

PASSPORTmissions 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 was written by Daniel Potter. Daniel is the Minister to Students at First Baptist Church in Columbus, GA.*

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 Check-In. 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. In most cases, 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. (Small groups of only one gender may consider this option.)
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 on 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 2025

Opening Night: Wide Open Spaces & Space to Welcome

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 using the same prompts each day. 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?*
- *Can anyone remember this week's theme verse?*
God stood me up in wide open space; I stood there saved- surprised to be loved! (Psalm 18:19a CEB, 18:19b MSG)
- *What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "Wide Open Spaces"?*
- *Who might God be inviting you to extend welcome to in your life?*
- *What might you need to set aside to be fully present for what this week of camp may bring?*

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

This is a good time to check in and make sure everyone has the essentials for the week. Do you need to plan a store run for tomorrow? Close with reminders for tonight and tomorrow (ex: lights out at 11:00 pm, breakfast at 8:00 am, morning devotions at 9:00 am, closed-toe shoes, Rec Party tomorrow night, etc.)

Day 1: Space to Wonder

Check-In

SAY: *Let's 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. **Choose a few to springboard the conversation.** Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group's discussion. The intent is not to hurry through the whole list, but to follow the conversation for what is most meaningful for your group.

- *What is today's theme?*
- *Can anyone tell us the Verse of the Day?*
And I'll stride freely through wide open spaces as I look for your truth and your wisdom. (Psalm 119:45 MSG)
- *What stands out as you think back to 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 do you feel as you consider bringing your questions, fears, or doubts to God?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: *How comforting to know that God welcomes and encourages us to bring our questions and doubts to God as we seek wisdom and direction in our lives.*

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 at 11:00 pm, breakfast at 8:00 am, morning devotions at 9:00 am, closed-toe shoes, Dance tomorrow night-get those Cosmic Cow costumes ready, etc.)

Day 2: Space to Act

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. **Choose a few to springboard the conversation.** Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group's discussion. The intent is not to hurry through the whole list, but to follow the conversation for what is most meaningful for your group.

- *What is today's theme?*
- *What is the Verse of the Day?*
Little Children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. (1 John 3:18 CEB)
- *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?*
- *What is one way you plan to act when you get home that reflects what you have experienced this week?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: When it comes to acts of love and service, it's not about "being" good or earning anything from God. Instead, our actions create space for God to move in our lives and the world around us.

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 at 11:00 pm, breakfast at 8:00 am, morning devotions at 9:00 am, closed-toe shoes, volleyball tournament and Variety Show, etc.)

Day 3: Space to Dance

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.

Check-In

SAY: *On our final night together, let's begin by checking in with one another, and 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. **Choose a few to springboard the conversation.** Feel free to adapt the questions or add your own for your group's discussion. The intent is not to hurry through the whole list, but to follow the conversation for what is most meaningful for your group.

- *What is today's theme?*
- *Can anyone tell us the Verse of the Day?*
There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens: a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing. (Eccl 3:1,4 CEB)
- *What, or who, in your life brings you the most joy?*
- *What will you take with you as we leave camp and head home?*
- *How will you continue to thrive in Wide Open Spaces?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: My prayer for each of you is that you can know and experience the true authentic joy God has for you! I am grateful for this week we have had together, following God into wide open spaces!

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 at 11:00 pm, breakfast at 8:00 am, Bible Study meet up at 9:00 am, any important details about packing and traveling home tomorrow).