

Morning Devotions

THE LENGTH OF MORNING DEVOTIONS WILL SOMEWHAT DEPEND ON THE "PATH" USED AND THE SIZE AND NUMBER OF CABIN GROUPS.

ESTIMATED TIME: 20–30 MINUTES.

CHILDREN'S—CAMP DEVOTIONS

For children's camp, devotions for days two and four will need to be switched to coordinate with the children's scripture study class.

Use day five devotions as part of a campfire or special service.



Let each morning begin with the calming spirit that comes from the awakening of a new day. Create a worshiper's path that will lead campers to devotions each morning. The worshiper's path can be designated even if the final destination for devotions is in the main meeting place in the middle of camp and all its activities. Some camps may already have an established path in place that will work perfectly for this activity. If not, mark out the worshiper's path with signs, rope, ribbon, rocks, or any other resourceful way that will direct campers along without harming the beauty of the natural surroundings. The same path may be used each day or, if desired, a directional map can lead campers along a new path each day.

The goal of the worshiper's path is to help the campers become aware of the Spirit in motion around them as they come together to celebrate the beginning of each new day. Sample worshiper's path ideas have been provided for you to adapt in your setting.

Instruct counselors to bring their cabin members as a group to morning devotions, taking the trek along the pathway together. Each day prior to starting on the path, cabin groups will be given a list of things to look for and/or do along the way. An adult will need to stand at the entrance to the path to space cabin groups slightly apart, giving each opportunity for the best possible experience.

Since cabin groups will arrive at the gathering spot one at a time, they should be greeted and quickly invited to join in with others singing songs of praise. Continue singing until all groups are present.

A similar pattern is suggested for each morning devotions. Under each day's Pastor's Challenge a testimony is suggested. If possible, find a different person to share their testimony each day—and make sure they understand that it should be very short! In fact, since time has already been spent on the worshiper's path, be sure to be mindful of the time throughout the morning-devotions gathering.

A small symbol could be given to campers at each devotion. These symbols can be distributed in a variety of forms. One option is to use hobby beads in the shapes suggested on the following pages. Let campers thread them onto a leather bracelet, necklace, or key ring.

Large-Camp Option

One option is to create several worshiper's paths, assigning cabins a different path each day. If the camp is large, this option will help facilitate the arrival of all cabins at the morning-devotions gathering in a more timely manner. In this case, each path would have its own instructions of things to do/find/see that are especially appropriate for its location.

Suggestions for Stations and/or Activities along the Worshiper's Path

- Stop at a point, sit quietly, and just listen.
- Identify the spirit of joy as heard in nature.
- Stop for a circle prayer.
- Read together: Galatians 5:22–23, 25 NRSV
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. . . . If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Gathering

As cabin groups make their way from the worshiper's path into the gathering place, sing songs, immediately welcoming and including each group as they enter.

- “God of Grace and God of Laughter” *SP* 10
- “Lord Jesus, of You I Will Sing” *SP* 31
- “You Shall Go Out with Joy” *SP* 45
- “I’m Gonna Shout and Sing” *NS* 20
- “Now Sing to Our God” *NS* 40
- “Joy to the World!” *HS* 258

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- “Who Am I” Casting Crowns
- “You Raise Me Up” Selah
- “Everyday People” Nicole C. Mullen
- “Blessed Be Your Name” Tree63
- “Show You Love” Jars of Clay
- “Leaving99” Audio Adrenaline

Bring Joy This Day

The universal icon for joy would have to be the simple happy face. Give each camper a happy face (sticker, pin, charm, bead, etc.) as you sing together “More” by Matthew West (*WOW Hits 2005*). Offer a prayer of joy for the day and week.

Sending Forth: “*This day was made for joy. Expect it, accept it, and share it in all you do and say. Let this be a joyful day!*”

Doctrine & Covenants 162:3a–b; 4b
3a. Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you.
b. That Spirit is even now touching alive the souls of those who feel the passion of discipleship burning deeply within. Many others will respond if you are persistent in your witness and diligent in your mission to the world.
4b. It is for divine purpose that you have been given the struggles as well as the joys of diversity. So must it always be in the peaceable kingdom.

