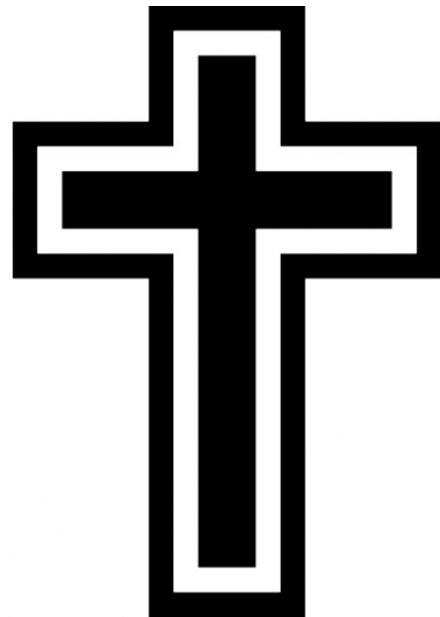


CAMP TECUMSEH YMCA

DEVOTIONS

GOD | OTHERS | ME

HANDBOOK



NAME/CABIN: _____

“PUTTING CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE”

CAMP TECUMSEH’S FIVE SPIRITUAL GOALS

1. Each camper should learn to communicate to God through personal silent prayer, perhaps even to feel comfortable in group prayer out loud.
2. Learn that our body is the temple of God; that the Lord has provided us with this marvelous body and that it is our responsibility to help it grow in a strong and healthy way.
3. To learn that nature and the environment are God’s creation from which all our material needs of life are met. That it is our responsibility to not abuse the environment and to see in it the beauty and harmony God has created.
4. Each camper recognized that they should do unto others, as they would have others do unto them, thus recognizing a need to grow in patience, love, kindness, and honesty.
5. To learn through exposure in chapels and devotions that the Bible is the Word of God told through stories and letters that are interesting and meaningful.

WHERE DO I START?

STEP ONE: PRAY.

Ask God to quickly help you in your time of need. He knows what your campers need to talk about tonight better than you do. So ask Him to direct you to a pertinent devotion or topic that will hit home with your campers

STEP TWO: GET AN IDEA.

What have been the difficulties within your cabin dynamics or relationships? Address them in a devotion, highlighting what God's perspective is on the given conflict or challenge.

STEP THREE: IDENTIFY THE COMPONENTS

- Hook-What story, activity, or object will you use to grab your cabin's attention?
- Look- What personal story or lesson will you share to connect campers to you?
- Book- What scripture will you share to reveal what God's word says about your topic
- Took- How will you challenge the campers to apply God's word to their lives in a practical way.

STEP FOUR: PRAY AGAIN.

Ask God to be present in your devotion and to help you be transparent and inviting.

STEP FIVE: GO FOR IT!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book was put together to serve as a resource for you to use in giving your campers a significant devotion time. The devotions are not grouped according to age, but can be adapted to reach any age group. As you read through the devotions, you may get an idea that will serve as a springboard for you to develop your own devotion ideas. Go for it!

The events and challenges of your cabin's week serve to be the most fertile ground for truth to be planted; use that to your advantage and don't waste that opportunity.

In order to help you find devotions to address specific topics, we have placed two indexes at the end of this manual; one by title and one by concept. Also included is a list of Bible references. We hope you find these resources helpful as you construct your own unique devotions and share the Bible with your campers.

CAMP TECUMSEH DEVOTION FORM

FOUR STEPS TO BUILDING A GOOD DEVOTION

1. HOOK:

- It is the “Attention Getter”; Something that connects with your age camper
- It can be a story, object, a game, joke anything that hooks their attention
- “Best” when they are fun, lively, and interactive
- It’s the building block for the devotion; If you do it well you will be able to refer back to it again as a reference
- If it’s a bad hook, your campers will not connect as powerfully with the devotion
- It does not have to be complicated, or long...Keep it simple

2. LOOK:

- It’s where you connect your own life experience
- It’s all about making the point personal
- Look must be connect with the “hook”

3. BOOK:

- This is vital; you must connect your “hook” & “look” to the Bible
- If you don’t connect your campers to the word of God, you are giving them a good time, but it isn’t a devotion
- Don’t be anxious; the Bible has stories about more than you can imagine
- Resources: Bible, Devotional Manual, Index by Devotion Title, Index by Concept

4. TOOK:

- This is the application phase of the devotion
 - Camper is now connected (“Hook”)
 - Interested in your perspective (“Look”)
 - Understands God’s perspective (“Book”)
 - NOW challenge them to make it their own in the “Took”
- It’s all about taking the Bible and applying it to our lives
 - i.e. The Bible says to love one another
 - Challenge them to love one another
 - What does that look like?
 - How can we do it better?
 - How can we love people today/tomorrow?
 - What are some steps we can take?
- Be as specific as possible and keep the steps small.

“I AM THIRD”: RIVER VILLAGE

Message: Put God first, others second and yourself third.

You will need the letters “J”, “O”, “Y” cut out of construction paper.

HOOK: “J. O. Y.” Activity

1. Let’s begin our devotion tonight with some questions:

- How do you feel when your brother says you broke the window, when you really didn’t?
- How do you feel when your best friend lets you borrow his brand new bicycle?

It makes you feel good when you know people are concerned and thinking about you.

We have a motto here at Camp that helps us remember how nice it feels to be unselfish and think of others first. The motto is:

“I AM THIRD”: GOD IS FIRST, THE OTHER PERSON IS SECOND AND I AM THIRD.

Question: But why is it “I am Third”? Why not “I am Second”?

Answer: There’s something special about our motto here at Camp Tecumseh. We think of Jesus first, then others, then lastly ourselves.

Being third does not mean that you are not important -- because you are! Out of all the millions of people in the world, God made only one of you. He cares about you so much that he watches over you all day and night -- ready and waiting if you need someone to lean on. So be the best person you can be!

2. Pass out the J, O, & Y, in order, to three campers.

What does this say? (JOY) Right! We are joyful when we think of Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself third. That’s why ‘I’m Third’!

3. Have the campers shuffle around.

What does this say? Nothing! It doesn’t make sense when we get the order mixed up. That’s what happens when we get selfish...things get messed up for us and others.

LOOK: Share a story from your own life about an event where you were selfish and things did not go well. OR when you chose rightly putting others before yourself and things went well.

BOOK:

- Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (First said in Deuteronomy 6:4, 5)

- Mark 12:30, 31 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all you soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is not commandment greater than these.”

TOOK:

- What kinds of can we do this week to put God first?
- How do you think God wants us to treat each other?
- How can we put others before ourselves?

CABIN GOALS:

Since we’re going to be living together this week, in order for us to all have a super week, we need to live by the ‘I’m Third’ motto.

1. What are some ways we can do this? (write down their thoughts).
2. Any other things we’d like to accomplish this week?
3. All campers sign the goal sheet after they agree to support the list.

Closing Prayer:

Let’s close tonight by taking a few quiet moments to pray to ourselves and then I’ll close with a prayer. Give a couple minutes for them to pray silently and the close in prayer asking the Lord to help you live by the “I am Third” motto.

“I AM THIRD”: LAKE VILLAGE

Message: Putting God first in our lives is how God wants us to live.

HOOK:

- Mark 9:33- 35 while walking on the road with the disciples, Jesus asked “What were you arguing about on the road?” But the disciples kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. “Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”
- The activity of “Filling a container”. Starting with smaller rocks or other items calling each item something that takes time in your/their day (representing; friends, school, hobbies, family, etc.) as you put into a jar or can. Then continue to add rocks and such, but leave the largest one (relationship with God) until last and illustrate that there is no room for it to fit into the container. Take everything out of the container.

Redo the activity starting with the larger rock/item (relationship with God) going in first and then add all the others. Everything should fit into the container now.

- Start by saying the stating the camp motto “I am Third”, then ask returning campers to share what that means to them.

LOOK: Share a personal story about the first time you learned about the motto and share an experience that will encourage the campers to embrace the camp motto for the week.

BOOK:

- 1. GOD IS FIRST.** This means that God should be most important in our life. Each of us should try to do things in a way that would make God happy.
 - Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (First said in Deuteronomy 6:4,5)
 - Mark 12:30, 31 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all you soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is not commandment greater than these.”
- 2. THE OTHER PERSON IS SECOND.** This doesn’t mean that he is better than us but that we should not be selfish; Good friendships are built on caring about the feelings and needs of others. The “other person is second” means that we should be considerate of others
 - Philippians 2:3-5 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not on y to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”
 - Leviticus 19:18 “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.”

- Matthew 19:30 & 20: 16 both places Jesus indicates that those who are considered “first” on earth will be last in heaven and the “last” on earth will be “first” in heaven.
- Often we don’t want to put others before ourselves because we are mad or hurt by them~ Matthew 18:21 Peter asked Jesus how many times shall I forgive my friend when he sins against me? Jesus answers, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

If you’re unsure about an action, first ask yourself, “How will this make the other person feel -- happy or sad?” A good way to feel happy is to make others happy.

3. I AM THIRD is the key phrase that reminds us of the other two important parts of our camp motto -- God and the people around us. Being third does not mean that you are not important -- because you are! Out of all the millions of people in the world, God made only one of you. He cares about you so much that he watches over you all day and night – ready and waiting if you need someone to lean on. So be the best person you can be!

* **Psalm 139**

And when you hear the phrase “I am third” remember that you are special! But also remember that it is important to put God first in your life and to show love for all people around you.

TOOK:

- Can you think of anything we should or should not do to live by the motto this week in our cabin? (Kids may focus on negative actions, but follow up with positive things.)
- What kinds of things can we do this week to put God first?
- How can we encourage each other to put God first this week?
- How do you think God wants us to treat others?
- How do you like to be spoken to?

CABIN GOALS:

Now that we have focused on how we can live by the "I’m third motto" this week, let’s plan some cabin goals to help us accomplish them.

- Let’s start by praying and asking God to help us. Since our camp motto says He is
- First, let’s ask Him what He would have us to do. (Counselor prays; all joining hands.)
- After praying, take time to discuss and agree on your cabin goals for this week. Have a listening and accepting ear as campers share. After the goals have been written out, have each camper sign it and post it in the cabin where everybody can see it.

Closing Prayer: Let’s close tonight by taking a few quiet moments to pray to ourselves and then I’ll close with a prayer. (Give a couple minutes for them to pray silently and then close in prayer asking the Lord to help each of you walk by the “I am Third” motto.

CLOSING DEVOTION: BEAD DEVOTION

Circle up the cabin and briefly reflect on the week.

“Throughout this week you have experienced and learned a lot through chapels, devotions and activities. Hopefully you have grown in your abilities and understanding of who God is and who He says you are. As you have risen to the challenges of the week you have had opportunities to respond and grow in the areas the Chief described in the Sagamore Creed at campfire tonight.”

“As the chief read through the Creed, I’m sure each of you could think of others you know who have tried to live by that creed. What you may not have realized is that each of you have displayed some of those qualities as well. Perhaps you have taken responsibility this week in bigger ways than we ever have before, or maybe you have grown in your faith in God or become a better friend.”

“I would like to share with each of you an area of strength that we the counselors have seen throughout your time here” (Go around the circle, naming each child and an area.)

Read the “Sagamore Creed” again:

“I would like to read to you the Sagamore Creed again. As I do, I will also talk about what each part means...”

“Because each of us, including the counselors, has areas that we would like to improve on, I want you to think about an area that you would like to improve in.”

I WILL BE WORTHY OF TRUST...

Trust is a precious, yet fragile link in a relationship. Preserved it yields great strength. Broken, it takes a great length of time to repair.

I WILL RESPECT THE WORLD AROUND ME - THE PLANTS, THE WILD THINGS, THE PEOPLE AND THEIR IDEAS; AND EACH DAY WILL BRING NEW ADVENTURES.

Responsibility is caring for the things around you. All these things, the plants, the animals, and the people in your life have been entrusted to you by God. Caring for them all is important.

I WILL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE WITHOUT BEING ASKED, FOR THAT IS WHAT I WOULD WISH OF OTHERS, AND THAT IS HOW I SHALL ACT.

Initiative is that unusual quality found in few individuals who always are alert for what needs to be done and do it without being asked.

MY FRIENDS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME AND I AM IMPORTANT TO THEM, THEREFORE I WILL CARE FOR MY FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKE THEM GROW.

Friendships are an important part of everyday living that should not be taken for granted. It is not measured in the quantity or number of friends but the quality of each relationship.

I AM HAPPY WITH LIFE AND WITH MYSELF, YET I WILL ALWAYS TRY HARDER TO BE THE BEST I CAN BE.

Joy is finding the pleasure in everyday life that can bring fulfillment within. This is not easily accomplished but it is something we choose to do.

ALL THIS BECAUSE GOD IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME, THE OTHER FELLOW IS SECOND ONLY TO HIM, AND I AM THIRD.

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (*Hebrews 11:1*) In the Bible we read about others faith and what God did for them. By trusting in God and putting Him first in your life, your faith and relationship with Him will grow.

The “Challenge”:

“Each of us now has the opportunity to take a challenge to work on one area of our lives. This is something for you to do throughout the coming year. When you return next year, perhaps you will want to share with your new cabin mates”.

Introduce what each bead represents:

“Now, each of you will choose a bead that represents one of the areas of the creed. This is a symbol to remind you throughout the year of the challenge you’ve given yourself.”

“If you would like to work on:

- TRUST choose the BLUE bead
- RESPONSIBILITY choose the GREEN bead
- INITIATIVE choose the CREAM bead
- FRIENDSHIPS choose the RED bead
- JOY choose the PURPLE bead
- FAITH choose the YELLOW bead

(You may need to read through the “Sagamore Creed” a second time)

Go Around the devotional circle:

Each counselor should also choose a bead and say why to start things off.

(In the circle, have each camper ask for the bead and give to them personally.)

Let them share anything if they would like.

[i.e. “I’m choosing the yellow bead because I want to get closer to God.”]

“This bead you have chosen is an area you want to work on until next summer. You can put this bead on a bracelet or set on your dresser, wherever you want to put it to be reminded of your challenge.”

“Now we would like to spend some time and talk about what camp has meant to you.

- What do you/will you miss the most when you leave?
- In what way have you grown the most?

“The things you learned here don't have to stay here.”

- How can you have a little "camp" at home?
- Do you have anything you want us to pray about tonight?

Close in prayer: Pray about requests as well as for each camper.

ADVENTURES OF A FRISBEE

HOOK: Read this poem by Shel Silverstein.

“ADVENTURES OF A FRISBEE”

By: Shel Silverstein

The Frisbee, he got tired of sailing
To and fro and to;
And thought about the other things
That he might like to do.
So the next time that they threw him,
He turned there in the sky,
And sailed away to try and find
Some new things he could try.
He tried to be an eyeglass,
But no one could see through him.
He tried to be a UFO,
But everybody knew him.
He tried to be a dinner plate,
But he got cracked and quit.
He tried to be a pizza,
But got tossed and baked a bit.
He tried to be a hubcap,
But the cars all moved too quick.
He tried to be a record,
But the spinnin' made him sick.
He tried to be a quarter,
But he was too big to spend.
So he rolled home, quite glad to be
A Frisbee once again.

LOOK: Talk about a time where you tried to be someone you're not. How did you discover your true identity? Your identity in Christ.

BOOK: Read some scriptures:

God's will guides you
Follow God's will even if you don't understand
How to look for God's will
God wants to help you do his will

Psalm 16:7-8
Matthew 1:18-25
Acts 16:6-10
Philippians 2:13-16

TOOK: Ask your campers:

- What can we learn from the Frisbee?
- Have you ever tried to be something you weren't? What happened?
- Have you ever tried different things to try and figure out what your own identity was? How did that go?
- Do you think you have a specific purpose in life? Who decided your purpose?
- Is God involved in your life purpose? Do you allow him to be involved? Does it help to have him involved?
- How can you find out what your purpose in life is?

CLOSING: God has a will and a plan for your life. He created you to do something important! We don't always know what that is right away, but if you ask God to help you, he will direct your paths! "Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways, acknowledge him *and he will make straight your path.*" Proverbs 3:5-6. It is ok to try different things out in life, but always ask God to show you what he created you to do!

A PLANE OL' DEVOTION

Message: People may judge others outside appearance only, but God sees people on the inside and outside.

Suggested Age: Blazers, Warriors and Pathfinders

Today is the annual Camp Tecumseh Paper Airplane Long-Distance Flying Contest, and it's being held in our cabin! Everyone gets one piece of paper to make a paper airplane. The winner is chosen by the distance the airplane flies. Only paper can be used. Let's make the planes now!

(Make the planes and do the contest.)

Since there weren't any rules about how the plane looked, someone could have just wadded up a piece of paper into a ball and thrown it as hard as possible. That probably would have won! Most people try to make a plane that looks good. Sometimes those that look the best don't fly the best.

Jesus warned the Pharisees, the religious leaders in Jesus' time, about their looks. He told them they looked very "religious" on the outside but their insides were filled with evil. God knows what we're like inside and out.

Let's read and talk about Matthew 23:27-28 and thank God for the winning faith he has created inside of us!

