

Each morning devotion is built around a story from Jesus life. This story is in a simple play format. One or more group activity is also provided for each day. Add scripture readings, songs, sharing, and prayer to complete the devotion for each day.



Morning Devotions

Play Options

NARRATOR

NARRATOR OPTION 1:

Ask one person to play the part of one of Jesus' follower, Shepherd Ben, throughout the week. This person will dress in costume and narrate the morning devotions each day.

NARRATOR OPTION 2:

Ask one person to play the part of one of Jesus' follower, Shepherd Ben, throughout the week. This person will dress in costume and stary in character throughout the whole week. They will narrate the morning devotions as well as participate in other leadership roles—but always in character. This follower of Jesus should be introduced to the camp the first night and always participate in the morning devotions leadership class.

NARRATOR OPTION 3:

Someone from the Morning Devotions leadership class serves as narrator.

ACTORS OPTION 1:

Each devotion will center around a story from Jesus' life acted out by campers and/or staff. Actors can come from the daily morning devotions leadership class. They will practice and plan for the next day's devotion. If the leadership class is used to plan morning devotions, consider holding the first set of leadership classes opening day of camp. This will allow campers time to prepare for the first morning devotion.

ACTORS OPTIONS 2:

Draw actors each morning from group present for impromptu acting as the story is narrated.

ACTORS

Song Suggestions for the Week

From WOWHits 2006

- "Carry You" by Amy Grant
- "Voice of Truth" by Casting Crowns
- "Unchanging One" by Todd Agnew
- "You Are Mine" by Third Day®
- "Healing Rain" by Michael W. Smith
- "Love Peace and Happiness" by Out of Eden

From Sing a New Song

- "Firm Foundation" #10
- "Give Thanks" #11
- "Jesus Is the Rock" #24
- "Jesus, Name above All Names" #25
- "Lord, I Give You" #32
- "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" #33
- "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #45
- "Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!" #49

12 Singable Songs for the Young at

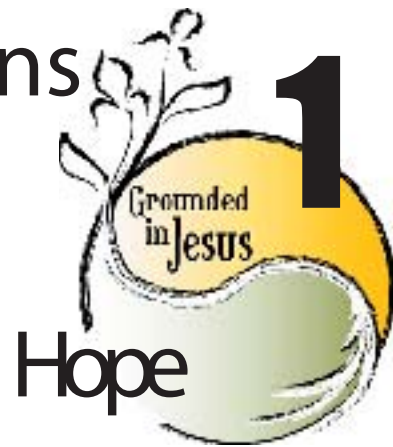
Heart by Mary Rice Hopkins

www.maryricehopkins.com/index2

- "Big Steps for Little Feet"
- "Running for the Prize"
- "Walk Like Jesus"
- "Little Is Much"
- "Superman"
- "Sharing Comes 'Round Again"

Just for Kids

Morning Devotions



MAIN
CHARACTERS: Narrator 1
 Narrator Ben
 one child
 shepherds
 angel
 Mary
 Joseph
 inn keepers

SMALL CAMP?
 Give everyone
 in camp a part!

OPTIONAL
CHARACTERS: extra shepherds
 extra angels
 sheep/animals

PROPS: Bible costumes (optional)
 scroll
 Bethlehem sign
 manger
 doll wrapped in cloths
 blankets
 bright lights

Luke
2:1–20
NRSV
adapted

Pair Share

Turn to someone next to you and share the first time you remember hearing the story of Jesus' birth.

SPEAKER	NARATION/CHARACTER LINES	ACTIONS
Narrator 1	¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.	Narrator 1 speaks from unseen place over microphone or from back of room out of first sight .
Messenger	The Emperor has decreed that all must be registered.	Messenger comes out and opens up a large, scroll like sheet of paper and reads.
Narrator 1	³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.	Mary and Joseph walk across stage to side with sign that says, WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM.
Joseph	Please, do you have a place for us to sleep?	Joseph and Mary go from door to door seeking a place to stay.
InnKeepers 1–3	Sorry, our rooms are all full.	
Inn Keeper 4	Sorry, our rooms are all full. But there is the barn out back. If you wish to take shelter there you may.	

