

2023 CHAPEL BINDER

1 - A Mission of Great Importance

Setting: LV; late week

<p>Message: Take what you've learned here at camp and share it with the outside world. Living Third will make a big difference in your own life, and the lives around you.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Matthew 5:14-16 The Message "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep an open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.</p>
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Characters: 9

Narrator

Camper in layers of camp unit shirts (Pathfinders shirt, then Warriors shirt, then Blazers, then Braves. Will start with a Braves shirt on top, then take one off at a time at designated moments in the skit.)

Counselor in Green Shirt (Represents Respect)

Angry Camper

Counselor in Blue Shirt (Represents Trust)

Counselor in White Shirt (Represents Initiative)

Friend in Red Shirt (Represents Friendship)

Cabinmate in Purple Shirt (Represents Joy)

Counselor in Yellow Shirt (Represents Faith)

Props:

All the shirts mentioned above. Duffel bag, table, swim band, button name tag, chair, Torchbearer medallion, Torchbearer candle, devotion candle, frisbee, glymp, broom,

Stage Directions:

(Before skit begins, Set up the stage with a Summer Camp check-in desk. Counselor is at the desk to meet the camper. A lifeguard is at the pool where the camper will pretend to swim and get a swim band.)

Narrator is on stage with a microphone, off to the side, but also seen by audience and camper. Camper enters with a duffel bag wearing a Braves Shirt. During the first paragraph, the camper goes through the check-in desk at the CAC, meets their counselor, and takes a swim check/gets a swim band.)

Narrator:

You are on a mission of great importance. You came to camp to have fun-- to fly off the blobs, to sleep out under the brightest stars, to laugh with your cabinmates and counselors-- and you have absolutely had fun this week. But, there is an even more important reason why you're here. This camp is also a place to learn and practice skills and develop good character traits that will help you to bring good things into the world. The things you learn and practice here will help you to live out a mission of great importance in your home and school and community. You can be a light, bringing out all the God-colors in the world.

(Camper wearing Braves Shirt looks at narrator, quizzically).

All week you've been preparing to be the kind of people that the world needs.

(Camper points to self, and says, "Me?")

(During the next paragraph: Angry camper enters the other side of the stage. Camper in Braves Shirt walks over to the angry camper. The two are clearly at odds, arguing etc.)

Narrator:

The world needs people who will practice **RESPECT**. We need people who can get along with someone who is different from them. We need people who can talk, who can communicate, and who can compromise. We need people who will one day go on to work in government and realize that it is a good and right thing to honor and respect and learn from our differences instead of fighting about who is right and who is wrong.

(Counselor in Green Shirt (Respect color) walks over to the campers.)

Counselor:

Listen, I know you're both frustrated. I would be too. But I also know that we have a responsibility to try to see things from the other person's point of view. It's not easy, but it's something that we try to do as a community. Do you think the two of you can do that?

Camper in Braves Shirt:

(Initially hesitant) Yeah, you're right. *(Shakes angry camper's hand)*

(Exit Counselor in Green Shirt and angry camper.)

(During the next part: Enter Counselor in Blue Shirt (Trust color) on other side of stage with frisbee. Camper walks over to the counselor.)

Narrator:

We also need people who have grown in **TRUST**-- who do what they say they are going to do because they know others are counting on them.

Counselor:

If I let you borrow this, I'm gonna need you to bring it with you to the flagpole between second and third period clinics, okay?

Camper in Braves Shirt:

Okay!

Counselor:

We need it for the ultimate frisbee clinic today. I'm trusting you to do this for me. Are you up for the challenge?

Camper in Braves Shirt:

(Pause) You wouldn't be able to play if I didn't bring it back to you, would you?

Counselor:

That's right.

Camper in Braves Shirt:

Oh... Okay, I'll do it. I promise.

(Exit Counselor in Blue. Camper takes off Braves Shirt to reveal Blazers Shirt. Walks over to the third scene: cleaning up the porch alone, sweeping the porch and straightening shoes.)

Narrator:

You know what else our world needs? Our world needs people who know what **INITIATIVE** looks like. Who aren't afraid to work hard even when no one is looking. People who don't expect everything to be handed to them and don't give up when it's not easy.

(Enter Counselor in White Shirt (Initiative color))

Counselor:

Oh hey, I didn't see that you came out here. *(Looks around at floor)*
Wait, did you do all of this?

Camper in Blazers Shirt: *(a little embarrassed)*

Oh, I mean, um, yeah. I just thought I would clean up a little while we wait for devos.

Counselor:

That's so nice of you! Our porch has been the weakest part of our clean cabin score all week. Thank you so much!

(Exit Counselor in White Shirt. Enter Friend in Red Shirt (Friends color) on other side of stage, sit down on bench or wall and look sad. Camper in Braves Shirt sees the alone Friend in Red Shirt and pulls gym bag out of pocket and contemplates giving it to her and then walks over and sits next to her.)

Narrator:

We need people who invest in **FRIENDS** and strive to make new ones. People who don't just talk to people who look, act and sound like them. People who show empathy and caring and working with others and realize they have more in common with the people around them than they have differences.

Camper in Braves Shirt: *(to Friend in red shirt)*

Hey, you okay?

Friend in Red Shirt:

Yeah... Today just hasn't gone well I guess...

Camper in Braves Shirt:

That's too bad. Well I've enjoyed hanging out with you in gym clinic this week, and I wanted you to have this. *(Gives gym to friend)*

Friend in Red Shirt:

Wow, that is the nicest thing that anybody has done for me all week. Can I play a game of carpetball with you?

Camper in Braves Shirt:

Yeah that sounds great!

(Friend in Red exits. Camper takes off Blazers Shirt to reveal Warriors Shirt.)

Narrator:

Our country needs **JOYFUL** people. Not people who smile for the selfie so that everyone thinks they have it all together, but people who strive to bring joy and happiness to a situation when it's easier to grumble. People who speak well of others when they aren't there instead of gossiping and slandering.

(Enter Cabinmate in Purple Shirt (Joy color) on other side of stage. Camper in Warriors Shirt walks up to him/her.)

Cabinmate in Purple Shirt:

(Sighs) I can't believe lake time was canceled today. This is the worst. And when stuff gets rained out, our counselor never lets us do anything fun.

Camper in Warriors Shirt:

I heard our counselor has something up their sleeve this time. I wouldn't set your mind against it just yet. Plus, this is the closest I've ever been to the other people in my cabin, and I think that's more important than what we end up doing.

Cabinmate in Purple Shirt:

(Smiles) Yeah, I guess you're right.

(Enter Counselor in Yellow Shirt with devotion candle and all previous characters except the angry camper, Counselor in Green Shirt, Counselor in Blue Shirt, Counselor in White Shirt, Friend in Red Shirt, Cabinmate in Purple Shirt, Counselor in Yellow Shirt, Camper in Warriors Shirt) including main camper sit in devotion circle (or half circle so that everyone is seen) around the candle with Counselor in Yellow Shirt at the head of the circle and the Camper in Warriors Shirt next to them.)

Narrator:

And our world needs people who have **FAITH**. Faith that God loves everyone, wants the best for everyone and wants everyone to love others the way that God does. Faith that a relationship with God is more important than all the money in the world. People who believe that no matter how much we mess up, God is standing there ready to forgive and nothing can separate us from Him.

Camper in Warriors Shirt:

To be honest, the thought of going into my last year of middle school scares me. High school is just around the corner, and I've heard that friend groups change and that it's hard work and... I don't know. But I have a feeling God's gonna do great things this year. I don't know what it's going to be, but I have faith that everything's going to work out one way or another.

(Everyone from devotion circle except Camper in Warriors Shirt and Counselor in Yellow Shirt stand in line in order of Green, Blue, White, Red, Purple with their backs facing the audience with their arms around each other. Counselor in Yellow Shirt stands facing the audience.)

(Camper takes off Warriors shirt to reveal Pathfinders shirt. Camper walks up to Counselor in Yellow Shirt, who hangs a leather medallion around their neck and gives them a hug. The counselor gives the camper a torchbearer candle and lights it and then the counselor joins the line with back facing the audience next to the purple person.)

Narrator:

All week long we have seen the results of your training. We have seen campers who practiced patience as they waited in line for cereal in the morning. Some of you tried something new and took a risk when you went off the zipline even though you're afraid of heights. Your counselors saw hard work and persistence as you worked on your swimming stroke and kicking until you moved up a swim band level. And we witnessed compassion when you cared about your new friends and went out of your way to make sure people felt included in this family. But your mission isn't over yet. When you go home your job will continue. God has called you on this mission of great importance to be a person of...

(characters in line turn around and face the audience when the trait that matches their color is said by the narrator...)

RESPECT, TRUST, INITIATIVE, FRIENDSHIP, JOY, FAITH. We believe in you!

Camper in Pathfinders Shirt:

(Standing next to Cabinmate in Purple Shirt. Beaming, punches fist in the air and says,)
I am on a mission of great importance!

MISSION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

What we do here at camp wouldn't matter if you forgot everything you've learned the second you leave camp. We do what we do here so that you may be inspired to climb ever higher in your quest to be a light in the world. Life can be hard in many ways, and we need people like you to spread God's love to everyone around. When people feel God's love, they feel like they belong, they feel like they are valued, they feel like they too have a purpose. And they want to share that love with others as well.

(About 1 minute.)

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in Matthew 5:14-16 (from The Message)

"You're here to be a light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep an open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, our generous Father in heaven."

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

2 - Big Rocks First

Setting: RV/LV; early-week, Monday suggested

<p>Message: Many things compete for your time and attention: school, sports, clubs, family, friends, emotions, possessions, and God. You can feel pulled in many directions and it's hard to know where to put your focus. When you focus on your faith in God first, the other things in your life come into clearer focus and God can guide you into a healthy way of living life.</p> <p>everything else falls into place and our needs get met in a healthy way.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Matthew 6:33 New Century Version “Seek first God’s kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.”</p>
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Characters: 2

Teacher

Student

Props:

Props:

1 very large clear container

1 container of water labeled “Thoughts and Emotions”

1 container of tiny rocks labeled “Stuff That I Have”

2 containers of small rocks labeled “School and Work”

1 container of medium rocks labeled “Friends”

1 container of medium rocks labeled “Family”

1 very large rock representing God

Stage Directions:

(Teacher has all supplies on a table center stage.)

Teacher:

Good Morning class! Today we are going to do an experiment to help us realize what is important in our lives. In order to do this, I'm going to need a volunteer (*teacher picks out of the crowd a pre-chosen volunteer to be the student*).

Teacher:

Thank you, everybody give (*name*) a round of applause! (*the crowd cheers*)

Student:

OK, What do I do?

Teacher:

Well, we have some containers here that represent various things in our lives; such as our thoughts and emotions, the stuff we have, school and work, friends, family, and God. Go ahead and take some of these things from the containers that represent your life and put them into this large container. If they are really important, add a lot, if they are not as important, add less.

Student:

(Chooses desired amount from all containers and adds to the clear container, then tries to put God [the large rock] in last....but it wont fit.)

Teacher:

Hmmm, that didn't seem to work out very well. Try it again, but this time put the "big rock first" and put all of the other things in afterwards and it should all fit.

Student:

(Rearranges the clear container to put God in first, and all the other stuff should fit.... topped off with water [thoughts and emotions])

Student:

Thanks for helping me to realize what needs to be the most important thing in my life. From now on, I'm going to put God first!

BIG ROCKS FIRST

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Many things compete for your time and attention: school, sports, clubs, family, friends, emotions, possessions, and God. You can feel pulled in many directions and it's hard to know where to put your focus. When you focus on your faith in God first, the other things in your life come into clearer focus and God can guide you into a healthy way of living life.

When we put our faith in God first, everything else falls into place and our needs get met in a healthy way. If we put our relationship with God before everything else, then he will take care of the rest of the good things in our lives.

There are a lot of ways to put God first. You can talk to God in prayer. You can develop a desire to know about Him more. You can learn about God here at camp while singing chapel songs and watching skits and participating in Devotions. You can talk to your counselors and watch how people love God and each other here at camp. You can read the Bible when you go home or go to a church service or a youth group. Putting God first also means accepting the love God has for you and then sharing that love with other people around you. (*About 1 minute.*)

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in Matthew 6:33

“Seek first God’s kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.”

HERE’S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

3 - Body of Christ

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: God made each of us with gifts and personality traits that help the body of Christ do good in the world. While you are here at camp, you can discover things about yourself, like what comes naturally to you, what you are good at or passionate about and how God made you to love and serve others in your unique way. You can discover your part in the body of Christ.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:14-20 New Century Version 14 The human body has many parts. 15 The foot might say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body." But saying this would not stop the foot from being a part of the body. 16 The ear might say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body." But saying this would not stop the ear from being a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, it would not be able to hear. If the whole body were an ear, it would not be able to smell. 18-19 If each part of the body were the same part, there would be no body. But truly God put all the parts, each one of them, in the body as he wanted them. 20 So then there are many parts, but only one body."</p>
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Characters: 5 parts of the body

- Legs
- Arms
- Mouth
- Eyes
- Ears

Stage Directions: *(All Five parts walk on stage in a line, holding hands.)*

Everyone: *(In a sing-song voice while holding hands and swinging arms in unison.)*
We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Legs: My legs are so pretty. I can walk everywhere!

All others: *(ad lib different taunts)* Aww, who needs you, get outta here Leggy!

(As Legs leaves the stage, the rest of the group falls down and ad lib the problems of having no legs.)

All others: *(Finally, out of desperation)*

Come back legs, come back!

(Legs returns to stage, group stands up and links arms again)

Everyone: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Arms: My arms are so strong, I can lift big things!

All others: Who needs you! Arms aren't useful!

(As Arms leave stage, rest of group lose their arms)

All others: Arms!! Come back! We need you!

(Arms returns to stage, group stands up and links arms again)

Everyone: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Mouth: My mouth is sooo pretty, I can sing and say lotsa stuff!

All others: Get outta here, we don't need you!

(As Mouth leaves stage, the group loses its voice. Then the group makes motions to get Mouth to return to the stage as Mouth returns to stage, group stands up and links arms again.)

Everyone: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Eyes: My eyes are such a pretty color, and I can see for miles!

All others: We don't need you around! Get out of here!

(As Eyes leave, group goes blind)

All others: Eyes come back! We need you!

(As Eyes return to stage, group stands up and links arms again.)

Everyone: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Ears: Look at my ears, they are so great! I can even put pretty earrings in them!

All others: Who needs ears? Get outta here!

(As Ears leave, the group loses its hearing)

All others: EARS! COME BACK!

(As Ears return to stage, group stands up and links arms again.)

Everyone: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together!!!!

BODY OF CHRIST

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

The Body of Christ is a metaphor to help us understand how all the people who follow Jesus are part of one special group who are connected in love, work together in love and grow together in love. When the Bible says that we are the body of Christ, the metaphor begins with a picture of Jesus as the head of the body. You and I are the various parts of the body: the legs, arms, mouth, eyes, ears, etc. Just like each part of the human body has different, but equally important roles to play, so does each person who follows Jesus and is part of the body of Christ. Each of us has different, but equally important roles to play.

The Bible says it this way in 1 Corinthians 12:14-20

The human body has many parts. The foot might say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body.” But saying this would not stop the foot from being a part of the body. The ear might say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body.” But saying this would not stop the ear from being a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, it would not be able to hear. If the whole body were an ear, it would not be able to smell. If each part of the body were the same part, there would be no body. But truly God put all the parts, each one of them, in the body as he wanted them. So then there are many parts, but only one body.”

God would like for the people who follow Him to do good things in the world like loving, forgiving, bringing peace, healing hurts, respecting differences, bringing hope, sharing joy. He made each of us with gifts and personality traits that help the body of Christ do good in the world. What kinds of things come naturally to you that you think God wants you to contribute to this good work? Sometimes we feel that we don't have anything valuable to offer. But that's not true. All of us have important and valuable things to offer and the Body of Christ can't fully complete its work without our contribution. While you are here at camp, you can discover things about yourself, like what comes naturally to you, what you are good at or passionate about and how God made you to love and serve others in your unique way. You can discover your part in the body of Christ. That's exciting!

When you decide to follow Jesus, you become a part of the body of Christ. The Body of Christ is a name for all the people who follow Jesus Christ. (About 2 minutes.)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

4 - Butterfly Effect

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: When we understand how much God loves us, we can share that love with others. We love others out of the overflow of God's love for us. Love God first, Love others second, Love ourselves third.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 New Intl. Version "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."</p>
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Characters: 4

Jesus

Camper 1

Camper 2

Camper 3

Props:

Camper 2 should be carrying an armload of things.

Stage Directions:

(Jesus begins behind the stage. Camper 1 starts on stage. Camper 2 is off to the right. Camper 3 starts off to the left. Camper 1 wakes up and looks at the time.)

Camper 1:

Oh shoot! I'm gonna be late to flagpole!

(Camper 1 frantically rushes to get ready and runs into Camper 2 who drops the supplies she is carrying.)

Camper 1 to Camper 2:

Sorry, sorry! But I'm in a huge rush. There are so many things I need to do today. I don't have any time to help you.

(Camper 1 walks away then sits on the right edge of the stage and acts stressed out and worried.)

Camper 1:

So many things to do in a short amount of time! I have to clean my cabin, make it to clinics on time. And when I go home, there's chores and homework and soccer practice. It's too much. I can't do all of this on my own.

(Camper 2 grumbles as she collects all that she dropped. Camper 3 quietly enters the scene looking downtrodden and Camper 2 stomps past him, ignores him, and sits on the left edge of the stage and acts angry.)

Camper 2:

Why does everything bad always happen to me? I get stuff knocked out of my hands. My family is moving away from my friends. And I can't even win a game of Gaga to make me feel better. Nothing in my life seems to go the way I want it to.

(Camper 3 sits at the center edge of the stage and acts sad.)

Camper 3:

Everyone ignores me. No one will even look at me. It makes me feel worthless. I never feel like I belong.

(Jesus emerges from the back and puts a heart around Camper 1's neck.)

Camper 1:

Man I know I have a lot going on in my life, but I am really feeling guilty about not helping that girl with her stuff. I know Jesus would have wanted me to do the right thing instead of being selfish. I wish I could go back and do it all over again.

*(Jesus claps his hands three times.
Everyone goes back to their starting positions.)*

(Camper 1 wakes up and looks at the time.)

Camper 1:

Oh shoot! I'm gonna be late to flagpole! But first...

(Camper 1 gets on their knees and prays.)

Camper 1:

Hi God. Thank you for this beautiful day at camp. There's a lot I need to get done today, but I pray that you pour down your love on me and that I can glorify you in all that I do. In your name, amen.

(Camper 1 hurries to flagpole and bumps into Camper 2, knocking her supplies out of her hands.)

Camper 1:

Oh my goodness! I'm so sorry! Here let me help you.

(Camper 1 helps Camper 2 pick up her things and puts the heart around Camper 2's neck.)

Camper 1:

Have a great day!

(Camper 1 goes to right edge of stage, closer to the center than before.)

(Camper 2 continues to walk, then notices Camper 3's sadness and stops to talk.)

Camper 2:

Hey, what's going on? You're looking pretty down on yourself.

Camper 3:

It's just... I was in high ropes clinic, and my friends were joking that I didn't even need to climb because I was already tall enough to kiss the owl. They're always making fun of my height, and it makes me feel sad. They make me feel like I don't belong.

Camper 2:

I can see how that makes you feel sad. It's disappointing that they can't see past your physical attributes and see what an awesome friend and child of God you are.