Taken from Dr. Devo's Lickety-Split Devotions by Tim Wesemann.

ARE THOSE YOUR FOOTPRINTS?

HOOK:

Read the poem "Footprints"

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints, so I said to the Lord,

"You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

Mary Stevenson, 1936

Footprints

Also Known As "I Had a Dream"

One night I dreamed a dream.

I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."

Margaret Fishback Powers, 1964

LOOK: Share something personal from your walk with God when you felt like you could not do anything, but hang on and somehow when you got to the other side of the difficulty you realized that God had enabled you to make it through.

BOOK:

- Proverbs 3:5, 6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."
- Hebrews 13:5 "never will I leave you or forsake you."
- Matthew 6:25, 33 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink' or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the

body more important than clothes”...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

- Isaiah 46:3, 4 “...I have upheld you since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth...I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

TOOK:

- Has anyone been in a situation where they felt carried by God?
- What are some of the ways we might feel “carried by God?”
- Let’s look for times this week in our activities when we sense God carrying us?
(We can call them “God sightings!”)
- Are there situations we want to pray about and ask God to carry us?
Offer campers a minute to share. If you have a situation you want to pray for share that and then lift up the other situations that have been mentioned.
- Give some time during your closing prayer to allow campers to silently voice their concerns to the Lord themselves.

ARE YOU STRONG? ...ENOUGH TO BE GENTLE?

HOOK:

You are walking up to the Trading Post for “POP STOP”, and you run into a friend from another cabin that you haven’t seen since last year at camp. She’s angry and starts yelling at you for something you didn’t do. She is so loud that people begin to stare. You try to speak and she won’t let you, she just talks louder.

You are not only surprised, but also confused and beginning to get angry and embarrassed. You want to put her in her place and start yelling things at her like she is doing to you. You’re good at put-downs and can use words that will hurt her deeply. But you know that getting angry with her will only cause her to get angrier.

What do you do? (Don’t let the campers answer the question just yet.)

LOOK: Now, share a personal example of a time when you were faced with the same challenging situation. Be honest; even if you didn’t do the right thing and you lashed back at the person, share that and then the outcome.

Either kind of a story “can” be a teaching tool, just make sure you identify that responding in anger did NOT make the situation better. You may have felt better for a split second, but the outcome didn’t restore your relationship.

BOOK:

- Proverbs 15:1 “A **gentle** answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- 1 Peter 3:9 “Do not repay evil with evil, or insult with insult, but with blessing; because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For...” following verses are ‘great’ too!
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 “My God’s grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in your weakness”
- Ephesians 4:1-2 “I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and **gentleness**, with patience, bearing with one another in love,”
- Colossians 3:12-13 “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness** and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

TOOK: If you have ever stood face-to-face with an angry person, you know that it requires great strength of character to respond with **gentleness!** God points to gentleness as one of the character traits that He wants us to form within us.

To be like Jesus, we must draw on God’s strength to be gentle.

1. Are you showing gentleness to others (both at camp and home?)
2. Take a sheet of paper and fold it into fourths

- Label each fourth with one of the following words (cabin mates, counselors, friends, and family).
- Now, ask yourself if you have an attitude of gentleness toward each group of people
- If not, ask yourself what might be wrong
 3. Write down or discuss some ways to show gentleness to others
 4. Have campers make commitment to working on gentleness
 5. Pray together and ask God to help you develop gentleness

(Idea taken from a devotion in Campus Life's Ignite Your Faith devotional)

Other Scriptures:

- Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 “My God’s grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in your weakness”
- Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”
- Ephesians 4:1-2 "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and **gentleness**, with patience, bearing with one another in love,"
- Philippians 4:5 "Let your **gentleness** be known to everyone. The Lord is near."
- Colossians 3:12-13 “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness** and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”
- 1 Timothy 6:11 "But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, **gentleness**."
- 2 Tim 2:24-25 "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, ²⁵ correcting opponents with **gentleness**. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth,"
- 1 Timothy 6:11 "But flee from these things; you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and **gentleness**."
- 1 Peter 3:9 “Do not repay evil with evil, or insult with insult, but with blessing; because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For...” following verses are ‘great’ too!
- 1 Pet 3:15-16 “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness** and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”
- Matthew 11:29 “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for I am gentle** and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

A SURPRISING FRIENDSHIP

HOOK: "The Story of Teddy"

As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant.

It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers. On the last day before Christmas break, all Mrs. Thompson's students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume... But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to, she died last year." After the children left, she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets..." A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever! Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple

of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Mrs. Thompson wasn't just a teacher to Teddy, but a friend!

LOOK: Share a time when you misjudged a person by their appearance or status and...

- Either found out later that "you" missed out on getting to know them because of your poor judgment (include what you learned) OR
- Discovered that you had found an incredible treasure of a true friend.

BOOK:

What do these bible verses teach us about the kind of friends God wants us to be?

- I Corinthians 16:14 "And everything you do must be done with love."
- Proverbs 18:24 "There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."
- Ecclesiastes 4:9 "Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor."
- John 15:17 "I command you to love one another."
- Romans 12:10 "Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."
- Jesus reached out to the: poor, prisoners, prostitutes, blind, lame, oppressed, and possessed! They weren't People Magazine top 100 gorgeous, popular people.

TOOK:

- We've all done unkind things to others to secure our position in a group of people (i.e. a clique). What might be some behaviors we might want to ask forgiveness for or to try not to do anymore?
- What are some things we can do in our cabin to be a good friend to one another?
- Make a list and ask each camper to pick one to work on for the next day or the week.
- Think of someone at home or school whom you have misjudged or mistreated; How can you correct that attitude and or behavior?

ATTITUDE?

HOOK: “Two things are hard on the heart—running upstairs and running down people.”

A student at a local high school once became very angry over the personality of a particular teacher with whom he had a negative relationship. He allowed himself to think about the man constantly. Hateful, negative thoughts so preoccupied him that it affected the quality of his relationships at school as well as with his friends and family.. He shared his thoughts with everyone and spoke opinions as if they were truths. He was so miserable that he finally concluded that he needed to quit school and just get a job!

A friend asked him, “Don’t be stupid, you need to stay in school so you can accomplish what you want in life! Don’t let this guy screw your future up!” “Whatever!” the student responded, “But as long as he is here, and I have to take his class I am going to be angry! I have to quit!”

The friend then asked, “Why have you let this teacher get to you?” As much as the student tried to deny the truth of this, he finally had to admit that he was allowing the teacher to get to him and making a bigger deal out of it than he should. It was not the teacher’s doing; it was the student’s choice to get angry. From that day forward, the student focused on learning what he needed to learn to do well in the class and eventually graduate. His focus had changed and he stopped talking badly about the teacher. When he did that, he found new joy in the same set of circumstances. When you concentrate on running down others, usually, the only one that is run down is you.

LOOK: Share a time when your attitude was off and it affected your well-being and/or goal.

BOOK:

- Ephesians 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”
- Ephesians 4:31, 32 “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- Matthew 7:1, 2 “Do not judge lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.”

TOOK:

- Who was in control of the situation in the story?
- What changed and caused the student to decide to stay in school? (his attitude/perspective?)

- In what ways can you apply this to your life?
- When have you been focused on something that caused you to run someone down?
- How did the running down of someone else affect you?
- Challenge the cabin to a week of no “running down” of anyone!

People will do things that hurt us and make us angry, and we cannot control the actions of others. We can, however, control our reactions to the way other people act.

BE YOUR BEST SELF

Written by: Lauren Baney

HOOK: Listen to the two scenes.

Scene #1 (summer) - Leah comes to camp every summer and loves it. Every time summer rolls around she is so psyched and ready to be at the place she feels closest to God. Her favorite part of the day is chapel and loves the music. She sings her heart out and always does the motions. Leah has created many strong friendships because of her fun personality and her kindness. She always makes tons of friendship bracelets and tries to give them to every one of her friends. Leah has been told by her counselors for many years that she has a great attitude and is a great friend to other campers.

Scene #2 (school year) – Leah is considered popular at her school. She has a lot of friends in the popular crowd and is always surrounded by them. She goes to church every Sunday and is on student council Leah also gets straight A's. Many teachers and adults think that Leah is such a great sweet girl, but to many, Leah is known to be a bully. She often makes comments and picks on people that do not dress as well as her or seem as cool as her. A lot of when she does this is through texts and social media. Some of the stuff she has posted on the Internet is just down right mean. It never bothers Leah because she always gets a laugh from her friend when she does so.

Who is the real Leah????

LOOK: Think about what you post or social media accounts and how you act around your classmates. Are you the same at home, school, church, camp AND the internet?

The Internet is a whole new place to be someone you are not in person.

What gives us trouble to be our best self? (Counselor share a story of a struggle you have with living your best self & open for others to share if comfortable)

BOOK: God wants us to live out our faith in an authentic and genuine way.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:8

TOOK: Discuss

- Appropriate social media use (i.e. appropriate pictures and topics)
- Ways to create authentic faith via social media (i.e. prayer requests, post worship songs, forums about Christian books)
- Text messaging appropriately
- Living your Christian faith OUT LOUD

Pray for authentic faith and strength to live our faith out loud.

BICYCLE FOR TWO?

HOOK: Read this story~

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was sort of the like the president. I recognized his picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know him.

Later, when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were like a bike – a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping to pedal. I don't know just when it was that he suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since I took the back seat.

Christ makes the ride exciting. When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring and predictable and felt safe. It was the shortest distance between two points, but when he took the lead he knew delightful long cuts up mountains and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. All I could do was hang on! Even though it looked like madness he said, "Pedal!" I was worried and anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into an adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared" he'd lean back and touch my hand. He took me to people with gifts that I needed – gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy.

They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, the Lord's and mine. And when we were off again, He'd say, "Give the gifts away. They are extra baggage. They weigh too much." So I did give the gifts away to people I met. And I found in giving I received. And still our burden was light.

At first, I did not trust him to control my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but he knows bike secrets. How to make them bend sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, and fly to shorter scary passages. I'm learning to be still and pedal in the strangest places. And I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful and constant companion, Jesus. And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He smiles and says, "Pedal!"

Let's all close our eyes and think quietly to ourselves for a few moments.

- Where do you think you are in your relationship with the Lord?
- Do you view him as the president?
- Are you riding the bike with him? If you are riding the bike with him...
- Are you in the front seat or is he?

PAUSE~ and let the campers think for a few moments

LOOK: Share something from your own journey/ bike ride with the Lord. You may still be in the front seat yourself, if so then share your struggles and your desire to move to the back. If you are in the back, briefly share the process you went through to get there...

BOOK:

- Psalm 23 “The Lord is my Shepherd...” read in its entirety
- Proverbs 3:5, 6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and He will make your path straight.”
- Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself...”
- 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety/cares on him because he cares for you...”
- Hebrews 4:19 “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

TOOK:

- Where would you like to be in your relationship with the Lord?
- Are you in the driver’s seat or in the backseat?
- How can we let go of the control and allow God to lead us?
- What are some things you can do to help your relationship with God grow?
[After sitting quietly for a few moments:]
- Would anyone like to share their thoughts on any of these questions?
- Be sensitive and affirm each camper no matter what he shares...we are all on a journey and it may just be a time to plant seeds, water, or pull a few weeds.
Don’t force anything, but be sensitive and encouraging.

CHOOSE LOVE

(LOVE TANK DEVOTION)

HOOK: Starting at the beginning of the week have each camper decorate a paper bag and put it by their bed. This is a “love tank.” Have campers write encouragement notes to each other throughout the week to put in the love tanks. At the start of this devotion, have campers write “love tank” notes to each other for 5-10 minutes.

LOOK: In the NIV, there are 697 verses with the word “love.” So, it must be pretty important to go. Although sometimes it is easy to hold grudges. Sometimes we consider others our “enemy.” Sometimes we forget about other people’s feelings. Sometimes we consider ourselves better than someone else. Is this love?

Share a story of when you failed to love someone. Share what you could have done better in this situation.

Share a story when someone did not show love to you. Share how it made you feel.

God does not give us a choice to love others; He commands us to love others because of God’s grace to others by loving them.

BOOK:

1 Peter 1:22 “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth...love one another deeply, from the heart.”

1 John 4:7 “Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God.”

Luke 6:31” Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

1 Cor. 13:13 “And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is love.

TOOK:

When have you seen someone in our cabin showing love this week?

What is a time in your life when someone showed love to you?

What is a time in your life when someone did not show love to you?

What is a time in your life when you did not show love when you should have?

CLOSE ALL FOUR DOORS

HOOK:

“You are getting into a four-door car by yourself. It’s late at night and you are in a rough neighborhood. In order to feel safe, and be smart, what is the first thing you are going to do when you get in the car? Is lock the doors!!

How many doors will you lock? You may think this is a silly question, but think about it. If you only locked one, two, or even three of the doors, would you be safe? Of course not~

ALL FOUR Doors must be locked to keep out an unwelcome intruder.

The same is true with keeping out unwelcome thoughts, temptations and acting on them.

These temptations can invade your life and eventually give you trouble.

Door #1 **MIND** – The thoughts we chose to entertain in our minds can influence us.

Door #2 **HEARTS** – Not guarding our hearts can get us involved in some unhealthy relationships.

Door #3 **WORDS** – The words we speak or conversations we engage in can lure us down some dangerous paths.

Door #4 **BODY** – When our body is in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong person...we can be tempted to compromise what we know to be right and it can have deadly consequences. Even with one door “unlocked” we can be incredibly vulnerable.

LOOK: Share a personal story of how you have chosen to lock doors in your life and walk in self-control

BOOK:

MIND: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world...We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

HEART: Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring (source) of life!”

WORDS: James 1:26 “If anyone considers themselves religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on their tongue, they deceived themselves and their religion is worthless.”

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good...”

BODY: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

TOOK: “DOOR maintenance”

1. (MIND) What thoughts does God say are appropriate or inappropriate? (Phil. 4:8)

How do we avoid dwelling on random thoughts? Resist, Redirect, Remind ourselves of what's true

2. (HEART) Do you let your moods manipulate you?
God doesn't want you to be manipulated by your feelings. He wants to be mechanic over your moods.
3. (WORD) Ask: What is my motive for making this comment? Is it good?
What do I hope to gain by saying this?
Say things that will only build another person up
4. (BODY) How do I dress and use my body? Is it to bring attention to my heart or my something else?
Do a mental check; Compromising clothing?
Compromising company?
Compromising actions?

Have a time of discussion (not forcing anyone to share) and then close in prayer.

Other Scriptures:

Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God...teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives."

1 Corinthians 9:25 "Everyone who competes in the game goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

Romans 12:1-2 "...renew your minds daily."

CRAYON DEVOTION

Written by: Jack McGee

Message: God can use you at any point to do amazing things in ways you never thought possible.

Materials: A lighter, a crayon, enough paper and pencils for everybody present and (optional) a life story about how in the midst of a bad time God used you for something great.

NOTE: In this devotion, you will be lighting a crayon like a candle, where the writing tip of the crayon is the wick. Some crayons are made out of materials that won't easily burn and will instead melt and burn you, so 1) test this beforehand and 2) make sure to tell your campers to never, ever, ever try this without direct adult supervision.

NOTE: This devotion builds on the teaching that the lit devotion candle signifies God's presence. Not everybody does this.

HOOK:

- Start by presenting the crayon and asking what it is. Of course they know it's a crayon. What is it used for? How do you know that's what it's used for?
 - o We are used to classifying objects by either our own experiences or what other people tell us about them.
- Ask the campers to write down what other people or themselves label them as on a piece of paper (anything such as really smart, not trustworthy, class clown, selfish, mean, etc.)
 - o How do you feel about those labels? Were there some labels that not everybody sees and only some people see?
- Now ask them to break into groups of two and tell them to come up with the most creative use for a crayon possible on their own.

LOOK:

- (optional) After listening to all of the ideas, tell a life story about how in the midst of a bad time God used you for something great (the crayon can be used really well as a visual representation here).
 - o The story ends with lighting the crayon (the part about God using you for something great).
- After lighting the crayon, ask the first question again: what is this? Repeat the question until they label the crayon as a candle. What does the candle represent? The presence of God.

- No matter how others identify us, no matter how we identify ourselves, God can use us for things we never thought imaginable.
- Ask them to cross out everything they wrote on the paper and turn it over.

BOOK: “What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.” ~Philippians 3:8-10, NIV

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” ~Psalm 139:14, NIV

TOOK:

- What do you think God thinks of you?
 - o Ask them to write what they think on the blank side of the note card.
- Sometimes we do things to line up with other peoples’ (or our own) expectations. How would living by what God knows about us change how we act?
- What about people who don’t know what God thinks of them?
 - o How can we show them? Directly? Indirectly?

DANGLING!

(IDEAL after doing a climbing activity)

HOOK: Read this poem:

The Rope (©Richard E. Lappin 2002)

There was a boastful mountain climber who tried to conquer a mountain on his own.
He wanted all the glory for himself, so he decided to climb it alone.

