

Evening Cabin Devotions

Day One: Garden Earth

Materials needed: fast-drying clay, paper for journaling

Discuss with the campers what they have learned during the day about creating a garden. What would they need? How would they plan?

Tell them that they can plant a personal spiritual garden this week. This means deciding what they would like to grow (i.e., kindness, patience, joy) and planning how to grow it (i.e., be nice to others, wait even when it is hard, and smile more).

Ask the campers to make a list of three things they would like to grow in their personal spiritual gardens and identify one thing they could do to make each happen.

Tell them that they are going to work on this project a little bit every night so that it will be done at the end of the week. Each night they will do something that will remind them of a step in growing a garden.

The project is to make a set of personal beads; beads that reflect who we are and who we want to be. Tonight we will discuss what it is we need to make the beads. Ask the campers to list things they could make beads out of. Then show them the clay. Discuss why clay is a good material to use. What are its properties? What will make it easy to use? What might make it difficult to use? Tell them that tomorrow we will begin to think of how we will use the clay to make beads.

End with a prayer by the counselor or counselor-in-training.

Day Two: Earth Web

Materials needed: fast-drying clay; plastic knives, forks, and spoons; pencils

Tell the campers that tonight we will begin to make our project. Ask them to think of what shape would best reflect who they are and why.

Give each camper some clay. Tell them to make twenty beads all the same shape. Then have them poke a hole through it with the pencil so the bead can be strung.

Tell them this step of the project is meant to remind them of the beginning stage of shaping and planning a garden.

How did they shape and work with their personal spiritual garden today? Have them look back on what they wrote the night before and provide a written reflection of how their garden is growing.

End with a sentence prayer, with a counselor beginning the prayer and ending it, but giving those campers who will share the opportunity to say one sentence or indicate they wish to pass.

Day Three: Earth Watch

Materials needed: none

Tell the campers that tonight they will do nothing with their beads. This is because after you have planned, shaped, and planted your garden you must wait for the seeds to take root. They must wait for their beads to dry, just as a gardener patiently waits for the plants to begin growing.

Ask the campers to think back on their spiritual gardens. Have them provide a written reflection on how their spiritual garden was affected by the day's events.

Offer a chance for the campers to share out loud with each other about their spiritual gardens.

End with campers praying with a partner.

Day Four: Earth Quake

Materials needed: paints, paint brushes, cleanup supplies

Tell the campers that it is now time to do something with their beads, to make them more than they are, like a garden does as it blooms. Have the campers paint their beads. Remind them to paint the beads the same way, so that they have twenty representations of who they are.

Today we talked about sharing, moving, and sometimes shaking things up by doing the right thing. How does this relate to our spiritual garden? Have them write a reflection.

End with campers all having the opportunity to pray.

Day Five: Harvest Earth

Materials needed: material to string the beads to make a necklace

Tonight as a farewell, campers will exchange beads with each other and form a necklace. Choose a method to facilitate the exchange among your campers. Some possibilities for discussion include: think about each person who gave them a bead and how they each have a personal spiritual garden as well. Ask them to share with each other how this makes them feel. How do they feel about their own garden? What do they want to do with it when they get home? How can they celebrate their shared spirituality?

End with campers sharing in prayer for each other.