(Camper 2 puts the heart around Camper 3's neck.)

Camper 3:

Wow, that actually means a lot. Thank you so much.

(Camper 2 and Camper 3 join Camper 1 on the center edge of the stage.)

All three Campers:

Dear God, thank you for your love. Thank you for giving us the people in our lives that reflect Your love onto us.

Camper 1:

Especially in times when we're stressed...

Camper 2:

When we can't see the good things...

Camper 3:

And when we don't feel like we belong.

(Jesus comes out and puts his arms around them.)

BUTTERFLY EFFECT

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Life can be hard and we can get so wrapped up in our own lives that we fail to see the needs of the people around us. The truth is, God is always filling us up with His love, even when we are stressed and sad and feeling left out. When we realize how much God is filling us up with His love, then we can share that love with others. We love others out of the overflow of God's love for us. When we receive God's love first, then we can offer His love and our love to others.

(About 1 minute.)

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in the First letter to the Thessalonians 3:12 "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

5 - Camp Soup

Setting: RV/LV; Monday only

<p>Message: Everyone can have a great camp experience when we add the right ingredients into our week. We can live our I'm Third motto by practicing our Sagamore Creed. Start with Faith in God, then add love for others through Friendship, Initiative, Trust and Respect and finally, add love for ourselves through Joy.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Matthew 22:37-39 New Intl. Version 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'</p>
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Adaptation: Cooking Show

Characters: 7

Chef

Person 1 bringing "Friendship" - Meeting a friend in the cabin when you walk in right away

Person 2 bringing "Initiative" seeing trash and picking it up without being asked (BENDO!)

Person 3 bringing "Trust" - telling the truth when you make a mistake

Person 4 bringing "Respect" - Being kind to others who think differently than us.

Person 5 bringing "Joy" Singing Songs at Chapel!

Props:

Table to put soup pot on

Chef's apron

Chef's hat

Huge pot from kitchen

Super large mixing spoon

Six 5 gallon buckets with Poster Board taped on each one with the name of an ingredient on each one in big black bold letters. These will be lifted up and the imaginary contents will be poured into the huge bowl the chef is using to make his soup. The 6 ingredients are Faith, Friendship, Joy, Trust, Respect, Initiative

Stage Directions:

Edited May 2023

(The chef enters with a big pot and stirring spoon. Bucket of 'FAITH' is next to his cooking table.)

Chef:

I am going to make 'Camp Soup'! But, I am not quite sure of the ingredients... I want to make a soup that when you eat it, you will have the best Camp experience possible. And when you go home, you will feel good about your time here and you will carry the things you learned back home with you. Now, every good soup starts with a secret sauce that enriches the flavors of all the other ingredients you add. So, I have my secret sauce right here, it's called Faith in God.

*(Chef lifts up 5 gallon bucket that says **FAITH** and pours the imaginary ingredient into the soup bowl.)*

Chef:

Now, I wonder, what other ingredients would make this Camp Soup taste great and make a lasting impression?

*(Person 1 enters with **FRIENDSHIP** bucket.)*

Person 1:

Hello, Chef! What are you making!?

Chef:

Well, I am making some Good Old Camp Soup.

Person 1:

Camp Soup? That sounds great! What are your ingredients?

Chef:

Well, that's the thing; I am not sure exactly what the perfect combination would be for a really great Camp Soup. The secret sauce of my soup is Faith in God. What else do you think should be added?

Person 1:

Well, I have some **FRIENDSHIP** here. I think that would be a great thing to add to your soup. Friendship is a super part of a great Camp experience. Making new friends at Camp is one of the greatest things about being here!

Chef:

That is a WONDERFUL idea! What a great way to enrich our Camp Soup! With some wonderful new friendships!

*(The Chef adds **FRIENDSHIP** to the pot. Person 1 stands behind Chef.)*

*(Person 2 enters carrying **INITIATIVE**.)*

Person 2:

Looks like someone is at it again in the kitchen. Whatcha makin, Chef? Do you need any help?

Chef:

Camp Soup! Our secret sauce is FAITH and we've added FRIENDSHIP.

(Chef tastes soup and shakes head, taste isn't quite right yet.)

But it still doesn't taste quite right. Can you think of another ingredient that might make it more flavorful?

Person 2:

Sure! I've got some **INITIATIVE** right here. I have noticed that when I do what needs to be done without being asked, it makes everything run more smoothly. And it's kind of contagious. When I take initiative, my friends tend to do the same thing.

Chef:

Great observation! Initiative would be a great addition to our Camp Soup experience. Thanks for offering to share that!

*(Chef pours **INITIATIVE** into the soup bowl. Person 2 stands behind Chef.)*

*(Person 3 enters with **TRUST**.)*

Person 3:

Something sure smells good. What are you cooking, Chef?

Chef:

Camp Soup! Our secret sauce is FAITH, and we've added FRIENDSHIP and INITIATIVE. *(Chef tastes soup and shakes head, isn't quite satisfied with it yet.)* It tastes okay so far, but I think we need some more flavors to make a really great Camp experience. Have you got any ideas?

Person 3:

Well, I have some **TRUST** here. Do you think that would make a difference?

Chef:

Oh yes, definitely! Being someone who can be TRUSTED is really huge. When you do what you say you are going to do and prove that you want the best for others, trust is built, and that makes everyone feel supported. I'd love to add some Trust to this soup.

*(Chef adds **TRUST** to the soup. Person 3 stands behind Chef.)*

*(Person 4 enters with **RESPECT**.)*

Person 4:

Call me crazy, but I think I smell some Camp Soup simmering on the stove. Are you whipping up some soup, Chef? What have you got in it? It smells so good.

Chef:

Your nose is not wrong! We've got some Camp Soup bubbling here. The secret sauce at the base of it all is FAITH, and we've added FRIENDSHIP, INITIATIVE and TRUST. *(Chef tastes soup and shakes head, the taste isn't quite right yet.)* But the flavor still isn't as well-rounded as I'd like. Can you think of anything that might add to the fullness of a Camp experience?

Person 4:

Hmmmmmm. Let me think....Oh! I know! What about **RESPECT**? I think when I respect the natural world and the people around me, I grow as a person and I bring peace.

Chef:

Oh, that is so true! Thank you! Yes, I think **RESPECT** is just what we need. Camp and life in general goes so much better when we respect differences instead of fighting about them. Let's add that right away.

*(Chef adds **RESPECT** to soup. Person 4 stands behind Chef.)*

*(Person 5 enters with **JOY**.)*

Person 5:

Mmmmmmm Mmmmmmm! Something smells fantastic! What are you cooking, Chef?

Chef:

I'm making a great Camp Soup! The secret sauce at the base is FAITH, and we've added FRIENDSHIP, INITIATIVE, TRUST, AND RESPECT. It is really shaping up to be a great camp experience soup. *(Chef tastes soup and shakes head, isn't quite satisfied with it yet.)* But it seems to be missing something. It's not complete yet. I just can't think of what it might be. Have you got any ideas?

Person 5:

Hmmm, let's see, Faith, Friendship, Initiative, Trust and Respect are certainly important ingredients. OH! Ha! I know! **JOY!!!!** Yeah, that would make the soup complete! I have learned that my Camp experience is even better when I'm happy with myself and trying to be the best version of myself that I can be.

Chef:

Of course! Why didn't I think of that! Having a joyful attitude makes a big difference not just for ourselves, but for all the other people around us.

*(Chef pours **JOY** into soup. And tastes the soup. Very pleased and happy now!)*

Magnifico!!!!!! Now we have a stellar Camp Soup! FAITH, INITIATIVE, FRIENDSHIP, TRUST, RESPECT AND JOY. The best Camp Soup I've ever tasted! It seems like the most important thing was the secret sauce: Faith in God. It filled every other ingredient with so much flavor and made for not only a fun camp experience, but a meaningful one too. Quick! Someone, write this recipe down so I can repeat a Great Camp Soup every time!

CAMP SOUP

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Just like the Chef found out with his Camp Soup, everyone can have a great camp experience when we add the right ingredients into our week: Faith, Friendship, Initiative, Trust, Respect and Joy. These are the ingredients in our Sagamore Creed. At Camp, we try to live by the I'm Third motto: Love God, Love Others, Love Self. We can live our I'm Third motto by practicing our Sagamore Creed. Start with love for God through Faith, then add love for others through Friendship, Trust, Respect and Initiative and finally, add love for ourselves through Joy. Our I'm Third motto comes from something Jesus said when he was on earth.

SCRIPTURE: One day, some people asked him what was the most important commandment to follow. And Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second greatest commandment is: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ We live out these commandments when we Live Third.
(About 1 minute.)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

6 - Cracked Pot

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: God's grace and forgiveness are great treasures. His love is a powerful force. God knows that this great treasure can leak out through our cracks and reassure other people that He loves them too, cracks and all.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 New Living Translation 6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.</p>
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Characters: 5

Narrator

Person who acts as Perfect Pot with No Holes

Person who acts as Cracked Pot with Holes

Person to set out fake flowers along the path of the Cracked Pot

Person who is the Water Carrier

Person who acts as King/Queen

Props:

Long pole or stick that Water Carrier carries on back to symbolize carrying pots

Bucket with no holes with water in it to be carried by Perfect Pot

Bucket with holes on the side of it with water in it to be carried by Cracked Pot

5 Gallon Bucket on stage by table. Empty. This is what the other buckets will be poured into.

Fake Flowers to set out along the path after Cracked Pot passes by

Table and Chair for King/Queen on one side of stage

Crown and robe for King/Queen

Vases with Fake Flowers on table.

Stage Directions:

(Narrator is off stage with microphone. Before Narrator begins, King/Queen is sitting at table on right side of stage (on your right as you face the audience). The table should be facing the audience and near the edge of the stage. There is a vase with a bouquet of fake flowers on table. The empty 5 gallon bucket is next to the table. The Water Carrier has a pole across his/her back, pretending to carry a water pot on each end of pole. Person acting as Perfect Pot carries a bucket of water and pretends to be attached to one end of the pole and Person acting as Cracked Pot carries a bucket of water with holes in the side and pretends to be attached to the other end of the pole. Water Carrier and pots start at the back row of the audience.)

Narrator:

A long time ago, a King/Queen who lived in a palace employed a Water Carrier who brought water to the palace daily from a stream. These were the days before indoor water faucets and automobiles.

(Water Carrier and pots begin walking down the aisle of the audience toward the stage on the opposite side of the King/Queen table. Along the way, no water splashes out of Perfect Pot, but water does come out of the holes in the Cracked Pot. (Cracked Pot actor may need to tip the bucket to allow water to pour out of the holes.)

Narrator:

The Water Carrier had to walk a long way to a stream to collect the water for the palace. He/She carried a long pole across his/her back with pots on either end of it. One of the Pots was Perfect, the other Pot was Cracked. The Perfect Pot always delivered a full portion of water to the palace. But along the way from the stream to the King's palace, the Cracked Pot would leak half its water.

(Keep walking down the aisle as Narrator tells the story. Try to time it so that Water Carrier and pots are walking up the stage steps about the time the Narrator says, "the Cracked Pot would leak half its water." Make sure to be leaking water out of Cracked Pot as you walk up the steps and even continue to leak water as you cross the stage to the King/Queen table.)

Narrator:

This meant that the Water Carrier only delivered one and a half pots of water every day.
(Water Carrier empties pots into 5 gallon bucket. Be dramatic in showing the difference between the full pot and the less full pot of water.)

Narrator:

The Perfect Pot was very proud of its great accomplishments, while the Cracked Pot felt ashamed and flawed.

(While this next bit of dialogue is happening, a person sets out fake flowers along the path that the Cracked Pot watered. Make sure to put flowers up the steps of the stage. Try not to take attention away from the dialogue on stage.)

Perfect Pot:

Look at me! I am an awesome pot! I always bring a full pot of water to the King's/Queen's table! I am the bomb! But look at you. You never bring a full pot. You are so cracked and flawed. You are not a very good pot.

Cracked Pot:

Gee, you're right. I know. I never bring a full pot. I feel so broken and flawed and useless.

Narrator:

After two years of enduring the shame of its imperfection, the Cracked Pot spoke to the Water Carrier.

Cracked Pot:

I'm so sorry, Water Carrier. I never do a good job for you. I never bring a full pot of water to the King/Queen. I'm sorry I'm so ineffective and flawed.

Narrator:

The Water Carrier felt a deep compassion for his clay pot.

Water Carrier:

Oh Cracked Pot, you have no idea. I have a great surprise for you. When we walk home today, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.

(Water Carrier and Cracked Pot walk behind King/Queen table and off stage. Then they walk quickly to back row of audience where they began the skit and walk along the path again to the stage and up the stairs looking at the flowers that grew.)

Narrator:

And sure enough, as they walked up the hill to the King's Palace, the Cracked Pot saw lovely, colorful wildflowers along the path. The Water Carrier said to the pot;

Water Carrier:

“Did you notice there were flowers on only your side of the path and not the other side? That’s because I’ve known about your flaws, and I took advantage of them. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we’ve walked back from the stream, you’ve watered them through your cracks. For the past two years I’ve been able to pick these flowers and decorate the King’s/Queen’s table. Without you being the way you are, he/she would not have this beauty to grace his/her house.”

Cracked Pot: Wow! So you’re saying that even though I have these flaws, I can still be useful?! That’s so cool. Thanks for showing me this, Water Carrier! I feel better now.

CRACKED POT

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Just like the Cracked Pot in our story, we're all fragile clay pots with cracks and flaws and imperfections. We try to love perfectly and live perfectly, but we just can't. We all make mistakes. But God already knows this about you and me, and He chooses us to be His Light Carriers anyway. God's grace and forgiveness are great treasures. His love is a powerful force. God knows that this great treasure can leak out through our cracks and reassure other people that He loves them too, cracks and all. It's okay to be honest and humble about your flaws. It's not you and I who get the credit for this life-changing power. It's God who gets the credit. You and I get the joy of carrying it to others. Just you wait and see, as you continue to put God first, He will water some wild-flower lives through you, and the world will be decorated with their beauty!

(About 1 minute.)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

For God said, "Let there be light in the darkness," and made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that this great power is from God, not from ourselves.

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

Lord, how wonderful it is to me that we are carriers of Your Light, Your Love, Your Glory! Thank You so much that You know us so well, and that You choose to use us as vessels of Your light, in spite of our weaknesses. We are available, Lord. Shine Your light through us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

7 - Flash Flood

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: God provides us with what we need. It may not always be in the form that we are looking for, but he will answer prayers and his way is always best. Look for the answers God is giving to your prayers, and when you see them, be thankful!</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Philippians 4:19 New Living Translation And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.</p>
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Adaptation: Different people come to the rescue, for example, The Avengers.

Characters: 6

Flood Victim

News Reporter dressed like a reporter with a microphone

Lifeguard with a Lifeguard shirt and whistle and rescue tube

Boater dressed like a boater and carrying a cardboard boat

Helicopter Pilot with pilot hat and sunglasses on (or hat with propellers) and a rope

God with a microphone off stage

Props:

Clothes and microphone for News Reporter

Lifeguard shirt and whistle and rescue tube

Clothes for Boater (fishing vest? Lifejacket? Fishing hat?) and a Cardboard boat

Clothes for Pilot, pilot hat or propeller hat, sunglasses, rope

Robe for God?

Stage Directions:

(Flood victim walks on stage and talks about going to the lake, pool, river, some type of waterfront activity. Then, they leave and walk to back row of audience.)

News reporter:

This just in-this area is in danger of a flash flood! Water levels are becoming dangerously high! Everyone is urged to take shelter immediately!

(Flood victim notices the water is getting higher and starts to panic. They go to one of the steps of the stage and pray for God to come save them.)

Victim: Please God, I know you promise to provide all my needs. Well, right now, I need you to save me from these rising flood waters!

(Lifeguard comes by with a rescue tube.)

Lifeguard: Here, hold on to my rescue tube, I'll get you to safety! (can adlib more stuff)

Victim: No thanks, I'll be okay! God will save me.

Lifeguard: Are you sure? You should let me help you. The water's getting deeper.

Victim: Oh no. I've been praying, and I know God will help me.

Lifeguard: Okayyyyy

(Lifeguard leaves. The Victim now climbs up the steps to the stage to keep on top of the water. He/She continues to pray.)

Victim: God, I'm starting to wonder if you hear my prayers. Please Help Me!

(Boater comes by carrying cardboard boat.)

Boater: Hey there! Looks like you could use a hand! Climb into my boat. I'll help you out.

Victim: Oh, that won't be necessary. I've been praying. God will save me. Thanks anyway though.

Boater: Are you crazy? You'll drown out here!

Victim: I'll be okay. God will save me. I'll be alright.

Boater: Alrighty then, have it your way!

(Boater leaves. Victim now climbs to the bench on the stage to keep out of the water. He keeps praying. Helicopter comes by. Maybe on bench?)

Helicopter Pilot: Hello down there! Grab this rope. I'll take you to safety!

Victim: Thanks, but no thanks. I've been praying. I know that God will come to save me.

Pilot: Please! The water is continuing to rise! Let me help you!

Victim: I appreciate your concern but don't worry about me. I'll be okay. Like I said, God will save me.

Pilot: Well, okay I guess.

(Helicopter leaves.)

God: *(Off-stage. Speaks victim's name on microphone.)*

Victim: God?! Is that you?

God: Yes.

Victim: What has taken you so long? I've nearly drowned! Haven't you heard my prayers?

God: Of course I have, and I have tried to help you. I sent three rescuers to you, but you denied each one of them.

Victim: What? I don't understand...

God: You expected me to rescue you in a miraculous, earth-shattering way, but sometimes when I work, I'm a bit more subtle, like leading a lifeguard or a boater or a pilot to stumble upon you.

Victim: Oh... I'm so sorry God, I didn't know. I promise I'll take what you give me this time.

God: Ok, I will send someone to save you.

(One of the previous rescuers comes back and saves him or a new type of rescuer can come. They celebrate rescue as they walk off the stage.)

FLASH FLOOD

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Have you ever prayed for something over and over again and it seemed like God didn't answer your prayers? Sometimes, God answers in ways we don't expect, so we don't recognize it when He does. Other times, God might answer our prayers a long time after we pray them because He knows all the circumstances of our lives and what is the best timing. Sometimes, we pray for things we think we need only to find out we don't really need them. It is good to remember that God wants the best for us and promises to provide us with what we need. It may not always be in the form that we are looking for, but he will answer prayers and his way is always best. Look for the answers God is giving to your prayers, and when you see them, be thankful!

(About 1 minute.)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in the letter to the Philippians,
"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

8 - God is Coming to Dinner

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: We should care for other people as though we were caring for God. We should give special care and consideration to those who are left out, ignored or mistreated by others. This is one of the ways we Live Third.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Matthew 25:35-40 New Intl. Version For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'</p>
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Characters: 8

Group of Teen-age Friends hanging out at someone's house on a Saturday
(Teen 1, Teen 2, Teen 3, Teen 4)

Voice of God

Person dressed in rags, looking weak and hungry who is asking for food

Two Teens whose car broke down and need a place to stay

Nerdy Teen who feels really lonely and just needs a friend

Props:

Pizza, box, paper plates and napkins and plastic cups and silver pitcher of water

Maybe chairs

Maybe trash strewn around that needs to be cleaned up

Stage Directions:

(The skit begins with a group of teenage friends sitting around the house, talking and eating pizza when they get a phone call from an unexpected stranger.)

(“Ring Ring” – over long-ranger)

(A teenager picks up the phone and puts it on speaker.)

