

PASSPORTmission's 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 learned. 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 fun time connecting spiritually as a group!

A note about Passport's ecumenical approach: Passport strives to be a camp where churches from diverse Christian backgrounds can find a place of belonging. Because of this, some doctrinal points (salvation, baptism, etc.) are left for times of teaching and intentional conversations with each unique church. We encourage group leaders to use Church Group Devotion time to have these important faith-forming conversations.

About the writer: Our Youth Bible Study curriculum this year was written by Rev. Brenda J. Thompson. Brenda is a pastor, writer, and the founder of Common Ground Curriculum.

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 through the Remind system each night after worship. 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. 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.)
4. 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.
5. Perhaps a snack on one or two evenings will keep the "hungries" away.
6. Please be aware of the noise level of your group, and be respectful of other groups.
7. Playing a guitar or using a CD player to provide background/praise music for your devotion can be a good idea.
8. If you plan to play any games, it may be best to do so outside to avoid disturbing another group.

Youth Church Group Devotions 2026

Opening Night: On Your Mark

Welcome: Welcome your group to the space where you will meet 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—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 asking the same two questions. This will hopefully allow us to check in on one another and see how everyone is doing after a full 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 their responses out loud. 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?*
So then, with endurance, let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us. Hebrews 12:1a (CEB)
- *What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “¡Vamos! Let’s Go!”?*
- *As you consider the “lane” God is calling you to, what might your race look like?*
- *What might you personally 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” pray 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.

Mission Offering Prayer Request: We will also offer a prayer request each day for our mission offering. Today, pray for Luca and his father. Ask God to give Luca hope and encouragement when he feels discouraged. Pray for his father’s health and for their garden to grow strong. Pray that Luca will find a friend to share moments of play, laughter, and joy—restoring part of the childhood he has lost.

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: Get Set

Suggested supplies needed: Paper and pens

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 their responses out loud. 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?*
Get your outside work done; make preparations in the field; then you can build your house.
Proverbs 24:27 (CEB)
- *How did you experience God's presence today?*
- *What have you learned about others today?*
- *What resources, support, or tools do you feel like you still need as you prepare for the "race" God is calling you to?*

Suggested Activity: Have everyone spread out and find a space where they can be still. Invite everyone to journal on the following prompt: *What is one way I hope this week at camp prepares me to walk in faith back home?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: *Unlike a foot race, the race we run in faith is not a competition, and the best part is that we don't run it alone! I thank God that we have this group to support and cheer one another on as we run.*

Closing Prayer

You're invited to try several of the types of prayers listed on the first night throughout the week, or you can do whatever is most comfortable or natural for your group each night.

Mission Offering Prayer Request: Pray for Perla as she travels to EduK each day. Pray that she has the strength, health, and proper shoes she needs for the difficult journey. Ask God to give her patience and energy as she teaches. Thank God for people like Perla who bring hope and care to children and families in Tipepilli.

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-'70s style Barbie Dreamland!).

Day 2: Go

Suggested supplies needed: Paper and pens

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 their responses out loud. 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?*
Learn to do good. Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17 (CEB)
- *What have you learned about yourself today?*
- *What have you learned about God today?*
- *What have you learned about others today?*

Suggested Activity: *God challenges each of us to be love in action, to go! Let's spend a few minutes together creating a Justice Bucket List. What actions would you like us to do as a youth group back home as we seek justice through our actions?*

Closing Reflection

Thank campers for their responses.

SAY: *Our faith is not to simply be something we sit and enjoy for ourselves. True faith propels us forward to go and do something.*

Closing Prayer

You're invited to try several of the types of prayers listed on the first night throughout the week, or you can do whatever is most comfortable or natural for your group each night.

Mission Offering Prayer Request: Pray for Maria and her family. Pray that Juan and his brother will continue to grow and do well in school. Thank God for the support EduK provides to families like Maria's—offering encouragement, training, and care for every member of the family. Thank God that children in this community are learning to dream big and find their voices.

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: Finish Line

Suggested supplies needed: Basin/bucket, towel, water

Welcome

As you enter your Church Group Devotion space for the last night, some may be carrying the weight of camp ending. Take time to welcome everyone as they come.

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 their responses out loud. 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 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 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?*
Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." Mark 6:31 (CEB)
- *Where do you like to go to find rest and be able to recharge when you are tired?*
- *What will you take with you as we leave camp and head home?*

Suggested Activity: Use this final night of camp together to have a foot or hand washing time together. Discuss how part of our communal sabbath together involves serving and loving one another toward rest and wholeness.

SAY: My prayer is for each of you to know how deeply loved you are. I am grateful for this week we have had together as we run this race.

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.

Mission Offering Prayer Request: Pray for Erika and her team as they serve families in Tipepilli. Thank God for the provision of clean water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. Pray for the health and strength of the staff as they continue their important work. Thank God for those who are called to serve in this community, bringing hope, care, and love to children and families.

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 details about packing and traveling home tomorrow).