



2017 Passport Church Group Devotions

Overview: You know your group—what matters to them, what the best use of time is for them, and how well they'll respond to different things. Because of that, the Church Group Devotions are designed to be a guide for evening discussions, but are left flexible enough for you to customize for your youth. The Church Group Devotions each night will have two parts: a Bible Study Recap and a Day's Debrief. These parts can be done together, in any order, or independently. Use what is helpful to make the most of your Church Group Devotion time each evening.

Please leave the space you are in as you find it when you arrive. Our Bible Study Leaders have often stored their supplies in a certain way, and have their room prepped for the next day. Throw away trash and put chairs back where you found them. Thank you!

You're given some things to say as an example. Please use your own language as you meet with your group.

You'll need some **materials:** Paper, pens/markers on Nights 1 & 2.

Opening Night Bible Study Recap

SAY: *We are here! After months of planning, saving, and dreaming, we are here. I am praying that it's a week of discovery and renewal for you.*

Who can tell me what the theme verse for this week is?

*"...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 NRSV*

Good! What did you all discuss this evening in your Bible Study groups about where we are headed this week?

This week we will focus on what it means to follow Christ with our full hearts, and not just go through the motions. We will learn what it means to Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly just as Jesus showed us. It is my hope that you pay attention this week, that you learn and that you walk away feeling called and connected to Jesus who loves you passionately.

Day's Debrief

Note: The Day's Debrief is intentionally the same each night. It is designed to establish a closing rhythm to each day, just as the morning devotions establish an opening rhythm each morning.

SAY: *We're going to go around the room and each person will have a chance to share their high point for the day and their low point for the day. We want to celebrate the high points and support each other in the low points. This is a time for you to be honest and reflect on your day.*

ASK: *What is your high and your low for today?*

Give everyone a chance to answer. If something is said that's worth spending time on, make that decision on an as-needed basis.

The last two questions should be asked to the room as a whole. Not everyone is required to answer, but encourage more than just a couple to respond. It's ok to sit silently while they think of responses. These questions are important and will help them take the week at camp home with them.

ASK:

- *What spoke to you in Vespers? What did you hear?*
- *Where did you see God today?*

Close with Prayer.

Detail Moment:

- Make sure that everyone has the supplies that they need. (Toilet paper, pillow, etc.)
- Find out any needed maintenance requests.
- Explain how to get a plunger/additional toilet paper
- Remind students of curfew/camp rules/dress code (closed toed shoes for tomorrow!)
- Review tomorrow's schedule.
- Do you need to sign anyone up for the Variety Show tomorrow?
- Encourage students to save money for the Mission Offering at the end of the week.
- *Choices Only: Make sure campers know what Choice they are in for tomorrow.*

Day 1 Follow Jesus

Scripture Text Reference: Mark 10:17-27; Romans 12:1-2

Verse of the Day: Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, CEB)

Worship Verses: Mark 10:17-27; Romans 12

Bible Study Recap

Materials Needed: Paper and Pens/Markers for each group

ASK:

- *What was the focus of Bible Study today?*
- *Can someone summarize the passages you talked about today?*
- *Any funny stories from the Rich Young Ruler dramas you did?*

Divide group in half. Give each group a piece of paper and a pen/marker.

Group 1 should list all the "checklist" things they can think of that people do to be a Christian. Group 2 should list all the ways we can live out our faith as an expression of love through following Jesus.

ASK: *Which list is what it really means to follow Jesus? Why?*

SAY: *The second list is where our focus should be. The first list is important, but isn't the focus—those things enhance our ability to live our faith and do what's on list two, but following Jesus isn't about checking off items on a to-do list.*

ASK: *What does it mean to follow Jesus?*

Day's Debrief

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ASK:

- *What spoke to you in worship?*
- *What did you hear?*
- *Where did you see God today?*

Close with Prayer.

Detail Moment:

- Variety Show screenings are tomorrow. Come prepared to audition like it is the actual show. Make sure you have all props, costume, music, etc.
- Set a group goal of how much you all will give to the Mission Offering.
- Start thinking about the volleyball tournament. Does your group want to participate? If you are a large group, think about splitting your team into two or more teams to give everyone an opportunity to participate. (It is not our recommendation to put all the athletic people on one team and the non-athletic on another. Spread the wealth!)
- Remind students of any rules that need to be reinforced – curfew, dress code, etc.