Group of Friends: Hello! You’re on speaker-phone!

God: Yes, this is God

Group of Friends: God?

God: Yes, God! I am going to come and visit later today. Make sure that you are ready for me.

(Group of Friends starts running around trying to clean the house and making sure that everything is in perfect order. While they are getting ready for God to arrive, a person wearing rags and looking very weak and hungry shows up at the door.)

Person asking for food: Hello there. I haven’t had a bite to eat in days. I was wondering if you could spare some extra food for me.

Teen 1: I’m sorry. We are expecting somebody very important any minute now. I’m afraid we need to save our food for our special guest. Maybe someone else can help you. Good luck, bye!

(The Group of Friends continues to prepare the house for God.)

(A couple of older teenagers show up at the house and knock on the door.)

Two Teens who need a place to stay: Hey, sorry to bother you, but we need some help. Our car broke down just a little ways down the road. Our home is miles away and it’s getting late. We were wondering if we could stay here for the night and try to get our car fixed tomorrow.

Teen 2: I’m sorry. We are expecting someone really important to arrive at any minute. You will have to find somewhere else to stay tonight. Good luck! Bye Bye!

(A Nerdy-looking teenager comes to the door. Dressed in ill-fitting, unmatching clothes. Tape on the glasses. Disheveled hair. Moving in a physically awkward way.)

Nerdy Teen: Hi guys. I'm just feeling really really lonely and I wonder if I could join you for pizza and movies tonight. I just really need a friend right now.

Teen 3: Oh, man, I'm sorry. We are expecting somebody uber important tonight. We are getting ready for him right now. I'm sorry, we just can't help you out right now. Bye!

(The Group of Friends continues to clean the house feverishly and get things ready. The Friends are very puzzled because God has not arrived yet.)

(God calls back again.)

(Ring Ring)

Teen 4: *(Somewhat impatiently, looking at his/her watch)* Hello...

God: Yes, this is God.

Teen 4: Well, it's about time, God! We've been waiting for you. How come you haven't arrived yet? I'm going to put you on speakerphone so my friends can hear too.

God: I tried to come to your house three times today. I sent the Person who needed food, the teenagers who needed a place to stay, and the teenager who needed a friend. Each time I came, you turned me away.

Group of Friends: That was you God?

God: Well not exactly, but when you turned away those people in need, you turned me away as well. I want you to treat each person that you meet as though they are very important and special because I created every one of them with love and care and attention to detail. Because they are my creations, the way you treat them should be the way you would treat me. I'm the Master Artist and they are my Art. And you are my art too. I am especially concerned with how you treat those who are often ignored, left out and mistreated. I want you to treat those people with special love and care.

Group of Friends: Oh, wow, God. We never thought of it that way before. From now on, we will treat everyone the way we would treat you.

GOD IS COMING TO DINNER

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

God truly is the Master Artist, which makes you and me and everyone you see a marvelous work of Art. Whenever we see someone in need, we have an opportunity to love and serve them as though we were serving God. This is one of the ways we Live Third. Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves. It's really important to us that you feel like a valued part of the group here at Camp. We hope and pray that this happens outside of camp too. We want you to be supported so that you can support others. Take a minute and think about people you might come into contact with at home or at school. Do you have any classmates who are often left out, ignored, or not treated well? What could you do to help them feel included, loved and respected? Think about it for a minute, if you don't do it, who will? You could make a huge difference in their life. Are you willing to try? God will give you the love and courage you need. All you have to do is try.

(About 1 minute.)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in the book of Matthew, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

9 - God, the Janitor

Setting: RV/LV; late week

<p>Message: God wants us to not only be open about our shortcomings with Him but also invite Him to forgive us for our sins so our relationship with Him and others can be restored.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: I John 1:9 New International Version If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.</p>
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Characters: 2

God dressed as a Janitor with a huge nametag that says "GOD"

Camper (please don't wear a Unit shirt. Any other Camp T shirt is fine.)

Props:

Overalls or something that looks Janitor-like. Huge nametag that says "GOD"

Cleaning supplies

Large spray bottle with label on it that says "Sindex" in bold black marker. Try to make this a huge bottle so audience can read it.

Rag

Mop

Broom

Bucket

Dirt pieces (3 pieces of black paper taped onto Camper's shirt)

White shirt

Stage Directions:

(God, dressed as Janitor is mopping or sweeping the floor. Broom or Mop is leaning on bench. Rag in pocket, cleaning supplies in a Bucket. Large Spray Bottle that says "Sindex" in bold black marker is next to bucket on stage.)

Camper: *(Looks at the cross.)* Wow, when the light shines through this stained glass, you can see all the smudges on the cross. It's really dirty, someone should clean this up and dust it off.

God: Oh, I can fix that! *(Sprays cross with Sindex and wipes it.)*

Camper: Whoa, that was easy! You know, God, sometimes I feel like I have made such a mess of my life. So many mistakes that I regret. Things I wish I had never said or done. I wish it were that easy to clean up my sins and mistakes.

God: I can help with that! *(Sprays Person with Sindex.)*

Camper: AH! What was that for?

God: You said you wanted to get cleaned up, right?

Camper: I mean yeah but..

God: *(Sprays Person again with Sindex)*

Camper: Okay man, you spraying me with that Windex isn't helping!

God: Windex? This isn't Windex, this is SINDEX. It helps clean you up and get rid of your sins. But it only works if you are truly sorry.

Camper: Oh..

God: Yeah, so now are you willing to give it a try?

Camper: Umm, yeah I think I can give it a try. What do I have to do?

God: Well, first, you have to admit and confess what you did that was bad. Express that you're sorry and need forgiveness. Then, I can get to work cleaning you up!

Camper: Okay, so before I came to camp, *(points to one of the black spots on shirt)* I yelled at my mom because, well, she was just getting on my nerves. *(Deep breath)* I should really apologize to her, that was so rude of me to do. As soon as I get to rest hour, instead of working on that friendship bracelet, I think I'm going to write my mom and say I'm sorry.

God: I think that's a great idea, because we all make mistakes, but being able to admit it and apologize are the first steps to getting clean. (*Sprays Sindex on black spot on shirt*) OH and look at that! (*Takes black spot off.*) That stain came right out! On to the next one!

Camper: Oh, okay. Well, just recently, (*points to another black spot on shirt*) I was mean to one of my friends. He's just so good at EVERYTHING! Like all the time, anything I do he can do it better or faster or cooler or whatever. Do you know anyone like that?

God: Well, as a matter of fact, I do know someone like that...ME! I mean, I'm pretty much excellent at everything. But, then, I'm God and all. But seriously, no human being is good at EVERYTHING, but I can understand how it might feel like that sometimes..

Camper: Oh yeah, right! Well, the other day he tried "Gaga" and he's never played before and I've been playing for like 3 years. So he was the first person to get out and I told him that he's not very good. But that's not true, it's just that he hadn't ever done it.. but that was wrong of me. (*Puts hand on that black spot again.*) I think I'll ask him to play with me before lunch today and teach him a few of my tricks I've learned. Do you think that'd help?

God: Hmm.. I think that might help. (*Sprays the black spot with Sindex*). And now this stain is out too! (*Takes black spot off shirt.*) Look at that!

Camper: Wow, you're pretty good at this...

God: Well, thank you. I'm the only one who can really clean people up this way. Say, why are you standing like that?

Camper: (*Standing with arms crossed covering up one final sin/stain.*) What do you mean?

God: Well do you want me to get that last stain cleaned up for you? The one you're covering up right there? If not, that is okay, it's your choice. But no stain is too dirty or gross for me to get out.

Camper: (*Peeks at the stain, hesitates, and uncovers it.*) Sorry it's so bad, I'm so sorry I'm really sorry and I'm really embarrassed and ...

God: *(Gently holds onto Camper's shoulders and looks Camper in the eyes).* Everyone makes mistakes and everyone has stains and I'm here to help you get cleaned up. I'm here for you no matter what. I'll take care of it, I got you.

Camper: *(Takes deep breath and acts vulnerable.)*

God: *(Sprays the last black spot and removes it from shirt. Hugs Camper.)*
Well, you are all cleaned up now and I think you are set.

Camper. Wow, okay awesome! Thank you so much! I really appreciate it.
(Begins to walk away, but pauses and turns back.) Oh also, where did you buy that Sindex?

God: *(Chuckles.)* Oh you can't buy this, you just have to come back to me and ask for forgiveness and I'll get you all cleaned up again, no worries.

Camper: Oh, okay. Well, is there like a prayer I can pray or something that can help?

God: Yes, absolutely. Really, you can just use your own words. But I'll share an example with you. Just repeat after me.

God: Hi God, *(Camper repeats.)*
I am sorry. *(Camper repeats.)*
I want to ask you to forgive me. *(Camper repeats.)*
I've sinned by hurting you or hurting others or hurting myself. *(Camper repeats.)*
I've made a mess. *(Camper repeats.)*
I realize I've made mistakes and I want to say I'm sorry. *(Camper repeats.)*
I want to do better. *(Camper repeats.)*
Please forgive me and make me clean. *(Camper repeats.)*
Thank you, God. Amen. *(Camper repeats.)*

Camper: Thanks God. I feel so much better now.

God: Anytime, my friend. Anytime.

GOD, THE JANITOR

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

We all have stains. We've all sinned before. We've all messed up. Jesus actually took the punishment of our sin when He was on the Cross so we could all be forgiven. God is committed to pursuing us despite our mistakes. He is always willing to clean us up, help us fix our mess-ups, and get rid of our stains like in the skit. If we ask for God's forgiveness for our sins, He'll take care of them...and our guilt too!

The Bible says it this way in the book of 1 John, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

It can be really difficult and humbling to confess that we messed up to God.

Thankfully, God sees us for who we are and not for the dirt we have on us. At the same time, He doesn't want us to stay dirty. He doesn't want there to be anything standing in the way of our relationship with Him or other people. Sometimes, we need to ask forgiveness from others when we've hurt them too. May we always stay humble with God and allow Him to clean us of our dirt. (*About 1 minute.*)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

10 - Growing Up

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: Everyone needs to be a part of an encouraging and supportive community in order to grow. We need people (like mentors) to help us grow. We need people (like friends) for mutual encouragement. And we need to be mentors to others to help them grow. We are all in this together. Let's grow!</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Hebrews 10:24-25 New Living Translation 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.</p>
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Characters: 4

- Narrator
- Pine Tree
- Spruce Tree
- Maple Tree

Stage Directions:

(Narrator is off stage on microphone. Before Narrator begins, Pine Tree takes position on stage and Spruce Tree is sitting back on knees right next to Pine Tree imitating a small tree. Maple Tree is off stage or behind stage until they come onto the stage later in the skit. The narrator narrates the story while the characters act out the scene and speak to one another where instructed. Make sure to speak loudly enough for the audience to hear you all the way in the back.)

Narrator:

Close to the shore of a beautiful lake, far back in the mountains of Maine grew a very tall pine tree. Its branches reached far out as if they were trying to drink in more and more of the clear air and bright sunshine. Its roots reached far down into the earth as if they were trying to gather more and more nourishment from the soil. Its top reached up into the air as if trying to see what was above the fleecy white clouds which floated over it. The trunk of the pine tree was strong, as it had needed to be when the cold northwest winds of winter blew over the lake.

One day, the old pine felt someone digging near his roots, and, looking down he saw a little spruce popping up out of the soil. Then he rustled all his branches for joy! There would now be someone to talk to and someone to help grow. After the roots of the spruce were fairly well set, she began looking around to see who her neighbors were, and close beside her she found the trunk of the pine tree. She followed it up and up until she was almost dizzy.

Spruce Tree: *(sitting back on knees, close to Pine Tree and looking up at Pine Tree)*

“Oh, what a big tree! I sure would like to be as tall as that pine tree! It must see so many things up there so high in the sky. I’m glad that I’m planted so close to such a wonderful tree. Maybe someday I can grow up to be just as tall.”

Narrator:

That night, when all was still, the little tree heard a whisper; so she listened, for it seemed that it came from the pine tree. Then she heard the old pine say...

Pine Tree: *(Looking down at Spruce Tree, who is kneeling at Pine’s side)*

“Little spruce tree, I am so glad you have come to live near me. Can I help you in any way?”

Spruce Tree: *(looking up at Pine)*

“Yes indeed, you can. I have been looking at you all day. What a wonderful tree you are! Tell me how to grow to be as tall as you are!”

Pine Tree:

“Well, that is not a hard thing to tell, but it is a very hard thing to do. You have to keep looking up every day and let nothing bend or break you. You must desire with all your might to be one of the tallest trees and then you’ll grow and grow.”

Spruce Tree:

“That I will do, and I will keep close to you so that I may grow to be like you.”

Narrator:

The days passed by, and every night the little spruce looked carefully to see if her trunk was just as straight as the trunk of the pine tree. And because she had a splendid tree to copy she too grew tall and strong. *(Spruce straightens up on knees as though growing and checks out trunk to be sure it is straight)*

Narrator: *(Spruce and Pine act this out as the Narrator speaks)*

When the winter came, the cold winds whistled about the little tree, but the old pine was a little in front of the spruce and saved her from some of the force of the wind. At night, when all was still again, the pine would whisper...

Pine Tree: *(Speaking to Spruce quietly, but loud enough for audience to hear.)*

“Whew, that was a strong wind, little Spruce, but it’s over now and you have gained strength by fighting it. Now look up and straighten up, so that all the bend may be taken out of you.”

Spruce Tree: *(The little tree straightens her trunk and nestles close to her strong friend.)*

“Thank you, Pine!”

Narrator: *(As Narrator speaks, Spruce stands up, maybe still with a bend in the knees.*

Spruce is still under the branches of Pine. Spruce isn’t as tall as Pine yet.)

Finally, after many years, the little tree had grown so tall that her top reached the lowest branches of the pine. How proud she was!

Spruce Tree: *(Standing up, maybe with a bend in the knees, still sheltered by Pine)*

“I have looked up at you for so long, and now at last, I’m almost as tall as you. I am so happy, I don’t care whether I grow any more or not! You catch more of the wind up there, and down here I am sheltered by you.”

Pine Tree: *(Make motions relevant to this dialogue with Spruce)*

“That may be, but you cannot give shelter to others if you are content to stay down there. You must not think of stopping now. Why, the world gets bigger and lovelier the higher up I grow. There is so much more to see and it’s much easier to breathe up here. Come on up, come on up and see for yourself!”

Narrator:

So the little spruce pushed ahead and grew even taller. Eventually, the spruce was as tall as the pine! What beautiful things they saw around the mountain lake! Then, to her surprise, the little spruce found that the great tree was **still** growing, **still** pushing up, **still** making sure that he did not bend.

(Spruce stretches up higher as Narrator reads, now standing up and as tall as Pine. Spruce and Pine look around and say OOH, AAH at all they can see. As dictated by Narrator, Pine grows by standing on a chair or chapel bench.)

Spruce Tree: *(looking up at Pine, who is now standing on chair or chapel bench)*
“Aren’t you ready to stop growing, Pine? Surely you’re tall enough now.”

Pine Tree: *(continuing to stretch up toward the sky)*
“I will never be tall enough. I always want to grow. I have heard that there are trees in my family that have grown to be much taller than me, and I want to be one of the best.”

Narrator: *(Spruce acts these motions as Narrator speaks)*
So the spruce spread her roots wide and deep, sent her branches far out for light and air, and kept growing toward the sky.

(Maple Tree enters the stage and sits or kneels next to Spruce Tree)

One day, very early in the spring, when the snow was leaving the ground, the spruce was thinking of the days when she had been a tiny tree, living near the ground. As she looked below her, suddenly, she saw a maple sapling nestling close to her trunk. She heard the maple say to the nearby seedlings on the ground...

Maple Tree: *(looking down at all the imaginary seedlings on the ground)*
Do you see that big spruce way up there? Someday I am going to grow to be that tall!

Narrator:
So the pine sheltered the spruce from the blasts of winter; the spruce sheltered the maple from the drifting snow; and the maple sheltered the tender seedlings and kept them warm. As they all continued growing, you could hear them say...

Pine Tree and Spruce Tree and Maple Tree:
“We will look up and let nothing bend or break us. We will measure our growth by One who is greater and stronger than us.”

GROWING UP

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Just like the three trees, God blesses us with people who are further along in their journey who can help us and encourage us to look up to God. Counselors are some of these people. They are here to support you and encourage you to grow. Furthermore, God blesses you with people like your cabinmates, who come alongside you and share a mutual sense of support and love. Finally, God blesses you with people who need **your** help, encouragement, and guidance. These could be people in your cabin who are new to camp. They could be people in your families, schools, neighborhoods or youth groups that need the direction and support that **you** can give. God gives us a community so that none of us has to grow alone. We are all in this together. We all have things to learn from others and we all have things to teach others. (*About 1 minute.*)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in the letter to the Hebrews, “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another.”

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHILE PREPARING YOUR WRAP-UP:

How have people been mentors to you in matters of life and faith?

What have you learned from them?

How have you been a mentor to others?

What things can campers do to help and encourage others?

What happens when we try to do life and faith alone?

11 - I.L.A.C.

Setting: RV/LV; early/mid/late week

<p>Message: Because God made us, we have value. God wants us to recognize this in each other and build each other up. We all have the ability to either tear down or lift up other people with our words and actions.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Proverbs 12:18 New International Version Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.</p>
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CHARACTERS(5):

- 1 ILAC Camper wearing ILAC sign safety-pinned to shirt
- 3 Sign Crumplers
- 1 Nice Camper

PROPS:

ILAC sign on white paper with a dark color for ILAC: black or dk blue or dk purple
Safety pin to attach sign to shirt

STAGE DIRECTIONS:

The person wearing the "ILAC" sign starts off on the stage alone talking about what a great day it is and how excited they are to be at camp, etc.

ILAC Camper: Oh what a great day! The sun is shining, the birds are singing, I'm in my happy place: camp! I can't wait for all the fun things that I'm going to do today: clinics, Gaga, Trading Post, games. I have great friends and I'm making new ones. I feel good about myself this morning too: so loveable and capable (*Looks out to audience*) You know what I mean? What a great day this is going to be!

Sign Crumpler 1: What is wrong with you? Are you always this enthusiastic? You need to turn it down a notch, for real. You're kind of over the top. It's getting on my nerves. (*Crumple ILAC sign a little bit.*)

ILAC Camper: Oh, geez. Sorry, I guess. That didn't feel very good. I wish people were more kind.

Sign Crumpler 2: Are you seriously going to wear that shirt today? It's kind of ugly, don't you think? *(Crumples ILAC sign a little bit.)*

ILAC Camper: Wow. That wasn't nice. I was feeling good, but now I'm starting to feel kind of down. I will just try to rise above it. It's getting kind of hard, though.

Sign Crumpler 3: Hey, I saw you playing Gaga yesterday. Didn't you lose like three times in a row? Why do you even keep playing? *(Crumples ILAC sign a lot.)*

ILAC Camper: Gee whiz. There goes my excitement for the day. I was so happy and feeling good, and now I'm just totally bummed out and depressed. I guess this day is just gonna stink.

(The three that insulted the person then gather in a group to the side of center stage and continue to laugh at and point at the ILAC character.)

The Nice Person: *(Approaches the group of Sign Crumplers.)* Gosh, you all are being awfully mean. Actually, I think _____ is really cool. I love his/her enthusiasm. It's contagious. Just being around _____ makes me more excited about camp. I think their shirt is awesome, it shows off their unique personal style. And I think it's great how determined _____ is to keep improving at Gaga instead of giving up. Perseverance is a great trait.

