

# Island Awakenings

Begin each day with the sound of drums calling the campers to morning devotions. Learn the Tahitian version of Kum ba Yah,” and watch two explorers each day as they walk *Te E’a O Te Hau -the Path of Peace*. There is something different each day to keep campers engaged. Be sure to create your worship setting and have materials each day.

**Call to Awaken:** Call the campers to worship with drums. Collect different types of drums and have selected campers choose rhythms to use each morning as a way of signaling the beginning of the day and a call to gather.

**Assign Tasks:** Assign the task of starting morning devotions to a new hut group or family each day. Utilize the campers in as many roles as possible.

**Share:** Each morning a different scripture is offered that should be read aloud to the group.

**Learn and Sing:** Learn and sing the Tahitian version of “Kum ba Yah.” Feel free to add songs that may be traditional to your program.

**Worship Center:** Each day the worship center contains elements needed for the morning drama. Most days call for a natural setting of a type found on a tropical island. A central piece for the week could be a large fishing net that always shows up in some way. It doesn’t need to be the focus, just cleverly incorporated.

**Drama:** Each day morning devotions will highlight the journey of two explorers who are on their own path of peace. If possible, give the drama to two young people early enough so they can memorize it and have fun with it. It can be approached in a semi- extemporaneous fashion.

**After the Skit:** Often an activity or series of questions is suggested following the drama. A worship leader or other facilitator will be needed.

## Day One: Te Tereraa....Journey

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:18-22 NRSV

Today we begin our journey. We must decide what to take with us and what to leave behind, what is worth holding onto and what we need to get rid of. As we lighten our loads, we are able to go places we otherwise could not have gone. Our journey will take us to incredible places.

**Worship Center:** Today’s worship center includes a canoe and a net. Inside the canoe is a bunch of junk symbolic both of the clutter of our lives and some stuff we will need on the journey to the island.

**Call to Awaken:** Call the campers to worship with drums.

**Share:** Read aloud the scripture for the day.

**Learn and Sing:** Learn and sing the Tahitian version of “Kum ba Yah.”

## Unpacking

**Setting:** Two explorers arrive on a beach with their canoe. The canoe is loaded with items that are needed as well as items foolish to have. Examples could be a TV, some cable, framed pictures, water jugs, matches, a tarp and net. A few empty canoes are also present.

**One:** I can't believe it, here we are! Isn't this place beautiful?

**Two:** Yeah, I guess it is, if you like sand.

**One:** What are you talking about? We looked at the map, loaded the canoe, you knew we were paddling to this island, and now you're complaining about the sand.

**Two:** No, I'm not complaining. I just didn't think there would be so much sand.

**One:** You are incredible! It's a tropical island there's suppose to be lots and lots of sand.

**Two:** Okay, okay I get it. Now let's unload the canoe.

**One:** Sure, let's do it.

**Two:** *(Takes out a TV)* Where should I put this?

**One:** A TV-are you nuts? What did you think you would do with a TV? Where would you plug it in?

**Two:** Oh, I never thought about that. I guess this cable won't be needed. *(Takes out cable.)*

**One:** You are incredible.

**Two:** Thank you.

**One:** You're welcome; we need to hurry up so we can setup a camp.

**Two:** Okay, okay. Where should I put this tent?

**One:** Just set it over there, we'll decide how we get everything to the site after that. And please don't put the TV over there. *(pulls out a framed picture of a popular TV star or music group)*

*Confusing.* What are you doing with this?

**Two:** I need that, I love them.

**One:** But we're on an island. What good will the picture do?

**Two:** *(hesitant)* Motivation.

**One:** Right.

**Two:** *(Pulls out matches)* Okay, what about these super duper, triple waterproof matches?

**One:** Great, we can use those. Put them over there.

**Two:** Thank you, now where should I put this hose?

**One:** A hose, what did you bring a hose for?

**Two:** Water, we need water.

**One:** You notice all the water around us? And where would you hook up the hose?

**Two:** I knew I forgot something. Let me guess. It goes in the "don't move pile?"

**One:** Right. Are we almost done?

**Two:** I think so; let's see - a couple sleeping bags, a lantern, and an ice cream maker? I like ice cream. What can I say?

