// Monday:
BEFORE TIME

Genesis 1:1
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

// THINK

All things have a beginning. Your time at camp has a beginning, and there is a lot of fun ahead for you. Maybe you're nervous or excited or shy or worried—or a little bit of all of these.

You've probably been through this before. Think back to when you first started something else that might have been exciting or scary. Before you knew it you were into it, and then it was over.

So, no worries. Pretty soon camp will be in full swing, and you'll be making friends, having a blast, learning about God. Time just marches on.

But if you think backwards to the very first beginning—the beginning of the world—you'll discover something amazing. The Bible teaches that God made everything. God started it all.

The earth has rotated around the sun countless times, but at the beginning of the universe, God started it. Trees and grass and plants have been growing and dying and growing and dying, over and over again. But at the beginning of history, God created the first plants and that's when they started growing. Time keeps ticking away, but at the very beginning, God thought up the idea of time and started it up.

Everything has a beginning. The sun. Trees. Time. You.

Everything, that is, except for God. Before you were made, God your maker was around. Unlike you, he didn't have a beginning. He was always here. He was before time.

This is a tough concept to wrap our minds around. But this is the teaching of the very first verse of the Bible. Before there was time, there was God. And he made everything.

// SEARCH

Read Genesis 1:2-31.

Most people think that Genesis 1:1 is a summary statement of the rest of Genesis 1. What do you think? Is there anything God created in Genesis 1 that couldn't be included in the summary statement of verse 1?

Can you think of anything you've seen or experienced that couldn't be included in the summary statement of Genesis 1:1?

Search God's word: **Genesis 21:33; Psalm 99**

// APPLY

What is something in history that you wish you would have been alive to see?

God has been around to see all of history. In fact, he started history and has always existed even before history started. When you think about God creating everything, how does it make you feel?

God, not man, is the primary person in Genesis 1, because God has always existed. Is it logical or illogical to think that someone made the world and got everything started? Why?

// PRAY

As you begin your time at camp, ask God to begin something new in your heart. Maybe renewed faith. Maybe a better understanding of him. Maybe a love for his word. Maybe a new attitude. Maybe brand new ideas for serving others. Just tell God what you want.