Narrator 1	⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.	Mary and Joseph over to area on the Bethlehem side of stage with manger. Then sit down by manger. Mary picks up doll wrapped in cloths. Holds and cuddles doll.
	⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.	Shepherds, including child character gather on opposite side of stage. Sit on blanket.
	⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.	Angel stands by shepherds. Bright lights shine on them.
	¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."	Angel repeats words to shepherds.
Narrator Ben	See the young child lying on the blanket, watching those angels? That's me! I was only seven but I will never forget that night. At first I thought I was dreaming, but the light was so bright and the message spoken by the angel was so clear.	Narrator Ben, dressed in Biblical clothes, enters and stands stage center. Other characters freeze. Points to shepherds and child as he speaks.
	¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"	More angels enter. Option 1: Angels sing "Joy to the World" Option 2: Whole camp sings "Joy to the World"
Narrator 1	¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.	Angels leave, shepherds discuss going. Walk across stage to Bethlehem side. Narrator Ben follows. Shepherds kneel before baby Jesus.
Narrator Ben	Yes, that was quite a night. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. As for me? For years I told everyone I met about the angels and my visit to a barn to see a baby named Jesus. It would be many years later before word of Jesus' ministry spread from town to town. But as soon as I heard his name and the message he was sharing, I knew that this had to be the same Jesus I had gone to see that night in Bethlehem. And I knew I had to find him! My search ended on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee. There was Jesus surrounded by hundreds of people who had come to hear his words. I was once again in the presence of the Messiah.	All but Ben freeze.

Morning Devotions



MAIN CHARACTERS: Narrator Ben
 Jesus (the same Jesus can move from place to place or a different person can represent Jesus in each scene.)
 shepherd
 carpenter
 fisherman
 tax collector
 children
 disciples
 blind person
 deaf person
 crippled person
 leper
 dead person

Stories adapted from the Gospels

PROPS: Bible costumes
 shepherd's staff, sheep
 wood and tools
 net
 coins, table
 boat
 baskets with bread, crackers

SPEAKER	NARRATION/CHARACTER LINES	ACTIONS
Narrator Ben	If someone spent any time at all listening to Jesus teach they quickly learned that his message was all about love. Love God, love your neighbor, love yourself, even love your enemies. But more important than his words were the messages of love he taught us everyday through the things that he did.	Different scenarios set up at various places on stage. People in each setting stay frozen until Ben walks over to them. They then put action to their scene. Each scene freezes as Ben walks from them. Ben should move through scenes rather slow and deliberately so as not to rush any one scene over another.
	He loved people from all walks of life: shepherds like me, carpenters, fishermen, tax collectors, men and women. These were the people he taught and the people he traveled with. He ate in their homes and blessed their children. He truly loved us all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepherd with staff, "sheep." • carpenter sawing wood • fisherman casting a net • tax collector counting money

Narrator Ben	In a time when children were thought of us property to be dealt with, Jesus encouraged parents to bring them to him. He gathered them all around him, blessing them with his love.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus gathering children around.
	When his followers were afraid, he calmed our fears, even bringing storms to a halt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat with people in it, Jesus stands, holds out hands and says, "Peace be still!"
	To keep thousands of people from going hungry in the middle of nowhere Jesus with only five loaves of bread and two fish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus breaks bread into baskets. People take baskets (already prepared with pieces of bread and goldfish crackers) and pass them to audience.
	He prayed for those who loved him and for those who hated him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus praying.
	He gave sight to the blind, caused deaf to hear, healed the crippled, cleansed the lepers, and raised many from death. Through his gift of healing Jesus continuously reminded us that he loved all persons: men, women, and children, poor and rich, servants, leaders, and outcasts. He even healed the ear of one of the men who came to arrest him.	<p>Jesus walks from person to person touches them to heal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blind person can see • deaf person hears • crippled person lays down crutches • leper's skin is cleared • dead person gets up and walks
	His final act of love was one we cannot forget. Jesus, the son of God, the prince of peace, died so that we might know and understand God's eternal love for all creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus stands, arms outstretched as if hanging on crossed, head bowed onto chest.

Take this Bread

Campers take bread from the baskets shared by the disciples.

Morning Devotions



MAIN CHARACTERS: narrator Ben
Jesus
Peter
John
other disciples

Luke
22:7–13

John
13:1–17
NRSV
adapted

PROPS: Bible costumes
table
dishes
basin
pitcher of water
towel

SPEAKER	NARATION/CHARACTER LINES	ACTIONS
Narrator Ben	Jesus taught those of us who followed him many things about what it truly meant to be a disciple, but no lesson stands out more than the night he washed our feet.	table sits in middle of stage.
	It was the festival of Passover. Thousands of people gather in the city for this event so Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to prepare the meal for he and the disciples.	Peter and John come on stage and begin to prepare table with dishes. They place a pitcher of water, empty basin, and towel on one end of table.
	This night was more important than anyone of us could have imagined. We thought we had just come together for the Passover meal, but Jesus knew more. He knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and that the next few hours and days would be difficult for us all.	Disciple's and Jesus come in, greet each other and take their place around a table.
	During supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.	Jesus stands, takes off robe, ties towel around himself, pours water into basin, and begins to wash disciples' feet.
	The disciples were confused. This was the task of a servant not a task for Jesus, our Master, our Lord! It was Simon Peter who spoke first. When Jesus got to him he jumped up and said, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"	Peter jumps up and says line
Narrator Ben	⁷ Jesus answered,	Jesus continues washing while speaking his lines.
Jesus	"You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."	

