

morning devotions

Morning devotions should begin the day with a positive, enthusiastic, and cooperative feel. Plan for it to last about thirty minutes. Music wakes the mind and speaks to the soul—include three or four songs each morning. Provide for campers to participate through leadership opportunities such as drama, prayer, testimony, readings, song leading, and music.

Have fun with the scripture stories. Keep the dramas light and overacted—make them melodramas! Use the whole room as the set. Use the audience as the masses of people. Don't hesitate to improvise. The actor for Saul/Paul should remain the same throughout the week.

Have two leaders facilitate morning chapel activities.

day 1: believe the message

song suggestions

Amazing Grace HS

God Forgave My Sins HS

scripture story

NARRATOR READS	ACTORS DRAMATIZE	OPTIONAL PROPS
(Acts 8:1–3 NIV adapted) On the day of Stephen's stoning for preaching God's word, a young Pharisee named Saul was present, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.	Begin with Stephen being carried off stage by followers. Saul standing watching.	costumes
But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.	Saul grabs people (possibly campers from audience) and places them under the prison sign.	large prison sign
(Acts 9:1–2 NIV adapted) Saul continued breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.	Saul gets letters from High Priest	letters for High Priest to hand Saul

<p>(Acts 9:3–6 NIV) As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”</p>	<p>Saul falls to ground voice offstage Saul his lines words after narrator says them.</p>	<p>flash of light</p>
<p>(Acts 9:7 NIV) The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.</p>	<p>men traveling with Saul speechless</p>	
<p>(Acts 9:8–9 NIV) Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.</p>	<p>Saul gets up, tries to see travelers take him by hand and walk him across stage.</p>	<p>food and drink</p>
<p>(Acts 9:10–16 NIV adapted) In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called Ananias in a vision. “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. The Lord told Ananias to go to the house where Saul was and place his hands upon him to restore his sight.</p>	<p>Ananias hears voice and rebels a little because he has heard of the terrible things Saul had done to the Christians.</p>	
<p>(Acts 9:17-19 NIV adapted) Ananias went to the house where Saul was. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, Saul regained his strength.</p>	<p>Ananias goes to Saul, places hands on him. Saul feels eyes as if scales are falling off him. Ananias and Saul walk off stage together.</p>	

camper’s connection

JUNIOR CAMP QUESTION:

Ask campers to turn to a neighbor and share why they came to camp.

JUNIOR HIGH SECOND QUESTION:

If they have ever been to camp before ask them to also share how their camp experience has influenced their beliefs.

SENIOR HIGH SECOND QUESTION:

What is one thing you believe to be true no matter what anyone else tells you?

day 2: embrace the call

song suggestions

scripture story

NARRATOR READS	ACTORS DRAMATIZE	OPTIONAL PROPS
(Acts 9:20 NIV adapted) After Saul's conversion, he wasted no time in embracing his call. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.	Saul preaches enthusiastically to the campers, "Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the Christ."	costumes
(Acts 9:21–25 NIV adapted) All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who believed?"	Actors placed among campers shout out their protest of this man. "He's the one who takes believers prisoner." "Murderer." "Don't believe him!"	Damascus sign signs telling campers what to say
Saul did not let the distrust of people stop him. He had been transformed. He believed and he knew that God had called him to share the message to others.	Saul continues to preach to the campers.	
The mistrusting Jews plotted conspired to kill him.	a few people gather together to plot Saul's death.	
When the plot to kill Saul was discovered, his friends took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.	create some kind of sneak rescue	
(Acts 26–31 NIV adapted) When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, they too, did not believe he was really a disciple.	Saul shakes hands and introduces himself to several campers, one at a time. Campers we don't trust him.	Jerusalem sign signs telling campers what to say
Barnabas took brought Saul to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damasucs he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.	Barnabas takes Saul to group of people designated as the apostles and explains his situation.	apostles sign
The apostles believed the story and Saul stayed with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.	apostles shake hands with Saul, pat him on the back, etc.	
This was only the beginning of Saul's ministry. As a believer, Saul turned the skills he had used against the believers into skills he could use as a minister for Christ. He recognized his skills and embraced the call to use them for good.		