**One:** It stays. Clothes, some rope, and a net. That's it. Let's go.

**Two:** Okay, I'll carry some and you carry some.

*They both pick some things up walk a few steps and then drop them.*

**One:** Okay, this isn't working. What are we going to do?

**Two:** We could just stay here. Then we wouldn't have to move anything.

**One:** That's not what we're here for. We're here to explore.

**Two:** Okay, so what do we do?

**One:** *(Looks at net)* I think I've got it, let's put the stuff in the net.

**Two:** Great idea. Can we take some of the stuff we were going to leave behind?

**One:** Oh I don't think so. It'll slow us down, and we don't need that stuff. It's just extra baggage.

**Two:** You're right you're always right.

**One:** I'm glad you finally realized that. Now let's go.

*Exit carrying net with items.*

*Other objects may be substituted and additional ones used if desired.*

**After the Skit:** Everyone is given a small stone or rock. The worship leader challenges the participants to name the stone with one word symbolizing what they need to leave at the beach (emphasize emotional or spiritual baggage) including fear, anger, frustrations, body-image or relationship struggles. Provide 3-5 minutes of quiet music for participants to determine what they will leave at the beach. At the end of the music have participants bring their stones to place it inside the canoe. After everyone has done this, recognize there is an emptiness inside each, if they are really going to leave what they said they were. Many times out of habit we pick that item back up. Today we want to fill that spot, that emptiness with joy, hope, love, and peace. Read Doctrine and Covenants 161:7. Emphasize that God does not want us to pick up the baggage. Hand out small shells to symbolize the joy, hope, love and peace for campers to carry with them. (Shells are available at many craft or specialty stores. If you can find them with holes, this would allow campers to put them on string and wear them.)

**Share:** Matthew 4:18-22 NRSV

**Pray:** Focus on the journey, safety, sense of fun and excitement

## **Island Awakenings**

### **Day Two: Te Ite Matamuara'a...Discover**

**Scripture:** Doctrine and Covenants 161:5; Matthew 5:1 -13 IV

Our journey leads us to a place of discovery, a vista where we can look beyond the horizon and see what possibilities exist. This process will prepare us to look deeper into our lives. It will call us to risk and to have courage

**Worship Center:** Today's worship center can be made around a natural feature(rock or tree) that our two actors keep passing in their attempt to explore the island.

**Call to Awaken:** Call the campers to worship with drums.

**Share:** Doctrine and Covenants 161:5

### **The Circle Needs Unbroken**

**One:** Haven't we seen that tree before?

**Two:** I don't think so. Let's go.

**One:** Now hold it. I know that's the same tree.

**Two:** Listen, palm trees surround us. They all look the same.

**One:** I guess you're right. Let's go.

**Two:** Okay.

*The two travel, and stop at a rock*

**One:** Now wait a second. That is the same rock we've gone by twice.

**Two:** I don't think so. Let's go.

**One:** No, no, I'm sure it's the same rock. Look from here, it looks just like a s'more. We've been going in a circle for most of the day, and you knew it. Why?

**Two:** It's safe.

**One:** What do you mean it's safe? We're explorers; we need to look around.

**Two:** We are looking around, but we know where we are. We are exploring.

**One:** Listen, walking around in a circle is not my idea of exploring. There's so much to see out there, and if we keep walking in a circle we'll always see the same thing. That's not what we came here for.

**Two:** I like walking in a circle. I know where I am, and I know where I'm going.

**One:** I know where I'm going too. In a circle and I don't like it. I want to go up there and see the view. We can't do that walking around in a circle.

