



COME TO THE WATER

PASSPORTchoices' Guide to Successful Church Group Devotions!

What is a Church Group Devotion?

A Church Group Devotion is an intentional hour at the end of each day for your church group to come together and reflect on the day's activities and the lessons produced. Your group has been spread out with the rest of the camp community much of the day; now is the chance to come back together. This time is designed to concentrate solely on your group, their dynamics during the week, and how God is working individually and corporately.

Church Group Devotion guides have been provided to help you with the process. They contain intentional links to the other parts of the PASSPORT day to bring continuity to your group's experience. Please feel free to use them as you see fit. Use part, all, or none of the guides. It is totally up to you. The key is to have a spiritually fun time connecting as a group!

About the writer: *Our Youth Bible Study curriculum this year and this Church Group Devotion Guide were written by Anna Beth Cross. Anna Beth is the Associate Minister for Students and Digital Discipleship at Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC.*

Preparation

Feel free to print this document and bring it to camp with you, making any notes you may need. You will also receive a link to this document each night after worship through the Remind system. Here are some thoughts as you prepare:

1. You will be assigned a location for your Church Group Devotion at Registration. You may decide to have a Church Group Devotion outside, but be aware that some groups may get done before you and be a distraction for your group.
2. Feel free to make your meeting space your own, but leave the space as you found it and dispose of all your trash. Your room will likely be used as a Bible study room or college classroom the following morning.
3. You may burn a candle if you would like. Please do so with care and clean up any spilled wax.
4. Dorm rooms are not appropriate places to have a Church Group Devotion as girls are not allowed in boys' rooms (and *vice versa*), and the rooms are usually too small for the size of your group.
5. Review the morning devotion and Bible Study outline for the day, and see if some of the questions could be further reflected upon that evening.
6. Perhaps a snack one or two evenings will keep the "hungries" away.
7. Please be aware of the noise level of your group and be respectful of other groups.
8. Playing a guitar or using a CD player to provide background/praise music for your devotion can be a good idea.
9. If you plan to play any games, it may be best to do so outside to avoid disturbing another group.

Youth Church Group Devotions 2024

Opening Night: Come to the Water

Welcome

Welcome your group to the space you will meet in each night for Church Group Devotions. Encourage everyone to sit in a circle so everyone is included and can participate. Explain the purpose of this time together – to reflect together as a church group on each day’s camp experience and to learn from and listen to one another.

Check-In

SAY: *Each night, we will begin this time by checking in with one another. I invite each of you to share two things with the group:*

1. *What was your best moment of the day?*
2. *What was a challenge you faced today?*

Allow time for each person in your group, both campers and chaperones, to share out loud their responses. Encourage each camper to share, even if they are hesitant, as this will build trust and relationships within your church group.

Theme Connection

Below are some sample questions to explore the theme for the week with your group. Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group’s discussion.

- *What is this week’s camp theme?*
- *What is this week’s theme verse?*
- *What do you think the invitation to **Come to the Water** means?*
- *What did you do/learn in Bible Study tonight?*
- *How can you pour yourself into this week of camp?*

Closing Prayer

This time of prayer can look many different ways depending on your group’s practices. You can invite campers to share prayer requests for the week, you can “popcorn” prayer around the group, you can invite everyone to say a one-word prayer, or you can ask someone to volunteer to pray out loud for everyone. You’re invited to try several of these types of prayers throughout the week, or you can do whatever is most comfortable or natural for your group each night.

Reminders

Close with reminders for tonight and tomorrow (ex: lights out, morning devotions, breakfast time, closed-toe shoes, Rec Party, etc.)

Day 1: Float

Check-In

SAY: *We will begin by checking in again with one another, reflecting on our day, and sharing our experiences from today. These two questions are like sharing our “highs and lows” of the day.*

1. *What was your best moment of the day?*
2. *What was a challenge you faced today?*

Allow time for each person in your group, both campers and chaperones, to share out loud their responses. Encourage each camper to share, even if they are hesitant, as this will continue to build trust and relationships within your church group.

Theme Connection

Below are some sample questions to explore the theme for the day with your group. Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group’s discussion.

- *What is today’s theme?*
- *What is the Verse of the Day?*
- *What did you do/learn in Bible Study today?*
- *What was meaningful to you during worship tonight?*
- *What have you learned about yourself today?*
- *What have you learned about God today?*
- *What have you learned about others today?*
- *How can you Float in God’s presence throughout your life?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: *God promises to be with us even when things are hard and chaotic all around us. When we remind ourselves of God’s presence, we can FLOAT, knowing we are not alone during whatever difficult situation we may encounter.*

Closing Prayer

This time of prayer can look many different ways depending on your group’s practices. You can invite campers to share prayer requests for the week, you can “popcorn” prayer around the group, you can invite everyone to say a one-word prayer, or you can ask someone to volunteer to pray out loud for everyone. You’re invited to try several of these types of prayers throughout the week, or you can do whatever is most comfortable or natural for your group each night.

