

Learn the Manual

This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

~ Joshua 1:8

Discover the Context

Joshua 1



Read James 5:7.

What analogy is mentioned for spiritual growth? What external factors is a farmer dependent on in order to get a good crop? What does a farmer perceive is his part to do in order to get a good crop? How does this apply to you at the front end of summer ministry? What external factors are outside your control? What things can you do to prepare for God's growth to take root?



Use the spaces at the back of this book to develop an OPL—Ongoing Prayer List. This is a list of prayer needs that are focused on the ongoing work of God in your life and camp. What will top your list?



Write out your top three goals for this summer.

Welcome to camp! I'm sure you are hoping and praying for great success this summer—staff unity, campers following Jesus, spiritual growth, powerful worship, and safe bonfires.

This is all in God's hands. He brings success, and sometimes for reasons unknown to us, he withholds it.

But that doesn't mean you don't have some responsibility in whether or not the summer is successful. You sure do. Start with this—don't discard the instruction manual.

There's a manual for everything, especially if your camp is ACA accredited. "Lost camper procedure." "Sign out policy." "Manual for wilderness trekking." "Instructions for building a safe bonfire." *What! Seriously? Who needs that? Anyone can build a fire. This one can go in the trash can.* But then, 30 minutes later when I've used up all my strike-anywhere matches and I can't get the damp wood to catch on fire, I'm digging the instruction sheet out of the trash can.

The Bible is God's instruction manual for life. Literally. From Genesis 1 through Revelation 22 God has told us everything necessary for life and salvation, specifically through what Jesus has done for us. I know you're not going to throw your Bible in the trash can. In fact, I hope you have good intentions of reading it diligently every day this summer. This devotional book can help you meditate and assimilate God's word, which is critical for summer success.

This is not about your works, as if when you read the Bible enough, then you earn success. Rather it's all about God and his plan and posturing yourself to want his plan more than yours. God has revealed his plan for you in the Bible. So if you want to know what God has said, you need to know what God has said. Yes, read that again.

Ask God to help you accept what it says. Put it into practice, and live it out. (JCR)