camper's connection

As campers arrive, give each person a sheet of paper. At this point ask them to tear that paper into a shape that represents them. Provide a few minutes for paper tearing, then ask them to turn to the person behind/in front of them to explain the creation. Each person should share their shape and what personal skills it represents.

day 3: respond with generosity

song suggestions

Give Me That Old Time Religion

scripture story

NARRATOR READS	ACTORS DRAMATIZE	OPTIONAL PROPS
Saul, now called Paul, vibrantly continued to witness of Jesus Christ. However, he was not always liked, and his life often threatened.		Sign to hang around Paul's neck that says "PAUL"
At one point, Paul was placed on trial before King Agrippa. Agrippa allowed Paul to speak to his own defense. He believed that there was no reason to imprison Paul, but since Paul had already appealed his case to Caesar, he was placed on a ship, with other prisoners, headed to Italy.	Paul brought in, hands tied together.	sign for King Agrippa row boat or cardboard boat side to sit behind fabric scarf sail
Before reaching their destination, a storm overcame the ship. A gentle wind made way to winds of hurricane force. There was nothing they could do but let the winds drive them along.	act out fear of storm direct winds to blow into audience spray water into winds of fan	fans to blow the boat, first tiny fan, then switch to large fan on high. spray bottles
The ship took a violent battering. One day they threw cargo overboard, another their tackle.	throw things overboard	small boxes fishing pole
After an angelic vision, Paul assured the crew that everyone would survive.	angel comes to Paul in boat	
On the fourteenth night, the sailors sensed they were approaching land. They dropped anchors and prayed for daylight.	drop anchor pray	cardboard anchor
Just before dawn Paul urged everyone to eat. "For fourteen days you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. Now take some food. You will need it to survive."	Paul stands and repeats lines	
After this Paul took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. There were 276 on board.	break bread, serve to people	loaf of Wonder bread
Before they could reach shore, the ship hit a sandbar and was broken to pieces. The centurion, wanting to spare Paul's life, ordered all who could swim to jump overboard (prisoners included). Those who could not, floated ashore on boards from the ship.	people sitting in boat jump overboard and swim.	the boat should be carried off as soon as everyone jumps out

Once safely on the shores of Malta, the islanders showed unusual kindness and generosity. They built a fire and welcomed them.	bring in logs to make fire	wood or picture of fire
The chief official, Publius, welcomed them into his home and entertained them hospitably for three days. His father was sick in bed. Paul went to him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. The people of Malta honored this crew of sailors and prisoners in many ways. Three months later, when they were ready to continue their journey, they generously furnished the supplies they would need.	Publius welcomes all Paul heals sick who come to them People of Malta bring boat back in and send them on their way	Publius sign boat

camper's connection

Even though Paul was a prisoner on the boat, he responded generously. His concern was for all aboard, not just himself. The people of Malta responded generously, helping a group of people they did not know, many who were prisoners.

Ask campers to gather in cabin groups. Explain that today, their goal is to be generous with everyone, but they are especially challenged to show generosity toward their brother/sister cabin. Be sure everyone understands that a generous response would never be designed to make someone else feel awkward or embarrassed. To make this successful for all campers, the counselors should be told of the activity during camp preparation/training. Some preplanning between counselors would be appropriate. Following are a few suggestions.

- decorate cabins
- write a special song to sing to them at dinner or campfire
- do KP or other assigned maintenance chores for them
- make affirmation cards/posters
- write a song or skit for them
- carry trays in dining hall
- invite and escort them to campfire

day 4: create the peace

song suggestions

- "We Are One In the Spirit" HS
- "Let There Be Peace on Earth"
- "Peace Like a River" SCR

scripture story

(1 Corinthians 12 NIV paraphrased)