One afternoon he began to climb, and soon it was very late.
Instead of preparing his tent to camp, he kept climbing; too impatient to wait.

Darkness closed in and the temperature fell. But determined to prove brave and brawn,
With clouds covering the moon and stars in zero visibility the climber continued on.

As the climber neared the top he slipped and fell helplessly toward the ground.
Faster and faster he plunged with the law of gravity pulling him down.

The events of his life flashed by in his mind. And just when he thought his fate was cast,
The rope tied around his waist gave him a very hard pull at last.

Now, only the rope was holding him as he dangled in the cold night air.
In the dark stillness of the night, he turned to God in prayer.

“Help me, God”, he cried out. “Please Lord, save me I beg of you”.
Then a clear deep voice answered, “What do you want me to do”?

“Save me, Lord, save me,” he cried.
The Lord said, “Do you believe I can save your life?”
“Of course, Lord, I know you can.” ...
“Then cut the rope now with your knife.”

There was a moment of silence, and the climber pleaded no more.
He decided to hang on to the rope and save himself from the valley floor.

The next day a rescue team found him. Dead and frozen, he made not a sound.

His hands still held the rope tightly, ironically just a few feet from the ground. (The end)

Optional; you can throw out these questions (not waiting for an answer) to get the campers thinking. Then move to your LOOK (your personal story)

*How about you, what is your rope? What gives you false hope and despair?
Do you sometimes lack trust in God? And find yourself dangling in midair?*

LOOK: Share a personal story where you did trust the Lord and the process you went through on that journey. **OR** Share a story when you were not able to trust the Lord and tried to go through a difficult time on your own. Share what you learned, and how your willingness to trust the Lord changed.

BOOK:

David trusted God	I Samuel 17:34-37
Trust God to deliver you	Psalm 18:17
Trust God to free you from fear and worry	Psalm 34:4
Trust God to help you in your troubles	Psalm 54:7
Trust God to control your life	Isaiah 40:12-15, 25-31
Trust Christ without doubting	Matthew 11:1-6

TOOK:

1. Have you ever felt vulnerable like the climber and have asked God to help you?
2. When have you had to trust God?
3. Are you able to trust him?
4. Why are you able to trust God? Why aren't you able to?
5. Can you trust him if you don't know him?
6. Who do you trust the most in your life?
7. How have you had to trust them?
8. Why can you trust them?
9. Why is it hard to trust someone you don't know?

Trust in God with all your heart. His power will give you grace and hope.
Follow His teachings and obey his word, and be ready if He says, "cut the rope".

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on you own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight.

DEVOTION ON FRIENDSHIP

Written by: Lauren Baney

Ask the group to raise their hands if...

You have ever felt betrayed by a friend.

If you have ever betrayed a friend

If you have ever thought or said out loud I have no friends

Read aloud from Lies Young Women believe pages 107-108 & 108-109 highlighted sections. Encourage them to think of the situations above while listening to the reading.

What is God's truth about friendship?

- He created you to know Him and be His friend
"You are my friend, if you follow my commandments." – John 15:14
- There is no greater friend than God
 - He never leaves, knows every detail about us and still loves us, never separated from his love, desires to live with us forever.
 - *"He will never leave or forsake us" –Hebrews 13:5*
 - *"He knows how many hairs are on our heads" –Matthew 10:30*
- We are called to be a true friend to others
A friend loves at all times, through thick and thin. "A friend is always loyal and a help in time of need." – Proverbs 17:17

What are some ways that we can strengthen our friendship with God?

In What ways can we incorporate that into our daily lives?

How can we remind ourselves that God is our greatest friend?

How can we be a friend to others in our schools?

What are things we can do to our friends to show that we are a true friend?

Friendships are a great gift from God, if we receive them in a healthy way. We will have many friends throughout our lives and they will come and go. Jesus will always be there and always our greatest friend.

Prayer (we may know the meaning of a true friend and how to be a true friend)

DON'T GRUMBLE, BE GRATEFUL!

HOOK: Ask; "What were you most frustrated by today?" Listen and then read...

It is easy for us to grumble about the things in our day that we don't want to do or the things we don't like or wish we had. Let's consider the rest of the people in the world.

If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. One-third of the world does not have access to even one.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest or torture of death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealth.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you prayed yesterday and today, you are in the minority because you believe in God's willingness to hear and answer prayer.

If you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, you are part of a very small minority in the world.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read anything at all.

What are some other things you can think of that are a blessing to your life?

Let us thank God now for all of the good things he has given us.

LOOK: Share your struggle with remembering to be grateful; or what things are you doing to develop more of a grateful heart.

BOOK:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16 “Be joyful always; pray continually; giving thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- Psalm 92: 1-2 “It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night...”
- Psalm 95:1 “...come before Him with thanksgiving and extol him...”
- Psalm 100:1- “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth...”
- Ephesians 1:15 “...ever since I have heard about your faith in Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”
- Colossians 3:15 “...be thankful.”

TOOK:

It is GREAT to be GRATEful; or “FULL of gratefulness” When you are FULL of GREAT things, you should be grateful! We have many things to be grateful for here at Camp Tecumseh!

- What are some things you are grateful for at camp?
- Who are some people you are grateful for at camp?
- How can we show them our gratefulness? (encourage the campers to act on this)
- Who else are we grateful for in our lives? Are there people at home that you appreciate?
- Have you told them “thank you”?
- How about parents, friends, teachers, neighbors, brothers and sisters?
- How are each of these people important? I challenge you to express your gratefulness to them when you get home.

You know, ultimately, where does all of this GREAT stuff come from? GOD! God is the giver of ALL good things! That means that ANYTHING that is good or wonderful or helpful or happy comes from GOD! Have you thanked him lately? How can we do that?

Let’s thank God tonight in our prayers for all of the wonderful things he gives us. He is a GREAT GOD!

EVERYDAY SURVIVAL KIT

Message: The Bible has everything you need!

Suggested Age: All

For this devotion, put together a little packet of these items. Present it to the cabin and ask them how this could be an “everyday survival kit”.

- Toothpick - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others...Matt 7:1
- Rubber band - to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out...Romans 8:28
- Band Aid - to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's...Col. 3:12-14
- Pencil - To remind you to list your blessings everyday...Eph1:3
- Eraser - to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay...Gen. 50:15-21
- Chewing gum - to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything ...Phil 4:13
- Mint - to remind you that you are worth a mint to your heavenly father...John 3:16-17
- Candy Kiss - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday...1 John 4:7
- Tea Bag - to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings...1 Thes. 5:18

Ask the campers before telling them what each item means:

- Why would these things help you in life?
- Can you think of what these items might represent that would help you in life?

Explain the significance of each item and read the scriptures. Ask the campers:

- What item do you feel like you need the most?
- What item do you think you are missing in your life?
- What item do you have a lot of in your life?
- How can you provide one of these items for someone else?

FACE HIM

HOOK:

- “Let the face-off begin!”

Each camper is instructed to make a funny face. The other contestant’s judge each campers face on a scale of one to ten. Look for creativity and form. Select a winner.

NOW: Everyone get a partner; one camper is to ask the other camper to tell him about what the best things he did today... But **WITHOUT** looking at each other in the face. They have to look somewhere else while they are answering their partner.

ASK... How did it go?

How did it feel?

Was it easy to talk to your partner? Did it feel funny?

It can be hard to talk to someone if they are not looking at you. You might wonder if they are paying attention, what are they thinking?

- Describe a situation when you purchased fantastic tickets for a concert with great seats. You arrived and were put in the back row because of a mix-up and now the large screens that were in place to allow you to see the artist as he sings don’t work.
- Talk about how the concert would feel the same if you couldn’t see the performer
- Talk about times when you are having a conversation with someone and they are distracted and not looking at you, but looking over your shoulder at someone else.

LOOK: Share a personal experience here when you were frustrated with communication you were having with another person, because of the lack of eye contact.

BOOK: The Bible talks about God’s face~

- I Chronicles 16:11 “Seek his face always.”
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”
- Psalm 27:8 “My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me...”
- Psalm 105:4 “Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.”

TOOK:

1. What do you think it means to seek God’s face?
2. What does it look like when we “don’t” seek His face?
3. Why should we try and look at his face?
4. What kinds of activities or mind sets help us to “seek His face”

Idea taken from Dr. Devo’s Lickety Split Devotions by Tim Wesemann. Zonderkidz Publishing 2002.

FLY FIRST CLASS

HOOK: Announce that you are off on the journey of your life. Tell the campers that you have received your ticket and you are off to check in at the airport.

Pack your suitcase, allowing your campers to watch you pack. They can make suggestions as to what you should bring. Make a running commentary on each item you put in, giving the reasons why each one is so important and why you are including it in your suitcase. You might pack: clothes, books, CD's, a picture of your family, toiletries, a favorite stuffed animal, money/credit card/check book or sports team.

When you are packed, shut the suitcase and emphasize that you have been told that you were not allowed to bring anything with you, as everything you will need is to be provided. However, you feel confident that one small case will be acceptable. Put on your shoes and a jacket and walk away from the devotion circle as if you were going to check in at the airport.

Pretend to check in with the imaginary official. Turn to the campers and look horrified. You've been told you are not allowed through unless you leave the case behind. Rehearse (out loud) the pros and cons as you make the decision. How will you manage without your favorite music? Can you really leave your money behind? Pick up the case and put it down several times as though you were agonizing over the decision.

Finally, put the case down and hurriedly walk on, making comments like: "A window seat? How wonderful! Jesus himself will be sitting next to me? This is fantastic! Just to think I could have missed all this!"

LOOK: Share from your personal journey with Jesus. What have you discovered you needed to leave behind? Share a personal story.

BOOK:

- Mark 8:34 "And [Jesus] summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'"
- Matthew 13:44-45. "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

TOOK: ask...

- * What are some things you might pack in your suitcase?
- * What will be the hardest thing to leave behind/give up?
- * How does the suitcase distract us from what God wants for us?
- * Do you think God ever gives back to us those things that we initially had to give up?
- * Was it giving it really giving those things up or about reprioritizing the things?

Taken from: 100 Instant Children's Talks by Sue Relf published by Eastway Publications 1994.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

HOOK:

- Play a game of “Follow the Leader”
- Play a round of “Simon Says”

LOOK: Share a time in your life when you have “followed” someone else or done what someone “said” in order to be included or liked.

BOOK:

- 1 Corinthians 4:16 “Therefore I urge you to imitate me.” (said by Paul)
- 1 Corinthians 11:1 “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
- Ephesians 5:1 “Be imitators of God, therefore, s dearly loved children.”
- Hebrews 6:12 “We do not want you to become lazy, butt to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

TOOK:

The "leader" or “Simon” can get the "followers" to do or say anything they want them to just by doing it themselves, or saying “Simon says”; whether fun, hard, silly or just plain crazy. There may be times during the game when we aren't quite sure if we can trust the leader's judgement, but we tend to follow them anyway. This is all great fun as a game, but what about in real life

- What kind of leader should we look to follow here at camp?
- What about when we get home? Is there a leader to follow there?
- Who is “thee leader” we talk about here at camp?
- How should you evaluate whether you want to follow someone?
- Or do “what they say”? (Like in “Simon says...”)

GENTLE AND QUIET? NOT ME!

HOOK:

- Proverbs 31 woman
Ask girls to: define what “gentle and quiet” means to them.
- 1. List the positive qualities they look for in a friend.
- 2. List the negative qualities they try to avoid in friends.

Proverbs 31:10-31 (the Message) May want to read the entire passage.

Vs 26 “... When she speaks she has something worthwhile to say, and she always says it kindly... Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades. The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the Fear of God”

- May want to read another story; i.e. Cinderella and discuss characters that demonstrate gentleness.

Definition: acting gentle, mild and even-tempered; slow to anger.

Gentleness is not just speaking softly, kindly, or the opposite of yelling, but it is also praying before you speak so you don’t say something “you think is right”, but to speak/respond in a way that would bless God.

LOOK: Share a personal story where you demonstrated “gentleness” Explain the outcome and benefit that came from trusting the Lord and checking in with Him first for what to say.

BOOK:

- Proverbs 15:1: “A gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- 1 Peter 3:4-5: “Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.
- Colossians 3:12 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. “Does being “gentle and quiet” of spirit mean I can’t be me?”

What if I am naturally outgoing, sometimes loud and easily excited?

Conducting ourselves as the unique persons we each are created to be is quite fun and some of us are exuberant about it while others are reserved. As long as you are

not stomping on toes about it, you have every right to be happy and show it for the world to see.

TOOK: Meditate and pray; and ask the Lord if you have **gentleness** in your heart

1. Take a piece of paper and fold it into four quadrants; within each square write; cabin mates, my friends, siblings, parents.
2. Ask yourself: “Do I have an attitude of **gentleness** toward these people if not, ask yourself why?”
3. Is there some wrong thought you have in your heart regarding this person?
4. Then pray as a group and ask the campers to simply respond to the Lord and ask Him to help them have an attitude of gentleness in their lives.

GENTLE – MAN

"LET YOUR GENTLENESS BE KNOWN TO EVERYONE. THE LORD IS NEAR." PHIL 4:5

HOOK: May want to start by discussing or reading a story of a knightly/gentlemanly Character. The chivalrous knight was idealized as brave in battle, loyal to his king and God, and willing to sacrifice him for the greater good. Towards his fellow Christians and countrymen, the knight was to be merciful, humble, and courteous. Towards noble ladies above all, the knight was to be gracious and gentle.

1. Are you “knightly”?
2. How do you think we could demonstrate knightly character?

Although one might think that being gentle-manly is old-fashion...



True gentle-men never go out of style! One only needs to take a quick glance around to notice that there are very few true gentle-men remaining among us. In times past, a gentle-man was much appreciated and being gentlemanly was a noble thing.

LOOK: Share a personal story about being a **gentle-man** and the outcome and benefit/blessing of doing that.

BOOK: Gentlemanly etiquette listed with accompanying scripture.

- **Always be polite**
Even if you don't like someone, there is no need to lower yourself to their level. Be polite and courteous; show that you're the better man. (**Phil. 1:27/ Phil. 2:5**)
- **Do not curse**
Swearing is a big no-no. It shows that you don't have the vocabulary to express your thoughts appropriately. Furthermore, it is always very crude and impolite to be vulgar. (**Exodus 20:7/ Ephesians 4:29**)
- **Do not lose your temper**
When you lose your temper, you are showing everyone that you can't control your emotions. If you can't even control yourself, then how can you possibly control anything else? Keep your cool at all times (it won't be easy but it is worth the effort) and people will take positive note of your level headedness. (**Prov. 14:4/ Prov. 16:32/ James 1:9,20**)
- **Do not stare**
Staring at someone can communicate bullying. You don't want to intimidate people for no reason.

- **Do not interrupt**
Let people finish what they are saying before adding your comments. Interrupting others is a sign of poor etiquette and a lack of social skills. (**Ecc, 5:2/ Prov. 15:2/ James 1:19**)
- **Do not spit**
A lot of men do this almost subconsciously. Spitting is very crude and not too pretty to look at. Do not spit in public.
- **Respect your elders**
In fact; you should respect others as you would like them to respect you. I am specifying elders because it seems that today, young men think they know it all. Well, they don't. Just think of yourself five years ago... you're much smarter and experienced today, aren't you? Of course, yet you thought you knew it all five years ago. (**Exodus 20:12/ Proverbs 16:31**)
- **Do not laugh at others' mistakes**
This is perhaps one of the cruelest things one can do. When you mess up, the last thing you want is for someone not only to bring it to your attention, but to ridicule you on top of that. (**Ephesians 5:4/ 1 Cor. 13**)
- **Remove your hat indoors**
This rule seems to have gone out the window these days. You should remove your headwear upon entering a building. Furthermore, never keep your hat on while at the dinner table. It reflects very poor etiquette. Historically, this rule is demonstrated in knights tipping their visor, and the taking off of helmets and hats as a symbol of respect for the people you were approaching or with.

Noble Gentle-manlike behavior; “chivalry”:

Definition:

1. The sum of the ideal qualifications of a knight, including courtesy, generosity, valor, and dexterity in arms.

In addition to the aforementioned rules, gentlemen (in training) should follow these additional rules when in the presence of a ladies.

Young men should realize that interacting with ladies in a chivalrous way is good preparation and can be a habit forming opportunity as they prepare to win themselves a woman worthy of marrying.

- **Always open doors**
This is perhaps the most basic rule of male etiquette out there. It is also one of the easiest to follow! You can do it~
- **Put on her coat**
Always help a lady put on her coat or jacket. This is a simple but powerful action.
- **Help with her seat**
If an unaccompanied lady is sitting next to you, it is important that you help her be seated by pulling her chair out for her and gently pushing it back into place.
- **Give up your seat**

If a lady arrives at the table and there are no available seats, you should stand up and offer yours to her.

- **Stand at attention**

Always stand when a lady enters or exits the room.

- **Give her your arm**

When escorting a lady (that you know) to and from social events, you should offer her your arm. This is a little more intimate, but serves well when walking on uneven ground - especially if she's wearing high heels.