Sign Crumpler 1: Wow. I really was mean. I feel pretty bad about how I made _____ feel. I think I need to apologize.

Sign Crumpler 2: *Me too.*

Sign Crumpler 3: *Yeah, me too.*

(One by one, The 3 Sign Crumplers return to offer an apology and try to lift the ILAC Camper up. They also attempt to smooth the sign out a little as they do so.)

Sign Crumpler 1 to ILAC Camper: I'm so sorry for how I treated you. Your enthusiasm is actually a really good thing. It is a great way to start the day and it helps others be excited for the day too. *(Smooths out the ILAC sign a little bit.)*

ILAC Camper: Gosh, thanks. That feels a lot better. I appreciate your apology. I forgive you. I hope you can be excited about the day too!

Sign Crumpler 2: Hey, I'm really sorry for making fun of your shirt. It's actually pretty cool how it shows off your unique personality. Originality is a good thing. *(Smooths out the ILAC sign a little bit.)*

ILAC Camper: Thanks, man. I appreciate that. Don't be afraid to show off your unique style too.

Sign Crumpler 3: Listen, I was really wrong to make you feel bad about Gaga. It is impressive how you just keep trying to get better at it instead of giving up. That's a really cool thing about you. *(Smooths out ILAC sign all the way.)*

ILAC Camper: Thanks for your apology, I really appreciate that. And your compliment really lifts me up. I needed that. Now I'm feeling excited and enthusiastic again about the day!

I.L.A.C.

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

"ILAC" stands for "I am Loveable And Capable." God made us this way. We all carry an invisible sign like this inside ourselves. We are all loveable and capable, but when people say mean things to us, it can hurt our ability to believe that we are loveable and capable. Our sign gets wrinkled up. When others apologize and ask forgiveness, the ILAC sign is straightened out, but there are still wrinkles. That is why it is very important for each of us to never crumple others' ILAC signs but to lift each other up through encouragement. In the Bible, **Proverbs 12:18 says, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."** Loving each other by building each other up pleases the Lord and helps us all to become the people God has meant us to be: loveable and capable! Can you think of ways that you can build up your cabinmates and counselors this week? How can you build others up when you get home, or go back to school in the fall?

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

*(Share for **about 1 minute**. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)*

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

12 - Kalepo

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: When we admit and confess our sins, God is faithful and wipes out our sin. Out of that grace and forgiveness, we should also offer grace and forgiveness to others.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: 1 John 1:9 New International Version If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. forgive as the Lord forgave you.</p>
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Characters: 8

Can add bird, snake, burro, beetle if you want to

- 1 Kalepo
- 3 other Monkeys
- 1 Desmond the Lion
- 1 Narrator
- 2 Singers

Props:

- Banana Tree, Branches of the Banana Tree
- Monkey costumes
- Lion costume and a King's crown
- Guitar and music for song
- Microphones for guitar and singers
- Microphone for Narrator

Stage Directions:

(Characters act the story out as the song plays. You can add a bird, snake, burro and beetle if you can find costumes, maybe using the children of Camp Staff. The more dramatic and funny your actions during the skit, the better. Be animated and have fun!)

Narrator:

Today we have a special song to share with you about an old friend whose name was Kalepo. Kalepo was a monkey who had a problem and this song tells the story of how he overcame it.

VERSE 1

C G C
Kalepo the monkey, he liked to eat banana,
C G C
But he gets banana not like the other monkey
F C G C
All of the other monkeys climb the tree to get banana
F C G C
None of them mind the work it take to climb banana tree.
C G C
But Kalepo the monkey, he rather steal banana,
C G C
He takes from the others all of the fruit they work for.
F C G C
He eats alone in the jungle tree away from the other monkeys,
F C G C
But it's no fun to eat the thing that don't belong to you.

CHORUS

C G C
Kalepo, bring back banana! You only hurt yourself inside.
C G C
Kalepo, bring back banana! You got to get it right.

VERSE 2

The birds in the jungle, they heard about Kalepo. C G C
The snake and the burro, they heard it from the beetle. C G C
They said he was a naughty boy to take from the other monkeys, F C G C
Everyone hoped that he would learn that it was wrong to steal. F C G C

NARRATOR: Hey, Kalepo, better come back with that banana or you gonna be in plenty hot water, man!

VERSE 3

Old Desmond the lion he was the king of the jungle. C G C

One day as he passed by he stopped to see the monkeys. C G C

They told the king about their friend who loved to steal bananas, F C G C

Desmond he raised his hairy head and this is what he said: F C G C

“Hey Kalepo, you shame me, you are a selfish monkey! C G C

By stealing from others you made yourself so ugly. C G C

But if you bring back stolen fruit right now and say you are sorry, F C G C

Never to rob your friends again, then we'll be kind to you.” F C G C

CHORUS

NARRATOR: Hey don't you know . . . when Kalepo saw how bad he had been, he brought back the bananas that time! There was such a party . . . and from then on, he climbed the banana tree just like the other monkeys.

KALEPO

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Sometimes it might be hard to believe that God will forgive us for all of our sins when we ask forgiveness, but that's exactly what he does! No matter what we've done, when we turn away from that sin, God wipes the slate clean. And out of that grace and forgiveness that God shows us, we can offer that same grace and forgiveness to other people when they hurt us. Forgiving people can be hard especially if they really hurt us, but remembering the ways that God forgave you for all of the things you've done might make it a bit easier. Forgiving people when it's really hard is an expression of love in response to the love God has shown us.

(About 1 minute.)

SCRIPTURE: In the Bible, in the book of 1 John, it says:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

And in the book of Colossians, it says:

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

13 - Plink

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: In the body of Christ, all parts are useful and necessary.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: I Corinthians 12:4-6 NIV There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.</p>
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Characters: 8

The Machine-Maker chooses these people from audience. They are predetermined.

Two people are Spark Plugs

Person who is a Motor

Person who is a Computer

Person who is a Running Conveyor Belt

Person who is an ON/OFF switch

Person who is "Plink"

Stage Directions:

(A "Machine-Maker" wants to build the world's greatest machine, a machine made up of all sorts of parts. He will bring up pre-determined "volunteers" to help him build this incredible machine.)

Machine-Maker: Hello! Let me introduce myself. I am a Master Machine-Maker. I want to build the world's greatest machine. I'm going to need a lot of different parts to make this machine.

The first thing I'm going to need is 2 spark plugs. Ah, there I see 2 great spark plugs. Please come and be a part of my machine. I need you.

(The machine-maker sets them in position and gives them a sound and/or motions to do. He has them practice their part.)

Machine-Maker: Okay, so the next thing I need is a View-Finder. There I see a good one. Come and be a part of my machine. I need you.

(The machine-maker sets them in position and gives them a sound and/or motions to do. He has them practice their part.)

Machine-Maker: Every great machine needs a motor. Let's see...Oh! There's a great motor. Come on up and be a part of my machine. You are needed.

(The machine-maker sets them in position and gives them a sound and/or motions to do. He has them practice their part.)

Machine-Maker: Next, I'm going to need a computer to operate many of the machine's functions. But not just any computer. Ah ha! That one right there. Come and be a part of this great machine. We need you.

(The machine-maker sets them in position and gives them a sound and/or motions to do. He has them practice their part.)

Machine-Maker: Okay, things are looking good, but I still need a running conveyor belt. Let's see...Oh, there's a good one. Come on up, the machine needs you.

(The machine-maker sets them in position and gives them a sound and/or motions to do. He has them practice their part.)

Machine-Maker: Now, it's time to get a solid On/Off switch. I see one right there! Come on up. The machine will not operate without you. We need you.

(The machine-maker sets them in position and gives them a sound and/or motions to do. He has them practice their part.)

Machine-Maker: And now, I need the most important part of the machine...the Plink. Oh, fantastic! There is a stellar Plink right there! Come on up Plink! We definitely need you for our World's Greatest Machine.

(When "Plink" is put into place, Plink's action and noise is very simple: flick finger in and out and say "plink".)

(Now have a trial run with the whole machine. Make sure to turn the machine on with the "ON/OFF" switch.)

Machine-Maker: Oh, this is so awesome! What a fantastic machine! This is so excellent that I'm going to enter it into a world-wide contest. I'll be right back, I'm going to go get my machine registered.

(While the machine-maker is gone, the machine "comes to life". Each part begins bragging about how great they are. Eventually, they see Plink and the parts begin to mock and make fun of Plink. They all say how unimportant Plink is and tell Plink that they do not need him/her. So Plink leaves feeling rejected.)

(The machine-maker returns and decides to try out the machine one more time. The machine-maker turns the switch on and the machine revs up just a little and then dies. The machine-maker goes hysterical trying to find out what's wrong with his wonderful machine. He checks all the parts and then notices that Plink is gone.)

Machine-Maker asks the parts: "What happened to Plink?!"

(The machine parts all point off-stage to where Plink is.)

Machine-Maker to Plink: Plink, what are you doing over here? What happened?

Plink: While you were gone, the other machine parts made fun of me and told me I wasn't necessary. They said my contribution was so insignificant that I wasn't needed.

Machine-Maker: Oh man, I'm so sorry Plink. That could not be further from the truth. Actually, you are extremely important to the machine. Without you, the machine doesn't work. In fact, every part of the machine is just as important. The machine only works when every part is doing its job. I'm disappointed in you parts that made fun of Plink. Plink, come on back. We can't operate without you.

(Plink joins the group again and the machine-maker turns the machine on and all the parts work enthusiastically together as the world's greatest machine.)

PLINK

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

God has given each of us important gifts and talents. These gifts and talents aren't just for ourselves, but are given to us to serve others. We are all part of one big group, one community, one body. We have to work together for all of us to flourish and thrive. When we look down on ourselves or other people as though their gift isn't important, we break God's heart and miss the point. He gave us all gifts to share because He loves us and He cares about how our community works. Without your gifts, this community suffers. Without someone else's gifts, the community suffers. It is up to each of us to discover our gifts and help our friends discover theirs too. We can help each other to make a strong community where everyone feels good about contributing and where we all benefit the people around us. **The Bible says it this way in I Corinthians 12:4-6 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."** You might ask yourself this week, "What are some things about you that make a group better because you are in it? What are some things about your cabinmates that make the group better because they are in it?" God can work through us as a whole unit to share His love with others if we work together like the world's greatest machine.

(About 1 minute.)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

14 - Prayer Chapel

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: Prayer is simply communicating with God. It could be asking Him for help for ourselves or other people, saying thanks, seeking guidance, apologizing, or just sharing how we feel. When we connect with God, He gives us peace.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6-7 New Living Translation 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.</p>
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Adaptations: Praying in different languages, praying in song

Characters:

- 2 People to sing praises
- 1 Person to pray while doing an activity
- 1 Person to do a silent prayer
- 3 People to pray in a group
- 1 Person to pray in another language

Props:

Stage Directions:

(Five scenarios will be used to show the versatility of prayer and some of the different ways in which we can pray to God.)

Scene 1:

Two people singing praises to God (pick some chapel songs) in agreement with the words that are being sung as their prayer to God. Telling God that we love him.

Scene 2:

Activity Prayer can be prayed while the actor is climbing MT. Wood or playing soccer, or cleaning their cabin, or whatever activity you choose. (NOTE: this can be framed as either prayer to overcome an obstacle or just praying while doing other things.)

Scene 3:

A person getting on their knees and bowing their head in prayer can depict Silent prayers.

Scene 4:

Group prayer can be depicted as a group praying “popcorn style” out loud.

Scene 5:

Someone can pray in another language.

PRAYER CHAPEL

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

Prayer is just talking to God. When you are friends with someone, you want to spend time with them. You spend a lot of time together talking and listening. If you don't ever talk to that friend, you don't know what is going on in their life. The more you speak to that friend, the more you understand them, and the closer you become. It's the same with God. If you don't spend time talking with Him, you will not know much about Him. You won't be very close. And the more time you spend apart, the harder it will be to have a strong relationship. Prayer is a great way to grow closer to God.

Who are the people you talk to every day? Your parents? Brothers and sisters? Friends? Classmates? Teachers? Have you ever thought about talking to God every day? You can talk to God all through the day in all kinds of ways. You don't have to stop what you are doing to pray. You can just pray silently in your own heart and mind as you go about your day. Prayer is simply communicating with God. It could be asking Him for help for yourself or other people, saying thanks, seeking guidance, apologizing, or just sharing how you feel. When you connect with God, He gives you peace. (**About 1 minute.**)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

*(Share for **about 1 minute**. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)*

SCRIPTURE: The Bible says it this way in the book of Philippians "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

25 - Prodigal Son

Setting: RV/LV; late-week

<p>Message: God loves us like a good father and welcomes us home when we repent of our wrongdoing and return to Him.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: Luke 15:31-32 New Living Translation My son, the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'</p>
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Characters: 5-9

Narrator

Father wearing a long tunic and a robe and big ring from costume closet

Younger Son wearing a tunic or poncho to represent clothes of biblical times

Older Son wearing a tunic or poncho to represent clothes of biblical times

Party Guests (4 counselors to act like they are at a party. Optional.)

Farm Hand wearing a tunic or poncho to represent clothes of biblical times

Props:

Money: Monopoly Money. Big pretend bills in costume closet.

Pouch for money.

Backpack that Younger Son carries when he goes to distant land.

Farmer

Food for pigs: Bring pig bucket stand out from dining hall with an empty five gallon bucket on it. Pretend to throw food to pigs out of the bucket. Make sure it is actually empty.

Robe for father to wear and put around Prodigal Son when he returns

Big Ring that father will wear and put on Prodigal Son's finger when he returns

Stage Directions:

(Actors will act out scenes as Narrator narrates. Narrator will start on center stage and move back and forth between center stage and side of the stage as the skit proceeds. The stage will represent "Home" and the back of the audience will represent the "distant

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land” the Prodigal Son runs away to. The stage will also represent the distant land at a certain point in the skit. The skit begins with Narrator on stage front and center with microphone to introduce the skit and set the scene. The father and two sons start behind the stage unseen by audience. Backpack for younger son to grab later in the skit should be behind stage. Father should have a big wad of pretend money in his robe or in a pouch hanging around his waist or shoulder.)

Narrator (on stage front and center to set the scene):

Today, our Tecumseh Actors and Actresses are going to act out a story that Jesus tells in the Bible to illustrate God’s forgiveness. The story is set in a culture where the sons would inherit valuable land and money when their father died. If a son demanded his inheritance from his father while he was still alive, it was like saying to his father, “I wish you were dead. All I care about is your money.” That would be a huge insult, so if a son did that, the Father would likely never speak to him again and treat the son as if **he** were dead. But Jesus tells this story with a big surprise ending. The story goes a little something like this...

There once was a man with two sons who owned a lot of farm land. *(Narrator moves to side of stage.)*

(Father and Older Son and Younger Son come to center stage and act out working on the land as if in a garden. Hoeing or raking the land.)

Narrator: They worked together on the land until one day when the younger son stormed up to his father and said...

Younger Son: *(Storms up to father, demanding)* I want my inheritance money now! I don’t want to wait until you die! All I care about is your money!

Father: Oh my son, this request breaks my heart! Why would you ask this? I have been so good to you. Even so, I shall fulfill your wish. I will divide all that I own into two portions. One for your brother and one for you. Today I will give you your portion.

(Father pulls money out of robe or pouch and hands it to son. Son grabs it and goes behind stage to pick up his backpack.)

Narrator: A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land.
(Younger Son grabs backpack and comes out from backstage and walks toward back of audience saying...)

Younger Son: I'm rich! I'm so happy! I'm going to spend my father's money on all that I was not allowed to have at home.

(Father drops his head and nods with sadness as he walks behind stage as if going back into his house.)

(Narrator comes to center stage to set this next scene. Now the stage becomes the distant land.)

Narrator : And so, the younger son spent all of his money on rebellious living. He thought that all of the most important treasures could be found here on the earth, so he indulged in many wasteful pleasures until he ran out of money. He made a lot of bad choices.

(Narrator goes back to the side of the stage. Younger Son has walked around the audience and now walks back up on stage as it now represents the distant land.)

Younger Son: Oh man, I'm all out of money. All that I had is gone, and I have nothing to show for the past month of my life. The land is suffering a famine, so there is very little food for everyone. I have no food to eat at all. Now I'm going to have to find a job.

Narrator: And so the young son went in search of a job. Finally, he was able to persuade a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs.

(Younger Son walks over to Farmer on one side of stage and begs on knees for a job. Farmer hands him a five gallon bucket from the pig bucket stand and motions to feed the pigs with it. Younger Son stands up and takes the bucket and thanks the Farmer profusely. Younger Son walks to center stage and acts like he is pouring food for the pigs out of the bucket.)

Narrator: But the young man still did not have enough food for himself.

Younger Son: I am so hungry that even the food I feed to the pigs looks good! At home, even the men my father hires to help on the farm have food enough to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! I need to return home and say to my father, "Father, I have sinned both against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please just take me on as a hired man."

Narrator: The boy left his job, and began to travel home.

(Younger Son puts five gallon bucket down and picks up backpack. With slumped shoulders and head hung low, he walks off the stage and slowly around the audience.)

(Narrator returns to center stage to set up the next scene. Stage returns to "Home.")

Narrator: Meanwhile, back at home, the father was watching for his lost son.

(Narrator moves to side of stage and Father moves from behind stage to center stage. He puts his hand above his eyes like he is looking into the distance. He leans forward, looking toward back of audience, way off into the distance for his lost son. He is looking sad and worried and anxious. Maybe pacing back and forth and then looking out for him again.)

Narrator: The Father missed his lost son terribly and spent many long days looking down the road, hoping to catch a glimpse of his son. Then, all of a sudden, one day, everything changed. The father spotted his beloved son in the distance. While the son was still a long way off, the father couldn't contain his joy and so he picked up the hem of his robe and ran out to him. When he got to his son, he gave him a huge side hug.)

(Father picks up the hem of his robe and runs down the steps toward the Younger Son who is coming down the aisle of the audience. Father gives him a giant side hug. They walk up the steps to center stage.)

Younger son: *(On center stage with Father. On his knees. Excitedly, stumbling over his words, begging for mercy.)*

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please just let me be a hired hand.

Narrator: But the father would hear none of it. He called out to his farm hands...

Father: Quick! Prepare food for a Huge Party. We must celebrate with a party, because this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life! He was lost but now he is found. I will put my own robe on him and my own family ring on his finger to welcome him back.

(Father takes robe off and puts it on son and takes ring off and puts it on son's finger.)

Narrator: And so the party began. All of the farm hands embraced the long lost son, and the father could not stop smiling.

(Father and Son pretend to be eating food and laughing and talking to others at the party. You can bring several counselors up to be party guests if you want to arrange that in advance.)

Narrator: However, the older son was working in the field. When he came toward the house he heard music and asked one of the Farm Hands...

(Older Son walks up one side of stage and asks a Farm Hand standing on one side of stage, away from the party...)

Older son: What is going on? What are we celebrating?

Farm Hand: Your brother is back and your father is throwing a huge party! We are celebrating because of his safe return!

Narrator: The older brother was so angry at hearing this news that he refused to go into the party. Instead his father came out and talked to him.

(Older Son folds arms and stomps around mad with his back to the party on the side of the stage. Father leaves party at center stage and goes to Older Son.)

Older son: All these years I've worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one little party with my friends. Yet when this rebellious son of yours comes back after throwing your money away on horrible things, you celebrate by throwing the biggest party ever. I don't understand, Father! This makes me so mad!!!

Father: Look, my dear son, you and I are very close, and everything that I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!

