

"HEY, JESUS, SHOW US GOD"

Studies in the Life of Christ

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Written and designed by: Rev. Gary Pryzner
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OVERALL OBJECTIVES...

1. To teach the application of biblical Christianity.
2. To instill the value of knowing truth in each camper.
3. To provide an understanding of the problem of sin and its consequences.
4. To provide each camper with an understanding of God's mercy through Christ.
5. To give each camper an opportunity to "cry out" to God for mercy, and to accept His forgiveness.
6. To give each camper an opportunity to share their faith.
7. To show practical ways of how to deal with temptation - how to stand alone.
8. To help each camper understand how to think allegorically.
9. To encourage cabin leaders by showing that they can be used as instruments of God, as they share the Word of God with others.

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'"
Romans 10:14-15

There is a powerful link between sharing the gospel and learning to stand alone. Verbalizing our faith is an important step in the learning process. Sharing our faith builds our confidence and forces us to raise our flag. Letting the world know where we stand forces us to rely on God!

SAGITAWA PHILOSOPHY...

Applying Scripture

We believe applying Scripture. Those who apply the Word of God will see that it works, and will grow in faith. *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"* (Rom 10:17), but hearing by doing is more convincing than auditory hearing. What good is theory if not made practical? So during every lesson, make sure to consider the following questions. "How should what I learned change my behaviour to God, to myself or to others?" Responding to God's Word has everything to do with spiritual growth – partly due to the gift of faith, and partly due to the blessing of God on obedience.

It is important to recognize that one message may have several applications. In other words, each hearer should have the opportunity to respond in the way God is directing. For the Christian camper, God may require a public confession, or perhaps a renewal of faith and repentance. The unbeliever may have the chance to believe, or to reject, or to test God's faithfulness in some area.

Therefore, applications do not have to be tangible. Also be careful not to mistake works for fruit. Good works of the flesh are like *"filthy rags"* (Isa 64:6) to the Holy One, and *"those who are in the flesh cannot please God"* (Rom 8:8). It is tempting to think that by learning to behave like a Christian someone will begin to think like a Christian, and want to be a Christian. But the unregenerate cannot understand the things of God (1 Cor 2:14), nor want to be a Christian (Rom 3:11). So make room for application within the heart, and let God give the increase.

What you do is based on your beliefs about God and about yourself. What you believe determines who you are. Reading and applying Scripture creates belief.

Teaching Opportunities at Camp

Camp is filled with opportunities to teach spiritual truths to campers. Some of the most profitable may be while you walk to the dining hall or to archery. Make the most of these.

Discovery Time provides an excellent opportunity for a concentrated and clear presentation in a small cabin group. We schedule just over an hour each day. It is possible to complete a lesson in less time, but boredom should not be the determining factor. Remember that kids can get bored in five minutes, which is hardly enough time for Discovery. So you are very wise to begin preparing now. Make your studies interesting. Be creative. Be in prayer. These things will go a long way in assisting you in fascinating lessons.

ABOUT SAGITAWA DOCTRINE...

At present, Camp Sagitawa is backed by 14 member churches of different denominations. Our staff and campers are from an even larger variety of denominations. Diversity can make us spiritually rich, and is attractive to families. We honour it by concentrating on a clear presentation of the gospel rather than on denominational issues or preferences. In your teaching and practice, you will stick to the basics. No personal opinions! If a camper asks you a potentially controversial question, defer the answer to their home or neighbouring church. If unsure, ask the directors for assistance.

ABOUT THE LESSONS...

Objectives are not for page fillers. Please understand them before preparing the lesson. Each lesson builds on the previous, and has an impact for the theme of the day.

Background Information is more for your preparation than for use during the lesson.

Bible Studies are chosen strategically. Though we expect you to stick to the main passage, you may use additional passages for illustrative purposes.

The lead up section is not marked, but is only a few lines long. You may vary the method of introduction as long as it is in keeping with the objective.

The study is not meant to just be read like a script. Please do some homework, read the Scriptures ahead, internalize it, and broaden your understanding so that you feel more equipped to handle questions from campers. Doing so will also boost your confidence in teaching, and provide room for creativity in your presentation. We are available to help you as you prepare.

Extra References and **Memory Verses** are supplied. Be careful not to bombard campers with tons of verses.

Ideas for Skits is provided for daily chapel preparation. Kids learn well by skits. Our priority is that they are clear and to the point. Chapel groups may select those that they wish to perform each day. If you know of others that relate to the theme, please ask the Chapel Coordinator about them.

INTRODUCTION...

Moses wants to see God

When Moses received the 10 commandments, he had already seen the effects of God's glory around him. He witnessed the 10 plagues of Egypt. He heard God's voice. He saw lightning and thunder. He felt the earth shake beneath him. He saw clouds of smoke as God touched the mountain. Moses had heard God's voice, but had not seen God. "Lord, show me your glory."

