I lose sight in those two areas, I am a potential mess in many areas of my job. For one, I am constantly required to walk into new environments and meet new people all the time. If I don't remind myself of my identity in Christ before walking into these situations, I often find I become a puddle of anxiety. If I don't ask the Spirit to help me with my interactions, confidence goes out the window and I turn into a blubbering buffoon. And don't even get me started on phone calls! I have experienced time and time again my identity in Christ and the Spirit's power help me as I get up every day and work. That identity keeps me grounded, and really helps make it possible to face whatever comes my way with confidence. And His empowering helps me face every situation with assurance, knowing that in Him my labour is not in vain.

## Why do you think it's so important for a youth or young adult who's looking into University or Trade College to come to a place like Nipawin for at least 1 year first?

Two reasons. First, no matter where you attend a mainstream college or university, your faith will be challenged in some way or another. Most teachers in colleges and universities don't like the exclusivity of Jesus, or the idea of Him being the way to salvation. These institutions take a hard left when it comes to beliefs and a more inclusive approach to what they believe and teach. I've heard countless times from students either enrolled in or recently finished post-secondary education that their faith took some pretty hard hits during their years in school. Christians will face adversity, so it's valuable and important to spend time growing a solid foundation in what one believes before jumping into a vocational post-secondary education.

Secondly, you have to be pretty determined on going to Bible College for it to actually happen after attending a mainstream college or university. The main point of attending a vocational College (or University) is usually to progress toward a specific job so after you've spent 1 to 4 years prepping toward that, most discover it makes little sense to then take a year or two for "personal spiritual development" at a place like Nipawin. On the other hand, developing as a passionate follower of Jesus Christ is about who you are, your identity (as I've mentioned), investing in your foundation on Jesus Christ, and setting a trajectory for life. Since these elements are useful for all of life and not just your job it makes complete sense to then follow up time at Bible College with more career or job training. If you don't invest in your faith earlier in life as an adult, it only becomes harder to start investing intentionally later on when there's a spouse, children, bills, and a mortgage. If you get at least a year of solid biblical teaching in your early adult years, your faith and priorities will look way different than if you didn't, guaranteed. So it makes great sense to come to Nipawin for at least a year or two and then move toward specific job training at another College or University.

*This is Tim's first year on staff at Nipawin Bible College. He graduated from Nipawin Bible College in April 2018 with a Bachelor of Christian Ministry. He married Olivia in June 2018. For a complete list of NBC's Core Outcomes and Core Methods, go to [www.nipawin.org](http://www.nipawin.org).*





# Happily Ever After?

Living Proof:  
L-R: Rhianna Penner, Jeralee Bernard,  
Jordan Tymchak, Caitlyn Watson

## Core Outcome #4: Sharing the Gospel

What is it with sad endings? Some argue that a sad ending in a story – a movie, novel, TV show, etc. – is more true-to-life. Others resist sad endings, but seem to believe the same thing – “Why would I want to read that? I see enough sad endings in real life.” I empathize. Life involves high stakes and formidable threats – financial insecurity, receding health, unstable relationships, shifting norms, and more. Life demands so many losses. Why wouldn't sad endings feel most true-to-life.

But are happy endings “too good to be true?” What would that say about the Gospel? The hero of the Gospel went to the deepest of depths to carry us to the highest of heights. The eternal resolution is one of the happiest endings ever told! Yet it is no glossed-over fairy tale; the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a story of excruciating loss and unprecedented sacrifice. Jesus offers a happy ending without ignoring the dark sides of the tale.

Nipawin Bible College's Core Outcome #4 is Sharing the Gospel (Acts 1:8; 4:23-31; Rom. 1:16; Eph. 6:18-20). As we develop passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve, the Gospel is at the forefront. In their study of Genesis, the freshmen faced the Fall and humanity's need for restoration through Jesus Christ. In Theology II, the juniors considered human nature and the details of what Jesus accomplished on the cross and beyond. Our seniors and fourth years examined the Epistles and how the authors

handle the good news, commanding it be shared faithfully. All of our students have “put their hand to the plow” as they serve at their student ministry, three60five, three60fiveJUNIOR, one of the ministry practicums, and involvement in their local church. Each student has had multiple opportunities to share the gospel with both believers and unbelievers. Our prayer is that each one will grow in courage and skill as they do!