Ask three campers to read this scripture aloud.

Pastor's Challenge

Joy. When you live by the Spirit, joy happens. Joy does not always look like laughter or parties. Joy comes from deep within as we recognize God at work in our lives. True joy can be found in our good times as well as in our times of struggle. True joy is the love of God. True joy is the Spirit in motion.

Share a testimony of a time when you were filled with true joy. Have campers turn to a friend and share a time when they experienced joy. If time allows, ask for campers to share their testimony of joy with the whole group.



Morning Devotions **2** LOVE in MOTION

Suggestions for Stations and/or Activities along the Worshiper's Path

Leave copies of scripture verses (or Bibles) at specific points along the path for cabin groups to stop and read.

- Ruth 1:16
- Psalm 23
- Matthew 22:34–40
- Luke 6:27–35
- John 3:16–17
- Romans 13:8–10
- 1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Doctrine & Covenants 162:6a–c

6a. From the earliest days you have been given a sacred principle that declares the inestimable worth of all persons. Do not forget.

b. The One who created all humankind grieves at the shameful divisions within the human family. A prophetic people must work tirelessly to tear down walls of separation and to build bridges of understanding.

c. You hold precious lives in your hands. Be gentle and gracious with one another. A community is no stronger than the weakest within it. Even as the One you follow reached out to those who were rejected and marginalized, so must the community that bears his name.

Ask three campers to read this scripture aloud.

Gathering

As cabin groups make their way from the worshiper's path into the gathering place, sing songs, immediately welcoming and including each group as they enter.

“Bring Forth the Kingdom” *SP* 9

“Called by Christ to Love Each Other” *SP* 36

“Companions on the Journey” *NS* 7

“Make Me a Servant” *NS* 35

“Yesu, Yesu, Fill Us with Your Love” *HS* 407

“Bear Each Other's Burdens” *HS* 369

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“You Raise Me Up” Selah

“Everyday People” Nicole C. Mullen

“I Believe” Third Day

“Show You Love” Jars of Clay

“Grace Like Rain” Todd Agnew

“More” Matthew West

Pastor's Challenge

The most important witness you have of Jesus Christ and your faith is the way you choose to live your life. Your actions—the way you choose to treat others, the respect you show to all persons—reveal more about your faith than words could ever express. What do your actions say about your faith?

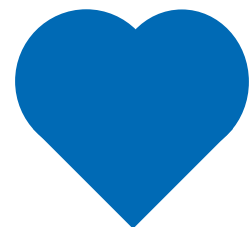
Share a testimony of someone who has made a difference in your life because of the actions they showed you.

In community all are vital and important. Have campers greet at least five other people with the phrase, “You are a child of God!”

Live God's Love

The universal icon for love would have to be the shape of a heart. Give each camper a heart (sticker, ring, pin, charm, bead, etc.) as you sing together “More” by Matthew West (*WOW Hits 2005*). Close with prayer and send campers forth into the day:

Go with joy, trust in the Spirit, listen with passion, and show God's love in all you do.



Morning Devotions **3** LISTEN & DO

Suggestions for Stations and/or Activities along the Worshiper's Path

Notice points along the path where nature witnesses of “Listen and Do”—where nature witnesses of Spiritual Motion. Following are examples of the kinds of things to look for:

- an intricate spider web
- ants carrying food
- a bird getting worms for little ones
- a bird nest
- a beaver dam
- a flower opening
- a bee or butterfly
- the wind blowing through grass and/or trees

Gathering

As cabin groups make their way from the worshiper's path into the gathering place, sing songs, immediately welcoming and including each group as they enter.