God responded, "I will show you my glory, but I cannot show you my face, for no sinful flesh can see my face and live." So God put Moses into a cleft in a rock, and covered his face until he had passed by so that Moses only saw the back of his glory.

Philip wants to see God

In John 12, some Greeks came to Philip and asked to see Jesus. It was enough for them, but not enough for Philip. It wasn't too much longer that Philip asked Him, "Lord, show us the Father and it is sufficient for us." Jesus' response is important. He says, "I am with you, Philip. I live the Father. If you know Me, then you know Him. We are One." It is interesting that the name, 'Philip' means 'to see, to have an interview with'.

We want to see God

God is our Creator. He gave us life in His image. Our sin destroys our life, and our search for God (cf Rom 3:10-11). To hear Jesus' words, to see Him, is to live again... for it builds faith in Christ (Rom 10:17). There is something about being in His presence and hearing His words that makes us want to see God. The truth is that an encounter with Christ is an encounter with the Father, for the Son always lives the Father. They are One.

"Hey, Jesus, Show us God" is an attempt to bring this truth to the hearts of campers. The idea is to present Jesus as the One from the Father, who comes to reveal God to us. He lives like God and teaches us God's words. He calls us to follow as disciples. It's like a game of "Follow the Leader". We are to do what Jesus does, and to say what Jesus says.

So after He called the disciples, what did Jesus do and say?

Comparing our heart with the heart of Christ...

He taught the beatitudes. They are often called the graces in how we respond to those around us. They show the heart of Christ. I used to think that Jesus chose his disciples because of their good hearts. I now realize that I was wrong. They did not have hearts of grace. Nor do we.

Anyone who naturally displays the beatitudes would be like Christ. Jesus is the light of the world. Those who live like Him are also salt and light.

Sometimes we look at these graces and believe we can imitate them. But Jesus' next words revealed how far from God we really are. He spoke the Law. He showed how the Law related to the heart: that God demands that we keep the commandment with our heart and mind. Our sin stops us completely: "unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees..." And so the law reveals our hearts, showing us guilty before God. Our heart is sinful.

How can we find beatitudes from within such wicked hearts? What shall we do?

Becoming Like Jesus...

Jesus redeems us through His death and resurrection. He then changes our hearts by filling us with Himself. We know that Jesus always desires to serve righteousness. So as He takes up residence within us, we find not only salvation from sin, but also change from within. So now we can follow Him. Now we can live out the beatitudes. Now we can live like Jesus and talk like Jesus. And now we can call others to follow us as we follow Christ, just like the game of "Follow the Leader."

As a cabin leader, your first responsibility is to find out where each camper is in his or her walk with God. Then, make your approach and introduce them to Jesus. Help them to see Jesus, for "He who has seen Jesus has seen the Father." Your life may be the only link to Christ that your campers will ever see.

DISCOVERY LESSONS...

Lessons 1-5 are on the following pages.

JESUS, THE GOD-MAN!

Jesus belongs to God.

Objectives: To help each camper understand that Jesus Christ is both God and man. They will also learn more about the character and power of the Father, and of Jesus Christ. Having understood this, each camper will know that Jesus understands our needs and our weaknesses, and can help us in our every day life.

Main Passage: Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20, 52 **Memory Verse:** 1 Timothy 2:5
Heb 4:15, 5:8 **Bonus Verse:** John 3:17

Background Info: Why is it important to understand this? If Jesus were not man, He cannot pay my penalty. If He were not God, then He would not be victorious over death. True mediation requires a person representing both sides. Christ represented man and God. Being without sin, He was able to be a perfect sacrifice. Being man enabled Him to understand suffering and temptation. We know that He understands what it is like to be human, not only because of the fact that He made us, but also because He became us. Finally, remember that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. The tense is present. He did quit being man when He rose from the dead. He lives in a glorified body of man for eternity. Though His love for us is unfathomable, it is very reachable through Jesus Christ. (1 Tim 2:5, Heb 4:15-16, 1 John 4:1-3)

Discovering God:

We are going to learn about Jesus' birth: Who is He? Where did He come from?

Jesus belongs to God. He is the God-man!

We have heard of Superman, Spiderman, and Batman. But have you ever heard of the God-man? Just imagine the God-man. He would certainly be more powerful than any of the other superpowers. He would be able to do anything. He would be able to stop the rotation of the earth with a command. He could stop a storm with a word. Imagine what He could do if He used His hands.

The greatest part about this is that God-man actually exists. There's no Batman, no Spiderman, no Superman, and no Superwoman. But God-man is not mere imagination. He is 100% God, and yet He left heaven to take on 100 % human form. He made us, so He knows us better than we know ourselves. He is willing to be among us, and is also willing to become one of us.

**Jesus Christ is 100% God and 100%
man.**

Read Luke 1:26-38.

Role-play it as a group

So where did Jesus come from?

Before we continue with the story, can anyone tell me what a virgin is?