This year, I was blessed to teach CM111 Evangelism & Discipleship class and direct Living Proof, our drama outreach ministry. Both opportunities have put Sharing the Gospel on my mind more prominently than usual. That prominence grew into a main focus for my Living Proof plan this year. Happily Ever After? is one of our two plays on tour this year. Looking at Joseph's enslavement in Egypt, Esther's marriage to an impetuous monarch, Job's affliction and loss, and Jesus' incarnation on Earth, the play considers the hand of God in tragic stories and explores why happy endings resonate so loudly in our hearts. Through our Spring Dessert Theatre, prison ministry, and other engagements, Living Proof will bear the seeds of the Gospel both on and off stage and seek to inspire the Church at large to do the same. Please pray for us as we fight to make known the Good News, the coming Happy Ending of Jesus Christ!



Timothy Lenko  
Drama Coach

# Happily Ever After?

A Dessert Theatre

Friday, March 29 - 7:00 p.m.  
Nipawin Bible College  
Rempel Auditorium

Saturday, March 30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Heritage Baptist Church  
345 Darlington St. E, Yorkton, SK



RSVP by March 22 - [www.nipawin.org](http://www.nipawin.org) - (306) 862-5095 - Free-will Offering

## ENCORE

### SENIORS' RETREAT JUNE 3-7, 2019

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. David Olson  
Associate Pastor of Care & Discipleship  
Waldheim MB Church



#### CLASSROOM SESSIONS

Dr. Peter Barber  
NBC Faculty

#### CONCERT

#### NBC Alumni Quartet

An evening of music and testimonies with the  
'72-'73 NBI Men's Quartet:  
Dennis Kroeker, Ed Funk, Gord Sawatzky, &  
Lloyd Peters



Standard Plan (5-Day Package):  
\$375/couple, \$225/single  
Commuter Plan: \$200/week, \$85/day

Please contact the college for more information or to book your spot for June!

## GIVING

As our fiscal year-end approaches, we want to give you a look at where the giving numbers currently sit:

Budgeted General Donations **\$300,000**

Year-to-Date **\$215,000**

Needed by April 30, 2019 **\$ 85,000**

With only three months to go, we are praying for a strong finish in April. *Will you prayerfully consider a gift to the General Fund of Nipawin Bible College to see our April 30, 2019 year-end financial needs met?*



