

YOUTH CAMP

Cabin Devotions

Copy and cut a set of journal pages for each camper, counselor, and staff member.

Blank pages have been provided for information specific to your camp!

- Classes
- Special Events
- Camp Maps
- Daily Schedule
- Songs
- Daily Scriptures

Opening Night Devotions

- Everyone should be ready for bed before beginning cabin devotions.
- Except for the first night, the journal writing should take place while campers are in bed, just before lights out. Journal writing acts as a personal reflection and wind-down activity.

As each person shares cabin members will begin to learn more about one another on a more personal level. The first evening sets the mood for the following nights. Start out strong. Resist the temptation to skip cabin devotions—especially this first night.

1. Explain the purpose of cabin devotions.

- To wind down before bed.
- To get to know each other better.
- To talk about experiences of the day.
- To connect with God at the end of a busy day.

2. Review rules of group respect. Cabins may wish to develop their own list together and then record it in their individual journals.

- Value the importance of each person.
- This is a safe place to talk—what is said in this group stays in this group.
- Listen attentively while others speak.
- Do not interrupt.
- This is not a forum for debate: all opinions are personal and are respected the same.
- No one is forced to speak or even participate. If they choose not to participate, they should remain quiet on their bed.
- A nonparticipating person is welcome to join in at any time.

Let campers put together their cabin-devotions journal. Staple pages together in the upper left-hand corner. If journal pages are copied onto card stock, a small ring can be used to bind books together, allowing free movement of each page.

Provide information needed for campers to fill out the first four pages of their journal while discussing the schedule and activities of the next day and upcoming week.

Have a one-word or one-phrase continued prayer by inviting each person to pray for the week ahead.

Camp



This journal belongs to:

Camp Information

Camp Name:

Cabin Name:

Camp Dates:

Cabin Counselor(s):

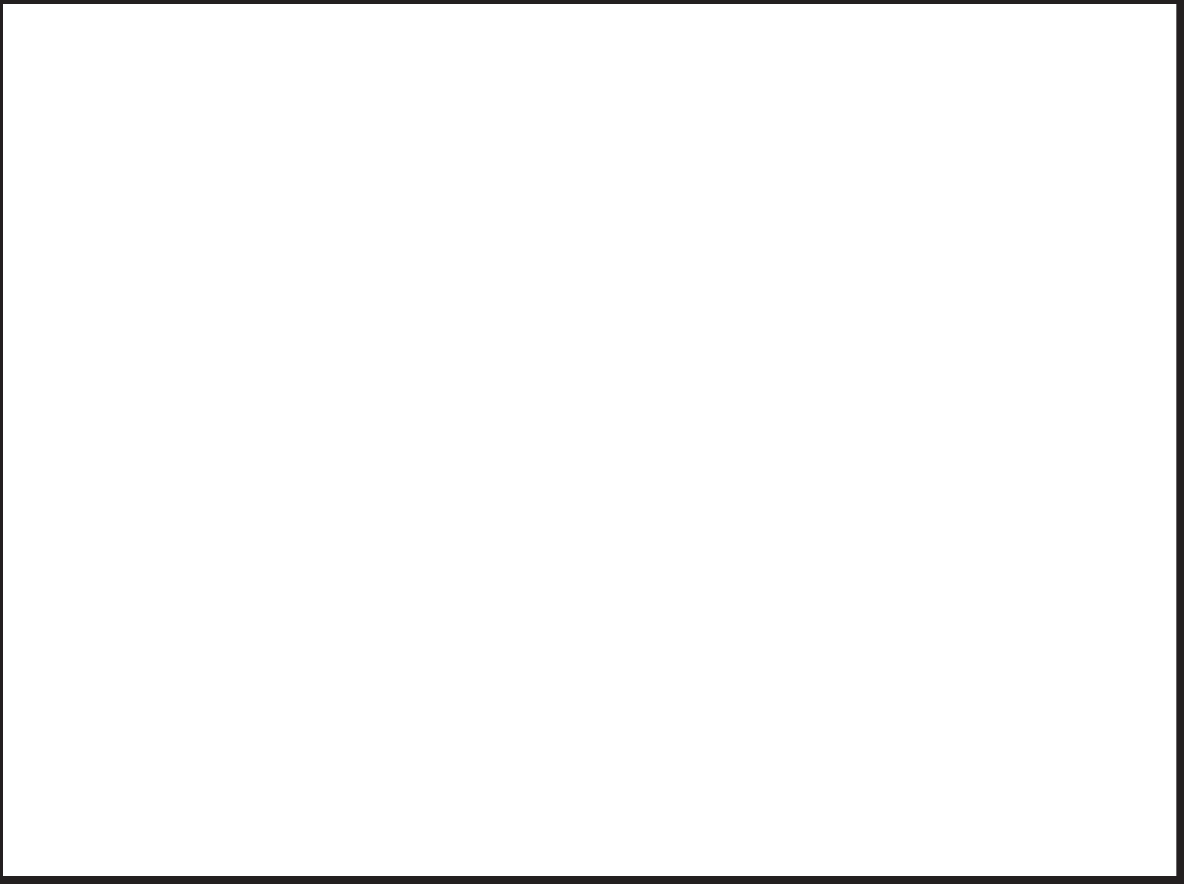
Camp Directors:

Brother/Sister Cabins:

Cabin Crew



Rules of Respect



Finding Joy

How have I experienced joy today?

How will I bring joy to others tomorrow?

Love in Motion

How have my actions today shown my love and faith in Jesus?

What will I do differently tomorrow?

Listen & Do

What did I discover today just by taking the time to listen?

Trust the Spirit

How have I witnessed the Spirit in action today?

What does it mean to trust the Spirit?

Spiritual Home

Where is my spiritual home?

What can I bring to the lives of others as I return home?

Who will I invite to join me at camp next year? Why?

Friends & Fun

Things to Remember

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing notes or reflections.

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1 FINDING JOY

1. Ask each camper to share one thing they brought from home that represents for them the experience of joy.

Examples might include:

- a special teddy bear,
- their favorite pillow,
- a picture of their family or a special friend,
- a book,
- an outfit they connect with a joyful time, or
- a gift given to them by someone special.

2. Pray for a joyous week together.
3. Go to bed and work individually on tonight's journal entries.

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.

How have I experienced joy today?

How will I bring joy to others tomorrow?

SAMPLE

Cabin Devotions **2** LOVE in MOTION

1. Give each camper several sheets of paper and a pencil or pen. (Note cards could also be used.)
2. Have them write a short note of positive encouragement to each of the other cabin members.
3. Provide large envelopes, one for each camper. Write camper's names on the outside. When notes are finished place them in respective envelopes.
4. Pray for loved ones back home.
5. Go to bed and work individually on tonight's journal entries.

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.

How have my actions today shown my love and faith in Jesus?

What will I do differently tomorrow?

SAMPLE

Cabin Devotions **3** LISTEN & DO

1. Divide group into pairs. Visit and listen. Discover one thing you never knew about your partner.
2. Swap partners. Visit and discover one thing new about *this* partner. Continue until each of the cabin members has connected in pairs with all others.
3. Pray for each person and the choices they will make as they live out their discipleship in action.
4. Go to bed and work individually on tonight's journal entries.

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.

What did I discover today just by taking the time to listen?

Listen & Do

SAMPLE

Cabin Devotions **4** TRUST the SPIRIT

1. Light a candle and place it in the middle of the circle of campers. Turn off all other lights. (Make sure candles are in holders that are stable and safe.)
2. Read aloud Doctrine and Covenants 162:1a–b; 2e.
3. Sing together “Spirit of the Living God” and/or “We Are One in the Spirit.”
4. Have campers share testimonies about times when they trusted the Spirit.
5. Go to bed and work individually on tonight’s journal entries.

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.

How have I witnessed the Spirit in action today?

What does it mean to trust the Spirit?

SAMPLE

Trust the Spirit

Cabin Devotions **5** SPIRITUAL HOME

1. Have each person share one fun memory of their week at camp.
2. Share one serious memory (a testimony) of their week at camp.
3. Discuss going home. Things will be different. You will be tired but your parents and others will want to hear about your week. What is the number-one thing you will share with others about this week?
4. Pray for everyone's safe journey home.
5. Go to bed and work individually on tonight's journal entries.

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 at 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.

Spiritual Home

Where is my spiritual home?

What can I bring to the lives of others as I return home?

Who will I invite to join me at camp next year? Why?

SAMPLE