



LEADING CAMPER DEVOTIONS

by Joel Rishel

*This teaching may be used or adapted for a Staff Orientation session or instructional time.
Permission is granted to duplicate and copy this material.*

Camper Devotions: Camper devotions would typically be a Christian's natural response to God at the close of a day at camp.

What is the goal?

End the day with a short passage of Scripture, brief prayer, and a few directive thoughts toward God.

What should I do?

1. Give a brief personal testimony to God's grace in your life.
2. Draw upon camp illustrations from the day and apply a Christian principle or a Bible verse to the situation.
3. Express thoughts that apply the Scriptures to your campers. This will show them that the Bible is real.
4. Expand upon a thought expressed by the chaplain in chapel or Bible class.
5. Share brief personal stories where God has impacted your life.
6. Stick to basics. Make sure your Scripture reading, devotional thoughts, and prayer focus on the following topics:
 - God is the Creator
 - Man is created in God's image
 - Your sins have separated you from God
 - Jesus Christ is the only hope of salvation
 - Salvation is responding to Jesus in faith and repentance
 - A Christian is adopted into the family of God and lives a new life in Jesus

With very few exceptions, there is no need to depart from these basics.

7. Center upon real issues and matters of the heart. At the close of the day your final words will reverberate in their heads throughout the night and as they wake the next morning. Don't be trite.
8. Be alert to their attention span and mood from the day.

1. Politely say, "Thank you for asking that question."
2. Say, "I'm sorry, but we don't have time to answer it or discuss it right now."
3. Establish a plan of action for tomorrow. In this case, you may want to take the responsibility for following up with the camper. If so, make sure you do what you said you would do.

What should I do when distractions keep arising?

- I saw a mouse.
 - I forgot to brush my teeth.
 - Steven left his underwear on the floor.
1. Try to be as preventative as possible. Prepare them by making sure they all go to the bathroom first, brush their teeth, etc. Tell them that they all need to be in their beds, then you will pray, then you will turn out your flashlight, and then they will all go to sleep.
 2. You may need to ignore the camper who is trying to divert your attention. This camper is trying to capture your attention and ruin the moment.
 3. If that doesn't work, address him/her privately.

What should I do if the Holy Spirit is moving in the campers?

If the Holy Spirit is moving tonight, the Holy Spirit will also be moving tomorrow morning. Your camp has determined the proper bedtime for your age group. It is there for the camper's best interest and health. And you've been directed by your program director to uphold what the camp has established.

What should I do if the Holy Spirit is really, really moving?

There are always exceptions, but use discernment.