- **Ask if she needs anything**

This is one that most guys already do, but helps complete the gentleman in all of us nevertheless. When at social events, make sure to ask the lady if you can get her something to drink (or eat, depending on the event). Show her that you care about her comfort and needs.

Scripture: encourages men/husbands to love and respect their wives as a gracious gift, “so that nothing will hinder their prayers.” **1 Peter 3:7. Think of this time as an incredibly opportunity to develop godly qualities.**

TOOK: Gentle-men,

If I may call you that, these are the rules of etiquette you should observe in everyday life.

1. Elevate yourself and your manners.
2. Are you a **true gentle-man**? The world will appreciate such a rarity and your future will most definitely benefit from your good manners.
3. Would you take the challenge and attempt some of the above described behaviors?

Take a chance, start being a **gentle-man** and watch the results.

GOD DOES SPEAK TODAY!

HOOK:

- Do you ever wish you could just talk to God face to face like you talk to a friend?
- Wouldn't that make life easier?
- If you ever had a question or didn't know what to do or were feeling lonely, it would be great to have the King of the Universe to be right there to help you out!
ANSWER: YES, God wants to talk with you. He is speaking!
- We just need to tune our antenna into him.
- Download Him onto our IPOD

LOOK: Wherever "you" are in your desire to hear God; share "that"!

- Maybe, how you have desired to hear God speak to you.
- Or, your struggle with learning to hear God's voice and what you've learned
- If you have an example of how you have heard God's voice then share that

BOOK:

- John 10: 3-5 "The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own flock, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." (vs.6-18; tells the rest of the story)
- John 10: 27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me."

If you know the Lord, you have already hear His voice!

It is that inner leading that brought you to Him in the first place.

Hearing the voice of your heavenly Father is a basic right to every child of God.

First: Ask Jesus in your heart

Second: When you talk to God, confess any unforgiven sin (a clean heart is necessary if you want to hear. (Psalm 66:18

Third: Obey what He tells you

What are some ways that God talks to us?

- His Word: through your daily bible reading or He could guide you to a particular verse (Psalm 119:33-35)
- Prayer: involves you speaking and then remembering to "listen"; as God puts an impression on your heart, or you hear something in your heart. (Psalm 86:5-7)
- Inner Voice: (Isaiah 30:21)
- Dreams: (Matthew 2:13)
- Visions: (Isaiah 6:1)

- Prophecy: (Joel 2:28 – “It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.”)
- Other people: often as God speaks to you, He will have others communicate things to you that “second” what He has already said to you.
- Nature: (Psalm 19:1 “The heavens are telling of the glory of God...)

TOOK:

- Have you ever asked God to speak to you?
- What are ways that God has spoken to you?
- What are some things you can do to help you listen to God?
- How can you practice hearing God’s voice? It will become easier as you do it.
It’s like picking up the phone and recognizing the voice of your best friend-you know their voice because you have heard it so much!

Relationship is the most important reason for hearing the voice of God. God wants to be very personal. If you don’t have communication, you don’t have a personal relationship with Him.

GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT!

HOOK: Turn on a fan in the cabin and let the campers feel the breeze on their faces.
Turn the fan off.

Ask the campers:

- What is air?
- Where is it?
- Why do we need it?
- Which of our senses detects it?

We do not have to see air to know that it is there. It is invisible, but that makes no difference to its reality. Although we do not see air, we can see its effects. We know that we breathe it in and out. However, much of the time we are totally unconscious of the air around us and unconscious of breathing.

When the air is still we do not doubt that it is there. Some days it is windy and we are more conscious of it. Sometimes God seems to be very “still” and we do not see anything happening. Maybe then we wonder if he is real at all. However, God is always present. And sometimes God does very dramatic things and we see the effects very noticeably.

LOOK: Share an experience about your understanding of God being ever present in your Life.

BOOK:

- Matthew 28:20 “...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- Philippians 4:9 “...and the God of peace will be with you.”
- Isaiah 43:2 “when you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”
- I Timothy 1:17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”
- Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

TOOK:

- What are some of the effects of the things that God does?
- How do you know God is here with us even though he is invisible?
- When have you known God was with you?

What are some things we can do to be more aware of God’s presence in our lives?

Idea from: 100 Instant Children’s Talks by Sue Relf published by Eastway Publications 1994.

GOD IS LIKE A BAG OF M & M'S ??

BECAUSE GOD IS ABUNDANTLY GOOD!

HOOK:

- Buy a large bag of M&M's (or enough small bags of M&M's for each camper)
Place it/them in the middle of the campers as they sit in a circle for devotions.
Ask: When we say that something is "good" what do we mean?
When something is "good", it does what it is supposed to do.
- Imagine that you are playing soccer, dribbling the ball down the field. You fake around one defender and then another. Now, the goalie is the only player left between you and the goal. You dribble to the right and then kick the ball high and to the left corner of the goal. It flies past the diving goalie's outstretched hands.
- That was a "good" shot: it did what it was supposed to do.

LOOK: Share a personal story about when God was good; your own experience of God's goodness or someone close to you and how it was abundant and good.

BOOK:

- Psalm 145:7 "They will celebrate your abundant **goodness** and joyfully sing
- Of your righteousness" You may want to read more of Psalm 145; it's all about God being good!
 - When David says that God is abundantly good, what does he mean? (He means that God will always do what He is supposed to do.)

God never makes a mistake or bad decision. Everything that He does is best for Him and for His creation even when it doesn't seem like it to us. We are too limited to be able to say whether something is truly good or bad, but we can trust that God is always good.

God is not just good; his goodness is great and abundant.

It would be like a bag of M&M's that never ran out!

That is how God's goodness is...it never runs out!

* Other Scriptures: Psalm 73:1/ Psalm 84:11/ Mark 10:18/Romans 12:2/Philippians 2:13

TOOK: Open the bag of M&M's and begin to share. Ask:

1. Do you have a time when you remember experiencing God's goodness?
Tell us about it...
2. When was the last time you got excited and told someone how good God was to you?
Tell us?
3. Who can I tell tomorrow about God's goodness to me? Or when I go home?"

End in prayer and ask God to give you eyes to see His goodness to you.

GOD IS LOVE

HOOK:

- Read the story of the Prodigal Son: Luke 15: 11-31
- “...But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he “ran” to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him” vs.20 (God waits for us to turn our gaze toward Him and then He runs to meet us)

LOOK: Share a time in your life when you experienced the unmerited love of God toward you. When did you feel like the Lord was loving on you? (i.e. a day when you had good things happen you were expecting to...“Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above; coming down from the Father of lights...” James 1:17

BOOK:

- Isaiah 49:16 “See, I have engraved you on the palm of my hand.”
- Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Romans 5:5 “...because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”
- Romans 8:35-39 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ...nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 “Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”
- 1 John 3:16 “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”
- Galatians 5:22-23 “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

TOOK: (ask)

- What has someone else done for you that have shown you that they really love you?
- How do you show love to others?
- How can we love each other more this week?
- How do we show love to the people who don't love you?

Only because God first loved us are we even able to love others. You can't love others without Him.

GOODNESS

HOOK:

1. Say to your campers, “Do you know what sounds good right now???” They ask what, and then you have a “GOOD” surprise for them (some kind of treat).
2. Do something good for your campers...

LOOK:

1. Tell the campers of a time when you were blessed and surprised by someone’s Goodness to you. What did they do and how did it bless you?
2. Tell of a time when you blessed someone with an act of goodness. How great did it feel to see how much it blessed the recipient?

BOOK:

- Acts 10:38 “... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power
- And how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.”
- Matthew 8:1-3 “When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing”, he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.
- Matthew 14:13-21 “When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (The story continues... Jesus multiplies the bread and fish to feed about 5000 men, besides women and children.”
- John 4:30-39: The story of the woman at the well. Jesus showed kindness and goodness when he spoke to the “Samaritan woman” and revealed Himself as the Messiah.

* Other scriptures: Ephesians 5:8-10/ 2 Peter 1:4-9

TOOK: Think through your relationships; cabin mates, friends, family, neighbors, schoolmates...

1. Are you demonstrating goodness in your relationships with them?
2. Would they describe you as a person who does “good”?
3. In difficult times, how do you respond? (Do you respond in a good way?)
4. How do you/did you demonstrate goodness today?

Ask God right now to fill you with His spirit and show you how to demonstrate goodness in your life through good deeds to others.

*May even want to challenge them in some way to a “Goodness Challenge” for the day/remainder of the week etc.

GOSSIP

Written by: Michelle Mooney

Recommended Ages: Braves

Hook: Divide cabin into two lines sitting silently on the floor. Show the person at the back of each line a picture. Have them trace the picture on the back of the person in front of them and pass it forward like telephone. The person at the front will draw it on a piece of paper and then discuss how the image changes from the starting image.

Look: Discuss how gossip and rumors spread and change and when passed from person to person. Share a personal experience with this.

Book: James 3:1-12 — “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers; because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

Took: God creates everyone perfectly and so we should not spread gossip or rumors. We should treat each other the way that God wants us to treat each other.

- How can we stop rumors from spreading?
- Is there a good form of gossip?
- How does God want us to love each other?

GUM CHEWIN' FAITH

HOOK: I love gum. I mean it, I really do. As a kid, I always had gum in my mouth (and sometimes in my hair, but that's another story). If someone asked you to describe what gum 'is like' what would you tell them? How would you describe it? It's hard to find the words, huh?

You'd probably say that, "it's something with flavor that you chew on." They might ask back, "Why do you chew it?" "Well, the whole point of gum is to chew it." "Okay, but WHY?" "Well, that's the whole point of gum... to be chewed."

Gum is kind of like faith.

LOOK: Ever feel like your faith life is "boring", or has "lost its flavor?" Ever wonder why?

BOOK: *"...after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance..."* 2 Peter 1:4-6

When gum (faith) loses its flavor (excitement), we just throw it out, because it's stale (boring), or we're tired of chewing (putting in effort). The difference is that faith is like a gum where the more we chew it (put in effort), the more flavor (strength) we experience... and we'll never throw it out. It just takes CONSTANT effort. Like gum, maybe you can't explain what your faith 'is like', only that you just know it's there, and it's ALWAYS good to have a little gum with you for when you REALLY need it.

Now, read today's verse again. What is St. Peter telling us to do?

1. Look around and see the evil desires in people, or in the world, that take our attention away from God.
2. Put EFFORT into our faith.
3. Supplement (GROW and MATURE) in our faith.

This doesn't just apply to teens or young adults; this is a call to EVERYONE, regardless of age, experience, or openness. We're all on a journey of faith, some are walking, some running, some standing still, but we're ALL on a path.

TOOK: So HOW do we survive to evils of the world? Tell 'em again, St. Peter... EFFORT. That's right, effort. We need to mature in our faith by growing in virtue (leading a moral life), in knowledge (reading and studying the scriptures), in self-control (by controlling our speech, emotions, etc.), and in endurance (NEVER quitting or giving up on GOD, no matter how 'hard' it gets.) that's how we GROW.

If your gum has lost its flavor, put in a new piece (reconciliation) and start chewing.

HOW BRIGHT IS YOUR LIGHT?

Written by: Lauren Baney

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

As Christians we know we are to shine as beacons of light in this sinful world but how bright do we shine? Our verse says, "Let your light so shine before men..." but do we really look any different to our co-workers and neighbors than anyone else they come in contact with? Is our speech different? Is our attitude different? When things go wrong in our lives do others see that we have something or someone to lean on? Do people see that we as Christians have something they don't have?

Many of us learned the little song when we were small about not hiding our light under a bushel, but as adults that's exactly what we do sometimes. We get so caught up in living in this world that we forget that we are not of this world. We have something better in Christ but our sinful nature rears its ugly head, and we forget we are children of the King.

We need to realize that this world is dark with sin and people need us as Christians to shine. As we look around at the school shootings, drugs, crime, and the diluting of the family we are reminded of how there are hurting people all around. People need the Lord and they need hope. We as children of God can give that to them if we just live as a shining example of Christ. We can't keep Christ to ourselves. We have to flood the world with His Light!

What Kind of Light Are You?

1. Are you a Smokey Lamp with a Cloudy Globe?

When a lamp's globe is clouded up it doesn't shine to its fullest potential. Maybe the blackness of unconfessed sin has crept in and started smoking up your life. It just takes a little smoke to cloud up a lamp globe. The same is true with our lives. It just takes a little sin to make our light dull. We are always going to be prone to sin because it's our nature but we have to work on it one day at a time. We have to confess our sin to Christ. Having unconfessed sin breaks our fellowship with Christ and causes our lives not to shine our brightest for Him.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

2. Are You a Dim and Slow Burning Candle?

As a candle burns out it gets dim and burns slow. Are you this type of light? Remember when you first received Christ? The Christian life was exciting and new! Are you getting slow about having a devotional life? Is your prayer life getting dim? It's easy to become complacent in our Christian life but when we do our light for Christ begins to dim and others can't see Him in us. Take a step back, and get things into perspective, and remember what Christ did for you.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

3. **Are you a Flickering and Hazy Light Bulb?**

Just before a light bulb blows out, it flickers. It shines bright then dull and hazy, then bright and then dull again. Are you that type of light for Christ? Do you serve Him wholeheartedly then slack off? Maybe you get discouraged about something and you start flickering. Then you get fired up again and begin really serving the Lord only to be bogged down again and you find yourself not attending church, not reading your Bible, slacking off in your prayer life and fellowship with the Lord. The Christian life wasn't designed to be lived on and off again. It has to be a daily continual thing.

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23

4. **Are You a Bright and Shinning Beacon?**

When you think of a beacon you usually think of a light that is a bright and shinning guide. That is the type of light that we should all desire to be. Being constantly in fellowship with Christ and sensitive to His leading will keep our lives as beacons to a lost and dying world. To do this, we have to work at it.

Be a B-E-A-C-O-N

B Battle. Remember what you are battling against.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" 1 Peter 5:8

E Endure. Keep pressing on.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians. 3:13, 14

A Abstain. Don't get caught up in the world.

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thessalonians 5:22

C Consecrate. Live a holy life.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1

O Obey. Be obedient to Christ.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:5

N Nurture. Stay in the Word.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

So, how bright is your light?

HOW DO YOUR FEET LOOK?

HOOK:

1. Play a game where running is involved
2. Tell a story about when you used your feet to accomplish something.
 - a. i.e. A game of “Capture the Flag” where you ran the flag across enemy territory. The flag was hidden, but your teammates could tell you carried the flag by the way you ran.
 - b. i.e. A testimony of how you walked quickly to join up with a group of girlfriends who were enjoying a “gossip fest” about a friend of yours. How did your feet enter the ring of girls?

LOOK: Give a personal testimony of a time when:

1. You “walked well”
2. You “fell” and walked in a disappointing way and learned from it.

BOOK:

- Isaiah 52:7-8 “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns! “Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

Israel was at war, civil war. As King David waited for news from the battlefield, a watchman went up on the roof to look for a sign of the army's situation. Far off in the mountains he saw a man running alone, and he quickly alerted the king. David said, "If he is alone, he is bringing good news." As the runner came closer, the watchman could see another man running alone off in the distance. Once again he called a report down to the others at the gate, and David said, "This one also is bringing good news."

In those days, news was carried by runners. As the runners approached a city or town, they could be seen off in the distance crossing the mountains. They would disappear from view as they ran down into the valleys, and reappear again as they climbed to the mountaintops. When Isaiah sang, "How beautiful upon the mountains ..." he was referring to the runner's approach. By the way the runner ran/approached the people waiting could tell what kind of news would be coming.

TOOK:

- How do your feet look?
- What do people think or anticipate when they see you approaching?
- What is your reputation?

When you go about your day walking from place to place, what kind of “news” do you bring? Is it good news? Does it produce peace?

CHALLENGE: Let’s only speak good news as we walk about camp this week? Walk in a way that speaks encouragement. What does that look like for you?

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Written by: Lauren Baney

HOOK:

How do you feel when you look at the person in the mirror? Self-esteem or a good self-image is a crucial part of a healthy life. A bad self-image...whether it comes from the way you grew up, the way you look, or what's happened to you...a bad self-image can be devastating.

Here are quotes from well-known people:

“Oh, God, I struggle with low self-esteem all the time! I think everyone does. I have so much wrong with me, it's unbelievable!” (Angelina Jolie)

“Anger is a manifestation of a deeper issue... and that, for me, is based on insecurity, self-esteem and loneliness.” (Naomi Campbell)

“My insecurities could eat me alive” (Eminem)

Ask- Reactions to hearing direct quotes from celebrities who seem to have it all

LOOK:

My biggest fear is that eventually you'll see me the way I see myself

Has anyone ever said that to themselves?

BOOK: The Beautiful thing is that God is not silent on this topic and knowing our identity in him changes our life! The Bible says *in Ephesians 4:1 I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

- I “urge” you...come along side you...and coach you to live up to your new name...new identity
 - You are not lousy
 - You are not stupid
 - You are not dumb
 - You are good enough
 - You are loved, liked, princess of the most high, forgiven and rebranded, beautiful in Christ, gifted, wonderful.