(Father gives Older Son a big side hug. Older Son hugs back. Father and Son go to center stage to join the party. Father side-hugs both sons, one under each arm.)

PRODIGAL SON

EXAMPLE WRAP-UP, PERSONAL STORY AND SCRIPTURE (2 MINUTES):

In Christianity, God is often thought of as a good Father to all people. Like a good Father, God gave us all some instructions for how to live life well. Instructions like don't lie and don't steal and respect your parents and things like that. When we follow these instructions, our life goes well. When we rebel and disobey these instructions, our life doesn't go so well and we often hurt other people by acting selfishly. And then we feel like there is a barrier between ourselves and God. Just like you might feel between yourself and your parents when you disobey them.

God could just reject us when we reject Him like this. But, because He is a good Father, He forgives us when we admit that we made a bad choice and feel badly for it and ask for His forgiveness. When we accept God's forgiveness, then our relationship with Him is restored and we can have peace again.

There are times in our lives when we make bad choices and rebel from our parents or teachers or coaches or God, our Father in Heaven. Jesus told this story so that you would know that you can always come home to Him and ask for forgiveness. He is willing to forgive you when you express that you realize what you did was wrong. God is like a good Father who gives you a second chance when you want to do better. God is also like a good Father because when you stay close to Him like the Older Son, He shares all His blessings with you: blessings like joy and peace and hope and mercy and comfort and love. **Remember the last line in Jesus' story, "My son,' the father said to the older son, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'** God will celebrate in the same way when you return to Him seeking forgiveness and a closer relationship.

About 2 minutes.)

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FROM MY LIFE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS MESSAGE...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

PRAYER:

I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

16 - The Race to Follow Jesus

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: Living for Jesus is a lot like running a race. It's the best thing for us but it certainly has its challenges and obstacles to overcome in order for us to experience its benefits. If you want to better your relationship with God and grow closer to him during your race be sure not to run close to those who may get you off course. Instead, find a friend with the same focus as you who keeps you motivated to reach the prize. Then make sure you're being that type of friend to someone else.</p>	<p>Bible Verse: <i>Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)</i> 12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off <u>everything that hinders</u> and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with <u>perseverance</u> the race marked out for us, 2 <u>fixing our eyes on Jesus</u>, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.</p>
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Characters (9):

Announcer

Runners: Each runner should have a Racing Label to pin to their shirt with their number and name.

101 Laziness

102 Enthusiasm with a Bible

103 Apathy

104 Perseverance with a sling for a broken arm and ace bandage around ankle

105 Cheater

106 Average Joe

2 Racing Officials in referee shirts on if we have them. Or bright orange vests, or?

Props:

Racing Numbers (and name) attached to each runner's t-shirt with a safety pin. These should be in costume closet.

Clipboard with script on it for Announcer

Announcer needs a headset microphone or hand-held microphone

Stage Directions:

(The skit begins with 6 racing contestants and an announcer. The runners actively “run” as the announcer commentates.)

How the Skit Begins:

*(The **announcer** could be on the stage posted behind the wall/in a corner. The runners should be lined up on center stage, acting their “characters” preparing for the race. This could be stretching, tying their shoes, etc.*

*The **announcer** should have fun with their lines, being as expressive as possible. A headset microphone would be ideal, possibly with a clipboard that has the script on it.)*

Announcer: Here we are at the “Camp Tecumseh Race to Follow Jesus.”

This exciting event takes place every week here at camp as people come from miles around to witness this famous spectacle. Yes indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen, you heard it right. Before your very eyes this day you are going to witness a Race to Follow Jesus.

This morning in our Race to Follow Jesus we have 6 racers.

In Lane 1 we have **Laziness**, known for their ability to fall asleep at any time of day at the snap of a finger.

*(Announcer snaps finger and **Laziness** lays down on the stage and starts snoring loudly, curled up in a cozy sleeping position.)*

In Lane 2, we have **Enthusiasm**. They are so excited about this race! They were 2 hours early just to make sure they were ready. As you can tell, they are psyched-up and ready to go. They have their Bible, they are praying for themselves and others, they are prepared.

*(**Enthusiasm** jumps up and down all around the stage and shouts about how excited they are for the race with big big smiles, high-fiving the other racers. They open their Bible and read a little. Pray with other racers.)*

In Lane 3, we have **Apathy**. Who knows why Apathy is here. Perhaps pride, perhaps peer pressure; but whatever it is, they don’t seem to care.

*(**Apathy** just sulks around stage, maybe sits down and looks disinterested.)*

In Lane 4 is Perseverance – nothing will stop them! Even with a broken arm and a sprained ankle, they are here and ready to participate.

(Perseverance is wearing a sling for a broken arm and an ace bandage around their ankle. Kind of hobbles around stage with a determined look on face. Struggling, but pressing on.)

Lane 5 belongs to **Cheater**. Cheater doesn't really want to run this race. Cheater just wants to cut corners and get credit for finishing the race even though they haven't really run it.

(Cheater walks around stage thinking and scheming. They are wringing their hands like they are scheming and trying to figure out how to cut corners and cheat.)

And finally, in **Lane 6 we have Average Joe**. Average Joe has actually competed in this race before and is back for another round. In the past he has been tempted and distracted and has quit midway through, so let's see how it goes this time!

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, the race is about to begin!
Runners on your marks, Get Set, Go!

(Runners start "running" around the chapel area and the audience. Average Joe gets around the audience and back to the stage first. Average Joe will be "running" on the stage the entire time while the other runners join or pass him on the stage one at a time.)

Average Joe: Whew, I should have trained more for this race. I've been reading my Bible more often but I'm pretty out of breath already.

(Laziness slowly "trudges" up beside Average Joe on the stage.)

Laziness: *(clearly out of breath also)* I don't know how you're feeling but this race to follow Jesus a lot harder than I thought it would be. That patch of grass over there looks pretty inviting...what do you say we just go cloud gaze for a little bit and quit this silly race?

Average Joe: That sounds really nice right now but I'm really determined to finish this race.

Laziness: Suit yourself! I'll be over here if you need me.

(Laziness "trudges" over to behind the stage and disappears while Average Joe continues to run in place on stage.)

(Enthusiasm runs up onto the stage next to Average Joe.)

Enthusiasm: Wow Average Joe, you are doing an incredible job! I know this race can be difficult but it's important for you to keep moving forward. I'll pray for you while I run. I'm gonna keep going but I hope to see you at the end of the race!

(Enthusiasm continues on and goes off the stage. (Not behind the stage like Laziness)

Average Joe: That just gave me a surge of confidence to finish this race! That was exactly the encouragement and support I needed.

(Apathy enters the stage, slowly walking, with shoulders slumped over.)

Apathy: Why are you still running? Do you actually care about this race?

Average Joe: Yes, I do. This race is very important to me...why do you ask?

Apathy: I don't know, it just doesn't seem that beneficial or worth it. There's just so many rules and things you "should" or "shouldn't" do.

Average Joe: Yeah, I mean sometimes it can be extremely difficult to stay focused but I've found that having other people run beside me who also have the same goal is extremely helpful.

Apathy: I guess that kind of makes sense. Well, good luck!

(Apathy slowly walks off stage and down steps to walk around audience. No excitement. Head down, shoulders slumped over.)

(Perseverance struggles up the steps and runs next to Average Joe for a bit.)

Average Joe: Wow! I am really inspired by you, Perseverance! You have a broken arm and a sprained ankle and you just keep running. How do you do it?!

Perseverance: Honestly, I'm not sure. I just keep my eyes focused on Jesus and He gives me the strength I need. There is a really great crowd here too cheering us on. They've run the race before us and they know how hard it is. So I get a lot of energy and strength from them as well. Good luck, Joe. Stay with it. You're gonna make it!

(Cheater pops up on the stage and runs next to Average Joe. He/She has anxious energy. He/She is cutting corners in the race, so he/she is looking around to make sure he/she doesn't get caught.)

Cheater: Hey Average Joe! How's it going? Hey, I've been cutting corners this whole race. I'm kind of anxious though. I hope I don't get caught. Wanna join me? Stick with me and we'll finish this race in half the time of the other runners!

Average Joe: Oh, gosh. No thanks. I'd rather run the race that is marked out for us. I think honesty is always the best policy. I follow the Sagamore Creed, so I want to be worthy of trust and cheating would make me unworthy of trust. I would feel really yucko if I cheated. If I fix my eyes on Jesus, I'll be okay. He is the champion who ran this race perfectly. He can make my faith stronger as I run.

Cheater: Okay, fine. Well, suit yourself. I'm gonna go find another corner to cut.

(Cheater runs ahead, but gets caught by a couple of racing officials as he/she gets to the steps. Cheater is escorted off the stage to the back of the audience.)

(Enthusiasm runs up the stage and runs next to Average Joe.)

Enthusiasm: Average Joe I am so proud of you! I know it hasn't been an easy race but you're really focused on what matters. I think it's amazing how you keep throwing off all the things that could hinder your race and keep you from finishing. Would it be okay if I joined you for the rest of the race? Maybe we can encourage each other and help each other finish!

Average Joe: Yeah, that would be great actually!

(Average Joe and Enthusiasm actively continue to run, now off of the stage and a little further out of chapel. (In RV possibly to Opening Campfire and in LV towards the Lake or whatever makes the most sense.)

THE RACE TO FOLLOW JESUS

Example Wrap-Up and Scripture (1-2 minutes):

Just like the skit you just watched, following Jesus is a lot like running a race. It's the best thing for us but it certainly has its challenges and obstacles to overcome in order for us to experience its benefits. Jesus is the champion runner. He ran the race perfectly, so if we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, we will know how to run the race. Along the way, many things will try to throw our focus off of Jesus and hinder our race. Things like Laziness and Apathy and Cheating. So we have to make sure we find people who can run beside us who will keep us on course. People like Enthusiasm and Perseverance. We need to be sure to encourage them as well. We can help each other keep our focus on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

The Bible says in Hebrews 12:1-3, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

The "race," then, is the Christian life. It's a marathon, not a sprint, and we are called to run this race for our whole lives. Many people have been running this race before us and we can look to them for encouragement and training tips: people like your counselors, your brothers and sisters, your parents and friends.

Some things that help you run your race to follow Jesus include: praying, singing worship songs, reading God's Word, serving others, loving people, asking for forgiveness, and expressing gratitude.

There will be hard times and good times along the way, and Jesus will be with you all the way to the end.

Here's an example from my life that illustrates this message...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

Prayer: I'd like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let's pray...

17- Parable of the Sower

Setting: RV/LV; late-week

Message: We learn a lot of good things about the Lord at Camp T, are they going to go into our heart and become a part of our lives creating fruit for God or are we going to go back to living the way we were before we heard the Good News.	Scripture: Luke 8:11-15
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Characters:9

Narrator
Sower
Seeds (4)
Thorns
Birds
A Friend

Stage Directions:

Narrator: “The sower went out to sow his seed...”

Sower: Good morning everyone! I am a farmer and I am going to sow my seed! I am going to plant these seeds and hope for a great harvest.

The sower sows the seed and walks off stage.

Narrator: “...and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot and the birds of the air ate it up.”

Seed comes on stage, looks around and a bird comes and swoops down and carries it off.

Narrator: “Other seed fell on rocky soil and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.”

Seed 2: Ah, the sun, how wonderful, it is helping me grow! But ooh, this soil, it is so rocky! I can't seem to get my roots to go down deep into the soil. Wow,

it is really hot out here. If only I could get a drink of water, does anyone have water?! I can't get my roots into the soil to get water! Oh no!! I feel like I am about to faint!

The seed faints to the ground.

Narrator: "Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out."

Seed 3: Alright! I am starting to grow! This is great, I've got sun, I've got water and great soil and, ooooh. Look at those guys! They are growing up right next to me, like we are buddies or something. They look kind of interesting and.... Oh no!

The thorns choke out the seed.

Narrator: "Other seed fell into good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."

Seed 4: Wow, this is such wonderful soil! So rich and dark and the sun is glorious and I feel so strong! I just keep growing bigger and more fruitful!

Narrator: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved."

Seed 1: Chapel and devotions are interesting and all... I mean I hear this stuff every day, but I just don't believe it.

Narrator: Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away."

Seed 2: Yeah Chapel! This is so wonderful! I love chapel songs and talking around the devotion candle at night. It is JUST what I needed to hear! I love it! Seeing what the Bible has to say is also SO wonderful, and I love what I am learning at chapel! But now that I'm home, I realized I forgot how hard it can be to do all those things at home... And whenever my friends come along to gossip about people, it's so easy to just fall right back into my comfort zone... Uh... Maybe I'll just not worry about it now and maybe think about trying again when I go to camp next year.

Narrator: "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

Seed 3: I am so glad I learned about God and His Bible! These things are so important and good to know. I believe this is the truth and I want to live my life according to the “I’m Third Motto”. Oh look! My friends decided to stop by! I can’t wait to tell them all that happened and practice everything I’ve learned. But... what if they think that what I say is stupid...? Or what if they stop talking to me altogether because they can tell I’ve changed? I really like hanging out with them, but would they want me around if I try too hard to Be Third?

Narrator: “But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”

Seed 4: I really believe that the “I’m Third Motto” is the way I should live my life. I really believe what the Bible says. I am so glad I learned these things! I can’t wait to tell my friends about everything that happened.

Friend: Hey! You’re back from camp, how was it?

Seed 4: It was great, I learned so much! I got this new Bible and I am excited about reading it. Do you want me to show you a cool story? There is this story about a guy that went out to plant some seeds and some of them grew and some of them didn’t. I want to be like the seed that grows and is fruitful. I want to have God’s fruit in my life!

They walk off the stage looking at the Bible together.

Conclusion: While you were here at camp, you have been given a seed. That is God’s Word. The things you have learned in chapel, devotions, from your counselors and from each other, these are all ways the seed of God’s Word has gotten into your heart. Your heart is like soil, how will the seed go in? How will it grow? Which seed do you want to be (for the rest of camp or as you return home from camp)? May each one of us be like the fourth seed and produce a bountiful crop. There are ways to keep the experience real (for the rest of the week) when we go back home: tell others about camp and its effects on you, pray, get involved in a faith community like church or youth group, read the bible. Keep the memories alive.

Diving Deeper: Were there parts in your life where you felt like one of the other seeds? How did that change throughout your life?

18- Ragman

Setting: LV; Friday only

Message: When we give Jesus our burdens and sins, He replaces them with His righteousness, thus giving us the gift of salvation as He died in our place.	Scripture: Isaiah 53:5 “He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed.”
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Characters (8) :

Narrator, Ragman, Follower, Sobbing woman, Hurt child, Veteran, Drunk

Props:

Dirty handkerchief, clean handkerchief, bandage, yellow hat, nice jacket, old jacket, clothes for the drunk, some type of cart or wagon, blanket

Scene:

Before the dawn one Friday morning, I saw a strange sight. I stumbled upon a story like nothing my life had ever prepared me for.

I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking the alleys of my city. He was pulling an old cart filled with clothes both bright and new, and he was calling in a clear voice: “Rags! Rags! New rags for old! I’ll take your tired rags!”

“Now, this is a wonder,” I thought to myself, for the man stood tall, had arms like tree limbs, hard and muscular, and eyes that flashed intelligence. Could he find no better job than this, to be a ragman in the inner city? I followed him. My curiosity drove me. And I wasn’t disappointed.

Soon the Ragman saw a woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief. Her knees and elbows made a sad X. Her shoulders shook. Her heart was breaking. The Ragman stopped his cart. Quietly, he walked to the woman, stepping around tin cans, dead toys, and dirty diapers. “Give me your rag,” he said so gently, “and I’ll give you another.” He slipped the handkerchief from her hands. She looked up, and he laid across her palm a linen cloth so clean and new that it shined. Then, as he began to pull his cart again, the Ragman did a strange thing: he put her stained handkerchief to his own face; and then he began to weep, sobbing as grievously as she had done, his shoulders shaking, yet she was left without a tear. “This is a wonder,” I whispered, and I followed the sobbing Ragman. “Rags! Rags! New rags for old!”

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In a little while, when the sky showed gray behind the rooftops and I could see the shredded curtains hanging out black windows, the Ragman came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage. A single line of blood ran down her cheek.

The tall Ragman looked upon this child with sympathy, and he drew a lovely yellow hat from his cart. “Give me your rag,” he said, “and I’ll give you mine.” The child could only gaze at him while he loosened her bandage, removed it, and tied it to his own head before setting the hat on hers. I gasped at what I saw: for with the bandage went the wound! Against his brow it ran a darker, more substantial blood—his own! “Rags! Rags! I take old rags!” cried the sobbing, bleeding, strong, intelligent Ragman.

The sun now pierced both the sky and my eyes; the Ragman was now hurrying through the streets. “Are you going to work?” he asked a man who leaned against a telephone pole. The man shook his head. The Ragman asked, “Do you have a job?” “Are you crazy?” sneered the other. He pulled away from the pole, revealing the right sleeve of his jacket—flat, the cuff stuffed into the pocket. He had no arm. “Give me your jacket,” said the Ragman, “and I’ll give you mine.” Such quiet authority in his voice. The one-armed man took off his jacket. So did the Ragman—and I trembled at what I saw: for the Ragman’s arm stayed in its sleeve, and when the other put it on he had two good arms, thick as tree limbs; but the Ragman had only one. “Go to work,” he said.

After that he found an old man, shivering beneath a blanket. He was hunched over and sick. It was clear this man had nowhere else to go. The Ragman took his blanket and wrapped it around himself, and for the old man he left new, warm clothes.

And now I had to run to keep up with the Ragman. Though he was weeping uncontrollably, bleeding freely at the forehead, pulling his cart with one arm, stumbling, falling again and again, he went with terrible speed. He skittered through the alleys of the city, this mile and the next, until he came to its limits, and then he rushed beyond. I wept to see the change in this man. I hurt to see his sorrow. And yet I needed to see where he was going in such haste, perhaps to know what drove him to do so.

The Ragman eventually reached a landfill. He came to the garbage pits. I wanted to help him, but I hung back, hiding. He climbed the hill, cleared some space, & laid down. Then he sighed and covered himself with a blanket. And there on that hill, he died.

I couldn’t stop crying. I mourned as one who has no hope—because I had come to love the Ragman. Every other face had faded in the wonder of this man, and I cherished him; but he died. I laid down & cried myself to sleep.

I did not know —that I slept through Friday night and Saturday and its night, too. But then, on Sunday morning, a great rumbling rose from beneath the earth. Light—pure,

demanding light—slammed against my sour face, and I looked and witnessed the greatest wonder of all. There was the Ragman, folding the blanket most carefully, a scar on his forehead, but alive! And, besides that, healthy! There was no sign of sorrow or weakness, and all the rags that he had gathered shined in cleanliness.

Then, I lowered my head and trembled, for I was a sorry figure next to him. I threw myself at his feet, and I said to him with dear yearning in my voice, “Dress me.” My Lord put new rags on me, and I was a wonder beside Him. The Ragman, the Ragman, the Christ!

WRAP UP: Jesus is our Ragman. Whatever is hurting us, making us sad or holding us down, He is willing to take. God came to earth as Jesus to take care of all of the mistakes we make, all of our sins. He also came to earth to take all of our sickness and sadness. All we need to do is rely on Him. When we do that, we live out His love in faith that He will provide for our needs. When we give Him our filthy rags, He gives us wonderful new clean clothes.

Diving Deeper: How can we pass on this sacrificial love to others? What rags of yours has He swapped out? What rags of yours does He keep swapping out?

