

Evening Cabin Devotions

The following devotions have been provided for use in small cabin groups before lights out .To simplify devotion preparation, make sure the counselors have all the supplies required for each night, as well as a copy of the devotions before camp begins. If counselors need to provide any of the supplies, such as a Bible, make sure they have their list far enough in advance to give them time to collect the items. Take time to go through the devotions together so they can work out any questions or logistics. For instance, during the day-five devotion the cabins are asked to take their groups out on a night walk to look at the stars. This activity may need to be coordinated as a whole camp so all the groups are walking and stopping in safe places while still being given the privacy they need for the activity. Your camp may not need every night's devotion so pick and choose the ones that match the themes you are using.

Night One:

The Road, The Way

Concept: Throughout the week the campers will be exploring how Christ can be “The Road, The Way” for them. On this first night with your group, take time to get to know your campers and talk about what they think the theme can mean for their lives.

Need It:

*poster board markers
tape scissors*

optional: wooden street signs on poles to place in front of cabins or tents

*Scripture Reference: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”
John 14:4*

Devotion Activities

Spend time as a cabin getting to know one another. Ask questions like: Where do you live? What congregation or area do you come from? What do you like to do? What grade are you in? Do you have any brothers or sisters? Discuss the theme for the week, “The Road, The Way.” Help them to understand that during the process of the next few days camp activities will be exploring ways they can journey with

Christ.

Name your cabin group. Guide the campers through the process, making sure the final name is a positive one. Use the poster board to create a street sign that displays your cabin group's name. If desired, the signs can be created in the shape of the cross with the words “Christ's Way” on one side of the cross and the group name along the other.

Close the evening with prayer asking the Lord to help your campers better understand “The Road, The Way” this week.

Optional: If you know someone skilled with wood, ask them to create wooden street signs to stick in the ground in front of cabin or tent entrances.

Night Two:

Finding the Road

Concept: Each person is of value to Christ. Sometimes we take the people around us for granted. Sometimes we have the most trouble discovering the value within ourselves. Christ calls us to discover the worth of all persons.

Need It:

*a stick to represent a shepherd's staff
(one per cabin group)*

Scripture Reference: Luke 15:4-7
The parable of the Lost Sheep.

Devotion Activities

Have the campers sit in a circle.
Read the parable of the Lost Sheep together.

Ask each camper the question, “With whom do you identify—the lost sheep, the herd of sheep, or the shepherd?” Discuss their responses.

Show the campers the stick. Explain that tonight they are going to use the stick to represent the love of our Shepherd—the love of Christ. Pass the stick around the circle. As each camper holds the staff, ask the others in the circle to share one valuable characteristic about that person.

Ask for a volunteer to close the devotions with a prayer.

Night Three **Along the Road**

Concept. We are called to be like the Good Samaritan, ready to help wherever we can. We are called to help not only in big ways, but also in the little ways that nobody ever

Need It:

*a slip of paper for each camper
an envelope for each camper
a pen or pencil for each camper*

Devotion Activities

Have the campers sit in a circle.
Discuss the service project the camp participated in during the day. Did they feel like anything they did today made a difference? Talk about how small things we do can work together to make a cumulative difference in the lives of others.

Ask if anyone has observed a “Good Samaritan” in action this week.

Give each camper an envelope, a slip of paper, and a pen or pencil. Then send

them over to their beds for personal privacy.

Ask them to think of at least one way they can be a Good Samaritan when they return home. How can they give a gift that keeps on giving? Is there something they need to do that will reap no public awards or recognition? Is there someone at school or church who is being ignored, who is hurting inside, who they could befriend? Is there someone in their family whom they have been ignoring or making fun of, who could really use their love and support? Maybe even their parents?

Ask the campers to write down their “Good Samaritan” commitment and seal it inside their envelope. Then have them place the envelope under their pillow and “sleep on it.”

Have each person say a sentence prayer to close the evening.