TOOK: Share a mirror and have the campers take turns choosing one of these to say to themselves. Challenge them to say these every day.

“For you are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do. Ephesians 2:10”

Now Say these phrases together:

I am forgiven.

I am loved.

I am unique.

I have a calling.

I am a masterpiece.

PRAYER I pray that you will know how highly your Father thinks of you. May you feel His love and acceptance in everything? I pray that you will treat yourself as an irreplaceable jewel, because that is how He sees you. May you not settle for anything less than you're worth, and may you see yourself the way that God sees you: perfect in His eyes. I pray that you will never allow anyone to tell you who you are except for your heavenly Father, who knows the real you. May you shine for Him! In Jesus' name, Amen.

KINDNESS

HOOK:

- Do something kind for your cabin (special; snack, privilege...)
- Go around circle at devotions and specifically “laser beam” (praise each camper; describing a character quality they possess).

LOOK:

Talk about a time when you received kindness from someone or the Lord OR talk about a time when you demonstrated kindness and share the result

BOOK:

Could use one of the following stories --

1. David and Mephibosheth: 2 Samuel 2:9

David had just become king of Israel. He summoned a servant of Saul, the former king, and asked him, "Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, **that I may show the kindness of God unto him?**"

2. The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-

A Jewish traveler is severely beaten by bandits. A priest and temple assistant both passed by the man and did nothing. Finally, a Samaritan man came to him, bandaged the wounds and arranged for rest and recovery at a local inn. Jesus tells us that the Samaritan man was neighbor to the Jewish man and was **the one who showed kindness.**

TOOK:

It is easy to be kind to those you like and those who like you...

- Think of people in your life who you don't like or have trouble getting along with...
- How can you show kindness to them?
(Try to understand, listen, help, just hang out with them...)
- Next time someone does something that annoys you; how will you respond??
- Ask God to help you find practical ways to show kindness to others.

LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK

HOOK: Story; “The Law of the Garbage Truck”

“One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly! (*Kind, loving, putting God and others before himself*) So I asked, “Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!” This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, “The law of the garbage truck”.”

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. “As the garbage piles up,” he said, “they need a place to dump it, and sometimes they’ll dump it on you.” Don’t take it personally, just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on.

“Don’t take their garbage and spread it to other people at camp, at home, or on the streets.” The bottom line is that we shouldn’t let garbage trucks ruin our day. Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so....

“Love the people who treat you right, and pray for the ones who don’t”

“Life is ten percent what you make it, and ninety percent how you take it!”~ LOVE!

LOOK: Share a time when you were mistreated unfairly and responded in the opposite spirit of love and understanding. If you were able to see the fruit of your response...share that story with the campers.

BOOK:

- Matthew 15:43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”
- Romans 5:3-5 “...we also rejoice in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” (God offers us a continual supply of limitless love.)

- 1 John 4:7-10_“...let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love for us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice for our sin.”
- 1 Peter 5:7, 8 “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert...”

TOOK: God will keep His love flowing *into* us as long as it keeps flowing *out from* us. It must flow *back* to God—a grateful, reciprocal, responsive love for God—and it must flow *out* in love and response to other people. The more you give it away, the more you will have. And the more you love others, the more you will be loved.

1. How do you often feel “dumped” on by the garbage truck?
2. How could we respond differently?
3. Should we ask people who dump on us, how we can help them?
4. How will we demonstrate the law of love to others tomorrow, at camp and at home?

LOVE PASSAGE FOR KIDS

HOOK: Read 1 Corinthians 13 from your bible.

1 Corinthians 13 is known as “The Love Chapter”. It describes what love is supposed to look and act like. Love is more than just feeling something for someone, love you have in your heart towards others should be displayed in the things you say and do and in your attitudes.

Now here is someone’s personal interpretation of that chapter. It is from The Adventure Bible for Young Readers by Zonderkidz. It describes God’s perfect love for us. It also reminds us of how we are to love others, patterning our relationships after the way he loves us.

Love will stand I line and wait its turn.

Love looks for the good in others.

Love doesn’t always want what others have, and it doesn’t brag about what it does have.

Love is polite, even when the other person is rude.

Love doesn’t always have to be first.

Love doesn’t get angry over the small things, and it doesn’t remember one reason after another to be hurt.

Love isn’t happy when someone else fails, but is happy with the truth.

Love will always protect others, especially those who are often picked on or teased.

Love always believes the best about others and is steady and true.

LOOK: Tell a story about a time that someone showed you unconditional love. How did that make you feel?

TOOK: As a cabin, let us take another look at verses 4-7. Can we write a Camp Tecumseh version of these verses? It might start out: “Love will let it’s cabin mates take the first piece of chocolate cake for desert at dinner time.” When we are done writing it, let’s make a poster for our cabin with our version of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Taken from Dr. Devo’s Lickety-Split Devotions by Tim Wesemann.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES??

HOOK: As you gather the campers around for devotions and ask:

1. Was anyone offended today? What happened?
2. Did anyone get mad today? Who were you mad at?

Lead a discussion where you allow the campers to share and own the times when they were mad and might have felt revengeful... (Transition into a personal story of your own)

LOOK: Share a personal experience when you were treated wrongly or offended; But end with how you responded in a right way (with love, understanding and blessing)

BOOK:

- Luke 6:27-28 “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do **good** to those who hate you, Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”
- Luke 6:35 “But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”
- Other Scriptures: Proverbs 15:1/ Romans 12:20,21

You know that it is easy for us to be kind to people who are kind or people who we like. But here’s a challenge...

- Ephesians 5:1 “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked; and if we are to be imitators of God we are to do the same. We are to love the unloving and bless those who mistreat us.

TOOK:

1. Ask the campers how they might have responded differently in the past to times of being offended.
2. Challenge them to respond differently tomorrow and ask if some of them would like to specify how they intend to respond lovingly.
3. Maybe even challenge the campers to be ready to share at the next night’s devotion.

In your prayers this week ask God to help you show love and goodness to others. Ask Him to give you insight into your actions/behavior and see how others are affected by your actions.

NEED SELF-CONTROL?? THE ANSWER = “BRAID”

HOOK:

1. Gather campers for devotions and demonstrate/start braiding
2. Do friendship bracelets as activity prior devotions or as a part of it.
3. Pull apart some twine and demonstrate how the single strand snaps under pressure

LOOK: Share a personal time when:

1. You experienced the negative effects of **not** having a friend support you or call you higher
2. You did have a friend support you, or challenge you to a higher biblical standard.
(Maybe you were the friend calling someone higher; share the results of your experience)

BOOK:

* Ecclesiastes 4:12 “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three stands is not quickly or easily broken.”

(You + Jesus + a Friend = BRAID)

There is nothing you can do as well without Christ as you can with Him.

Conquering anything is easier “with Him.” Sometimes we think we have to clean up all our messes before we ask God to help. That would be like trying to cure yourself before you go to the doctor! Silly, huh.

SECRET~ the secret to self-control is really “Christ-Control”

Then as you face temptations that are too strong for you to resist, remember He is with you and turn to Him

Remember to:

1. **AVOID temptation**; don’t put yourself in situations where you’ll face temptations.
If you struggle with something... don’t go near it!
2. **Make yourself ACCOUNTABLE**; Find someone who will check up on you, pray for you, and encourage you in the areas where you want to develop more self-control

TOOK: “Get Braided”

God wants us to not be alone, but buddy up with friends to walk with... “Braid!”

1. Do you have areas of your life that you want to have more self-control in?
2. Are you in a braid with someone? If not think about whom that person might be. Ask campers to brainstorm ideas of good people to buddy or braid with.
3. What are some of the practical ways we braid? ;)
4. How can we walk with each other in a way to encourage one another?
5. Ask campers to share areas they need encouragement in and then offer helpful ways to walk/braid.

Close out the time together with finished friendship bracelets to commemorate your time and hopefully decisions the campers have made to walk with (braid) with someone else.

Other Scriptures:

Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Genesis 2:18 “It is not good for the man to be alone” God designed us for relationship...

Colossians 2:6 “Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in Him” (stay woven together with Him)

NEVER TOO BUSY

HOOK:

Before the devotion, ask one of the campers (or your co-counselor) to persistently try to get your attention. Prepare them that you will completely ignore them and it is just part of the devotion. Best if other campers don't know beforehand. After a few minutes of ignoring the persistent camper, ask the rest of the campers if they noticed how you ignored him/her. Ask "have you ever felt that your mom or dad, teacher, brother, sister, or friend was too busy to talk to you?"

LOOK:

Tell a story of when you felt unimportant or when you were trying to talk with someone and felt ignored.

BOOK:

Mark 10:13-14 "People were bringing little children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was ignorant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'"

TOOK:

Even though our moms and dads and teachers may sometimes get in a hurry and forget to pay attention. Jesus was never too busy to spend time with children. This is because He loves children and enjoys spending time with them, Jesus loves you too. It will make him happy when you pray to him. He will never be too busy to hear your prayers.

ONE WORD

HOOK:

1. Ask Campers to come up with one word that best describes who they are (go around the circle).
2. Ask campers to come up with one word that best describes the person they want to be.
3. Ask campers to come up with one word that best describes their life and faith right now.
4. Ask campers to come up with one word that best describes what they wish their life and their relationship with god was.
5. Ask campers to say, using one word, what is most important to them.

LOOK:

Tell a story of a time when your life was not going in the direction that you wanted it to.

BOOK:

Jeremiah 29:11 “‘For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’”

TOOK:

Many times our lives are not going in the direction we want. We are almost always not content with the way things are. But even if we don’t understand our future, God does. He has known every single day of our lives since the day we were born. And he has a plan, a great plan, for each and every one of us.

Close with the one word prayer. Everyone goes around the circle and prays one word, summarizing a request, how they feel or a praise.

PATIENCE REQUIRES “WAITING”!!

HOOK:

Ornithologists say birds have three methods of flight:

1. Flapping~ keeping their wings in constant motion to counteract gravity.
Humming birds can flap up to 70 times a second. Flapping keeps you up on the air, but it is a lot of work. Flapping is awkward and clumsy business. We can spend a lot of time flapping around to get us from here to there, but there isn't a lot of grace involved. ☺
“Walk and not become weary.” perhaps because of doubt, pain, fatigue, or failure
*We can't run let alone soar, so we walk. We must choose to walk and not faint.
All we can do is say, “God, I'll hang on. I won't let go of you. I will obey you and just keep walking... do the next thing! That blesses the Lord.*
2. Gliding~ The bird builds up enough speed, then coasts downward a while. It is much more graceful than flapping, but unfortunately it does not get the bird very far. Reality in the form of gravity sets in quickly. Gliding is nice, but it does not last.
“Run and not get tired”; *Sometimes we are not able to soar, but with persistence Determination you know you are running the race. You feel frustrated, but you Know God is pleased with your obedience! Keep running! And don't compare Yourself with someone who is soaring! Your time will come. ☺ (1 Cor. 9:24)*
3. Soaring~ Only a few birds, like eagles are capable of this.
Eagles' wings are so strong that they are capable of catching rising currents of warm air—thermal winds that go straight up from the earth- and without moving a feather can soar up to great heights. Eagles have been clocked at up to 80 mph without flapping at all. They just soar on an invisible column of rising air.

LOOK: Share a personal experience that relates to this teaching.

BOOK:

- Isaiah 40:31 “yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

Isaiah says that those who “wait on the Lord”, times will come when they soar!! You catch a gust of the spirit~ Jesus says, “The wind blows wherever it pleases...” So it is with everyone who has been born of the Spirit. (Accepted Jesus). If you find yourself, there...be grateful, stay in the stream of the Spirit's power. Be very obedient as you are lead and keep praying. Don't assume you are soaring on you own strength. No matter what we look like as we fly – it is in the “waiting” that we are transformed into what Jesus desires. What happens to us while we are waiting is more valuable than what we are waiting for.

TOOK:

- How do you tend to respond to waiting?
- Why do you think Jesus waited so long to come to the disciples in the storm?
- In what ways have you seen waiting develop your character?
- In what aspects of your life is waiting most difficult for you right now?
- What would you say is the difference between “waiting on the Lord” vs “waiting around”?
How might you transform your current waiting into “waiting on the Lord”?
- Would you say that you are “soaring”, “running”, or “walking” these days?

POTLUCK

HOOK:

Go around each circle and give the campers this scenario: “if you were invited to a potluck, what dish would you make to bring?” Get creative and have your very own potluck with the food campers bring. Have each person bring one item (Cookie, bag of chips, brownie, candy bar, etc) to the table and split everything up so each camper can enjoy some of everything.

LOOK:

At the potluck, each person brings a dish to share it can be an appetizer, main course, side, item dessert, or beverage. And of course, everyone usually brings their best recipe. When all the food items are brought together, it makes a delicious meal. IN the same way each one of you has a special talent or gift from God. When we all use our talents and work together we can do great things for God and we are praising him in this way.

BOOK:

1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of “God’s grace”

TOOK:

What are gifts that each of you have?

What are specific ways you can use those gifts to serve others and glorify God.

REMEMBER TO REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

HOOK:

1. Ask questions that challenges the campers memory:
 - What gifts did you get for Christmas? For your birthday?
 - What was the last great thing your parents did for you?
 - What was the last cool thing that reminded you of God?
2. Talk about some “memorial/monument” examples at camp and what they make you think of; i.e. “Irving the Indian”, the cross at chapel, statues at CAC and Kampen...

LOOK: Share a special time you remember God’s faithfulness and love.

BOOK: God often commanded His followers to “set up memorials”

- Joshua 4:1-7 “And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua saying; ‘Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, and command them saying, take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan River, from the place where the priests feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’... Joshua did that... and said: “This may be a sign among you when your children ask in times to come, saying; “What do these stones mean to you? Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan River were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD: when we crossed over the Jordan, the waters were cut off. Ant these stones shall be a “memorial to the children of Israel” forever!”
- Vs 23, 24... “For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, “That all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever” and that He is faithful to provide and protect.

TOOK:

1. Have a pile of stones for the campers to pick from:
 - Ask the campers to select a stone
 - Give the campers a marker and have them write on the stone “one word” that reminds them of a time when God was faithful.
 - After each camper has done so, then ask them to share if they want to
 - Finally have the campers place their rocks in a pile (memorial/monument) somewhere significant. As you pass that memorial throughout the week you will be reminded of God’s faithfulness.
2. Or you may ask the campers to write down/journal how God has been faithful today and then do it daily. Developing the habit of “looking for” God’s faithfulness will create grateful hearts.

SEEING GOD DIFFERENTLY

COMPLIMENTS THE SEEING GOD DIFFERENTLY CHAPEL

HOOK:

Have everybody draw a picture of how they imagine/experience God most actively.

LOOK:

Show your picture to the group. Explain how you imagine God to be and how you experience him in your life. Provide one or two examples of how you have experienced God in that way. Ask each member of your group to share their picture, explaining how they imagine and experience God.

BOOK:

- Exodus 33:18-23 “Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."
- John 1:18 “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.”
- Genesis 1:27 “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

TOOK: Everybody experiences God in different ways, and through these different experiences and interpretations, we reflect God’s love and God’s desire to have a personalized relationship with us.

- What do these different pictures demonstrate about God?
- Would you say that God is a distant spectator or active and engaged in your life?
- How do you know you are experiencing God?
- Based on these pictures is there a “right” way, or a “better” way to experience God?
- How do these different interpretations and experiences contradict or reinforce your interpretation or experiences with God?
- As a community of faith, how do we reconcile these differences?
- How can we become more aware of God’s presence in the things we do daily?
- Are there instances in your life where God is present and you just aren’t aware of it? Provide an example.
- How can we apply these ideas to our time at camp, as well as our time at home.

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HOOK:

“Please, imagine you’re in your car alone and picking your nose!”

All of the sudden, you realize that someone nearby is watching you!! You’re busted!

1. What are the words you hear yourself saying to yourself, about yourself?
2. You have arrived to school and barely made it to your classroom when you realize that the biggest project of the year is supposed to be turned in and you have lost it on the way to school?
3. What are the first words that you think about you?
4. Ask the campers to share what words they heard themselves say about themselves...
The words that I hear are things like: “Looser!”, “Stupid!”, “I’m so dumb!”

None of that is true, really true about me, or you!

If I was picking my nose... the “Truth” is I need a tissue.

If I lost something important... the Truth is, I lost something and I need to begin to look for it and try and remember where I might have left it.

It does NOT mean I am a looser or stupid.

“The most important thing a person can choose is what he thinks!”

We allow old negative tapes to play in our head. Lies of the enemy torment us and cause us to believe that we can’t do something.

Choose what you will think, by renewing your mind daily with the TRUTH!

LOOK: Share an experience where you realized that you were believing something about yourself that was not true and how it affected you. If possible include how realizing the truth brought freedom and helped you.

BOOK:

- Proverbs 23:7 “For as a man thinks within himself, so he is”
The word “thinks” here in its original is “sha ar” which means a gate keeper.
What are we allowing into our minds to cause us to think differently about ourselves or a situation than we should? Guard your gate/mind!
- Philippians 4:8 “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, Whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and If anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.” If something is not true we need to not be thinking about it.
- Psalm 139: 13-16 “Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, you formed me in my mother’s womb I thank you, High God-you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made!
“THAT’S” WHO YOU ARE!