**Two:** Sure you can. Besides it's a great view here; who needs to go up there?

**One:** I do, and I'm going. (*Starts to walk away*)

**Two:** Wait, you can't do that! It's not safe out there! You can get hurt.

**One:** What do you mean?

**Two:** Typhoons, volcanic eruptions, mud slides, falling coconuts, bugs and snakes.

**One:** Now let me get this straight, you don't want to go, because you're scared.

**Two:** That's right.

**One:** Well, all those things you're scared of can happen right here while we continue to walk in a circle.

**Two:** Listen, I just don't want to, I'm not ready.

**One:** Well, I'm ready. Ready to get off this trail. Ready to look at the vista from up there, not down here.

**Two:** No, we can't. We'll be too far from the campsite. We wouldn't have our stuff, and then we would be stuck.

**One:** Let's take the stuff.

**Two:** You mean carry the stuff with us?

**One:** Yeah, it's sort of like backpacking, but we'll use the net.

**Two:** Walking in this circle is a lot easier.

**One:** You're right, but we won't get anywhere. Let's just go a little way, and if we find out if we like it, we can go back for our stuff.

**Two:** I know I'm going to regret this, but okay.

**One:** It'll be okay. I'll stay with you the whole time, and we can stop if you need a rest or get a little scared.

**Two:** Oh, I'll be okay. I won't get scared.

**One:** I know you won't, but its okay if you do (*softly*) "volcano's and bugs and typhoons, oh my!"

**Two:** What did you say?

**One:** Oh, nothing.

**Two:** Okay, let's go.

**One:** Okay.

*They walk ten steps then stop and gasp in amazement.*

**One:** Look at that! Can you believe it?

**Two:** Wow!

**After the Skit:** Invite campers to gather in Island Groups. Have them answer and discuss the following:

What did they see in the skit?

What risk made the discovery possible?

When you're willing to take new steps, what will you discover?

**Share:** Read or tell the message of Matthew 5:1-13.

**Sing:** Sing the Tahitian version of "Kum ba Yah." Use other songs as appropriate.

**Pray:** Have a camper close with a prayer focusing on the theme of discovery.

### **Day Three: Oraraa Varua...Spiritual Quest**

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:5; 7:12

"Be still and know that I am God." For generations this phrase has been used to call us to recognition of God around us. Today we listen for God in all we do: knocking, asking, and seeking. Today we look deeper into our own lives as we continue down Te E'a 0 Te Hau and contemplate our own Oraraa Varua. . .spiritual quest.

**Worship Center:** Natural setting

**Call to Awaken:** Call the campers to worship with drums.

**Sing:** "Kum ba Yah"

**Share:** Matthew 6:5; 7:12

**Hi, God!**

**Setting:** On top of mountain. Two characters talking. A third voice is necessary for the voice of God.

**One:** Here we are, isn't it great?

**Two:** (*Hesitant*) Yeah, we're really high.

**One:** I know, it's like you could reach up and touch God.

**Two:** Huh?

**One:** You can reach out and touch God. Listen, I think I'm just going to take some time and talk to God.

**Two:** You go ahead. I think I'll look the other way. That way I won't know how high we are.

**One:** Okay, Our Father, who...

**God:** Yes?

**One:** Don't interrupt me! I'm praying.

**God:** But you called me.

**One:** Called you? I didn't call you. I was praying. Our Father who art in heaven...

**God:** There, you did it again.

**One:** Did what?

**God:** Called me. You said, "Our Father who art in heaven." Here I am. What's on your mind?

**One:** But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, sort of like getting a job done.

**God:** All right. Go on.

**One:** Hallowed be thy name...

**God:** Hold it! What do you mean by that?

**One:** By what?

**God:** By “hallowed be thy name?”

**One:** It means...it means.... Good grief! How should I know what it means? It’s just part of the prayer. *(pause)* By the way, what does it mean?

**God:** It means honored, holy, and wonderful.

**One:** Ah, that makes sense. I never thought about what hallowed meant before. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**God:** Do you really mean that?

**One:** Of course! Why not?

**God:** What are you going to do about it?

**One:** Do? Nothing, I suppose. I just think it would be rather good if you got control of things down here the way you have up there.

**God:** Have I got control of you?

**One:** Well, I go to church.

**God:** That isn’t what I asked you. What about that bad temper? You’ve really got a problem there you know!

**One:** Stop picking on me! I’m just as good as some of those hypocrites down at the church!

**God:** Excuse me, but I thought you were praying for my will to be done? If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.