Peter	"You will never wash my feet."	Peter pulls feet back from Jesus.
Jesus	"Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."	
Peter	"Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"	Peter kneels down and places hands before Jesus.
Narrator Ben	¹⁰ Jesus said to him,	
Jesus	"One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."	
Narrator Ben	¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."	Jesus finishes washing feet.
	¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them,	Jesus puts back on robe, lays down towel, and returns to table.
Jesus	"Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.	All listen.
Narrator Ben	I think that was the day I finally learned what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus.	

Washing the Feet of Today's Disciples

Have camp leaders/counselors wash the feet of each of the campers. Before moving from one person to the next say, "Do as I have done to you."

Morning Devotions



MAIN CHARACTERS: Narrator Ben
 Jesus
 listening people
 Pharisees
 Woman

John
 8:1–11
 NRSV
 adapted

PROPS: Bible costumes

SPEAKER	NARRATION/CHARACTER LINES	ACTIONS
Narrator Ben	Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. While Jesus was teaching the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery into the room and made her stand before all of them.	People gather around Jesus. Jesus begins to teach. Pharisees enter with woman
Pharisees	“Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”	Pharisees push woman toward Jesus.
Narrator Ben	They said this to test Jesus so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Silently Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them,	Jesus writes on ground. Pharisee keep questioning.
Jesus	“Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”	Jesus looks purposely looks at each Pharisee.
Narrator Ben	And once again Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground. When the Pharisees heard his response, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders until Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. When everyone was gone, Jesus straightened up and spoke to her.	Pharisees bow head and walk away one by one. People listening also leave.
Jesus	“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”	Jesus straightens up and speaks.
Woman	“No one, sir.”	Woman answers.
Jesus	“Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”	Jesus walks woman off stage.

Pass the Peace

Turn to people share the peace Jesus. Have one or two leaders show how to share the peace then ask campers to share the peace with each other.

- Greet someone face to face by placing your hands in theirs, shaking hands, or exchanging a hug.
- Say to them, "May the peace of Jesus be with you."
- They respond by saying, "And also with you my friend."

Who Will You Judge?

Give each person a smooth stone. Ask them to think about today's message of peace throughout the day. Are they free of sin and justified to judge another? Sometime during the day challenge them to throw the stone into a lake, into the woods, place it along a path or in a garden. As they do so they are challenged to ask God for forgiveness of their own sins and to receive a renewed strength so that they might share the peace of Jesus in this world.

This We Can Do

Sing or read the words to the song, "This We Can Do" from Sing for Peace, #32 and/or "I Am Standing Waiting," #27.

Morning Devotions



MAIN CHARACTERS: Narrator Ben
Jesus
disciples
woman
people in city

**John
4:1–42
NRSV
adapted**

PROPS: Bible costumes
a well
water container

SPEAKER	NARRATION/CHARACTER LINES	ACTIONS
Narrator Ben	¹ Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” ² —although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— ³ he left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)	Disciples and Jesus walk up to well, speak among themselves, then disciples leave and Jesus sits down by well.
	It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water,	Woman comes to well with container for water
Jesus	“Would you please give me a drink.”	
Woman	“What did you say? How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?”	
Narrator Ben	You see Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans. And for a man to speak to a Samaritan woman? It just wasn’t done.	
Jesus	If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is asking you to give him a drink, you would have asked me, and I would have given you living water.”	
Woman	“Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”	
Jesus	“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”	
Woman	“Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”	
Jesus	“Go, call your husband, and come back.”	
Woman	“I have no husband.”	woman looks down
Jesus	“You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”	woman slowly looks back at Jesus

Woman	Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but are a Jew and the Jews say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."	
Jesus	"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."	
Woman	"I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."	
Jesus	"I am he, the one who is speaking to you."	Jesus stands and reaches out to woman.
Narrator Ben	²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. There she told people of her experience at the well.	Disciples come in, look surprised but keep quiet. Woman leaves goes to other side of stage where others are standing.
Woman	You must come and see this man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"	Woman speaks to others.
Narrator Ben	³⁰ The people in the city who had heard the woman's testimony decided to go and see for themselves. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging Jesus, to eat something. ³² But Jesus said to them . . .	People talk among themselves and decide to follow woman to well. Disciples encourage Jesus to eat something.
Jesus	"I have food to eat that you do not know about."	
Narrator Ben	This confused the disciples. Surely no one had brought him something to eat while they were gone.	Disciples ask each other.
Jesus	"My food is to do the will of God who sent me and to complete God's work. ³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."	Disciples sit down and listen.
Narrator Ben	That day at the well changed lives. ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony. When the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them. Jesus stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."	People from city come with woman to see and hear Jesus.

Testify of Jesus

Provide time for prayer and testimony.