“Put Peace into Each Other's Hands” SP 15

“Canto de Esperanza” SP 25

“I Am Standing Waiting” SP 27

“This We Can Do” SP 32

“Here I Am, Lord” NS 12

“Lord, I Give You” NS 32

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“You Raise Me Up” Selah

“Everyday People” Nicole C. Mullen

“I Believe” Third Day

“Blessed Be Your Name” Tree63

“More” Matthew West

“Show You Love” Jars of Clay

Listen to the Spirit

A symbol (sticker, ring, pin, charm, bead, etc.) for Listen and Do may be harder to identify. Possibilities might be: a hammer, telephone, or hands. Pass out symbols to campers as you sing together “More” by Matthew West (*WOW Hits 2005*).

Close with prayer and send campers forth into the day:

Go with joy, trust in the Spirit, listen with passion, and discover anew the things God is calling you to do.

Doctrine & Covenants 162:4a; 5a–c

4a. Listen carefully to the many testimonies of those around the world who have been led into the fellowship of the Community of Christ. The richness of cultures, the poetry of language, and the breadth of human experience permit the gospel to be seen with new eyes and grasped with freshness of spirit. That gift has been given to you. Do not fail to understand its power.

5a. Do not be defined by the things that separate you but by the things that unite you in Jesus Christ.

5b. . . . Again the Spirit counsels the church to not allow the forces of division to divert you from your witness.

5c. Listen together to one another, without judgment or predisposition. . . . There is much labor to be done. Reason together in love, and the Spirit of truth will prevail.

Ask four campers to read this scripture aloud.

Pastor's Challenge

Share a testimony of a time when you experienced what it means to listen to the Spirit that guides us, and you responded by doing something.

Give each person a piece of paper. Challenge them to tear a shape out of the paper that represents something they can do to help others. Next have them turn to share what they can do with two other people.



Morning Devotions **4** TRUST the SPIRIT

Suggestions for Stations and/or Activities along the Worshiper's Path

- Before entering the worshiper's path tie a blindfold on each camper. (If someone objects do not force them. They can help the counselor lead.)
- Have everyone stand in a line, hand in hand with a nonblindfolded adult at each end (e.g., cabin counselor and CIT).
- Guide campers slowly along the path, stopping at points along the way to experience Spiritual Motion.
 - Listen to birds.
 - Touch the rough bark of a tree.
 - Smell the flowers.
 - Feel the moisture of morning dew.
 - Form a circle and pray as a cabin group.

Gathering

As cabin groups make their way from the worshiper's path into the gathering place, sing songs, immediately welcoming and including each group as they enter.

"Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me" *SP 12*

"Lord, Help Me to Know Your Presence" *NS 31*

"Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!" *NS 49*

"The Spirit of God" *HS 33*

"We Are One in the Spirit" *HS 466*

"Spirit of the Living God"

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"Who Am I" Casting Crowns

"You Raise Me Up" Selah

"Unspoken" Jaci Velasquez

"Pray" Darlene Zschech

"Right Here" Jeremy Camp

"Never Alone" Barlowgirl

Let the Spirit Guide You

The most common symbol used to represent the Spirit is probably a dove. Give each camper a symbol to represent the Spirit (sticker, ring, pin, charm, bead, etc.) as you sing together "More" by Matthew West (*WOW Hits 2005*).

Close with prayer and send campers forth into the day:

Go forth with the joy that can only come from the knowledge that you can trust the Spirit to guide you.

Doctrine & Covenants 162:1a–b; 2e

1a. . . . Listen to the Voice that speaks from beyond the farthest hills, from the infinite heavens above, and the vast seas below.

b. Listen to the Voice that echoes across the eons of time and yet speaks anew in this moment. Listen to the Voice, for it cannot be stilled, and it calls you once again to the great and marvelous work of building the peaceable kingdom, even Zion, on behalf of the One whose name you claim.

2e. The spirit of the Restoration is not locked in one moment of time, but is instead the call to every generation to witness to essential truths in its own language and form. Let the Spirit breathe.

Ask three campers to read this scripture aloud.