**One:** Oh, all right! I guess I do have a few hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I probably could name some others.

**God:** So could I.

**One:** I haven’t thought about it much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those

things. I really would like to know how to be free.

**God:** Good! Now we're getting somewhere! We'll work together, you and I. Some real victories can be won. I'm proud of you!

**One:** Look, Lord, I need to finish this up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does! Give us this day our daily bread.

**God:** You need to cut out the bread. You're a little overweight as it is!

**One:** Hey! Wait a minute! What is this? Here I am doing my religious duty and all of the sudden you break in and remind me of all my faults!

**God:** Praying is a dangerous thing. You could end up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to bring across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep on praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer.

*(Pause)* Well. Go on!

**One:** I'm scared to...

**God:** Scared of what?

**One:** I know what you'll say!

**God:** Try me and see.

**One:** Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**God:** What about Peter Brown?

**One:** See! I knew you would bring him up! Why, Lord he told lies about me, and he cheated me out of some money. I swear that I'll get even with him.

**God:** But your prayer. What about your prayer?

**One:** I didn't mean it.

**God:** Well, at least you're honest! But it's not much fun carrying around that load of bitterness

inside, is it?

**One:** No, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even! Have I got some plans for old Peter!

**God:** You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you really are. But I'll change all that.

**One:** You will? How?

**God:** Forgive Peter. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Peter's problem and not yours. You may lose the money, but you will have settled your heart.

**One:** It doesn't sound easy, but deep down, I know it would be worth the effort. Thank you; Lord, for helping me work through this. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Two:** Can we go now? I'm not feeling real well.

**One:** Sure. Can I ask you something?

*One and two leave as if hiking down mountain.*

**Two:** Sure.

**One:** Did you hear anything up there?

**Two:** Only my stomach growling, I'm sure hungry.

**One:** That's what I thought. Let's go.

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**After the Skit:** Instruct campers to select a partner. After the selection, inform them they now have a prayer partner for the remainder of camp. Spend the next two to three minutes praying for each other. Prayers can center around the theme of the day. When finished,

invite them to continue to lift their partner up in prayer for the next couple of days.

**Sing:** “Standing in the Need of Prayer”

**Pray:** Have an evangelist or spiritual leader of the camp close with a prayer of blessing that each camper will take time to consider what it means to look deeper, to consider who they are, and how God interacts in their life.

## **Island Awakenings**

### **Day Four: Te Amuiraa Taata...Community**

**Scripture:** Act 2:44-47

Sacred community is difficult to find. As we spend time together, travel together, struggle, laugh and cry together, we find community. Today we focus on what it means to become the “Community of Christ.”

**Worship Center:** Today’s worship center can be the same as yesterdays.

**Call to Awaken:** Call the campers to worship with drums.

**Share:** Act 2:44-47

### **Community Is Here**

**One:** That was so incredible on the mountaintop, you could see for miles.

**Two:** I know, and it was so high. I mean it seemed like we were in the clouds.

**One:** What do you mean? You were so green! You would have thought you were scared of heights.

**Two:** Oh, I wasn’t scared. I just think I had something bad to eat.

**One:** Right.

**Two:** Did you notice that we weren’t the only ones up there?

**One:** What do you mean?

**Two:** There were other people up on the mountain.

**One:** No way.

**Two:** Listen, for someone who prides themselves on being so observant you really missed it this time.

**One:** You were the one that said it was like we were in the clouds up there. You could see for miles when you were on top of the mountain, but on the way up it was a little foggy, not to

mention the rain.

**Two:** Sounds to me like you are trying to make excuses for not noticing we weren't alone.

**One:** I am not. It's just that I didn't see anybody.

**Two:** Okay, let me see if I can explain.

**One:** This isn't going to take long, is it?

**Two:** What's your hurry? We are on an island; it's not like we are in a hurry to get anywhere.

**One:** You're right, go ahead.

**Two:** Remember the beach? We weren't the only canoe. When we unpacked, there were other canoes. Other canoes mean other people.