19- Rainbow Fish

Setting: RV; early/mid-week

Message: Sometimes we can get really attached to the things we have, but being charitable with those things is an expression of faith.	Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
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Characters (7-8):

Narrator, Rainbow fish, Octopus, Starfish, Little Blue Fish, 3 or more other fish

Props:

Blue cut out scales, green cut out scales, purple cut out scales, shiny silver cut out scales (tin foil), cones for starfish arms, pool noodles for octopus arms

Scene:

A long way out in the deep blue sea there lived a fish. Not just an ordinary fish, but the most beautiful fish in the entire ocean. Her scales were every shade of blue and green and purple, with sparkling silver scales among them.

The other fish were amazed at her beauty. They called her Rainbow Fish. “Come on, Rainbow Fish,” they would call. “Come and play with us!” But the Rainbow Fish would just glide past, proud and silent, letting her scales shimmer.

One day, a little blue fish followed after her. “Rainbow Fish,” he called, “wait for me! Please give me one of your shiny scales. They are so wonderful, and you have so many.”

“You want me to give you one of my special scales? Who do you think you are?” cried the Rainbow Fish. “Get away from me!” Shocked, the little blue fish swam away.

He was so upset, he told all his friends what had happened. From then on, no one would have anything to do with the Rainbow Fish. They turned away when she swam by. What good are dazzling, shimmering scales with no one to admire them? Now she was the loneliest fish in the entire ocean.

One day she poured out her troubles to the starfish. “I really am beautiful. Why

doesn't anybody like me?"

"I can't answer that for you," said the starfish. "But if you go beyond the coral reef to a deep cave you will find the wise octopus. Maybe he can help you."

The Rainbow Fish found the cave. It was very dark inside and she couldn't see anything. Then suddenly two eyes caught her in their glare and the octopus emerged from the darkness. "I have been waiting for you," said the octopus with a deep voice. "The waves have told me your story. This is my advice. Give a glittering scale to each of the other fish. You will no longer be the most beautiful fish in the sea, but you will discover how to be happy."

"I can't...." the Rainbow Fish started to say, but the octopus has already disappeared into a dark cloud of ink.

Give away my scales? My beautiful shining scales? Never. How could I ever be happy without them?

Suddenly she felt the light touch of a fin. The little blue fish was back! "Rainbow Fish, please don't be angry. I just want one little scale." The Rainbow fish wavered. Only one very very small shimmering scale, she thought. Well, maybe I wouldn't miss just one.

Carefully, the Rainbow Fish pulled out the smallest scale and gave it to the little blue fish. "Thank you! Thank you very much!" The little blue fish bubbled playfully, as he tucked the shiny scale among his blue ones.

A rather peculiar feeling came over the Rainbow Fish. For a long time she watched the little blue fish swim back and forth with this new scale glittering in the water.

The little blue fish whizzed through the ocean with his scale flashing, so it didn't take long before the Rainbow Fish was surrounded by the other fish. Everyone wanted a glittering scale. The Rainbow Fish shared her scales left and right, and the more she gave away, the more delighted she became. When the water around her filled with glimmering scales, she at last felt at home among the other fish.

Finally the Rainbow Fish had only one shining scale left. Her most prized possessions had been given away, and yet she was very happy.

"Come on, Rainbow Fish," they called. "Come and play with us!"
"Here I come," said the Rainbow Fish, and happy as a splash, she swam off to join her friends.

Wrap Up: There's a lot of ways to express our faith, and one of those ways is being charitable. Giving the things we value to others is trusting God that He has a better plan through those things and the act of giving those things than we could ever have. When Rainbow fish was selfish it was hard to make friends and he was lonely. When we are mean to others it is hard for us to have friends also. God wants us to look for ways to be kind to other people. He asks us to think about the interests of others and to not be selfish. When we think about others and are kind to them we are following the "I'm Third Motto", putting God first and others above ourselves.

Diving Deeper: Being charitable with your possessions is just one expression of faith. What are some other ways we can express this type of trust in God? Also, see Mark 12:41-44, which reiterates charity as faith.

20-Sagamore Squad

Setting: RV; Friday

Message: Following the I'm Third motto takes many forms and yields, among other things, the various traits of the Sagamore Creed.	Scripture: Matthew 22:34-37 “Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your god with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.
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Characters (8):

6 Players (Hopeless/Faith, Lazy/Responsibility, Selfish/Initiative, Bully/Friendship, Doubt/Trust, Anger/Joy), Coach, Narrator

Props:

Soccer ball, shirts of each color bead (yellow, green, white, red, blue, purple)

Scene:

Once upon a time, there were six mighty soccer players. They were called the soccer squad; the best, most valuable, meanest, and toughest players in all the league. They scared away any team that dared to challenge them and they crushed anything in their path; including each other. They all had different talents, but had no coach to depend on. They kept each other in line and focused only on winning.

(characters scatter across stage, stretching, acting as their character when being described)

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Hopeless was the team's mascot. Hopeless motivated the team by telling them they would never win and that no one cared about them.

Lazy made all of his teammates do the work while he laid down on the field. He did not use defensive skills because doing so would require too much energy. Lazy took credit for the team's success, even though lazy put forth no effort.

Selfish was the MVP. Selfish was the only player allowed to shoot goals because she made every shot. Selfish made the pack look impressive, but failed to put other pack members before herself.

Anger scared the other teams and yelled at his teammates when they forgot to play their positions. Anger kept everyone in formation. He focused on the shortcomings of the soccer squad and failed to find joy in even the simplest of accomplishments. When a team member made a good pass or scored, Anger reflected on the failures of the team.

Bully kept the team focused by not allowing friendships on or off the soccer field. Friends were a distraction. The only way a team could be successful was if each member practiced independently to become the strongest soccer player they could be. The team needed to focus on winning.

Doubt was last. Doubt kept the team strong by reminding each member that they could not trust anyone. Doubt had little trust in his teammates and in others.

This was the soccer squad! They were rotten to the core. Teams dreaded the days they had to play this team, and many even forfeit! The team had no coach to direct them because no one wanted to work with these athletes... except for one.

He had been at every game and practice since the beginning of the season. He watched them wound every player on the opposing teams and he watched them wound each other as well. He watched them make teams cry and make each other cry. He saw all that the team was lacking and wanted to coach them. The team ignored him, but the coach continued to ask each day if he could be their coach. (*huddle*)

One day after practice, Hopeless stuck around to imagine losing the next game. That way, she could motivate herself to win the game. The coach approached Hopeless and told her how excited he was for the game. He said that he would be there for the entire game and that he believed in hopeless and wanted her to believe in herself and in her

teammates too. He assured her that everything would turn out alright in the end and he wanted her to have faith. Hopeless began to imagine what it might feel like to have faith. She was annoyed at first, but Hopeless eventually began to like the feeling. She was excited to have faith. The coach encouraged hopeless to say that she had faith in everyone and everything, and that everything would turn out okay. Hopeless finally agreed, knowing that she would always have faith with the guidance of this coach. Hopeless joined the coaches team and was given a new yellow Faith jersey. Faith was so happy and began to tell the others of her new outlook.

The rest of the pack was reluctant to join the team, and some even ignored Faith, their once-Hopeless teammate. However, Faith never gave up. Words of love and encouragement filled the air.

Then, slowly, a miracle happened: Lazy stood up. Lazy was tired of playing no role on the team. Lazy wanted to do something and to be an active member. He wanted to be responsible for some part of the team. Lazy approached the coach and he gave him a new green Responsibility jersey, water bottles, and soccer equipment. Responsibility followed the team around, making sure they drank plenty of water, wore their shin guards, and that everything was taken care of.

Selfish loved being taken care of and feeling special. Selfish wanted to do something nice in return. She spoke to the coach about wanting to make others feel special instead of always putting herself first. He told Selfish to give her teammates a chance to score goals and to look out for the needs of others. He wanted Selfish to learn to Be Third. Selfish took off her MVP sticker and gave it to Anger. Then, Selfish took off her jersey and let the coach present her with a new white Initiative jersey.

Anger wanted to be upset with Selfish for leaving the team, but he found joy in the MVP patch he had just received. Anger wore the patch with pride and finally felt joyful. With every mistake, his smile grew because he found joy in simply playing the game. Anger no longer wanted to wear his jersey. He skipped over to the coach, who happily placed a purple Joy jersey on him. Joy took a giant leap and hugged the coach. He placed the MVP sticker on the coach and went off to play. Joy didn't seem to care that his team wasn't as good as before or that they didn't win every game. Joy found happiness in the little things.

Bully recognized her frustration with having no real teammates. She wanted to feel the love that the coach's team had. She decided to join the new team and play soccer with her new teammates: Joy, Initiative, Responsibility, and Faith. Bully didn't want to be alone anymore. She walked up to the coach who immediately gave her a new red Friendship jersey. Friendship gave everyone hugs and made fun cheers to support her

teammates and friends. She took time to wave to new friends even if it took up her soccer time.

Option 1: Doubt was excited watching all of this. Too excited. He was excited to let them build up all of their trust in each other and in the coach so that he could later knock it all down. But as he snuck over to spread his doubt by falling and no one being there to catch him, he was surprised to find that someone did catch him, the coach. Doubt was shocked and upset because everyone had seen. Doubt started to do more and more trust falls and all of his former teammates were there to catch him. He slowly started to like falling, and was happy to be caught every time. Doubt trust fell into the coach one final time and let him put on his new blue Trust jersey.

Option 2: Doubt was the last of the remaining soccer squad. He saw the friendships being made on the coach's new team and wanted to have that. He wanted to rely on people and to trust that he would always have teammates to fall back on. While practicing his shots, he slipped! But doubt didn't fall. The coach had caught Doubt as he was falling. It was at this moment that Doubt knew he would have teammates and coach to rely on. Doubt could trust that his teammates would not let him fall. He received his new blue Trust jersey from the coach.

Faith, Responsibility, Initiative, Joy, Friendship, and Trust formed the new Sagamore Soccer Squad. They had a coach who had gathered them together and would always be there to guide them. The coach helped the soccer squad recognize their failures and guided the players towards finding new identities. With the coaches guidance, they all together gained faith, responsibility, initiative, joy, friendship, and trust.

Wrap Up: If you've been around camp for a while, you may have heard about the Sagamore Creed, which is a fundamental way we try to take everything we learned at camp out into the real world. All of these qualities in the creed--trust, responsibility, initiative, friendship, joy, faith--follow naturally after the way Jesus told us to live our lives. These words are reflected in the I'm Third motto. While the motto is a great general go-to in terms of living out God's love, these traits in the Sagamore Creed are tangible ways that we can do that.

Diving Deeper: Where do these characteristics show up in the Bible?

21-Sneetches

Setting: RV; early-week

<p>Message: Don't judge others by the way they're made.</p>	<p>Scripture: Matthew 7:1-2 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."</p>
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Characters (8):

Narrator, 3 Star-bellied Sneetches, 3 Plain-bellied Sneetches, Sylvester McMonkey McBean

Scene:

Now the Star-bellied Sneetches had bellies with stars.
The Plain-bellied Sneetches had none upon thars.
The stars weren't so big; they were really quite small.
You would think such a thing wouldn't matter at all.
But because they had stars, all the Star-bellied Sneetches
would brag, "We're the best kind of Sneetch on the beaches."

With their snoots in the air, they would sniff and they'd snort, "
We'll have nothing to do with the plain-bellied sort."
And whenever they met some, when they were out walking,
they'd hike right on past them without even talking.

When the Star-bellied children went out to play ball,
could the Plain-bellies join in their game? Not at all!
You could only play ball if your bellies had stars,
and the Plain-bellied children had none upon thars.

When the Star-bellied Sneetches had frankfurter roasts,
or picnics or parties or marshmallow toasts,
they never invited the Plain-bellied Sneetches.
Left them out cold in the dark of the beaches.
Kept them away; never let them come near,
and that's how they treated them year after year.

Then one day, it seems, while the Plain-bellied Sneetches
were moping, just moping alone on the beaches,

sitting there, wishing their bellies had stars,
up zipped a stranger in the strangest of cars.

"My friends, " he announced in a voice clear and keen,
"My name is Sylvester McMonkey McBean.
I've heard of your troubles; I've heard you're unhappy.
But I can fix that; I'm the fix-it-up chappie.
I've come here to help you; I have what you need.
My prices are low, and I work with great speed,
and my work is one hundred percent guaranteed."

Then quickly, Sylvester McMonkey McBean
put together a very peculiar machine.
Then he said, "You want stars like a Star-bellied Sneetch?
My friends, you can have them . . . for three dollars each.
Just hand me your money and climb on aboard."
They clambered inside and the big machine roared.
It bonked. It clonked. It jerked. It berked.
It bopped them around, but the thing really worked.
When the Plain-bellied Sneetches popped out, they had stars!
They actually did, they had stars upon thars!

Then they yelled at the ones who had stars from the start,
"We're exactly like you; you can't tell us apart.
We're all just the same now, you snooty old smarties.
Now we can come to your frankfurter parties!"

"Good grief!" groaned the one who had stars from the first.
"We're still the best Sneetches, and they are the worst.
But how in the world will we know," they all frowned,
"if which kind is what or the other way 'round?"

Then up stepped McBean with a very sly wink, and he said,
"Things are not quite as bad as you think.
You don't know who's who, that is perfectly true.
But come with me, friends, do you know what I'll do?
I'll make you again the best Sneetches on beaches,
and all it will cost you is ten dollars eaches.

Belly stars are no longer in style, " said McBean.
"What you need is a trip through my stars-off machine.
This wondrous contraption will take off your stars,
so you won't look like Sneetches who have them on thars."

That handy machine, working very precisely,
removed all the stars from their bellies quite nicely.
Then, with snoots in the air, they paraded about.
They opened their beaks and proceeded to shout,
"We now know who's who, and there isn't a doubt,

the best kind of Sneetches are Sneetches without."

Then, of course those with stars all got frightfully mad.

To be wearing a star now was frightfully bad.

Then, of course old Sylvester McMonkey McBean invited them into his stars-off machine.

Then, of course from then on, you can probably guess, things really got into a horrible mess.

All the rest of the day on those wild screaming beaches, the Fix-it-up-Chappie was fixing up Sneetches.

Off again, on again, in again, out again,
through the machine and back round about again,
still paying money, still running through,
changing their stars every minute or two,
until neither the Plain- nor the Star-bellies knew
whether this one was that one or that one was this one
or which one was what one or what one was who!

Then, when every last cent of their money was spent,
the Fix-It-Up-Chappie packed up and he went.

And he laughed as he drove in his car up the beach,

"They never will learn; no, you can't teach a Sneetch!"

But McBean was quite wrong, I'm quite happy to say,
the Sneetches got quite a bit smarter that day.

That day, they decided that Sneetches are Sneetches,
and no kind of Sneetch is the BEST on the beaches.

That day, all the Sneetches forgot about stars,
and whether they had one or not upon thars.

Conclusion: We can learn a valuable lesson from these sneetches. At first the sneetches were mean to each other and treated each other differently. The ones without the stars weren't treated as well as those with the stars. That seems kind of silly to us, but sometimes we also judge people by their outward appearance. We may not judge them by whether or not they have stars on their bellies, but by the clothes they wear, or the way they look. Other times, we may judge people by their personalities or their interests. You saw how silly it was when the star bellied sneetches were unfriendly to the ones without stars...and that is how God sees us when we judge others. The great part about this story is that the sneetches learned the error of their ways, when they decided that sneetches are sneetches, they forgot about stars and realized they were really all the same. Let's be like the sneetches, let's be respectful and kind to each other. God has created each and every one of us, and we are

ALL different, and that makes us special and unique. So I challenge all of us to be respectful and kind to everyone, because no one is better than anyone else because we are all God's creation. In God's eyes we all look the same.

Diving Deeper: How does this come into play with personality profiles? (I/E, N/S, T/F, J/P)

22-Stuck in Sin

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: Sometimes we make choices that are not good and we end up stuck in sin. This doesn't please God and isn't good for us! Only Jesus can get us out of sin. Living in the sin, staying put right where we are, is NOT what God wants us to do.</p>	<p>Scripture: Psalm 32:5 "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'- and you forgave the guilt of my sin." 1 John 1:9 "But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."</p>
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Characters (7):

3 people stuck in sin, 1 normal person, 1 strongman, 1 musician/singer, 1 person of prayer (Post 2 signs labeled "sin" above the chapel bench.)

Scene:

Two people come walking onto the stage talking with each other when they notice how cozy the benches labeled 'sin' appear. They debate whether or not they should take a seat in the sin as they are on their way to a destination (can be symbolic such as heaven). They decide after a short debate that the sin does look tempting as it looks like a good time [can say something such as, "I know that it would be wrong to get into sin, but it does look like fun and if we only do it once it will be ok"]. The two sit on the bench and get into the sin. When they are sitting a dialog should take place with one character feeling guilty and uncomfortable and wanting to leave while the other agrees, he expresses that they should stay for just a few more moments. When they decide to get up and leave, they seem to be stuck to the benches ('sin') and can't get out. They quickly become distressed as they are stuck somewhere they shouldn't be and they aren't enjoying it. NOTE: Be sure that those who are stuck in sin do not make it look like fun and that they are enjoying it. That will defeat the entire purpose of this message.

One by one, the different characters come onto stage realize that there are two people stuck in sin and attempt to get them out.

Normal Person: tries to pull and comes to the conclusion that they need someone very strong to pull them out

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Strongman: Comes across cocky saying it will be easy for him to pull them out of sin but no matter how hard he tries, he can't pull them out.

Musician / Singer: Sings 'church songs' in attempt to get them out, but that doesn't work either.

Person of Prayer: when realizes that they are stuck in sin, he/she tells them that the only way out of sin is through faith in Jesus and repentance – asking him to forgive them for their sins. They go ahead and ask God to forgive them for getting into sin and decide to live for Him. After their prayer they easily hop out of sin and thank God!

Conclusion: There are times in all of our lives when we have done things we know we shouldn't have and have gotten 'stuck in sin.' We can try many different things to get out of it, or even pretend that we aren't in it, but there is only one person who can save us from our sin. That person is Jesus Christ, God's son! If we confess our sins to Him and ask his forgiveness, he will forgive us and free us from that sin. Now we must do our best to stay away from sin in the first place!

Diving Deeper: How can we reconcile this message with our ongoing sinful nature? (Romans 7:14-25)

23-Ten Lepers

Setting: RV/LV; late-week

Message: We must remember to thank Jesus for all He does for us.	Scripture: Luke 17:11-18
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Adaptations: Lepers walk slowly to the stage, with a song playing in the background, “How He Loves,” “Lay Down Your Burdens”

Characters (12+): Singers, 10 lepers, Jesus

(Singers sing this song and other characters just act out what they are saying.)

CHORUS

G Em C Em7 Am D
Thank you, Lord. I just want to thank you, I just want to thank you,
G Em C Em7 Am D G - C - G
Thank you, Lord. I just want to thank you. I just want to thank you, Lord.

VERSE 1

G Em C Em7 Am D
There were ten men in the Bible days. They had been sick so very long.
G Em
Then one day Jesus passed their way.
C Em7 Am D
With a touch of His hand their disease was gone and they all went on their way.
Em C
They all went on their merry way.
G D
But one came back and said, “I’ve got something to say.”

CHORUS

VERSE 2

G Em C Em7 Am D
Lord, I don't want to be guilty like the nine that went their way without
thanking you,
G Em
But I want to be like the one who returned.
C Em7 Am D
I can see him now as he pressed his way to the crowd to get to you.
Em C G D
With tears of joy in his eyes he cried, "Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord."