TOOK:

1. Have the campers spend time-sharing how they see each other using positive character words.
2. You tell each camper the qualities you see in them that God has placed there.
3. Pray (you can pray as a group or you as the counselor can pray for each camper individually) Ask God to be Showing us how great he has created each one of us personally.
4. Challenge the campers to “take every thought captive” tomorrow. When a thought comes into their mind, challenge them to ask God... “is that true about me?”
God wants to speak to us and tell us how much he loves us!!! It’s a challenge in listening.

Other Scriptures:

Mark 2:8

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were **thinking** in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you **thinking** these things?"

Mark 2:8

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were **thinking** in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you **thinking** these things?"

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not **think** of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather **think** of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

SURPRISE KINDNESS

HOOK: Story by; Tony Campolo

Tony Campolo tells of an incident that happened to him once - He was headed to work along his usual route. It wasn't unusual for him to pass a number of transient people, the homeless. Occasionally they would blurt out the usual panhandling requests for money. And generally he ignored them. But one day a particular bag lady, whom he had seen often before in his mad dash to get from A to B, came shuffling by holding a steaming cup of coffee from a local donut shop. Their eyes met. He forced a smile. She stopped and put down her disheveled coat and bags. "Hey, mister, would you like a sip of my coffee?"

Now, if you were Tony, how would you respond? Walk past, quickly, right? Well, he did. Or at least started to. Something inside stopped him on that frosty morning. Half a block down he turned around. "Hey lady! Yes, yes I would like a taste of your coffee." And she stuck out her dirtied hand to him, and he swallowed.....what had to be the most delicious coffee he had tasted in a long time. "Isn't it good?" she inquired.

"Yea, this IS good. And thank you."

"You're welcome."

"Hey lady.... why did you offer me your coffee?"

"Because it was so good. I thought someone might like to share it with me and enjoy it, too."

There in middle of a cold Pennsylvanian morning, an angel in disguise exhibited the fruit of the Spirit called Kindness. Sharing from what little she had with someone whom she simply thought might enjoy the pleasure she was experiencing from her cup of coffee.

Campolo accepted that kindness with grace.

Kindness is gracing someone's life with good.

LOOK: Share a personal experience of kindness done to you or by you.

BOOK:

- Colossians 3:12-13 "Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

- 2 Peter 1:5-9 “For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, **brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love**. For if you possess these qualities increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.”
- **Jeremiah 9:24** “but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.
- **2 Corinthians 6:6** “in purity, understanding, patience and **kindness**; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

KINDNESS is: To speak a word of encouragement; to give to someone in need; to lend to a fellow camper; to write to someone who is in sorrow; to befriend a lonely person; to lend a hand to a harassed friend, there are a hundred and one little ways to be kind to others!

TOOK: Here is a challenge that will require us to tame tempers which so easily flare and hurt, to check selfish streaks, to overcome fears of being taken for a ride, to close distances between ourselves and others, to deliberately stop from the busyness of life, and to step across the awkward moments

1. How will you be kind, yet tonight?
2. How will you be kind tomorrow?
3. How will you be kind when you return home?
4. Can you take the **“Kindness Challenge”** and do a “random act of kindness” each and EVERY HOUR?? Go for it!!

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

HOOK: Challenge the campers to guess an answer to the question.
(*You may want to offer a prize for anyone you guesses the right length.*)

“How long do you think it is from the edge of your fingertip to the top of your shoulder?”
If you have a tape measure, take a guess and then note the real length. Then guess the measurement between your outstretched hands, from fingertip to fingertip. Following the guess, use the tape measure across your arms and back to get the real length.

Do you have short arms or long arms?

BOOK:

- Numbers 11:23 “Is the Lord’s arm too short?”
That sounds like a weird question, but that’s what the Lord asked Moses when Moses doubted God’s ability to do something that he’d said he would do. Moses talked to God about the Israelites. They were complaining a lot to God. They wanted meat to eat, so God gave them meat – more meat than they wanted! They ate the meat God gave them and then became sick. God did this to show Moses that he was in control and wanted the Israelites to trust in him.
- Isaiah 59:2 “Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.”
- Joshua 4:24 “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

TOOK:

- Have you ever doubted or wondered if God could do something?
- Does anyone have a time when they felt like they saw or experienced “God’s long arm?”
- Do you think there are times when God’s arm does intervene for us and we don’t give Him the credit?
- Challenge: Let’s look for God’s long arm the rest of the week!”

God wanted Moses to know he could do all things. His arms weren’t too short for anything. He could reach the impossible and make it happen! God still can!

Idea taken from Dr. Devo’s Lickety-Split Devotions by Tim Wesemann. Zonderkidz Publishing 2002.

THE SONG DEVOTION

Written by: Lauren Baney

Psalm 71:23

My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.

God talks to us in a lot of different ways. Music is a popular way to talk to God and hear God talk to us. Music is all around us. We hear it in the car, restaurants, waiting rooms, stores, when we work out. Most of our phones and computers have songs downloaded to them and are just a click away. It seems that most of our day is filled with sound and music takes a lot of it up. If music is all around us, why not use to spend time with God?

Christian music has God present in it. This is not to say all other music is bad. But, Christian music is directly worshiping and talking about **God Himself rather than our lives, loves, and problems in this life**. Listening to good Christian music can help bring you out of the sadness, recharge your energy levels, lift up your spirits, calm your emotions, and help bring you back into a good, right, positive state of mind with the Lord. Now we will play some songs that bring good messages the Lord and how he shapes our lives. (Lyrics attached)

Free To Be Me – Francesca Battistelli (God made you perfectly in His image)

- Questions to ask after (they can volunteer their answers or reflect quietly)
- What parts of the song stood out to you?
- What does God see when He looks at your heart?
- She sings “But on your shoulders I can see, I’m free to be me.” How does God put you on His shoulders?

Not For a Moment – Meredith Andrews (God will never leave you)

- Forsake means abandon
- What parts of the song stood out to you?
- What causes us not hear what God is saying to us or see that He is walking right beside us?

And every step every breath you are there
every tear every cry every prayer
in my hurt at my worst
When my world falls down
Not for a moment will you forsake me

He tells us he will never leave us, abandon us, quit on us, retire from us, or give up on us many times in the bible.

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. - Deuteronomy 31:6

How Can It Be- Lauren Daigle (God loves us)

- What parts of the songs stood out to you?
- Have you ever felt ashamed and feel like you need to hide from God?

“And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace; Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” 1 John 1:16-17

Let's pray that we truly believe the things that we talked about tonight. That God made us perfectly in His image that He will never leave us, and he loves us no matter what.

TORN UP?

HOOK:

Ask each person to draw a picture on a piece of paper. Have fun drawing!

When you finish drawing, hold the pictures up to show the others. Then tear your picture into pieces. Now have each person pass his or her puzzle pieces to the person on the right. Set a timer or watch the clock for one minute and a half. See who can put the picture together before the time is up.

Did anyone tear their pieces up really small? Makes it tough, huh?

When bad things happen that tear us into little pieces inside, it can be hard to understand how we will ever feel completely whole again. We might ask, “Why, God?” But there is one thing we can always be sure of. Though we can’t imagine how, God will see to it that the picture of our lives comes back together again.

LOOK: Share a personal story from your own life about a time when you felt torn up

BOOK:

- Isaiah 55: 8 “‘My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord.”
- Job 37:5 “God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding.”
- Psalm 37:5 “Those who know your name will trust in you for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.”
- Psalm 32:10 “Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’S unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.”
- Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purposes.”....
- Romans 8:31 “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

TOOK:

- When your life feels like it is torn into pieces, what do we often do (even though it may not be the right thing to do)?
Do not stay in this discussion too long; it’s good to identify and then turn the discussion to what are more life giving, scriptural responses to pain and frustration.
- What are some things that we know to do that will help us to choose rightly?
- Trust? Pray? Share with a friend who will encourage us in the right direction?
- How can we do some of these things?
- This week? When we get home?

Taken from Dr. Devo’s Lickety-Split Devotions by Tim Wesemann. Zonderkidz Publishing 2002.

TRUST

HOOK:

Remember to go over spotter's position and safety rules FIRST.

- Trust fall: Pair the campers up. Have one-person fall, and the other spotting.
- Trust Circle Everyone stands in a circle, and one person in the middle stands with their feet together and falls around the circle.
- Sit/Stand Pair the campers up. Have the pairs of campers sit back to back, and link arms. Then working together the two of them will push against each other's backs and stand up. Then pairs can be paired up too to do this with four people. Eventually everyone working together can then do this.
- Trust Hike Everyone is blind folded. There are different ways of holding hands. Later these ways can be discussed to see which ways made the campers feel more secure.
- Great Story: There were two trapeze artists who became good friends. They explained that there is a special relationship needed between them; one is the “catcher” and one is the “flyer”. As the flyer is swinging high above the crowd, the moment comes when he lets go of the trapeze, when he arcs out into the air. For that moment, which must feel like an eternity, the flyer is suspended in nothingness. It is too late to reach back for the trapeze. There is no going back now! However, it is too soon to be grasped by the one who will catch him. He cannot accelerate the catch. In that moment, his job is to be as still and motionless’ as he can. The flyer must never try to catch the catcher! He must “wait” in absolute Trust. The catcher will catch him; but he must wait. His job is not to flail about in anxiety. In fact, if he does, it could kill him. His job is to be still. To wait and trust the catcher. To wait is the hardest work of all.

LOOK: Share a time when you had to trust someone.

BOOK:

- **Psalm 9:10** “Those who know your name will **trust** in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.
- **Psalm 22:5** “They cried to you and were saved; in you they **trusted** and were not disappointed.”
- **Psalm 56:3** “When I am afraid, I will **trust** in you.”
- **Psalm 118:8** “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to **trust** in man”
- **Proverbs 3:5, 6** “**Trust** in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him and He will make your path straight.”

TOOK:

- Was it easy or hard for you to trust your cabin mates during the activities? Why?
- Why could you trust them? What did they do to be trustworthy?
- Could you have done these things without trustworthy friends?
- What makes a friend trustworthy?

- Is God worthy of our trust?
- How do you have to trust him?
- Are there things that you do not trust him with?
- How can you begin to put more trust in God?

TUG OF WAR!

HOOK: (activity)

Have one of the bigger, stronger boys up on a picnic table or bench holding the hands of one of the smaller boys who was standing on the ground.

First, tell the smaller boy to try to pull the bigger boy off of the height while at the same time, telling the bigger boy to try to stay up there. In just a matter of a second or two, the smaller boy will probably be able to pull the larger camper down.

Now ask the bigger boy to get back up on the stage, but this time the bigger boy was to try to pull the smaller one up onto the height with him. The idea is that the bigger camper won't be able to get the smaller boy up onto the height.

POINT: it is much easier to pull someone down than it is to lift them up. In this case, the bigger, stronger camper was playing the part of a person trying to follow Christ and do the right things, and the smaller, boy was playing the part of someone who is not following Christ or making good decisions.

LOOK: Share a time in your past when you allowed someone to pull you down instead of raising the standard and calling your friend higher.

BOOK:

- 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
- Proverbs 12:26 "A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

This means that a bad person can taint or ruin a good person's reputation, or good traits. It is so much easier for a worldly person to make a Christian act worldly or in a bad way, than it is for a Christian to help a worldly person act with good, Christian behavior.

TOOK: Friends can drag you down, take you down the wrong path, away from God

- Do you have friends that pull you higher or drag you down?
- What kinds of things can friends do to "pull each other higher?"
- How can you change your behavior to pull your friends higher?
- What kinds of things can you do this week while you are in camp?
- What about when you return home?

WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?

HOOK: Read 1 Corinthians 13 from your bible. Then read the version below from The Adventure Bible for Young Readers by Zonderkidz.

Love will stand in line and wait its turn.

Love looks for the good in others.

Love doesn't always want what others have, and it doesn't brag about what it does have.

Love is polite, even when the other person is rude.

Love doesn't always have to be first.

Love doesn't get angry over the small things, and it doesn't remember one reason after another to be hurt.

Love isn't happy when someone else fails, but is happy with the truth.

Love will always protect others, especially those who are often picked on or teased.

Love always believes the best about others and is steady and true.

LOOK: Share something from your own life that involves a struggle/challenge you have or having or have had in walking in a more loving way.

BOOK:

- Proverbs 10: 12 "Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs."
- Proverbs 17:9 "He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends."
- Proverbs 21:21 "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor."
- 1Corinthians 8:1 "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."

TOOK: As a cabin, let us take another look at verses 4-7. Can we write a Camp Tecumseh version of these verses? It might start out: "Love will let its cabin mates take the first piece of chocolate cake for desert at dinner time."

- What is hardest about loving others at camp?
- What is easiest about loving others at camp?
- What your biggest challenge back home in regard to "Loving others"?
- How can you work on becoming more loving?

Taken from Dr. Devo's Lickety-Split Devotions by Tim Wesemann. Zonderkidz Publishing 2002

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

HOOK: (select one)

- Give each camper a fun nickname that reflects the character you see in them
- Using a Name Book (see Resource staff); tell each camper the meaning of their name
- Ask each camper,
 - If you could choose a nickname for yourself, one that everyone would know you by for the rest of your life, what would be your choice?
 - What would you choose for other members of our cabin? What would they choose for you?
 - What nickname would your family choose for you?

LOOK: Share your nickname and how you were given it. Or Share the significance of your name and what it means.

BOOK:

These are some of the names that God has chosen for himself. They are not nicknames; they are things that God calls himself to help us know him better. They describe his character – who He is. They all describe his relationship with you and me. Check them out!

- Comforter (Jeremiah 8:18)
- Lord (Timothy 6:15 & Revelation 19:16)
- Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)
- The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
- Yahweh
- Messiah (John 1:41)
- Christ
- Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
- The Vine
- Immanuel (Mathew 1:23!)
- The Way, the Truth, the Life (John 14:6)

**** See Concordance in the back for a more names and scriptures.**

TOOK: ask...

- What name(s) of God stood out or struck you as important for you?
- Why do you think that character or aspect of God is important to you right now?
- If campers are hesitant to self-disclose or share; Pick one name and talk more about how that quality of God is meant to help us in our daily lives. Read the assigned scripture to the cabin group and ask them to share their thoughts.
- How will focusing on that name and character of God help you throughout your day?

WE WERE 'MADE' FOR JOY!!

We however have forgotten what it looks like, sounds like, and smells like.

HOOK:

The story is told that a young couple brought home their brand new baby Carissa from the hospital to meet her sibling that was awaiting the new ones arrival. Now Stephen was thrilled to be an older brother of five and couldn't wait to meet the new member of his family. As the parents carried little Carissa in, Stephen was thrilled, but disappointed when his parents told him that Carissa needed to be put into her new bed for a nap. As the parents kissed Carissa on the cheek preparing to leave the room, Stephen quickly and passionately requested an opportunity to be with Carissa "alone". Immediately the parents denied the request and began to leave the room ushering Stephen out as well. He continued to plead and ask for just a few minutes alone with Carissa. The parents dumbfounded and perplexed by Stephen's request, relented and gave him five minutes alone with his new sister. As they left the room, the door was intentionally left ajar as the parents listened intently for any signs of mischief or foul play. Straining to hear what Stephen was up to, the parents were in changed by what they heard. "Carissa, I am so glad you are here. I have forgotten what God looks like, can you please tell me so I can remember Him." As the parents heard, the words it shook them and became the catalyst the Lord used to reacquaint the parents with the reality, truth, and wisdom of little ones.

LOOK: You may just want to share your personal reactions to this story.

BOOK:

- Matthew 18:3 "I tell you the truth- unless you change and become like a little child, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven"

TOOK:

I want you to think, feel, touch, smell, taste, see and hear like a 3-year-old today!

Ask the Lord to remind you of simple joys and allow you to see, feel, and smell them. ☺

- What characteristics/behaviors do you enjoy seeing in young children, or that you yourself enjoy and don't feel like adults always understand?
- How have we become "to adult" and missed out on the "joys" that God intended?

JOY Sabotagers:

Question: What arrows cause your JOY to leak out?

Potential arrows might be; worry, fear, sorrow, rejection, and disappointment.

Don't let these take root! Don't let them fester! Weed the garden of your heart.

Cultivate Eden within your heart... relationship, intimacy, and God's perspective on all situations, conversations, and thoughts.

Be Childlike! Do not forget what simple joys God gives you within each day.

WORDS! THEY ARE LIKE TOOTHPASTE!

HOOK:

- You will need a tube of toothpaste. Using a travel size tube works as well as a large one. Gather campers around and find a plastic surface to perform the devo demonstration.
- You as the counselor begin a discussion about your day as a cabin and you use negative, sarcastic, hurtful words to describe the day. Do not single any particular camper out and say something negative about them; keep your statements general.
- As you speak your negative words squirt out bits of the toothpaste, (it should fall on the plastic surface) as you continue to speak make sure you squirt out all the toothpaste.” (Leave the toothpaste mess there as a visual for the remainder of the devotion)

Proverbs 10:19 “When there are many words, transgression (sin) is unavoidable; but he who restrains his lips is wise.”