Day 2 Do Justice

Scripture Text Reference: Luke 10: 30-35

Verse of the Day: But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:24, CEB)

Worship Verses: Luke 10:30-35; Luke 19:1-10

Bible Study Recap

Materials Needed: Paper and Pens/Markers

ASK:

- *What was the focus of Bible Study today?*
- *Can someone summarize the passages you talked about today?*
- *Which new point of view for the Good Samaritan story was most interesting to you? Why?*

Split the group up into small groups. Make the number of groups match the number of adults you have with you. An adult should sit in and guide each group in this activity.

SAY: *Tonight, we're going to look at the story from one more angle. Together, we're going to re-write the story of the Good Samaritan using modern terms and places. Be sure to consider the setting of the story, who would represent each of the characters, what their actions look like, what the results are, and what the lesson learned would be.*

Give the groups several minutes to brainstorm and rewrite the story from a modern perspective. Have each of the groups read their updated Good Samaritan stories out loud.

ASK:

- *Why did we do this activity? Why is putting it in modern terms an important angle to consider?*
- *What does it mean to do justice?*

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ASK:

- *What spoke to you in worship? What did you hear?*
- *Where did you see God today?*

Close with Prayer.

Detail Moment:

- Give details concerning Church Group Free Time tomorrow.
- Mission Offering: Begin collecting and challenging youth to give towards your goal.

Day 3 Love Kindness

Scripture Text Reference: Ruth 1:1-22; I John 4:7-21

Verse of the Day: Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ. (Ephesians 4:32, CEB)

Worship Verses: Ruth 1:1-22; 1 John 4:7-21

Bible Study Recap

ASK:

- *What was the focus of Bible Study today?*
- *Can someone summarize the passages you talked about today?*
- *Earlier tonight in worship, we were challenged with forgiving someone else. Did any of you act on that? Anyone willing to share? If you didn't, is there anyone that should have or plans to when they get home?*
- *Why is forgiveness important?*
- *What does forgiveness have to do with loving kindness?*
- *One of the stories from today was about Ruth and Naomi and Ruth's dedicated love for her mother in law. Is it easier or harder to practice loving kindness with people we're really close to? Why?*
- *How can we be better at practicing loving kindness with our families and close friends?*
- *So, what does it mean to love kindness?*

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ASK:

- *What spoke to you in worship? What did you hear?*
- *Where did you see God today?*

Close with Prayer.

Detail Moment:

- Collect any Mission Offering money and select a male and female representatives to bring it forward during worship tomorrow night.
- Recognize those participating in the Variety Show tomorrow night.
- Let your group know when they are playing in the Volleyball Tournament.

Day 4 Walk Humbly

Scripture Text Reference: Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23

Verse of the Day: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105, NRSV)

Worship Verses: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Bible Study Recap

ASK:

- *What was the focus of Bible Study today?*
- *Can someone summarize the passages you talked about today?*
- *Have any of you ever heard from God in a dream? How do you tend to hear God's voice?*

SAY: *We're going to try a sensory exercise tonight similar to what we did in worship. Everyone sit comfortably with your hands in your lap and your back up straight. Close your eyes and take several slow, deep breaths.*

I'm going to describe a scene between you and Jesus. Just relax, breathe deeply, and imagine yourself in the scene.

You're walking slowly along the edge of a lake. It's peaceful, you're the only one around, and even the animals seem quiet. You notice the green between your toes and the warmth of the sun on your face. You take a deep breath and look out over the clear, still water. As you walk farther, you see someone emerge from the trees and start to walk towards you. As you get closer, you realize it's Jesus. He's smiling pleasantly. You continue on your path around the edge of the lake and Jesus joins you. For a while, you just walk in silence. His presence is comforting. When you get back to where you started, Jesus looks at you and speaks. He speaks a promise into your life and gives you a calling. Jesus smiles again and walks back into the trees.

Take a moment to think. Keep your eyes closed and breathe slowly. What did Jesus say to you?

What will you do with Jesus's call for you?

Open your eyes and take one last deep breath. Turn to the person next to you and tell them what Jesus said to you.

Give them a minute to share with each other.

ASK:

- *Anyone willing to share what Jesus said to you with the group?*
- *So, what does it mean to walk humbly?*

Day's Debrief

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ASK:

- *What spoke to you in worship? What did you hear?*
- *Where did you see God today?*

Close with Prayer.

Detail Moment:

- Let students know they will get Cell Phones back tomorrow.
- Discuss the cleaning of rooms, packing up, and leaving schedule.