CHORUS

BRIDGE

G Em C Em7
I just want to take, take a little time right now and thank you, Lord,
Am D
For all you've done for me.
G Em C Em7
I just want to take, take a little time right now and thank you, Lord,
Am D
For all you've done for me.

Conclusion: Why do you think Jesus healed the sick men in this story? Why do you think 9 of the men did not stop to thank Jesus for what He did? Why do you think the one man returned to thank Jesus? Think for a moment about the wonderful things in your life. Did you know that all good things come from God? Have you thanked Him for the good things He has given you? Has God ever answered any of your prayers? Have you thanked Him for that? Sometimes we can think about ourselves so much that when good things happen, we are just happy and forget to remember who it was that gave the good things to us – it is God that gives them to us! Today let us pause for a moment and thank God for all of the good things he gives to us!

Diving Deeper: In Mark 8:22-26, Jesus cured blindness in two stages. Have you had an answer to prayer that seemed half-baked? Why would something like this happen?

24-The Day the Crayons Quit

Setting: RV/LV; early/mid-week

Message: You are valuable and God has a purpose for you	Scripture: Psalm 139:13-16 “You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”
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Characters (10): main boy, narrator, red crayon, purple crayon, green crayon, yellow crayon, orange crayon, blue crayon, pink crayon, teacher

Scene:

Recommended that you print out each crayon’s letter for them to hold and read on stage

Narrator: One day in class, [insert main kid’s name] went to take out his crayons and found a stack of letters with his name on them.

Main Kid: Hmm? I wonder who wrote me these?

When each crayon reads their angry letter, they pop up from behind the wall and then go back down behind the wall after they’re done reading their letter.

Red crayon: Hey [insert kid’s name], it’s me, RED crayon. WE NEED to talk. You make me work harder than any of your other crayons. All year long I wear myself out coloring FIRE ENGINES, apples, strawberries and EVERYTHING ELSE THAT’S RED. I even work on Holidays! I have to color all the santas at Christmas and all the hearts on valentines day! I NEED A REST! Your overworked friend, Red Crayon.

Main Kid: react to the letter

Purple crayon: Dear [insert name], All right, LISTEN. I love that I'm your favorite crayon for grapes, dragons, and wizard's hats, but it makes me crazy that so much of my gorgeous color goes outside the lines. If you DON'T START COLORING INSIDE the lines soon.... I'm going to COMPLETELY LOSE IT. Your very neat friend, Purple Crayon.

Main Kid: react to letter

Green crayon: Dear [insert name], as green crayon, I am writing for two reasons. One is to say that I like my work loads of crocodiles, trees, dinosaurs, and frogs. I have no problems and wish to congratulate you on a very successful "coloring things green" career so far. The second reason I write is for my friends, yellow crayon and orange crayon, who are no longer speaking to each other. Both crayons feel they should be the color of the sun. Please settle this soon because they're driving the rest of us CRAZY! Your happy friend, Green Crayon.

Yellow crayon: Dear [insert name], Yellow crayon here. I need you to tell orange crayon that I am the color of the sun. I would tell him but we are no longer speaking. And I can PROVE I'm the color of the sun too! Last Tuesday, you used me to color in the sun on your "HAPPY FARM" coloring book. In case you've forgotten, it's on page 7. You CAN'T miss me. I'm shining down brilliantly on a field of YELLOW corn! Your pal (and the true color of the sun), Yellow Crayon.

Orange crayon: I see yellow crayon already talked to you, the BIG WHINER. Anyway, could you please tell mr. tattletale that he IS NOT the color of the sun? I would, but we're no longer speaking. We both know I am clearly the color of the sun because on Thursday you used me to color the sun on BOTH the "monkey island" and the "meet the zookeeper" pages in your "Day at the zoo" coloring book. Orange you glad I'm here? Ha! Your pal (and the real color of the sun), Orange crayon.

Main Kid: react

Blue crayon: Dear [insert name], it has been great being your FAVORITE color this past year. And the year before. And the year before THAT! I have really enjoyed all those oceans, lakes, rivers, raindrops, rain clouds and clear skies. But the BAD NEWS is that I am so short and stubby, I can't even see over the railing in the crayon box anymore! I need a break! Your very stubby friend, Blue Crayon

Pink crayon: Okay LISTEN HERE, KID! You have not used me ONCE in the past year. It's because you think I am a GIRLS color, isn't it? Speaking of which, please tell your little sister I said thank you for using me to color in her "LITTLE PRINCESS" coloring book. I think she did a fabulous job of staying inside the lines! Now, back to us. Could you PLEASE use me sometime to color the occasional PINK DINOSAUR or MONSTER or COWBOY? Goodness knows they could use a splash of color. Your unused friend, Pink Crayon.

Narrator: Well poor [insert main kid name] just wanted to color... and of course he wanted his crayons to be happy. And that gave him an idea.

Main Kid: I have an idea! *furiously drawing*..... Done!

Teacher pops up on the other side of stage, kid walks over to her and shows her and the audience his picture.

Narrator: When [insert name] gave his teacher his new picture, she gave him an A for coloring, and an A+ for creativity! All of the colors felt loved and valued.

All the colors pop up and hug.

Wrap Up: Sometimes it can feel like we don't have a purpose, but God has a bigger plan for our lives.

25-The King, The Kingdom and The Enemy

Setting: RV/LV; late-week

<p>Message: Our Identity comes from the King who loves us.</p>	<p>Scripture: II Thessalonians 2:16-17 “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” Matthew 10:29-31 “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”</p>
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Characters (6):

Narrator, King, Prince, Princess, Friend, Enemy (7)

Scene:

Narrator: A long time ago there was a great King named Francis who had two children: Prince Fredrick and Princess Fiona. The King adored his two children and always let them know how much he loved them and how important they were to him. He told his son, Prince Fredrick, that he was noble, loyal and humble. He told his daughter, Princess Fiona, that she was beautiful, kind, and compassionate. The Prince and the Princess believed their father and were confident about themselves.

The King often encouraged his children to spend time outside of the castle and to make friends with the others in the kingdom. Prince Fredrick and Princess Fiona developed many friendships with the people of the kingdom.

Now in this great kingdom, there was an Enemy of the King. This Enemy wanted to destroy the King and take over his kingdom. The Enemy knew how much the King loved his children and so he decided the easiest way to dethrone the King was to deceive his children. And so he worked out his plan to bring down Fredrick and Fiona.

***PAUSE**

One day as Fiona was chillaxin with her friend, the Enemy came up to her and whispered in her ear “You know, your friend is more beautiful than you. She only hangs out with you because you are the Princess and your father is the King. You are not beautiful, or kind or compassionate. In fact, you are spoiled, selfish and self-centered.” As the Princess heard this, she started to believe the Enemy. She began to doubt herself and stopped spending time with her friends.

PAUSE

The next day as Fredrick was playing cricket with a friend, the Enemy came up to him and whispered in his ear “You are a sorry excuse for a cricket player. Your friends don’t really want you to play, but they are afraid if they kick you off the team your father, the King, will be upset with them. You are just embarrassing yourself. You should probably quit now.” As the Prince heard this, he started to believe the Enemy. He became self-conscious and stopped spending time with his friends.

The next day, as the Prince and Princess were sitting by themselves in the castle, the Enemy snuck in and sat down with them. He reminded Fiona how spoiled, selfish and self-centered she was. He reminded Fredrick how uncoordinated, awkward and scared he was. Then he told the Prince and Princess that their father, the King, was ashamed of them. He said that the King only wanted a son who was noble, loyal and humble. And he only wanted a daughter who was beautiful and kind and compassionate. The Prince and the Princess believed the Enemy and were sad. The Enemy told them that they were unworthy and should leave the kingdom immediately. The Prince and the Princess believed the Enemy and so they went to pack their things and run away.

As they were packing, the King found his son and daughter and asked what they were doing. Fredrick and Fiona explained that they were leaving because they were no longer good enough to be in the kingdom. Fredrick told the King that he was not fit to be the Prince. Fiona expressed her feelings of inadequacy about serving

as Princess. The King placed a loving hand on each of his children's shoulders, looked them in the eyes and told them that he would always love them because they were his children and he was their father. The King lead them away telling his children that he could help them with their challenges and struggles.

Wrap Up: In this story, the King is God and we are His sons and daughters, the Prince and Princess. In the Bible God reminds us how much He cherishes us, but the Enemy, Satan, lies to us and tries to convince us that God does not love us. When Satan tries to pull us away from God, we need only look to God and His Word to see that we are His children and He loves us so much.

Diving Deeper: What are some places in the Bible that express God's love for us? How can we talk about the Devil practically without freaking people out?

26-The Lords Prayer

Setting: RV/LV; late-week

<p>Message: When we pray, we are talking to God. He would like us to be sincere in our prayers; he is sincere in listening and answering.</p>	<p>Scripture: Luke 11:14, 9-10 “One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray say, Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation . . . So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”</p>
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Characters (2):

Person, God

Scene:

This skit starts out with someone praying. You may want to start by reading a portion

of the above scripture reading, “One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray say...’”

Person: “Our Father, which art in heaven.....”

God: Yes?

Person: Don’t interrupt me. I’m praying.

God: But you called me.

Person: Called you? I didn’t call you. I’m praying. “Our Father which art in heaven...”

God: There you go again.

Person: What?

God: You called me. You said, “Our Father which art in heaven...” here I AM. What’s on your mind?

Person: But I didn’t mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord’s prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done.

God: All right, go on.

Person: “Hallowed be Thy name.....”

God: Hold it! What do you mean by that?

Person: By what?

God: By “Hallowed be Thy name?”

Person: It means....it means.... Good grief! I don’t know what it means. How should I know? It’s just a part of the prayer.....By the way, what does it mean?

God: It means honored, holy, and wonderful.

Person: Hey! That makes sense. I never thought about what “hallowed” meant before.

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

God: Do you really mean that?

Person: Sure, I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.

God: Have I got control of you?

Person: Well, I go to church.

God: That isn’t what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You’ve really got a problem there, you know. Then there’s the way that you spend your money, all on yourself. And what about the way you’ve been

treating your brother?

Person: Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of the people at my Church.

God: Excuse me! I thought you were praying for My Will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying it. Like you, for example.

Person: Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it. I could probably name some others.

God: So could I.

Person: I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

God: Good. Now we're getting somewhere! We'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you.

Person: Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

God: Why would you want bread if you're allergic to gluten?

Person: Hey, wait a minute! What is this, "Criticize me day?" Here I was doing my religious duty and all of a sudden You break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

God: Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called Me and here I AM. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer.....(pause).....Well, go on.

Person; I'm scared to.

God: Scared? Of what?

Person: I know what You'll say.

God: Try Me and see.

Person: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

God: What about Ann?

Person: See? I knew it! I knew You would bring her up! Why Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories about my family. She never paid back the debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!

God: But your prayer? What about your prayer?

Person: I didn't mean it.

God: Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?

Person: No. But I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for that neighbor! She'll wish she had never moved into this neighborhood.

God: You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.

Person: You can? How?

God: Forgive Ann. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Ann's problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart.

Person: Oh, You're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge on Ann, I want to be right with You....(pause)(sigh). All right, I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She's bound to be awfully miserable, now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things that she does to others, has to be out of it. Someday, somehow, show her the right way.

God: There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

Person: Hmmm, well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on, because I'm not getting enough rest.

God: You're not through with your prayer. Go on.

Person: "Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil."

God: Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

Person: What do you mean by that?

God: Don't turn on the TV when you know the laundry needs to be done and the house needs to be picked up. Also, about that time you spend chatting with your friends; if you can't influence the conversation to positive things, perhaps you should rethink the value of those friendships. And another thing; your neighbors and friends shouldn't be your standard for "keeping up". And please don't use Me just for an escape hatch.

Person: I don't understand the last part.

God: Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. I don't hear from you for a long time and then you get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to me saying, "Lord, help me out of this mess and I promise You that I'll never do it again." You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with Me?

Person: Yes and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am.

God: Which bargain are you remembering?

Person: Well, there was the night that my mom and dad were gone and I was home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute, and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, "Oh God, if you spare me, I'll never skip my devotions again."

God: I protected you, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?

Person: I'm sorry Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's prayer every day, I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did.

God: Go ahead and finish your prayer.

Person: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

God: Do you know what would bring Me glory? What would really make Me happy?

Person: No, but I'd like to know. I want now to please You. I can see what a mess I've made of my life. And I can see how great it would be to really be one of your followers.

God: You've just answered the question.

Person: I did?

God: Yes. The thing that would bring Me glory is to have people like you truly love Me. And I see that happening between us. Now that these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there is no telling what we can do together.

Person: Lord, let's see what you can make of me, O.K.?

God: Yes, let's see.

Person: Amen

Wrap Up: When we talk to God, he listens! Through prayer we can build up our relationship with God and learn how to live a life that pleases him.

Diving Deeper: What are some other areas in your faith that may have become more ritualistic than relational? How can someone use the Lord's Prayer and it not be ritualistic?

27-The Room

Setting: LV; Friday only

<p>Message: Jesus loves us intensely, fiercely, and sacrificially. It is out of this sacrificial love and grace that Jesus signs over our mistakes in our place, and as we live out God's love on earth, we are Jesus' hands and feet.</p>	<p>Scripture: Isaiah 53:5 "He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed."</p> <p>Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."</p> <p>Hebrews 4:15-16 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin. Let us then approach god's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."</p>
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Characters (3):

Narrator, main character, Jesus

Scene:

In that place between wakefulness and dreams, I found myself in a room. There were no distinguishing features except for the one wall covered with small index-card files. They were like the ones in libraries that list titles by author or subject in alphabetical order. But these files, which stretched from floor to ceiling and seemingly endless in either direction, had very different headings. As I drew near the wall of files, the first to catch my attention was one that read "The People I Have Liked." I opened it and began flipping through the cards. I quickly shut it, shocked to realize that I recognized the names written on each one.

And then without being told, I knew exactly where I was. This lifeless room with its small files was a crude catalog system for my life. Here were written the actions of my every moment, big and small, in a detail my memory couldn't match.

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A sense of wonder and curiosity, coupled with horror, stirred within me as I began randomly opening files and exploring their contents. Some brought joy and sweet memories; others a sense of shame and regret so intense that I would look over my shoulder to see if anyone was watching. A file named “Friends” was next to one marked “Friends I Have Betrayed.”

The titles ranged from the mundane to the outright weird. “Books I Have Read,” “Lies I Have Told,” “Comfort I Have Given,” “Jokes I Have Laughed At.” Some were almost hilarious in their exactness: “Things I Have Yelled at My Brothers.” Others I couldn’t laugh at: “Things I Have Done in Anger,” “Things I Have Muttered Under My Breath at My Parents.” I never ceased to be surprised by the contents. Often there were many more cards than I expected. Sometimes there were fewer than I hoped.

I was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the life I had lived. Could it be possible that I had the time in my twenty years to write each of these thousands, possibly millions, of cards? But each card confirmed this truth. Each was written in my own handwriting. Each signed with my signature.

When I pulled out the file marked “Songs I Have Listened To,” I realized the files grew to contain their contents. The cards were packed tightly, and yet after two or three yards, I hadn’t found the end of the file. I shut it, shamed, not so much by the quality of music, but more by the vast amount of time I knew that file represented.

When I came to a file marked “People I have Mistreated,” I felt a chill run through my body. I pulled the file out only an inch, not willing to test its size, and drew out a card. I shuddered at its detailed contents. I felt sick to think that these moments had been recorded.

Suddenly I felt overcome with emotions. One thought dominated my mind: “No one must ever see these cards! No one must ever see this room! I have to destroy them!” In a frenzy I yanked the file out. Its size didn’t matter now. I had to empty it. But as I took the file at one end and began pounding it on the floor, I could not dislodge a single card. I became desperate and pulled out a card, only to find it as strong as steel when I tried to tear it.

Defeated and utterly helpless, I returned the file to its slot. Leaning my forehead against the wall, I let out a long, self-pitying sigh. And then I saw it. The title bore “People I Have Shared God’s love with.” The handle was brighter than those around it, newer, almost unused. I pulled on its handle and a small box not more than three inches long fell into my hands. I could count the cards it contained on one hand.

And then the tears came. I began to weep. I fell on my knees and cried. I cried out of shame, from the overwhelming shame of it all. The rows of file shelves swirled in my tear-filled eyes. No one must ever, ever know of this room. I must lock it up and hide

the key.

But then as I pushed away the tears, I saw Him. No, please not Him. Anyone but Jesus.

I watched helplessly as He began to open the files and read the cards. I couldn't bear to watch him. I couldn't bear to watch His response. And in the moments I could bring myself to look at His face, I saw a sorrow deeper than my own. He seemed to intuitively go to the worst boxes. Why did He have to read every one?

Finally He turned and looked at me from across the room. He looked at me with pity in His eyes. But this was a pity that didn't anger me. I dropped my head, covered my face with my hands and began to cry again. He walked over and put His arm around me. He could have said so many things. But He didn't say a word. He just cried with me.

Then He got up and walked back to the wall of files. Starting at one end of the room, He took out a file and, one by one, began to sign His name over mine on each card.

"No!" I shouted, rushing to Him. All I could find to say was "No, no," as I pulled the card from Him. His name shouldn't be on these cards. But there it was, written in red so rich, so dark, so alive. The name of Jesus covered mine. It was written with His blood.

He gently took the card back. He smiled a sad smile and continued to sign the cards. I don't think I'll ever understand how He did it so quickly, but the next instant it seemed I heard Him close the last file and walk back to my side. He placed His hand on my shoulder and said, "It is finished."

I stood up, and He led me out of the room. There was no lock on its door. There were still cards to be written.

Wrap Up: How does it feel knowing that no matter what you've been through--what you've done--where you've been--God still passionately pursues you with sacrificial love and grace? We still have many cards to write, and whether they're good or bad, Jesus signs his name over ours. What shall we do then? Shall we not live out God's love in response to God's love? Shall we not live life with bold confidence in Christ as Christ's hands and feet? Shall we ignore the doorway to relationship with God that has been so swiftly and widely flung open? By no means!

Diving Deeper: How can we pass on this sacrificial love to others?

28-The Three Trees

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

<p>Message: God has a plan for us, it is to glorify him. There is no higher calling than to glorify the Lord.</p>	<p>Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:20-21 “In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.”</p> <p>Ephesians 3:20 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!”</p>
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Characters (10):

Narrator, 3 trees, 3 lumberjacks, craftsmen to make the boat, manger and cross

Scene:

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: “I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I’ll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!” The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on it’s way to the ocean. A “I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I’ll be the strongest ship in the world! The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. I don’t want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they’ll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I

will be the tallest tree in the world.

Years, passed. The rain came, the sun shone and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first wood cutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall make a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said.

The second wood cutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It's perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. " I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last wood cutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the wood cutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, or treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the wood cutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river, instead she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. " All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him." Her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. " This manger is beautiful." She said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and a thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She new she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awoke. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten wood pile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hand to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

Wrap up: God has a plan for you life. It may not line up with the plans that we have made for ourselves, but when we realize that God is in control and see what he is doing, we realize that he is using us in ways that are much greater than we could have ever dreamed. Therefore, it is important that we give God control of our lives and do as He asks us instead of living our lives as we want to. It is best when he is the one in control!

Diving Deeper: What is the painting that is hung across from the Mona Lisa in the Louvre? How on earth is that relevant to this skit?