## NBC ALUMNI & FRIENDS PLEASE PRAY...

1. For the search for a **new NBC president**, that the search committee would hear God's leading.
2. For **Larry & Gloria Rempel ('77)** for wisdom as Larry transitions into a part time associate pastor role and for safety as he travels to Niger, Africa to visit church missionaries.
3. For the **NBC students** as they get back into the routine of classes, that they would be diligent in their homework and hear the Holy Spirit's teaching.
4. For **Bob & Anne Wahl ('51)** as they were recently married. Pray as they make their home in Saskatoon and minister through speaking in their church.
5. For **Jason Elford (staff)** that he would handle all his responsibilities well with the Interim President role.
6. For **Timothy & Laura Block ('14)** as they work with Big River Bible Camp, Awana Clubs, youth group and also seek wisdom to parent their children while balancing ministry.
7. For **Peter & Diane (Gruchy) Salmond ('76)** as they return to Rwanda for another term, for wisdom as they go through many transitions.
8. For **Ken & Dorothy (Wolf '86) Schmidt's** daughter-in-law Kristen as she will be undergoing brain surgery to remove a spot on her brain that will hopefully relieve the migraines she suffers from. Pray for her marriage to Justin that they could face the challenges to come.
9. For the **NBC Student Life Department** as they work with students to encourage them in their spiritual growth and walk alongside them through the challenges and joys of life.
10. For **7-24 Discipleship Groups** that students and staff will be open and honest with God, themselves and others as they meet weekly to pray and dig into God's Word together.
11. For **Guillermo & Mary Ann Reddekopp ('86)** as they raise their support to work with the Transformados team in La Paz, Mexico.
12. For **Carl & Brenda (Dyck) Ens ('83)** for wisdom in scheduling ministry and as they minister to their Nicaraguan friends in Aylsham, SK.
13. For **Wes & Carol (Wiebe) Schellenberg ('82)** as they continue to settle into their roles with Avant Ministries in Winnipeg.
14. For **Darryl & Denise (Young '00) Rice** as Denise recovers patiently from ACL surgery.
15. For **Joe & Trudy (Reimer) Miller ('96)** as Joe recovers from 5 bypass surgery.
16. For **NBC's tour teams (FaceDown, & Living Proof)** as they travel and serve churches throughout the prairies.
17. For **4th year students: Sharmyn Abrahamson, SaraLyn Andres, Julie Desharnais, Timothy Fehr** that they would finish well in their studies this semester.
18. For the **3rd Year NBC Students** as they complete requirements and learn from their practicums both on and off campus.
19. For **Rhys & Janelle (Kroeker '01) Lewis** as they jump into parenthood with their first child.
20. For **Tim & Laurel (Abrahamson '82) Schroder** as they return back to Papua New Guinea where they will learn new ministries and for good contact with the village of Pukapuki.
21. For the **finances of NBC**: Praise for God's faithfulness through the generosity of His people. Pray for His continued provision and wisdom to be good stewards.
22. For **Nathan & Natasha (Ginther) Enns ('02)** as they minister with Ethnos Canada and raise their family.
23. For **NBC Faculty** as they teach the courses, that they would have good interaction with the students inside and outside of the class, and for wisdom in how to teach effectively.
24. For the **potential 2019-2020 NBC students**: for the incoming Freshmen as they apply for the fall and those current students thinking about returning, that they would hear and follow God's leading.
25. For **Terry & Rosanne (Dyck) Banman ('88)** as they continue to disciple and see many new believers in the Wusuraambya tribe in Papua New Guinea.
26. For **Kevin & Krista (Smith '94) Rideout** as they raise their support and work with SIMAIR in Niger, Africa.
27. For continued wisdom and direction for the **Board of Directors** as they bring leadership to NBC.
28. For **Jason & Lindsay Elford ('95)** that they would always invest well in their marriage, and for wisdom in raising kids.
29. For **David & Nicole Guenther ('08)** as they teach in Taiwan. Pray that the youth Bible Study David is leading continues to be a source of encouragement.
30. For **Irvin & Mari Penner ('93)** as they serve as house parents at La Huerta in La Paz, Mexico and work with short term teams in the community of Marquis De Leon.
31. For **Timothy Lenko (staff)** as he works on his Masters in Biblical Studies. Pray for holy curiosity and stamina for the studies.
32. For **Tim Stodolka (staff)** for a calm and joyful spirit as he attends different PR events throughout the semester.
33. For the general health and energy of the **NBC Staff and Students** as they work and study.
34. For **Lindsay & Amanda Anderson ('99)** and their children, Liam and Libby, as they continue to adjust to life in Regina, SK and a new ministry role at Hillsdale Baptist Church.
35. For **good connections** by the NBC students and staff with the Nipawin community and local churches. Pray that these connections would be opportunities to share Christ's love.

*We invite you to submit your requests throughout the year by calling NBC or by visiting the Praise & Prayer page under "get involved" on the Alumni tab on our website.*