LOOK: Share a specific time when you spoke angry, hurtful words and saw how it affected the individual that heard them. Talk about how you wished you could “take back” the words you spoke.

- **Just like the toothpaste...when angry, hurtful words have been spoken they can't be taken back, or shoved back into the tube, AND it leaves a painful mess.**

BOOK:

- Psalm 34:13 “Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.”
- Proverbs 18:2 “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- James 3: 1-6 “a bit is a small thing (like our tongue) and when put in a horse it controls the animal. The rudder of a ship is a small thing (i.e. tongue) and it navigates very large ships. A match is small, yet it can set an entire forest aflame. Our tongue is like this, it is small and yet it sets our course...
- James 3:9, “With our tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness.” Out of the same mouth comes praise and cursing. This should not be... Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?” No, we must guard our tongues.
- Proverbs 10:19 “When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds the tongue is wise.”
- Matthew 12:36 “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned.”

TOOK: We have all had times that we spoke something that was hurtful to someone else.

- What can we do to stop speaking things that we regret?
- How can we do to choose to speak things that encourage others?

YOU ARE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN BECOMING

Written by: Lauren Baney

HOOK: (This is Lauren's example so you can come up with a more personal habit if you do not bite your nails)

When I was a little girl I started biting my nails. I bit them often and I bit them down to the skin. My grandma used to warn me that I was ruining them and next time I would come over she would dip my fingers in vinegar to keep me from biting. She never did. Now I am an adult and I STILL bite my nails. It's just a bad habit. A habit is defined as a settled or regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up. It is definitely a practice for me. Now when my nails get semi long, I feel the need to bite them. It is like I can't help it, because I practiced doing it for so many years. And my grandma was right, my nails are a mess.

Our culture believes that what we do now does not affect our future, which isn't necessarily true. The truth is what we choose to do now will either form habits you have to break in the future or form habits that are helpful to you.

LOOK: Talk about how your habit has affected your life. How has it affected other things in your life?

BOOK: *"Do not be deceived; god is not mocked, for whatever one sows, they will also reap."* – Galatians 6:7

If you plant your own desires, you'll reap consequences

If you plant God's desires, you'll reap joy, peace, and life.

TOOK: Have the group take a few minutes and write down a few good habits they have and a few bad habits they have. Then discuss.

Spending time with God is the most important habit you can develop in your teens.

Discuss ways that you can do that more and why it is so important in our future.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS

We must glorify God
Success is obeying God
Don't take God's credit
Serve others

Genesis 11:1-9
Joshua 1:6-9
Judges 14:14-17
Mark 10:42-45

ANGER

Pride often causes anger
Anger can lead to hatred and revenge
God's wisdom answers anger
Jesus teaches to forgive
Express anger by correcting the problem
Don't speak in anger

Numbers 22:29
I Kings 21:4-10
Proverbs 12:16
Matthew 5:21-26
Mark 3:5
James 3:5-6

APPEARANCE

Attractive on the inside
Beauty God cares about
Develop "inside appearance"
Successful relationships and inward beauty

Proverbs 19:22
Isaiah 16:7
I Timothy 2:9-10
I Peter 3:1-7

ATTITUDES

Gaining a positive attitude
Be optimistic
Negative attitude makes things worse
A forgiving attitude
Attitudes determine life
Be happy and blessed by obeying God
Be willing to learn
Worldly attitudes vs. God

Exodus 14:11-14
Numbers 13:25-14:4
Numbers 16:41-45
II Samuel 1:1-12
Proverbs 15:15
Matthew 5:3-12
John 3:1-21
I John 2:14-17

AUTHORITY

Being your own authority invites disaster
Using authority well
God's authority
Jesus is our authority
Obey the authorities
Obey your parents

Judges 21:23-25
Esther 10:3
Proverbs 21:1
Acts 4:7-12
Romans 13:1-7
Ephesians 6:1-3

BALANCED LIFE

Exercise, relationships, and God
Always help others
Your body belongs to God
Your body is God's temple
Improving attitudes and thoughts

I Samuel 2:26
Luke 10:30-37
Romans 6:12-14
Romans 12:1-2
Ephesians 4:23-24

BELIEVING IN GOD

Belief in God makes us righteous
Belief leads to obedience
Popularity must not interfere with belief
Believing in what we cannot see

Believe and be saved
No excuse for unbelief

Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6-9
II Kings 5:13-15
John 12:37-43
John 20:24-31; II Corinthians 5:7;
I Peter 1:8
Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10
Romans 1:18-20

BIBLE

How to benefit from Bible reading
The Bible can guide your life
The Bible revives us
Reading the bible gives wisdom
The Bible is good news
How to know God
Inspired by the Holy Spirit

Deuteronomy 17:18-20
Psalm 119:18-20
Psalm 119:25
Psalm 119: 96-104
Romans 1:16-17
II Timothy 2:15
II Peter 1:16-21

BLAMING OTHERS

We are responsible for our own sins
Blame hurts others
When we sin, it's our own fault, not God's

Genesis 3:1-13
Genesis 16:1-6
James 1:12-15

BLESSINGS

How to count your blessings
Counting blessings to fight depression
God's love and mercy are blessings
Be thankful
Blessings are from God

II Samuel 7:18-27
II Samuel 22:47:50
I Chronicles 6:41
Psalm 95:2
Psalm 105:1-3

BOREDOM

How to defeat boredom
Your life has purpose

I Samuel 17:32-53
Titus 1:1

CARING FOR OTHERS

God cares for the hurt and afflicted
Jesus is our example
Caring causes others to care
Let others know you care
Christians should care for one another

II Kings 4:32-37
John 11:32-44
Acts 20:21-38
Romans 1:6-9
I Timothy 5:4

CHANGE

Prayer can change things
Let God guide through times of change
God doesn't change
Change from your old ways

Exodus 32:9-14
I Chronicles 14:13-17
Psalm 59:10
Matthew 21:28-32

CHARACTER

Character is how we act
A wife with good character
God recognizes good character
Character is developed by problems

Proverbs 20:11
Proverbs 31:10
Matthew 6:1-4
Romans 5:3-4

CHEATING

God hates cheating
Do not cheat needy people

Proverbs 11:1
Amos 8:4-7

CHOICES

Choose God over the devil
Choose life over death
Choose to obey God daily

Genesis 3:1-11
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
I Samuel 15:1-35

CHURCH

Jesus always went to worship
Worship is very important
The Church is the body of Christ on earth

Luke 4:16
John 4:21-24
Romans 12:4-21

CLOTHING

Clothing should be modest

I Peter 3:1-5

COMMUNICATION

Three steps in communication
Listen to wise instruction
Open your ears and close your mouth
Never gossip
Listen
Listen more than you talk

Deuteronomy 5:1
Proverbs 10:8
Proverbs 10:19-20
Proverbs 11:13
Luke 6:49
James 1:19

COMPASSION

David needs compassion in sorrow
Jesus is our example of compassion
We are to be compassionate

Psalms 51:1-12
Mark 5:41-42
Luke 10:30-37

COMPLAINING

Complaining hurts faith in God
Being grateful vs. complaining
Do everything without complaining

Exodus 14:11-12
Psalm 92; Luke 14:25-29
Philippians 2:14-16

CONFESSION

We must confess our sins
God listens when we confess
We should confess to other believers
God forgives when we confess

Psalms 32:6
Psalm 66:16-20
James 5:16
I John 8-10

CONFIDENCE

Confidence comes from God
Confidence in life's purpose

II Kings 18:5-6; Psalm 46:1-5
Titus 1:1

CONFORMITY

Don't conform to the wrong crowd
Daniel refused to conform

Exodus 22:2-3
Daniel 6:1-22

CONSCIENCE

Having a clear conscience
Follow your conscience
Keep a clean conscience

Psalm 94:11-15
Romans 14:23
I Timothy 1:18-20

CONSEQUENCES

Sin has consequences
Consequences of David's sin
Consider consequences
Each of us will stand before God

Genesis 3:14-19
II Samuel 11:1-12:8
I Chronicles 21:13-14
II Corinthians 5:10

CONTENTMENT

Not found in money or material things
Humility brings contentment
Be content with what you have
Contentment comes when you put Jesus first
Be content in every situation

Psalm 17:13-15
Psalm 131:1-3
Matthew 6:25-35
John 1:29:34
Philippians 4:10-14

CRITICISM

Don't let unjust criticism depress you
Accept helpful criticism
Change your own life; don't judge others
Live above criticism

I Samuel 1:6-10
Psalm 141:5
Matthew 7:1-6
I Peter 3:16

DEATH

How to spend eternity in heaven
The saved die peacefully
Don't fear death

Ephesians 2:8-9
I Thessalonians 4:14
I John 4:17

DECISIONS

Jesus prayed before making decisions
Use wisdom when making decisions

Luke 6:12-16
James 1:5

DEPRESSION

Smile
Find ways to be cheerful
Trust in Christ to help beat depression
Everyone gets depressed at times

Proverbs 15:13
Proverbs 17:22
Isaiah 1:18
John 16:33

DISCOURAGEMENT

Be faithful and not discouraged
Jesus knows about our discouragement

Job 1:18-22
John 15:18

DOUBTS

Don't doubt, nothing is too hard for God
How Jesus helped remove John's doubts
Don't let doubts ruin your faith

Genesis 17:15-21; 18:10-14
Matthew 11:1-6
James 1:5-8

DRINKING

Drinking ruins lives
The dangers of drinking
Don't get drunk

Proverbs 23:29-35
Proverbs 31:2-9
Romans 13:11-14; I Corinthians 10:13

ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus is the only way to eternal life
How to gain eternal life
You can't earn eternal life

Matthew 7:13-14
John 3:16
Ephesians 2:8-9

FAILURE

Turning failures into success
Learn from failures
Recognize and learn from failures

Joshua 7:25-8:1
Isaiah 42:18-25
Luke 22:61-62

FAIRNESS

God hates unfairness

Psalms 58:1-11

FAITH

Abraham is an example of faith
Real faith believes without seeing
Faith results in actions
Even small faith is valuable
A list of faithful people

Genesis 15:6
Matthew 8:5-13
Matthew 9:18-26
Luke 17:6
Hebrews 11

FAMILY

Never provoke your family to anger
Christians are adopted into God's family
Never ignore your family

Proverbs 11:29
Matthew 12:46-50
I Timothy 5:3-5

FEAR

Two reasons not to fear
Don't fear people, trust God
Jesus is coming soon, so have no fear
Faith overcomes fear

Genesis 15:1
Psalm 29:25
Luke 21:25-28
Acts 5:17-29

FORGIVENESS

God's forgiveness makes us white as snow
We must forgive as we have been forgiven
Trust in Christ for forgiveness
Jesus died so we could be forgiven

Isaiah 1:18
Matthew 18:21-35
Acts 13:38-39
Hebrews 9:22

FREEDOM

Freedom never comes from sin
Only Jesus can set us free from sin
Jesus gives us freedom

Genesis 3:1-24
John 8:30-36
Galatians 5:1-6

FRIENDSHIPS

Friends help in times of trouble
Real friends forgive each other
Pray for your friends
How to care for your friends
Real friends stick with us during tough times
Friends love in the good and bad times
Jesus proved his friendship to us

Genesis 14:14-16
Genesis 45:5
Exodus 32:11-13
I Samuel 20:30-34
II Samuel 19:31-32
Proverbs 17:17
John 15:13-15

FUTURE

Your future is bright if you obey God
You can trust your future to God
We can be confident in the future

Genesis 12:1-4
Exodus 3:18-22
Psalm 105:1-45

GIFTS

Gifted people have great responsibility
Discover your spiritual gifts
All believers have gifts
Use gifts and abilities for God

Luke 12:48
I Corinthians 12:1-11
II Corinthians 1:21-22
I Timothy 4:14-16

GIVING UP

When you feel like giving up
Jesus didn't give up
Discipline yourself for endurance
Never give up being your best
Don't give up even when you are suffering

Psalm 23:1-6
Luke 22:39-44
I Corinthians 9:24-27
Philippians 3:12-14
II Timothy 2:3-13

GOALS

Personal goals vs. God's will
Make your goals God's goals
Keep focusing on your goals
Make sure your goals please God

Genesis 9:1; 11:1-9
Psalm 97:10
Philippians 3:12-20
James 4:13-16

GOD'S WILL

Don't let your will supersede God's will

Genesis 19:31-36

God's will guides you
Follow God's will even if you don't understand
How to look for God's will
God wants to help you do his will

Psalm 16:7-8
Matthew 1:18-25
Acts 16:6-10
Philippians 2:13-16

GOSSIP

Don't talk behind someone's back
Gossip hurts others
God hates gossiping
Gossipers should learn to be quiet
Don't speak unkindly of anyone

Exodus 23:1
Proverbs 25:18
II Thessalonians 3:11-12
I Timothy 5:13
Titus 3:2

GREED

Greed can be disguised as ambition
Greed blinds us to God's blessings
Greed can cause you to lose what you have
Pride causes greed

Numbers 16:8-10
Deuteronomy 6:10-13
II Chronicles 10:16-19
James 4:4-6

GUIDANCE

Pray for God to lead you
Success comes with God's guidance
If your heart is open, God can lead you
God's guidance leads to blessings

Psalm 25:4-7
Proverbs 13:13
Matthew 2:13-15
Acts 8:26-37

GUILT

Guilt tells us when we sin
How to remove guilt
Everyone is guilty of sin
How to be clean, not guilty

Genesis 3:7-11
Psalm 19:12-13
Romans 3:9-12
Romans 3:21-24

HAPPINESS

Money and things won't buy happiness
How to have lasting happiness
Happiness comes from being like Jesus
Sharing in God's happiness

Psalm 17:13-15
Proverbs 10:1-2
Matthew 5:3-12
Matthew 25:14-23

HATRED

Hatred is destructive
Hatred can consume a person
Hate evil but love people
Hatred starts trouble

II Samuel 13:21-30
Esther 5:9-14
Psalm 139:21-24
Proverbs 10:12

HEAVEN

Actions on earth affect position in heaven
The only way to heaven
Unbelievers don't get into heaven
All believers will be in heaven

Matthew 5:17-20
Matthew 7:13-14
Matthew 19:17-19
Luke 13:29

Jesus is preparing a home in heaven for us
Heaven will be indescribable
God will be heaven's light

John 14:2-3
Revelation 7:13-17
Revelation 22:5

HELL

Hell is real and eternal
How to escape from hell
Hell is eternal separation from God
Jesus holds the keys to hell

Luke 16:19-31
Acts 4:12
II Thessalonians 1:7-9
Revelation 1:17-18

HEROES

Our heroes should honor God
Jesus should be our hero
A worthy hero leads people to God

Judges 21:25
Luke 4:1-12; 23:34
Galatians 6:1-3

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible
Only the Holy Spirit produces spiritual life
The Holy Spirit helps us live as Christians
The Holy Spirit makes us new people

Luke 24:45
John 3:6-8
Romans 8:2
II Corinthians 5:16-17

HOME

Home is where we learn life's skills
Be blameless at home
We should study the Bible at home
Faith is needed at home

Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Psalm 101:2
Acts 5:42
Ephesians 6:1-4

HONESTY

Be honest in your prayers
Only honest people may stand before God
Better honest and poor than dishonest and rich

Joshua 7:7-12
Psalm 24:1-6
Proverbs 19:1

HONOR

Any honor we enjoy comes from God
Delight in honoring others
Honor your church leaders

Ezra 7:27-28
Romans 12:10
I Thessalonians 5:12-13

HOPE

God never forgets you, so have hope
God gives us hope, peace, and rest
Even small hope can grow if God is in it
Hope in Jesus is always rewarded
Hope because of Jesus
Have hope, God is in complete control

Genesis 8:1
Psalm 3:2-6
Mark 4:30-34
Luke 18:35-43
I Corinthians 15:54-58
Revelation 22:18-21

HUMILITY

David was humble
Humility leads to wisdom

II Samuel 7:18-27
Proverbs 11:2

A humble person takes advice and becomes wise
Be humble and God will be with you
Compare yourself to Christ and be humble
Humility is not a weakness
Look at God's greatness and be humble
Be humble and serve others

Proverbs 13:10
Isaiah 57:15
Matthew 3:11-12
Philippians 2:1-9
James 4:10
I Peter 5:5

HYPOCRITES

What the hypocrite does

Matthew 23:2-22

INFERIORITY

You are not inferior when you belong to God
Inferiority is avoidable
Christ lives in you

Jeremiah 18:6-11
Philippians 3:12-14
I John 4:15

INTEGRITY

Love good and hate evil
Integrity does not compromise
Integrity respects God

Psalms 101:3-8
Psalm 119:113-117
Proverbs 8:13

JEALOUSY

Jealousy can lead to murder
Don't be jealous of others
Jealousy is a damaging emotion

