

The Next Arrival

The New Year Dedication Ceremony Launch Kit

Your 3-week countdown to the final night of the year, and of ROOTED.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Revelation 21:4–5

BOTTOM LINE

The King is coming back to make all things new. That changes everything about how we live right now.

WHAT THIS NIGHT IS

The optional Week 5 lesson, *The Next Arrival*, is the year-end capstone of ROOTED, and its final ten minutes are the **New Year Dedication Ceremony**: a reflective, high-impact moment where students physically leave their past mistakes and regrets at the cross and step into the new year with a clean slate.

WHY IT NEEDS A LAUNCH KIT

A ceremony like this can't be improvised. It depends on **hush, trust, and a clear path to the cross**, and all three are built ahead of time. Students need weeks to sit with what they want to leave behind. Parents need to protect an evening in the busiest month of the year. And the room, the sound, and the cross have to be arranged so a student can pray, or cry, without feeling watched. Plan it with the same intentionality as the August commissioning.

Leader Note: The holidays hide real pain in some students' homes, so some will lay down heavy things tonight. Create space without trying to fix it, and never require anyone to write or walk forward. The full lesson is in the December chapter. This appendix covers everything that happens **before** the doors open.

YOUR COUNTDOWN AT A GLANCE

 3 WEEKS OUT <i>The Hook</i>	 2 WEEKS OUT <i>The Parent Cue</i>	 1 WEEK OUT <i>The Social Countdown</i>	 THE NIGHT <i>The Sacred Space</i>
Start dropping hints so students begin thinking about what to leave behind. ▶ Page 308	Ask parents, through your newsletter, to protect the evening. ▶ Page 308	Post three simple, text-based graphics that build anticipation. ▶ Page 309	Set up the cross, the sound, and the path so students can pray in private. ▶ Page 309

◆ THE NIGHT AT A GLANCE

3 weeks of build-up	3 social graphics	2 sides to every card	1 cross, dead center
-------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

✦ 3 WEEKS OUT: The Hook

START DROPPING HINTS

Don't explain the ceremony yet. Just start dropping hints during the game or announcement time, and let curiosity and a little weight build. The goal is for students to begin **thinking about what they want to leave behind** long before the night arrives.

💬 SAY THIS · During the game or announcement time

"December is coming, and our final night of the year is going to look completely different than anything we've done all semester. Start thinking about what you want to leave behind in 2026."

Repeat a short version of it each week. It should feel like a quiet invitation, not a program announcement.

◆ THREE-WEEKS-OUT CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Lock the date and the room.** Put the ceremony on the calendar and confirm you have the space, the sound system, and a cross or large board.
- ☐ **Drop the first hint.** Use the script above at announcement time. Say it once, warmly, and move on.
- ☐ **Tell every leader now.** Block 4 is an all-leaders moment. Each adult should plan to be present, quiet, and available to pray with students.

📄 2 WEEKS OUT: The Parent Cue

NEWSLETTER

The holidays are chaotic, and this is the night most likely to get crowded out. One clear message from you gives parents a reason to protect it.

📄 NEWSLETTER MESSAGE TO PARENTS

The holidays are chaotic, but on [Date] we are holding our New Year Dedication Ceremony. It's the most important spiritual checkpoint of the semester for our youth group. Help them protect that evening.

Fill in your date. If you can, repeat it as a short text the week of the event.

Leader Tip: This ceremony is **the final moment of ROOTED**. Students who travel the full arc and end at a genuine altar moment carry something lasting out of that room, so it's worth fighting for the attendance.

◆ TWO-WEEKS-OUT CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Newsletter sent.** The parent message above, with your date filled in.
- ☐ **Start the ambient playlist.** Begin collecting instrumental worship tracks or soft ambient pads, enough for a full, unhurried response time.

📄 LEADER BRIEFING · Send to every adult leader

Thank you for being part of our New Year Dedication Ceremony on [date]! During the final ten minutes, your job isn't to speak. It's to be present. Stay near the edges of the room, stay quiet, and be ready to pray with any student who comes to you. Please don't rush anyone, and please don't read anyone's card. Arrive by [time] to help finish setup.

1 WEEK OUT: The Social Countdown

POST THREE

Post **three simple, text-based graphics** on your social channels across the week. Big words on a plain background will stop a scrolling thumb better than a photo, and they cost you five minutes each to make.