NARRATOR READS	ACTORS DRAMATIZE	OPTIONAL PROPS
<p>Paul wrote to the church community in Corinth.</p> <p>See the body. It is made up of many parts—each part being quite different—together all these parts come together to form one body. So it is with Christ. We are all different and unique, each with their own gifts to share, but together we share the same Spirit. Together we form one community.</p>	<p>Saul sits at table writing letter while narrator reads.</p> <p>Two "mime-like" actors lead the campers in interpretation of the words. One stands still and lets the other pose their body. Add campers from the audience one at a time to help illustrate the different body parts.</p>	<p>table, chair, tablet, pen</p> <p>body part signs for campers selected to hold</p>
<p>Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "I am not a hand, so I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not stop being part of the body.</p> <p>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing come from? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell come from? In fact, God has arranged the body just as it should be: many parts, but just one body, all working together to help each other.</p> <p>The eye cannot tell the hand, "I don't need you!" and the head cannot tell the foot, "I don't need you!" On the contrary. God has combined all members of the body so that all will support one another. All parts should have equal concern for one another. There should be no division among the body. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.</p> <p>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. Each one of you has a part to play.</p>		

camper's connection

Have people stand in different parts of the room holding signs for hands, arms, eyes, ears, head, mouth, heart, lungs, and feet. Instruct campers to listen to following descriptions of people in community. When they hear one that describes them, they should go stand by the person holding that sign. After all parts are read, give campers one last chance to switch positions. Then

have individuals share within the group they chose why they feel they belong there. (This should be voluntary because some may not be sure why they chose that group.)

Some of you are the hands: building and creating; the arms: hugging and holding. Some of you are the eyes: seeing the beauty in all God's creation. Some of you are the head: holding the knowledge that all of us build upon. Some

of you are the ears: hearing and responding to the sounds of even silence. Some of you are the mouth: speaking the words that teach and represent. Some of you are the heart: loving even the unlovable. Some of you are the lungs: breathing the breath of life into the community. Some of you are the feet: taking us places we've never been before.

day 5: live the witness

song suggestions

"It Only Takes a Spark"

scripture story

(Acts 16:16–34 NIV adapted)

NARRATOR READS	ACTORS DRAMATIZE	OPTIONAL PROPS
There was a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul, Silas, and others around shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.	Paul and Silas walk around the audience with the girl following them.	costumes name signs
When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face authorities. "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for Romans to accept or practice.	Owners drag Paul and Silas before magistrates.	prison sign jailer
The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas. The magistrates ordered them to be stripped, beaten, and thrown into jail.	Throw into jail.	sign telling campers to shout "jail them"
The jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.	jailer moves them back and ties feet together	rope or chains
Well you know Paul, jail was not exactly a foreign place to him so he made himself at home. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.	pray sing a hymn	
Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.	prisoners acted surprised	bang on a trash can lid to make loud crashing sounds
The jailer woke up, and when he saw that the prison doors were open he drew his sword and was ready to kill himself since he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"	jailer acts fearful Paul shouts "stop"	

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all others in the house.	jailer responds	
At that hour of night, the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.	jailer cleans their wounds	wash basin and rag
The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.	jailer and family feed Paul and Silas everyone is happy	table and chair tray of food

camper's connection

Paul and Silas lived their witness in good times and bad, even in jail!
Break into pairs of two. Each person should pray for their partner as they seek to live the witness in their everyday life.

optional day 5: sunrise worship

If your camp is situated where you can observe sunrise, consider having an early morning worship. Plan for the activity at a site where the setting is optimum for watching the sunrise. This might be an east-facing hill or building. Be prepared with a "sleep-in" option in case of inclement weather.

SERVICE IDEAS

- Sing together or listen to a CD or soloist sing, "Morning Has Broken" HS .
- Have campers witness the sunrise. Afterward, ask them to describe it to one another in pairs. Ask for volunteers to share with the entire camp.
- Questions for discussion:
 1. Of what characteristic or quality of God does the sunrise make you think? How is this attribute important to people? Is it something we should emulate?
 2. How would you explain this quality of God to someone who is much younger than you? Older than you? Someone who does not know God? Someone who is blind?
- Let campers respond silently to the sunrise while sketching, painting, or writing.