Pastor's Challenge

Ask campers to share testimonies from their blindfolded walk along the worshiper's path.

We all want to feel secure and safe. Life is by nature unsure. No matter how hard we try, we cannot know exactly what will happen in our future. We live in community and therefore cannot control how other's actions will impact us. However, one thing we can trust is that we are never alone. The Spirit is always with us, and is there to comfort and guide us.

Share a testimony of a time when you have trusted the Spirit to guide you.



For added fun, let kids guide counselors back through the path.

Morning Devotions **5** SPIRITUAL HOME

Suggestions for Stations and/or Activities along the Worshiper's Path

Set up stations along the path that reflect the sacraments of the Community of Christ. This can be done through worship settings or actual actors stationed in place.

Read a scripture at each setting. (See next page for references.)

- Blessing of Children
- Laying On of Hands for Sick
- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Communion
- Ordination to Priesthood
- Evangelist's Blessing
- Marriage

Gathering

As cabin groups make their way from the worshiper's path into the gathering place, sing songs, immediately welcoming and including each group as they enter.

"Christ Has Called Us to New Visions" SP 38

"Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos" NS 46

"Rock of My Salvation" NS 42

"Go, My Children" SP 44

"Firm Foundation" NS 10 *WOW Hits 2005*

"Jesus Is the Rock" NS 24 "Who Am I" Casting Crowns

"You Raise Me Up" Selah

"Unspoken" Jaci Velasquez

"Right Here" Jeremy Camp

"All I Need" Bethany Dillon

"Leaving99" Audio Adrenaline

Live God's Love

As Christians we find our spiritual home among the community of disciples who choose to follow the teaching of Jesus and believe in Christ our risen Lord. For today's symbol give each camper a small cross (sticker, ring, pin, charm, beads, etc.) as you sing together "More" by Matthew West (*WOW Hits 2005*). Close with prayer—if possible by an evangelist—and send campers forth into the day:

Go with joy, trust in the Spirit, listen with passion, and show God's love in all you do. May you seek to find your spiritual home among the community of Christ.

Doctrine & Covenants 162:7d; 8a, b

7d. *The call to respond is urgent. Look to the needs of your own congregations, but look also beyond your walls to the far-flung places where the church must go. Each disciple needs a spiritual home. You are called to build that home and care for it, but also to share equally in the outreaching ministries of the church. In that way the gospel may be sent to other souls also yearning for a spiritual resting place.*

8a . . . *Look carefully, listen attentively, and sense the Spirit among you.*

b. *Do not be unduly concerned with numbers. Be fervent in your witness, passionate in your discipleship, and vigorous in your labor on behalf of peace and justice. Where two or three such disciples form community, there will the Spirit be.*

Ask three campers to read this scripture aloud.

Pastor's Challenge

The sacraments as displayed on the worshiper's path are played out in the faith community of Community of Christ. They provide opportunities for personal and community spiritual renewal, commitment of faith, and declaration of love and belief. As disciples we each must find our place for spiritual renewal. Our congregations and faith communities such as this camp setting, can be that spiritual place. It is within the community of faith that we gain the strength we need to move out into the world as disciples in action.

Ask campers who have experienced some of the sacraments to share their testimony of spiritual renewal. Ask campers to divide into pairs and pray for one another.

As you speak of the sacraments, emphasize those which are available to all who are present—not just Community of Christ members.



Blessing of Children

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”—Luke 18:15–16 NRSV

Baptism

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. . . . He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; . . . I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”—Mark 1:4, 7–11 NRSV

Confirmation

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”—John 14:15–17 NRSV

Laying On of Hands

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.—James 5:14 NRSV

Communion

When the hour came, [Jesus] took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. . . . He took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

—Luke 22:14, 17–20 NRSV

Ordination

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.—Ephesians 4:11–13 NRSV

Evangelist’s Blessing

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.—James 1:5 NRSV

Marriage

Let marriage be held in honor by all.

—Hebrews 13:4 NRSV