**LIVING PROOF**



MARCH 22

**Elk Point Winter Retreat** • Elk Point, AB • Youth

MARCH 23

**Luseland Alliance Church** • Luseland, SK

MARCH 25

**Pine Grove Correctional Centre** • Prince Albert, SK

March 29

**Dessert Theatre** • Nipawin, SK • Nipawin Bible College

March 30

**Dessert Theatre** • Yorkton, SK • Heritage Baptist Church

APRIL 16-24 - Spring Tour

APRIL 17

**Penhold Church of Hope** • Penhold, AB • Youth

APRIL 18

**Olds Koinonia Christian School** • Olds, AB

APRIL 21

**Little Smokey Country Chapel** • Little Smokey, AB

APRIL 22

**La Crete Christian Fellowship** • La Crete, AB

APRIL 24

**Red Deer Koinonia Christian School** • Red Deer, AB

**Bow Valley Baptist Church** • Cochrane, AB • Youth

APRIL 25

**The Lord's Food Bank** • Rocky Mountain House, AB

Check out [www.nipawin.org](http://www.nipawin.org) for more details and the complete tour schedule.

**FACEDOWN**



MARCH 22

**Melfort Youth Night** • Melfort, SK

MARCH 24

**Hague Gospel Church** • Hague, SK • Youth

APRIL 16-26 - Spring Tour

APRIL 16

**Rosthern Junior College Chapel** • Rosthern, SK

APRIL 17

**Valley Christian Academy Chapel** • Osler, SK

APRIL 18

**LCBI Chapel** • Outlook, SK

**Calvary Church Youth Night** • Saskatoon, SK

APRIL 20

**Turning Point Youth Centre** • Meadow Lake, SK

APRIL 21

**Pine Grove Correctional Centre** • Prince Albert, SK

APRIL 23

**Rock Solid Refuge** • Shaunavon, SK

**Shaunavon Alliance Youth Night** • Shaunavon, SK

APRIL 25

**Garrington Community Church** • Bowden, AB

APRIL 26

**Biggar AGC Youth Night** • Biggar, SK

# Mid Year Evaluations

## 1st Semester in Review

-On average, **9 out of 10 students** rated 80-100% of the courses as a highly valuable learning experience.

-**100%** of students agreed that their time at NBC during first semester was spiritually worthwhile.

-**100%** of students would recommend NBC to family and friends.

### Comments from the Students:

"I have matured lots in my knowledge and faith."

"It's a place that fosters spiritual growth and will help guide your life toward a greater purpose."

"I love NBC because the staff desire to train biblically literate students who will be able to teach effectively in their ministry environments."

"The teaching here is very thought provoking and has definitely strengthened my faith in the one semester I've been here."

"Being here has challenged me extremely by making me step out of my comfort zone and grow!"

"I have been able to learn how to dig deeper into the Bible, and that is big."

"I love the community here at NBC and the way that the staff invest in the students. I am so thankful for the way the school is focused on nurturing us in our walk with God."

"Staff-Student relationships are big. Grown so much spiritually because of the discipleship. Also, bible focused classes play a big part in that too, not to mention the godly environment and community."

"Its been an amazing experience where I have grown a lot spiritually and found other awesome people who are sharing in this awesome experience of learning right along side me."

"NBC is a spiritually rich environment, where you're brought to acknowledge and deal with things in your spiritual life that you may not have even realized were issues, and you are loved and supported the whole way through it."

**REKINDLE**

## 1970'S RETREAT - AUGUST 2-5, 2019

A reunion for students and staff who attended Nipawin from 1970-1979

A relaxed weekend of reconnection and fellowship:

- lots of time for visiting
- Campus Tour
- free time for local leisure
- games or gym use as you feel led
- sharing, worship, and prayer time
- free lodging in dorms
- houseboat cruise option

Kickoff BBQ at Friday supper  
Breakfast Monday to close weekend

More information on cost and schedule can be found at [www.nipawin.org](http://www.nipawin.org)

Contact: Jason Elford  
(306) 862-5095 or [jason@nipawin.org](mailto:jason@nipawin.org)



mail: Box 1986 Nipawin, SK S0E 1E0  
phone: 306.862.5095 or 888.862.5095  
fax: 306.862.3651  
email: [info@nipawin.org](mailto:info@nipawin.org)  
website: [www.nipawin.org](http://www.nipawin.org)

Rivers of Living Water is a publication of Nipawin Bible College

Editor: Myra Schmidt  
Executive Editor: Jason Elford