Night Four: **Fork in the Road**

Concept: Through life we will be thrown many kinds of seeds. Some of them will be good seeds. Some of them will be weeds. God has given each of us the ability to choose. It is our responsibility to make the choices that will be best for our lives. We all come from different backgrounds and we all have different goals for our futures. Therefore, the choices we make along the way will be different for each person.

Optional Supplies:

*candle
flashlight
tape/CD player
meditative song*

Scripture: Luke 8:4-15
The Parable of the Sower

Devotion Activities

Have the campers lie on their beds for this devotional period. If desired you can turn the light down and light a candle to set

a meditative mood.

As you read the following statements to the campers ask them to complete them silently to themselves:

The best choice I have ever made in my life was _____.

The worst choice I have ever made in my life was _____.

The results of the best choice I made was _____.

The consequences of the worst choice I made were _____.

Give campers time to think about their life and the choices they have made and their future choices. If a tape/CD player is available, play a thoughtful, meditative song during their “thinking” time.

Ask each camper to say a silent prayer, and then close with a unifying prayer asking God for guidance as the teenagers make choices and strive to listen to the voices that represent Christ’s way.

Night Five: Rocks in the Road

Concept: Christ calls us to love unconditionally, yet sometimes situations and actions don’t make this an easy thing to do. In families, friendships at school, and on teams, we find that the choices others make can affect our lives, too—sometimes in positive ways, sometimes in negative ways. Rocks in our road can come from many directions. We must learn to put them in Christ hands and ask him to guide us through the rough spots.

Need It:
a small rock for each camper blanket

*Scripture: Luke 15:11-24
The Prodigal Son*

Devotion Activities

Sit in a circle. Give each camper a small rock and ask them to think about some

of the “rocks” which make following Christ’s roadway more difficult for them. If you have a group that likes to share their thoughts, give them opportunity to do so.

Take the campers for a short walk outside. Ask the campers to bring their rock with them. Explain that this rock represents those burdens and stumbling blocks in our road of life. Somewhere along their walk, they are to drop the rock. As they do so, encourage them to let Christ help them with their “rocks.” Dropping the rock will be a symbol of letting go of something that is hard and asking for Christ’s help. Some campers need help processing this concept. Find a quiet place for your group to sit on the blanket and spend time together talking and looking up at the stars. If anyone has not yet released their rock, encourage them to do so. Let them know it is great for them to enjoy the light of nature and the calming effect Christ has on us if we but let him into our lives.

Before going back inside, give everyone an opportunity to pray.

Night Six: On the Road

Concept: No Excuses! As we go back into the “real world,” away from the shelter of camp, we must each ask ourselves the question, “Am I ready to answer Christ’s call?”

Need It:
*one copy of Christ’s picture cut into puzzle pieces for each camper
pencils*

*Scripture Reference: Luke 14:7-24
The Great Banquet*

Devotion Activities

Sit together in a circle. Give each person a piece of the puzzle and a pencil.

Ask them to write on the back of their puzzle piece at least one excuse they have used in the past to get out of answering Christ's call.

Go around the group and give everyone opportunity to share what they wrote. Encourage them to talk about the different ways Christ's has asked them to serve.

Some campers may feel they have no "calling" since they see themselves with no unique gifts or talents. Help everyone see that Christ calls us to live a life of testimony. Remind them of the Good Samaritan story when they talked about how following Christ's way wasn't always easy because it was often unseen. The little Christ like things we do in our everyday life are what really makes the difference. Christ calls each of us daily to take the time to think things through and understand how what we do affects everyone around us.

Have the campers put their puzzle pieces together to form the picture of Christ, Remind them that this week they have worked as a camp and a cabin group to create a Community of Christ. Talk about the uniqueness of the camp situation and how easy it is to feel close to each other and to Christ. Remind them that as they leave tomorrow, they will not only continue to take the love and support of Christ with them, but they can also take with them a piece of the community they have built this week. The love they have found here will help them to become planters of new

"Communities of Christ."

Ask everyone to sign the back of each puzzle piece then give the campers their own piece to take home.