

CABIN DEVOTIONS

Day One: In Search of Adventure

Spend a few minutes with campers reflecting on the day and then move into sharing with these thoughts:

"Along our adventure, we are constantly learning and growing. As we grow, we may discover things about ourselves that we didn't realize before. Each of us has gifts that will enable us to be effective disciples of Jesus. What gifts have you discovered in yourself that will help you follow Jesus and serve others?"

Allow time for each camper to share.

Closing prayer theme: Ask God to help each person continue discovering and using his/her special gifts.

Day Two: Maps of the Past

Spend a few minutes with campers reflecting on the day reinforce these key points: 1) It is important to look to the wisdom of the scriptures to guide us today. 2) We each have a unique place within the sacred circle of Jesus.

Read the following paraphrased scripture: Isaiah 61:1-2.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
God has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
and to heal the brokenhearted:
to proclaim freedom for the captives,
and to set the prisoners free:
to announce a time of favor from the Lord,
and to comfort all who mourn.*

Option: purchase a copy of the song, 'The Spirit of God: St. Theresa's Prayer' by John Michael Talbot, and play it after reading the scripture.

Emphasize the importance of heeding the call of this scripture to serve other people. Ask campers to share some good things they can do during camp to serve, support, or comfort others.

Closing prayer theme: Ask God to help everyone remember that being in the circle of Jesus means being supportive and helpful to the people in our lives.

Day Three: Open to New Direction

Spend a few minutes with campers reflecting on the day. Reinforce these key points: 1) It is important to honor diversity and be open to different ways of doing God's work. 2) When we are open to God, we can listen for the "still, small voice" that guides us in our hearts.

Ask if someone can share what our church mission is. Discuss our church mission including these concepts: peace and justice, reconciliation, healing of the spirit. Read or have a camper read the following passage from Doctrine and Covenants 161.

Open your hearts and feet the yearnings of your brothers and sisters who are lonely, despised, fearful, neglected, unloved. Reach out in understanding, clasp their hands, and invite all to share in the blessings of community created in the name of the One who suffered on behalf of all. Be tender and caring. . . . Embrace the blessing of your many differences. Be reminded once again that the gifts of all are necessary in order that divine purposes may be accomplished. Do not be afraid.

Ask, "What do these words mean to you?" (If necessary, read quote again.) Allow campers to share; and the counselor should finish, emphasizing the significant impact each person can make in the lives of others.

Closing prayer theme: Ask God to empower us to be open to everyone and be strong peacemakers for Jesus.

Day Four: Traveling Light

Spend a few minutes with campers reflecting on the day. Read or have a camper read the following paraphrased scripture that was read earlier today: Matthew 11:28-30.

Come to me, all you that are burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am gentle and you shall find rest in your souls: for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Ask, "In light of theme class today what does this scripture mean to you?" Reinforce the following concept: "When we're doing right, we have a lightness in our heart even though our task might seem heavy or very difficult. However, when we're doing wrong, we are burdened with guilt, shame, and the feeling that the task we should be doing is too much for us. Staying focused on carrying the teachings of Jesus in our heart will help keep us on track so we don't get overburdened."

Closing prayer theme: Ask God to help us focus on Jesus so that we feel light in our heart and can do good things without feeling overwhelmed.

Day Five: The Horizon Awaits

Spend a few minutes reflecting on the day. Read the following paraphrased scripture: James 1:22-24.

Be doers of the word: don't just talk about it. Anyone who listens to the word, but does not follow it is like a person who looks in the mirror and then immediately walks away and forgets her or his own face.

Ask the campers what they think about the metaphor used in this scripture. Ask if they have ever felt like someone who forgot his or her face. Further encourage them to act upon their ideas for being involved in their local congregations and communities when they get home.

Closing prayer theme: Ask God to help us have the courage to get involved when we get home and to be doers of the word.