Reminders

Close with reminders for tonight and tomorrow (ex: lights out, breakfast time, Dance costumes, etc.)

Day 2: Drink

Check-In

SAY: *We will begin by checking in again with one another, reflecting on our day, and sharing our experiences from today.*

1. *What was your best moment of the day?*
2. *What was a challenge you faced today?*

Allow time for each person in your group, both campers and chaperones, to share out loud their responses. Encourage each camper to share, even if they are hesitant, as this will continue to build trust and relationships within your church group.

Theme Connection

Below are some sample questions to explore the theme for the day with your group. Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group's discussion.

- *What is today's theme?*
- *What did you do/learn in Bible Study today?*
- *What was meaningful to you during worship?*
- *Who made an impact on you today?*
- *How did you experience God's presence today?*
- *What have you learned about others today?*
- *How can you Drink the life-giving water Jesus offers?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: Life is full of all sorts of ups and downs. Seasons of overflowing joy and times our well runs dry. Jesus calls us to life, and life abundant. This week, I pray that you can reach out and DRINK from the cup Jesus offers each of us and find true, thirst-quenching life.

Closing Prayer

This time of prayer can look many different ways depending on your group's practices. You can invite campers to share prayer requests for the week, you can "popcorn" prayer around the group, you can invite everyone to say a one-word prayer, or you can ask someone to volunteer to pray out loud for everyone. You're invited to try several of these types of prayers throughout the week, or you can do whatever is most comfortable or natural for your group each night.

Reminders

Close with reminders for tonight and tomorrow (ex: lights out, breakfast time, free night plans, etc.)

Day 3: Dive

Check-In

SAY: *We will begin by checking in again with one another, reflecting on our day, and sharing our experiences from today.*

1. *What was your best moment of the day?*
2. *What was a challenge you faced today?*

Allow time for each person in your group, both campers and chaperones, to share out loud their responses. Encourage each camper to share, even if they are hesitant, as this will continue to build trust and relationships within your church group.

Theme Connection

Below are some sample questions to explore the theme for the day with your group. Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group's discussion.

- *What is today's theme?*
- *What is the Verse of the Day?*
- *What stood out to you in Bible Study today?*
- *What was meaningful for you during worship?*
- *What have you learned about yourself today?*
- *What have you learned about God today?*
- *What have you learned about others today?*
- *How can you Dive into ministry in your daily life?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: *It's amazing to see the many gifts and talents God has created each of you with. As we continue to listen for God's direction, I'm excited to see the many ways you might DIVE into ministry! Know that you don't have to do it alone. I am here, and so many folks back home are ready to join you as we minister together.*

Closing Prayer

This time of prayer can look many different ways depending on your group's practices. You can invite campers to share prayer requests for the week, you can "popcorn" prayer around the group, you can invite everyone to say a one-word prayer, or you can ask someone to volunteer to pray out loud for everyone. You're invited to try several of these types of prayers throughout the week, or you can do whatever is most comfortable or natural for your group each night.

Reminders

Close with reminders for tonight and tomorrow (ex: lights out, breakfast time, volleyball tournament, Variety Show, etc.)

Day 4: Swim

Welcome

As you enter your Church Group Devotion space for the last night, some students may be carrying the weight or “high” of the last night of camp, so take time to welcome everyone with whatever they bring into this time together. You may want to begin by opening up space for sharing anything that stirred up during worship, or your group may do better closing with that.

Check-In

SAY: *We will begin by checking in again with one another, reflecting on our day.* (You can also adapt these questions to reflect on the entire week together.)

1. *What was your best moment of the day?*
2. *What was a challenge you faced today?*

Allow time for each person in your group, both campers and chaperones, to share out loud their responses. Encourage each camper to share, even if they are hesitant, as this will continue to build trust and relationships within your church group.

Theme Connection

Below are some sample questions to explore the theme for the day with your group. Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group’s discussion.

- *What is today’s theme?*
- *What stood out to you from Bible Study today?*
- *What was meaningful to you during worship?*
- *What have you learned about yourself this week?*
- *What have you learned about God this week?*
- *What have you learned about others this week?*
- *How can you Swim and allow justice to flow around you?*
- *What will you take with you as we leave camp and head home?*
- *How will you answer God’s invitation to **Come to the Water**?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: It can be overwhelming sometimes to think about the injustices in our world- but I saw you name tangible ways that each of us can SWIM toward justice. It really has been inspiring! I’m looking forward to all of the ways we can continue to **Come to the Water** each day together!

Closing Prayer

For this last night of camp together, invite your group into a prayer time where all campers can participate. Whether creating small groups for them to pray in, praying with a partner, popcorn prayer, or writing down a prayer in their passport, do what is best for your group to engage in prayer together. Close with a spoken prayer to end this time.

Reminders

Close with reminders for tonight and tomorrow (ex: lights out, packing and cleaning out rooms, travel plans tomorrow, etc.)