**One:** Go ahead, I'm with you.

**Two:** The path. Remember when we stopped there were other campsites and some of the old fires were still warm?

**One:** Okay, you're starting to lose me.

**Two:** Okay, this is it. On the way up the mountain, didn't you notice the markers and signs that people left to say they had been there?

**One:** That doesn't mean anything. They could have been old.

**Two:** So how do you explain the "Caution wet paint" sign?

**One:** Oh, I don't know. What's your point?

**Two:** My point is that we are not alone! You seem to think we are.

**One:** I wanted to get away and visit someplace where there weren't many people. I guess I wanted it so bad I didn't notice the others who were around.

**Two:** Oh, there's nothing wrong with wanting that. But we are supposed to live in community. It's okay to want to get away but we are always called to community.

**One:** Are you okay? You're not usually this serious.

**Two:** I think it's you; you've helped me a lot.

**One:** How?

**Two:** You helped me learn how important it was to search, explore, and encounter God. We've spent time together, traveled together; we've struggled, laughed and cried together.

**One:** That's great, but what's that got to do with other people being around?

**Two:** Other people being around means there's community.

**One:** And...

**Two:** You've helped me so I can reach out and really be a part of the bigger community.

**One:** That's great. But I still don't know where this community is you are talking about.

**Two:** See that smoke down there? Where there's smoke, there's people.

**One:** I thought it was where there's smoke, there's fire?

**Two:** Right! Now do you want to go toward that smoke?

**One:** I guess.

**Two:** Let's go.

**After the Skit:** In a celebration of community, provide a piece of paper for each camper that will be taped or pinned on the camper's back and pencils or pens to write on the paper. Invite campers to mingle and write words of support and thanks for being in the community together. Encourage them to sign as many papers as possible in the time allotted (three to four minutes is usually plenty).

**Sing:** Kum ba yah as a way of moving campers from the last activity and preparing them for the closing prayer.

**Pray:** Center prayer around the call to community and thankfulness for who we are becoming.

## **Day Five:Te Taviniraa. . Sharing**

**Scripture:** Doctrine and Covenants 161 :6b

We are called to go to the world, to invite all to share in the blessings of community, and to seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. We live out this great call in the places we call home, where we go to school, and where we work and play.

**Worship Center:** Today we are back at the beach with several canoes, paddles and the kind of things day one had.

**Call to Awaken:** Call the campers to worship with drums.

**Sing:** “Kum ba Yah”

**Share:** Matthew 28:19-20

## **Going Home**

**Setting:** On the beach with other canoes, people milling around.

**One:** I couldn't believe all those people. It was incredible.

**Two:** I told you there were people here; I told you we were in the midst of community.

**One:** Okay, okay. Are you ready to go?

**Two:** Yeah, sure.

**One:** Look at all the people coming in. That was us not that long ago.

**Two:** Yeah, so do you think anybody brought a TV or hose with them?

**One:** I'd be surprised.

**Two:** You're probably right. I guess we ought to pack up.

**One:** Okay, let's see what we got.

**Two:** Wait a minute.

**One:** What now?

**Two:** Well I was thinking, when we came here we struggled with not knowing anyone. I mean we struggled about what to take with us. Then we struggled with figuring out where and how to get to the mountain. You know, if we had people share with us what was important we might not have had so many problems.

**One:** So what do you want to do?

**Two:** I guess we could start by giving some of our stuff to people if they need something.

**One:** That sounds all right. What else?

**Two:** Why don't we tell some people what we saw, what worked and what didn't?

**One:** That sounds like a great idea. What else?

**Two:** I thought maybe I'd give them this map of the island. It'll help a lot.

**One:** You had a map?

**Two:** Sure, but we were doing so well without it, I never took it out.

**One:** Oh, I guess you're right. Let's go share about all the stuff that's happened to us.

**After the Skit:** One way we share with each other is to pass the peace. Instruct campers to stand and turn to another camper and say "May the peace of Christ be with you" with the response being "And also with you." Repeat this with three to four other campers.

**Share:** Matthew 28:19-20

**Prayer:** Gather campers in a circle for a circle prayer. Invite campers to share a one line prayer in response to this statement, "As we return to our families, neighborhoods, and schools, help us to be..."