Genesis 4:1-8
Matthew 18:1-4
Philippians 1:15-18

LAZINESS

Don't be lazy; it will ruin you
Don't miss life's opportunities
Lazy people seldom succeed
Do your part
Don't be lazy in spreading the gospel

Proverbs 6:6-11
Proverbs 10:4-5
Proverbs 12:24
II Thessalonians 3:6-15
II Peter 2:14-18

LEADERSHIP

How God prepared Moses for leadership
Leaders must accept responsibility
Qualities of good leaders
Leaders must be servants
Qualifications of a good leader

Exodus 2:11-3:10
I Chronicles 21:7-8
Matthew 12:18-21
Matthew 20:26-28
Titus 1:7

LONELINESS

God's presence prevents loneliness
You are not alone when you have the Lord
Help lonely people
Christ understands your loneliness

Exodus 2:21-25
I Kings 19:9-18
Proverbs 14:20-21
Mark 15:33-39

LOVE

Christ-like love serves others

Matthew 5:38-42

Loving enemies
Jesus shows how to love lost people
Nothing can take God's love from us
Love demands that we give of ourselves
Description of real love
Love is the greatest
Paul's love for the Philippians

Matthew 5:43-48
Matthew 23:37-39
Romans 8:35-36
Romans 12:9-21
I Corinthians 13:4-8
I Corinthians 13:13
Philippians 1:3-8

LYING

Lying only makes problems worse
Fear causes us to lie
God commands us not to lie
Lying can become a habit
Lying comes from your heart

Genesis 12:11-13
Genesis 18:12-15
Exodus 20:16
Matthew 11:16-19
Matthew 15:18-20

MARRIAGE

Marriage joins a man and a woman
Adultery is sinful and destructive
Marriage is forever

Genesis 2:18-24
Proverbs 6:32-35
Matthew 19:3-6; Luke 16:18

MATERIALISM

The cure for materialism
Satan tempts us with material things
Don't put things before your love for God
How not to desire material things
Don't live for things that don't last
Material things won't last

Genesis 14:17-24
Matthew 4:8-11
Matthew 19:21-30
Colossians 3:1-5
I John 2:17
Revelation 18:9-14

MONEY

Money should not be life's goal
Money gotten dishonestly causes pain
Never put your money above God
Do you own your money, or does it own you?
The love of money is a root of evil
Money is gone when we die

Psalms 119:33-42
Proverbs 15:27
Matthew 6:19
Luke 16:13
I Timothy 6:10
James 5:1-6

OBEDIENCE

Noah obeyed God
Put God first in your life
Never compromise your obedience to God
Obedience can lead to a miracle
Obey your parents
Obeying God can save your life
Obey Christ when he calls
True obedience
Obey no matter what the cost
Obeying God shows your love for him

Genesis 6:22
Genesis 22:1-12
Exodus 8:25-29
I Kings 17:13-16
Proverbs 6:20-23
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Matthew 4:18-22
Matthew 7:21-29
Luke 1:38
John 14:21

Others may scoff at your obedience

Hebrews 11:7

OPPORTUNITIES

Let your opportunities help you glorify God

Genesis 40:8

Look for opportunities to glorify God

Acts 3:12-16

Use your opportunities to live for Christ

Ephesians 2:10

PARENTS

Parents should lead children to God

II Chronicles 15:16

Only a fool ignores his father's advice

Proverbs 15:5

Obey your parents

Ephesians 6:1

Honor your parents and be fulfilled

Ephesians 6:2-3

Parents should not discourage children

Ephesians 6:4

PATIENCE

Patience will help you reach your goals

Genesis 29:20

Lack of patience can cause you to miss blessings

I Samuel 13:8-14

God is our patient Father

Luke 15:11-24

Patiently look for the positive in life

Romans 8:24-30

Patience helps you endure suffering

II Thessalonians 1:4-5

Focus on heaven for patience

Hebrews 11:13-16

PEACE

Peace comes from assurance of answered prayer

Psalms 3:4-5

Make peace with others

Matthew 5:25-26

Faith in Christ brings inner peace

Romans 5:1

Ask God for peace of heart and mind

I Corinthians 1:3

Steps to gaining peace

Philippians 4:4-7

PEER PRESSURE

Don't let others pressure you into sin

Genesis 39:1-9

Don't copy the world

Romans 12:1-2

PERSISTENCE

Your persistence could save many lives

Exodus 32:1-14

Never stop believing what Christ can do

Matthew 13:21

It takes persistence to live for God

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Be persistent in doing right

Galatians 6:7-10

Keep working toward your potential

Philippians 3:12-14

Be persistent in prayer

Colossians 4:2

POPULARITY

Obeying God may not make you popular

Matthew 3:7-10; Mark 6:27; Luke 3:19-20

Never let your popularity cause shame of Christ

Matthew 10:32-33

Be more popular with Christ than people

Luke 14:25-27

Jesus wasn't popular

John 17:14-17

POSSESSIONS

Possessions can cause pride
All good things come from God
Don't put faith in possessions
Sharing your possessions
Don't favor wealthy people

Deuteronomy 8:11-20
I Chronicles 29:10-17
Haggai 1:9-11
Acts 2:42-45
James 2:1-9

POTENTIAL

Samson wasted his potential
God sees our potential
Reaching your full potential
Your real potential is in heaven

Judges 13:5-16:21
I Samuel 9:21-27
Philippians 1:6
I Peter 5:10

PRAYER

Without prayer, sin can come quickly
Praying to God gives rest and peace
God hears every prayer
Talk to God daily
Effective prayer takes persistence
Believe that God hears your prayers
Jesus teaches how to pray
Pray for your friends

Genesis 3:1-7
Psalm 3:4-5
Psalm 4:3
Matthew 6:5-15
Matthew 7:7-12
Matthew 21:21-22
Luke 11:1-4
II Thessalonians 1:11

PREJUDICE

Pride causes prejudice
Prejudice makes us blind to God's truth
Jesus died for everyone
We are all the same before God
Let Christ take away prejudice

Esther 3:1-6
Mark 6:1-6
Acts 10:34-43
Galatians 3:28-29
Ephesians 2:11-16

PRIDE

Never take credit for what God has done
God hates pride
Pride ends in shame
Pride starts arguments and ruins friendships
Pride ends in a fall
Pride keeps people from finding Christ

II Kings 19:23-29
Proverbs 6:16
Proverbs 11:2
Proverbs 13:10
Proverbs 29:23
Matthew 11:20-26

PROBLEMS

God is our hope in troubles
Getting rest from your troubles
God can bring good from any problem
Suffering can bring you closer to God

Psalm 3
Matthew 11:27-30
Romans 8:28
Philippians 3:7-11

PURITY

Blessings of a pure life
How to stay pure

Psalm 1:1-3
Psalm 119:1-20

Purity starts in the heart
How to gain purity
Give up what hinders purity

Matthew 5:27-30
John 17:17
Philippians 3:7-11

REJECTION

Suffering unfair rejection
Jesus' rejection foretold
A prophet is rejected in his hometown
God will never reject repentant sinners
Jesus knows how rejection feels

Judges 11:1-2
Isaiah 53:1-9
Matthew 13:53-58
Luke 15:11-24
John 6:58-66

RELATIONSHIP

Humility strengthens family relationships
Christian's relationships with non-believers
The employee/employer relationship
Wounded relationships
Christ can help negative relationships

I Corinthians 11:2-12
II Corinthians 6:14-17
Ephesians 6:5-9
Philippians 4:2-5
Philemon 18-16

REPUTATION

Integrity builds a good reputation
How God feels about your reputation
Hate sin and God will protect your reputation
Risking your reputation for Christ
Stand up for your reputation
Your reputation reflects your lifestyle

Ruth 2:1-13
I Chronicles 2:3
Psalm 38:12-16
John 7:50-51
II Corinthians 12:11-16
Titus 1:5-9

RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility for the earth
Take responsibility when you do wrong
Christians are responsible to light up the world
We should use what we have responsibly
God holds us accountable
Leaders have strict responsibilities

Genesis 1:28-30
I Chronicles 21:8
Matthew 5:13-16
Matthew 25:15-30
Matthew 27:23-26
I Timothy 3:1-16

REVENGE

Revenge can become a habit
How to help others avoid revenge
Let God fight your battles for you
Christians should pay back evil with good
Be tender and humble

Judges 15:1-15
I Samuel 25:23-24
Psalm 35:1-10
Matthew 5:38-48
I Peter 3:8-9

SALVATION

Be totally committed to Christ
Salvation is by God's grace alone
Jesus died for our sins
No one deserves salvation
God's penalty for sin is death
Salvation is eternal

Matthew 8:18-22
Matthew 19:25-26
Romans 3:8
Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23
Romans 8:38-39

How to be saved
No one is good enough to be saved

Romans 10:9-10
Philippians 3:4-11

SELF-CENTEREDNESS

Abraham showed consideration for others
Christ is our example
Focus on Christ

Genesis 13:8-9
John 6:38
Philippians 3:7-11

SELF-WORTH

We are made in God's image
We are made just less than the angels
Healthy self-esteem is not pride
God wants to be your friend
God have his Son for you
Nothing can separate you from God's love
Love yourself and others

Genesis 1:26
Psalm 8:3-5
Proverbs 11:2
Matthew 18:10-14
John 3:16
Romans 8:38-39
Romans 13:9

SERVING OTHERS

Serve others out of gratitude to Christ
Serve as Christ served
Jesus shows service by his example
Serve others as Jesus did

Matthew 8:14-15
Matthew 20:28
John 13:3-5
Philippians 2:5-8

SEXUAL SIN

Guilt and shame accompany sexual sin
Sexual sin causes scars and pain
The secret to staying pure
Run from temptation

Psalm 19:13
Proverbs 5:1-21
Philippians 2:12-16
I Timothy 6:11-12

SIN (HOW TO AVOID IT)

Anger can cause sin
Let God's Word keep you from sin
Turn to Christ to avoid sin
Read God's Word daily
It is sin to know what is right and not do it

Genesis 4:4-7
Psalm 119:25
Isaiah 40:28-31
John 4:10-14
James 4:17

SUCCESS (IN GOD'S EYES)

Be full of goodness
Always hate lies
Commit all your work to the Lord
Speak less and listen more
Love wisdom
Be kind
Be humble and respect God
Admit your mistakes

Proverbs 10:7
Proverbs 13:5
Proverbs 16:3
Proverbs 17:27-28
Proverbs 19:8
Proverbs 19:22
Proverbs 22:4
Proverbs 28:13

SUFFERING

Avoid inner suffering	Genesis 4:6-7
Be an encouragement to those who are suffering	Job 16:1-6
Sin causes suffering	Romans 8:18-21
Jesus can help us through suffering	Hebrews 2:11-18
Respond to suffering as Christ did	I Peter 2:21-24

TEMPTATION

How to avoid temptation	Proverbs 7:1-5
How to combat temptation	Matthew 4:1-11
Temptation is normal	Matthew 8:7-9
You won't be tempted past what you can bear	I Corinthians 10:13
Steps to avoid temptation	I Timothy 6:11-12
Run from temptation	II Timothy 2:22
Jesus is our example	Hebrews 2:16-18
We cause some of our temptations	James 1:12-16

THANKFULNESS

Unthinking people never give thanks	Psalms 92:1-6
God answers prayer, so be thankful	Psalms 138:1-5
Always thank God for his blessings	Luke 17:11-18
Your thankfulness brings praise to God	Acts 3:7-11
Be thankful for salvation and God's grace	Ephesians 2:4-10
Always be thankful	I Thessalonians 5:16-18

TRUST

David trusted God	I Samuel 17:34-37
Trust God to deliver you	Psalms 18:17
Trust God to free you from fear and worry	Psalms 34:4
Trust God to help you in your troubles	Psalms 54:7
Trust God to control your life	Isaiah 40:12-15, 25-31
Trust Christ without doubting	Matthew 11:1-6

USING YOUR ABILITIES WISELY

Daniel gave God credit	Daniel 2:19-30
Use your abilities and receive more	Matthew 25:15-23, 29
Use your abilities or lose them	Mark 4:23-25
God expects us to use our abilities	Luke 12:48
Discover your abilities then use them well	Romans 12:6-8
Use your abilities to strengthen God's family	Ephesians 4:7
Everyone has abilities and strengths	Ephesians 4:11-12
Use your abilities to help others and glorify God	I Peter 4:10-11

VALUES

Wrong values will defeat you	II Chronicles 13:8
Jesus is ashamed of wrong values	Luke 9:26

The world doesn't value Jesus Christ
Strong values lead us away from sin
Learning right from wrong
Your values determine your life

John 16:20
I Corinthians 6:18-20
Philippians 1:9-11
Philippians 1:20-24

WISDOM

Joshua gained wisdom
Read your Bible and gain wisdom
Wisdom is available to you
Wisdom gives life-sustaining advice
Joseph was given great wisdom from God

Deuteronomy 34:9
Psalm 119:96-104
Proverbs 2:1-22
Proverbs 8:1-36
Acts 7:9-15

WITNESSING

When God leads you to witness, do it
Lighten up your world by living for Christ
Share your faith with a lost world
Tell your friends about Jesus
The Holy Spirit gives strength for witnessing
Winning others for Christ
A crown of righteousness for sharing your faith

Jonah 3:1-10
Matthew 5:14-16
Matthew 9:9-13
John 15:27
Acts 1:8
I Corinthians 9:22
II Timothy 4:8

WORRY

Let Christ calm the storms in your life
Turn to the Holy Spirit when you're worried
Jesus will take care of you, don't worry
Don't look at troubles, look to God
Place your confidence and trust in Christ
Don't worry about clothing or food
Don't worry about your problems
How to have peace instead of worry

Matthew 8:23-27
Matthew 19:19-20
Matthew 19:29-31
Matthew 14:25-33
Mark 4:35-41
Luke 12:22-34
I Corinthians 10:13
Philippians 4:6-18

USEFUL BIBLE REFERENCES FOR DEVOTIONS

Be an Example to Others
Beatitudes
Be Doers, Not Just Hearers
Call to Prayer
Control Your Tongue
David and Goliath
David Helps Mephibosheth
Do not Love the "World"
Everyone Has Different Gifts
Fruit of the Spirit
Gideon's Army
God Hears Our Prayers

1 Timothy 4:12
Luke 6
James 1:22
1 Timothy 2:1-3
James 3:4-18
1 Samuel 17:20-50 (*Trust the Lord*)
2 Sam 9:1-8 (*Following through on a promise*)
1 John 2:15-17
Romans 12:5-8
Galatians 5:22, 23
Judges 7 (*Trust the Lord*)
1 John 5:13-15

God's Character	Psalm 103
Golden Rule	Luke 6:27-33
He Cares for You	1 Peter 5:6-11
Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet	John 13
Love Chapter	1 Corinthians 13
Love of Christ Controls Us	2 Corinthians 5:14-19
Love One another	John 15:17, 1 John 3:16-24
Loving God's Word	Psalm 1, 119
Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 3
Moses and the Rod	Exodus 4 (Self-confidence)
Naaman Cleansed from Leprosy	2 Kings 5:1-14 (Humility and obedience)
Perseverance to grow in Character	1 Timothy 6:11-12
Popular Psalms	Psalm 37,23,42,51,100,139
Pray When You Need Wisdom	James 1:5
Psalms Relating to Creation	Psalm 8, 148
Ruth and Naomi	Ruth 1 (Faithful friends)
Samuel Chooses David	1 Samuel 16:1-13 (God looks at the heart)
Serve One Another in Love	Galatians 5:13-15
Solomon asks for Wisdom	1 Kings 3:3-14 (Unselfish requests)
The Lord's Prayer	Matt. 6: 9-13
The Spirit Guides Us	John 16:13
Victory Over Fear	Psalm 46, 91
You are the light of the world	Matt 5:14
You are the Temple of God	1 Corinthians 3:16, 17

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

The Sower	Hearing the Word of God	Matt. 13: 5-8; 18-23
The Hid Treasure	The Value of God's Kingdom	Matt. 13: 44
The Pearl of Great Price	The Value of God's Kingdom	Matt. 13: 45-46
The Unmerciful Servant	In answer to Peter's question, How often shall I forgive	Matt. 18: 23-35
The Laborers in the Vineyard	Recognition in the Kingdom	Matt. 20: 1-16
The Ten Virgins	In prophesying the Second Advent	Matt. 25: 1-13
The Talents	At the house of Zaccheus	Matt. 25: 14-30
The Good Samaritan	Question, who is my neighbor?	Luke 10: 25-37
The Friend at Midnight	Ask in prayer	Luke 11: 5-13
The Rich Fool	Store up treasures in Heaven	Luke 12: 16-34
The Lost Sheep	God's rejoicing over you	Matt. 18: 12-14; Luke 15: 4-7
The Lost Piece of Money	God's rejoicing over you	Luke 15: 8-10
The Prodigal Son	You are loved, no matter what	Luke 15: 11-32
The Rich Man and Lazarus	Rebuking covetousness	Luke 16: 19-31
The Unjust Judge	Teaching the disciples	Luke 18: 1-8
The Pharisee and the Publican	Teaching the self-righteous	Luke 18: 10-14

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