GRAPHIC 1

**What are you carrying
that you need to drop?**

GRAPHIC 2

**What are you ready to
leave behind before the
new year?**

GRAPHIC 3

**New Year, Deep Roots.
Next Wednesday.**

- **One sentence each.** Big, high-contrast type on a solid color, readable at a glance.
- **Save the date for the last post.** The first two are questions. The third one is the invitation.
- **Keep the tone gentle.** This lands in the same week as the Immanuel lesson, and some students are having a hard holiday. Invite; don't pressure.



THE NIGHT: The Sacred Space

THE ROOM DOES THE WORK

Before anyone speaks, the room should already feel different. These two decisions do most of that work: what students **hear** and what they **walk toward**.

The Audio Blanket SOUND

For the response time, **pull the speaking microphone down and raise the ambient music**.

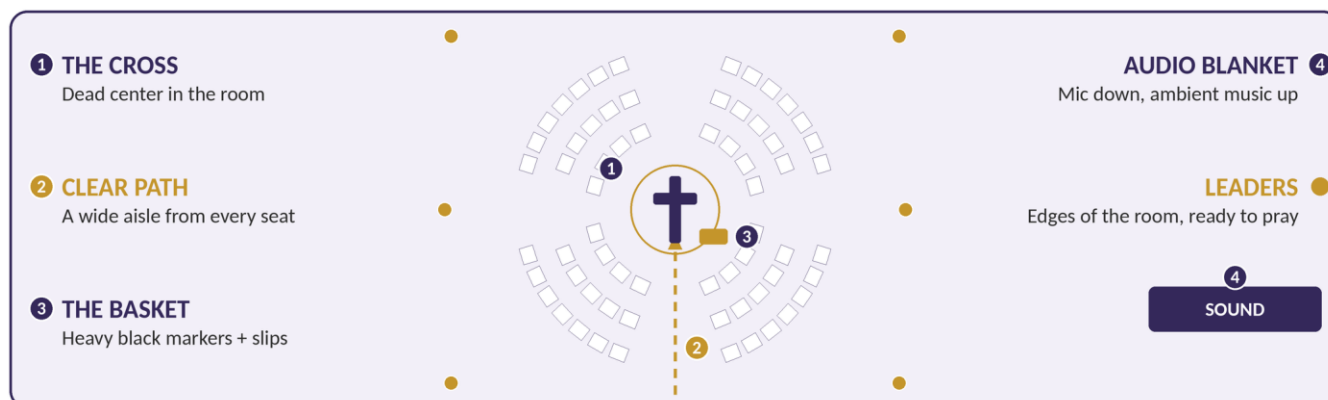
Instrumental worship tracks or soft ambient pads work best. The music becomes a blanket that gives students privacy to pray, or cry, at the altar without feeling like the whole room is listening.

The Cross Centrality SPACE

Place a rugged wooden cross (or a large board) **dead center in the room**.

Have a basket of heavy black markers and small slips of paper ready. Keep the path completely clear so nobody has to squeeze past chairs to take part.

◆ ROOM LAYOUT AT A GLANCE





THE NIGHT: The Ceremony

BLOCK 4 · ALL LEADERS

Here is the ceremony at a glance. The full script and closing prayer are in the December Week 5 lesson.

◆ THE TWO-SIDED DEDICATION CARD

SIDE 1

Leave behind

A toxic habit. A regret. A wound.

SIDE 2

Carry forward

One eternal intention for the year ahead.

Fold it. Bring it to the cross or altar. It is an act of surrender and declaration at the same time.

◆ HOW THE RESPONSE TIME FLOWS

- 1 Dim the room.** Bring the lights down and start soft, meaningful music.
- 2 Hand out the cards and markers.** Tell students up front that no one will read them.
- 3 Turn the audio blanket on.** Mic volume down, ambient music up. Then let there be quiet.
- 4 Invite them forward.** Students fold their cards and bring them to the cross when they're ready. Leaders stay near, quiet, and available to pray.
- 5 Close together.** Share Revelation 22:20, "Surely I am coming quickly," and have the room answer: "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

◆ NIGHT-OF SETUP CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Cross in place, aisle clear.** Dead center, with a wide, open path from every seat.
- ☐ **Markers and slips ready.** A full basket, plus a few extras. Add a box of tissues at the edges of the room.
- ☐ **Sound cued.** Instrumental tracks queued, and one person who knows exactly when to lower the mic and raise the music.

After the Night: Don't read the cards, and dispose of them privately and respectfully. Then follow through on the Q4 tip from the lesson: write down the eternal goals students named and send each one a personal note in January.

★ ROOTED · 52 WEEKS COMPLETE ★

"Behold, I make all things new." — Revelation 21:5

The King is coming. Live like it.