29-The Wemmicks

Setting: RV/LV; mid-week

Message: People sometimes look at the outward appearance, but God looks at your heart. What God thinks of us is more important than what others think of us.	Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7 “...The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
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Adaptations: Punchinella (main character played by a girl instead of a boy)

Characters (7):

Narrator, 2-3 Wemmicks, Punchinello, Lulia, Eli

Props:

yellow star cutouts (some sticky and some not), grey dot cutouts (some sticky and some not)

Scene:

The Wemmicks were small wooden people. Each of the wooden people was carved by a woodworker named Eli. His workshop sat on a hill overlooking their village. Every Wemmick was different. Some had big noses, others had large eyes. Some were tall and others were short. Some wore hats, others wore coats. But all were made by the same carver and all lived in the village.

And all day, every day, the Wemmicks did the same thing: They gave each other stickers. Each Wemmick had golden star stickers and gray dot stickers. Up and down the streets all over the city, people could be seen sticking stars or dots on one another.

The pretty ones, those with smooth wood and fine paint, always got stars. But if the wood was rough or the paint chipped, the Wemmicks gave dots. The talented ones got stars, too. Some could lift big sticks high above their heads or jump over tall boxes. Still others knew big words or could sing very pretty songs. Everyone gave them stars.

Some Wemmicks had stars all over them! Every time they got a star it made them feel so good that they did something else and got another star. Others, though, could do little. They got dots.

Punchinello was one of these. He tried to jump high like the others, but he always fell. And when he fell, the others would gather around and give him dots. Sometimes when he fell, it would scar his wood, so the people would give him more dots. He would try to explain why he fell and then say something silly, and the Wemmicks would give

him more dots.

After a while he had so many dots that he didn't want to go outside. He was afraid he would do something dumb and then people would give him more dots. In fact, he had so many gray dots that some people would come up and give him one without reason.

"He deserves lots of dots," the wooden people would agree with one another.

"He's not a good wooden person."

After a while Punchinello believed them. "I'm not a good wemmick," he would say. The few times he went outside, he hung around other Wemmicks who had a lot of dots. He felt better around them.

One day he met a Wemmick who was unlike any he'd ever met. She had no dots or stars. She was just wooden. Her name was Lulia.

It wasn't that people didn't try to give her stickers; it's just that the stickers didn't stick. Some admired Lulia for having no dots, so they would run up and give her a star. But it would fall off. Some would look down on her for having no stars, so they would give her a dot. But it wouldn't stay either.

"That's the way I want to be," thought Punchinello. "I don't want anyone's marks." So he asked the stickerless Wemmick how she did it.

"It's easy," Lulia replied. "every day I go see Eli."

"Eli?"

"Yes, Eli. The woodcarver. I sit in the workshop with him."

"Why?"

"Why don't you find out for yourself? Go up the hill. He's there. "

And with that the Wemmick with no marks turned and skipped away.

"But he won't want to see me!" Punchinello cried out.

Lulia didn't hear. So Punchinello went home. He sat near a window and watched the wooden people as they scurried around giving each other stars and dots.

"It's not right," he muttered to himself. And he resolved to go see Eli.

He walked up the narrow path to the top of the hill and stepped into the big shop. His wooden eyes widened at the size of everything. The stool was as tall as he was. He had to stretch on his tiptoes to see the top of the workbench. Punchinello swallowed hard.

"I'm not staying here!" and he turned to leave. Then he heard his name.

"Punchinello?" The voice was deep and strong.

Punchinello stopped.

"Punchinello! How good to see you. Come and let me have a look at you."

Punchinello turned slowly and looked at the large bearded craftsman.

"You know my name?" the little Wemmick asked.

"Of course I do. I made you."

Eli stooped down and picked him up and set him on the bench. "Hmm, " he spoke thoughtfully as he inspected the gray circles. "Looks like you've been given some bad marks."

"I didn't mean to, Eli. I really tried hard."

"Oh, you don't have to defend yourself to me. I don't care what the other Wemmicks think."

"You don't?"

"No, and you shouldn't either. Who are they to give stars or dots? They're Wemmicks just like you. What they think doesn't matter, Punchinello. All that matters is what I think. And I think you are pretty special."

Punchinello laughed. "Me, special? Why? I can't walk fast. I can't jump. My paint is peeling. Why do I matter to you?"

Eli looked at Punchinello, put his hands on those small wooden shoulders, and spoke very slowly. "Because you're mine. That's why you matter to me."

Punchinello had never had anyone look at him like this--much less his maker. He didn't know what to say.

"Every day I've been hoping you'd come," Eli explained.

"I came because I met someone who had no marks."

"I know. She told me about you."

"Why don't the stickers stay on her?"

"Because she has decided that what I think is more important than what they think. The stickers only stick if you let them."

"What?"

"The stickers only stick if they matter to you. The more you trust my love, the less you care about the stickers."

"I'm not sure I understand."

"You will, but it will take time. You've got a lot of marks. For now, just come to see me every day and let me remind you how much I care."

Eli lifted Punchinello off the bench and set him on the ground.

"Remember," Eli said as the Wemmick walked out the door. "You ARE special because I made you. And I don't make mistakes."

Punchinello didn't stop, but in his heart he thought, "I think he really means it." And when he did, a dot fell to the ground.

And each time he remembered what Eli told him and each time he went to visit and talk with Eli one of Punchinello's dots would fall off.

Wrap Up: In the story Eli is representing God and when Lulia trusted in Him the dots (representing the mean things people said) wouldn't stick to her.

When we trust in God and understand that he created each of us and made us unique and special, “dots” don’t stick to us. Trust in God and know that He created you and loves you just the way you are.

Diving Deeper: Can positive labels that others give us also affect us negatively?

30-Train Car Named Adventure

Setting: RV/LV; early-week

Message: God gave us an adventurous soul and wants us to explore life to the fullest, and that can mean stepping away from what we're comfortable with to release that adventurous soul.	Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7 "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."
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Adaptations: Narration, physical places instead of synonyms for adventure (RV)

Characters (5):

Main character, train conductor, intercom person/narrator, custodian, people on train

Scene:

Note: This script is bare-bones to allow for a lot of creativity and elaboration on the actors' parts.

Story:

Mel is at home.

Mel: I've been thinking a lot recently, and I think that I need to go seek Adventure. I guess all that's left to do is to pack my bags and actually go!

Mel packs a suitcase, leaves home, walks for a while, and reaches a train station. Feel free to add a voice on the intercom, saying things with various levels of seriousness throughout the skit. Just make sure everybody knows when they're talking.

Intercom: Welcome to Bradshaw Station. The time is... 8... 45... AM.

Mel can talk about what she wants in Adventure or what she think it'll be like (pirates, explosions, etc.)

Mel: Oh, I think the next train is due any minute now!

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Conductor pulls up in a train with his/her wonderful train impression, say “All aboard!”, etc.

Mel: Excuse me, is this the train to Adventure?

Conductor: Ma’am, this is a one-stop trip to Journey!

Mel: Ah ok gotcha, my bad. I’m waiting for the train to Adventure.

Conductor: Actually, miss--

Mel: It’s okay, I’ll wait for the next one!

Conductor: Uh, alright I guess...

Train pulls away. Mel seems to shrug it off. The same general sequence repeats for Questing, which ends with Mel seeming a tad more bothered.

Intercom: *Narrating* And Mel waited at the station all day long, turning down train after train.

DURING ABOVE NARRATION: At this point, the conductor is just running through the station over and over, Mel saying “Adventure” and the conductor saying one of the following words each time: Trip, Trek, Escapade, Jaunt. Each time, Mel gets more and more demoralized to help suggest the passing of time. To help, the intercom can also say later and later times within the same day, quickly.

The train to Jaunt leaves (passage of time goes back to normal), Mel is (figuratively and/or physically) facedown on the ground. A custodian eventually comes on stage and begins to start cleaning up.

Mel: Excuse me, do you know when the next train will arrive?

Custodian: *Chuckles warmly* Actually, there’s no more trains for today. The last one was the train to Jaunt.

Mel: *Absolutely dejected* Oh... Well... I guess I’ll just... Go home then...

Custodian: *Warmly* Have a safe trip home.

Mel leaves, the custodian still is cleaning and starts talking to the audience, starting the wrap-up and soon thereafter finishing cleaning.

Wrap Up: Missing out the opportunities that God has presented to us to build the kingdom, spread love, and grow yourself is a tough thing to chew on. Sometimes we have our hearts set on serving God in a very specific way, and that passion can be great for driving our efforts forward. The point that it starts becoming problematic is when we start to put more focus on our personal vision as opposed to what God provides us with and where God calls us. God has given each and every one of you an adventurous soul, and He wants you to explore life to the fullest. However, that can mean stepping outside of what we're comfortable with or what we envision for ourselves in order to release that adventurous soul.

Diving Deeper: Try to explore the calling of Isaiah, Peter (and Andrew), and Samuel.

31-Yay-Yuck

Setting: RV/LV; early/mid/late-week

Message: God sees us and loves us for who we are as opposed to how we try to get others to see us.	Scripture: Colossians 2:10 “and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.”
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Characters (6):

Bob, mother, boss, sporty people, No-Hat guy, narrator

Story:

Bob loved to make people happy. Bob lived to make people happy. If people weren't happy, Bob wasn't happy. So every day Bob set out to make people happy. Not an easy task, for what makes some people happy makes other people angry.

Bob lived in a land where everyone wore hats. The people never removed their hats. Bob never asked "Why?", he only asked "Which?" - "Which hat should I wear?"

Bob's mother loved yellow. So to please her he wore a yellow sparkly hat. When she would see him wearing the yellow hat and she would say, "Yay, Bob! I love it when you wear yellow." So he wore the yellow hat all the time. And since he never left his house and since he saw no one but his mother, he was happy, for she was happy and she said "Yay, Bob" over and over.

Bob grew up and got a job. The first day of his new job he got up early and put on his best yellow hat and walked down the street. Down the street, there was a group of people playing sports. Bob walked up to them and showed them his sparkly yellow hat. Bob expected them to say "Yay", but once they saw Bob with his yellow hat, they said "Yuck, we only like sporty hats."

Yuck! Was a hard word for Bob to hear. He felt guilty that he had caused a "yuck" to come out of a person's mouth. He loved to hear "yay!" He hated to hear "yuck!"

When the people saw his hat and said "yuck," Bob dashed to the sideline and grabbed a football helmet. He took off his yellow hat, put it in his bag, and put on the helmet.

"Yay!" The people shouted as he walked past. He felt better because he had made them feel better.

When he arrived at his workplace, he walked into his boss's office wearing the helmet. "Yuck!" Said his boss.

"Oh, I'm sorry," said Bob, quickly removing the helmet and replacing it with the sparkly yellow hat. "You must be like my mother."

"Double yuck!" Responded the boss. He got up from his chair, walked to the closet, and produced a worker hat. "We like worker hats here," he instructed.

"Whatever you say, sir," Bob answered, relieved to know he wouldn't have to hear his boss say "yuck" anymore. He put on the worker helmet, and went to work.

When it was time for him to go home, he replaced the worker helmet with the sports helmet and walked through the streets. Just before he got to his house, he replaced the sports helmet with his sparkly yellow hat and went inside.

Bob learned that life with three hats was hard. His helmets were uncomfortable and heavy. There were also times when others would see hats in his bag, and before they could say "Yuck," Bob would close up his hat bag.

One day he forgot to change his hat before he went home, and when his mother saw a sports helmet she turned purple with disgust and started to say, "Yuck." But before she could, Bob ran and put his hand on her mouth and held the word in while he traded hats and then removed his hand so she said, "Yay!"

It was at this moment that Bob realized he had a special gift. He could change his colors with ease. With a little practice, he was able to take off one hat and replace it with another in a matter of seconds. Even Bob didn't understand his versatility, but he was pleased with it. For now he could be any color anytime and please every person.

His skill at changing hats quickly elevated him to high positions. Everyone liked him because everyone thought he was just like them. With time he was elected mayor over the entire city. His acceptance speech was brilliant. Those who loved work thought he was wearing his work helmet. Those who loved sports thought he was wearing sports helmet, and his mother just knew he was wearing that special yellow hat. Only he knew that he was constantly changing from one to the other. It wasn't easy, but it was worth it, because at the end everyone said, "Yay!"

Bob's life continued until one day some sporty hatted people stormed into his office. "We have found a criminal who needs to be punished," they announced, shoving a man towards Bob's desk. Bob was shocked at what he saw. The man wasn't wearing a hat at all.

"Leave him with me", Bob instructed, and the sports helmets left.

"Where is your hat?" Asked Mayor Bob.

"I don't wear one." The hat-less man replied.

Bob was confused. "You don't have one?" He asked.

The man shook his head. "I don't want one" He replied.

At this point, Bob didn't know what to say. "You don't want a hat? But everyone wears a hat. It.. it.. it's the way things are here."

The man smiled. "I'm not from here."

Bob's head was flooded with more and more questions. "What hat do they wear where you are from?"

"No hat."

"None?"

"None."

Bob looked at the man with amazement. "But what if people don't approve?"

The man smiled again. "It's not their approval I seek."

Bob had never heard such words. He didn't know what to say. He'd never met a person without a hat, and he thought about the man's lifestyle. It must have been great living without the discomfort and weight of the hats. He must've never become exhausted from switching hats, and Bob only wondered why the man was fine without the approval of others. The man with no hat spoke again.

"I am here to show people they don't have to please people. I am here to tell the truth."

"What's the truth?" Bob interjected.

"God loves us for who we are," the man with no had said, "and we don't have to change to experience his love. We can wear a yellow hat, a sports helmet, a worker's helmet or no hat at all, and He still loves us."

Bob had never heard this before, and now he had a choice. He took off the helmet, looked at his hats and then back at the man. Finally, he made his decision and dropped the hats.

Wrap Up: The pressure to be someone we're not is everywhere in the outside world. We're told to act a certain way, wear certain things, or laugh at certain jokes, and when we do those things, that outside world validates us. The problem with falling into this way of life, however, is that we begin to lose sight of who we really are and what we're designed to be. Hopefully while you've been here at camp, you've felt like you've been able to be your true self. That's not only what living in a Christ-centered community looks like, but that's also what living in God's love looks like. We are rooted and established in love--finding our identity in Christ--and when that becomes what we keep coming back to--what drives us--what satisfies us--we get to a point where we always have that camp feeling. I hope that you fall into who God wants you to be by finding your identity in Him.

Diving Deeper: What IS our identity in Christ? What does that even mean? What ARE we in terms of our identity in Christ?

32 – The Potter’s Shop

Setting: RV/LV; early-week

<p>Message: The Lord has uniquely made us all and he loves us.</p>	<p>Bible Verses: <i>Psalm 139:13-14</i> “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”</p> <p><i>Isaiah 64:8</i> “Yet, oh Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are the work of your hand.”</p>
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Characters (5):

3 Clay Pots – *all pots will be played by people*
The Potter
Customer

Skit:

Skit starts with the Potter walking onto the stage into his “workshop” and starts to talk to the audience.

The Potter: “Just another day doing what I love, making clay pots. I think I have time to make around 3 pots this morning. Let me go ahead and grab some clay to get started on the first one.”

“Grabs” a slab of clay, which is a person, and starts “forming” that person into a pot with two handles. (Depending on where the chapel is at, the “clay” could be grabbed from different areas of the stage, think creatively!

The Potter: “Alright, let’s get started on a second pot before the shop opens.”

“Grabs” a slab of clay, which is a second person, and starts “forming” that person into a pot with one handle and a spout.

The Potter: “I’m on a roll! I think I can get a third pot done before my lunch break.”

“Grabs” a slab of clay, which is the third person, and starts “forming” that person into a pot with one handle and a spout.

The Potter admires his work.

The Potter: “Well I’ll say that all this morning’s hard work deserves a reward; lunch!”

The Potter “exits” the stage.

The clay pots come to life, stretching, looking around, etc. (they should stay in their pot form this entire time). This is when the two with spouts start to look “funny” or strangely at the pot that does not have a spout. The clay pots should not move from their spots they were originally placed in by the Potter.

Pot #2: “Uhm, why don’t you have a spout?”

Very “sassy” and matter of fact.

Pot #1: “A what?”

Pot 1 should be extremely confused.

Pot #3: “A spout! Like this! We both have one.”

Pot 3 can move their head to “point” at their arm that is shaped like a spout. Pot 2 should shake their head in agreement.

Pot #1: “I’m not sure, I guess I was given another handle instead.”

Still confused, unsure what their response is supposed to be to that statement.

Pot #2: “Well that’s kind of strange. I’ve never heard of anyone wanting a pot without a spout before.”

Pot #3: “I mean, how could you be of help to anyone anyways?”

Pot #2 and Pot #3 continue to have their own side conversation, obviously leaving Pot #1 out. Pot #1 talks out loud to themselves but loud enough for the audience to hear.

Pot #1: “Well why wasn’t I given a spout? The Potter obviously knows how to make them and purposely chose to not give me one. I wish I was made to look like the other two pots.”

The three pots quickly notice that The Potter is making their way back into the shop. Possibly whistling or humming to make it clear they are entering. The pots quickly go back to their original upright positions and freeze, not making a sound.

The Potter smiles at his work and continues past them to continue “working”. (This could simply be going up to the wall or bench to mess with some tools or items.)

A customer enters the store and starts to browse. This person should not automatically go over to the three pots but should “look” around before looking over at the new pots. The Potter notices the customer and walks over to greet them.

The Potter: “Hi, how can I help you?”

Customer: “I own a flower shop and love using your pots for different things but I’m needing one for a special arrangement of flowers. Do you have any new ones?”

The Potter: “Yes, I actually made these 3 this morning! Go ahead and take your time deciding which one you want to purchase.”

The customer walks around each of the pots and stops at Pot #3 with the spout. Starts smiling and is about to choose it when they eye the pot with the handles. Walks over to Pot #1 and calls The Potter over.

Customer: “This is the one I would like to take home. I love the ones with the spout but it just doesn’t work for my flower arrangement. This one with two handles is perfect!”

The customer happily leaves the stage with their pot. The End!

Example Wrap-up and Scripture (2 minutes):

God has made us all unique and special. We all have different talents, abilities, and the Lord uses us for his glory in different ways. We all have different talents, abilities, and gifts and the Lord uses us for his glory in different ways. We all have a very special purpose for our life that the Lord has made us especially for.

Example Wrap-Up and Scripture (1-2 minutes):

“God has made us all unique. Not only in the way that we look but in our skills, abilities, and talents. Here at camp we have the opportunity to not only discover those talents & skills but, celebrate them with each other as well. In the skit we saw that the customer acknowledges the two pots with spouts as great pots but says she’s needing a specific type of pot for this specific situation and that happened to be the pot with two handles instead of a spout.

In our lives, we may not always see our talents & differences being wanted or used in the way that we want them to be but, that doesn’t mean we aren’t any less special than the person next to us, it just means our abilities might be used for something else in the future. This week at camp I encourage you to not only celebrate the gifts that people have around you but, take the time to think about what special things you bring to your communities as well.”

Here’s an example from my life that illustrates this message...

(Share for about 1 minute. You can work this into your wrap-up wherever it fits.)

Scripture: We can see this being talked about in *Psalm 139:13-14*

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Prayer: I’d like to lead us in a prayer right now. Prayer is just talking to God and asking for His help. You could bow your head and close your eyes or keep your eyes open. However you are most comfortable. Let’s pray...

Diving Deeper Questions:

(These questions are optional. They can be used with your cabin for devotions, or anytime you have a moment and the atmosphere is right for a deeper conversation.)

- How can we discover our gifts/talents?
- How can we use our abilities that God has given us to bring glory to Him?