A. "A woman who has never married"

is a maid, or spinster

B. "A woman who has never had kids"

is barren

C. "A woman who has never slept with (had sex with) a man" is a virgin

God sent an angel to tell Mary she was chosen to give birth to a son. Why was Mary so concerned?

1. She was not married. She had been taught that she must wait until she is married before sleeping with a man. So how could she have a child?
2. Joseph had just gotten engaged to her. If he noticed she was expecting, he will think she was unfaithful to him. He will decide to end the engagement. She had promised to be pure for Joseph, to not be with any men except him. What will Joseph think?

Mary asked God about this. What was God's answer?

1. He said, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."
2. What does "overshadow" mean? Did God sleep with (have sex with) Mary?
 - a. No! The word refers to the Holy Spirit surrounding her like a cloud with power, and creating life inside her womb.
 - b. If God can create people from dust, then He can create a baby in a womb.
 - c. Remember, a virgin is someone who has never slept with a man. When Mary gave birth to Jesus, she was still a virgin.

But it wasn't too long before Joseph started to wonder if Mary was pregnant. She must have been unfaithful to him. What does unfaithful mean? (*He wondered if Mary had been with another man.*)

Joseph decided to end the engagement. So God spoke to Joseph in a dream. He said to marry her cause the child was from God. *Wow! God wasn't just caring about His own Son being born into the world, but He also still cared about Mary and her relationship with Joseph. So He intervened to correct what Joseph was thinking, and said that the child was from God.*

He is not only the Son of God, but He is also human. Jesus Christ is the God-man!

Read Luke 2:1-20.

Role-play it as a group

God is always in control.

Do we really believe that God is in control?

When things go wrong, do you sometimes get upset?

Joseph and Mary were poor! They probably didn't even have a donkey. But the emperor of Rome made a law, telling everyone to go to the town that their family came from, to be taxed. This meant a trip to Bethlehem for both Joseph and Mary. What problems do you think Mary and Joseph would have worried about?

1. Mary was almost 9 months pregnant. How could she walk so far? (about 100 km)
2. Could they afford to pay their taxes?
3. Did God really understand their problems?
4. Where would they stay in Bethlehem?

When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room. So many others had already arrived in the city, and all the lodgings were filled. What do you remember about how God provided a shelter for them?

1. They found shelter in a cold cave where some herdsman kept cattle and sheep.
2. Mary had her baby, and kept him warm and dry by wrapping him tightly in torn rags.
3. She laid him in the dirty feeding trough, and kept the animals away.

Jesus was the King of all. He is the Creator. He is the God-man. Yet He chose to be born in a poor family in a cave that stunk of animals and manure. What welcome did Jesus receive?

1. Shepherds came to worship Him. God had told them who He was.
2. Angels sang about His birth.
3. About 2 years later, Joseph and Mary were still in Bethlehem. Perhaps the cost of a journey home was too much, so Joseph found work in Bethlehem. Three Magi from a long way east had been travelling west to find Him. They finally arrived and brought gifts.
 - a. But this brought information to Herod, the local king. Herod was angry and wanted to kill Jesus, so he ordered all children who were 2 years old and younger to be killed.
 - b. But there is nothing you can do to ruin God's plan. God warned Joseph in a dream to take Jesus to Egypt.

God is always in control.

Note: We celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25th. "Christ"-*"mass"* is "a celebration of Christ." But Jesus was probably born in the winter of 5 BC or possibly 3 BC. Our tradition is to celebrate His birth on December 25th.

During the making of the calendar system that we now use, it was decided to start the calendar at the birth of Jesus. But somehow they made a mistake of about 4 years. If Jesus was born in 5 BC, then he died on the cross on the Passover in 29 AD, at the age of 33.

To Think About...

Omniscient means, "All knowing."

It is important to realize that Jesus, though He was 100% God, was never an omniscient little baby, lying in the manger thinking omniscient thoughts. He was normal. He cried. He laughed and maybe even played "peek".

So how and when did Jesus start to know so much more? Did He suddenly become omniscient one day? Or did it come on Him gradually, or what?

1. What does Luke 2:52 teach about this?
 - If Jesus increased in wisdom, then He did not suddenly become omniscient.
 - It sounds like He became wiser as He grew up, just like us.
 - Notice too that He grew in favour, meaning that He earned trust.
2. What does Hebrews 5:8 teach about this?
 - *“learned” = “learning by use and practise”*
 - Jesus did not need suffering in order to correct rebellion. He was already obedient, and learned the wisdom of obedience through suffering. The hardest time to obey is when doing so will cause you to suffer. In a way it becomes a test of learning true obedience.

In what other ways was Jesus like us? What does Heb 4:15 teach about this?

1. He got hungry and tired. He understood rejection.
2. He was tempted by sin. But He obeyed the hardest point of temptation to the end. He didn't quit obeying half way though the temptation.

How hard would it be...

- ✓ for the Righteous One to become sin?
- ✓ for the Creator of life to die?
- ✓ for the One in eternal relationship to be separated from His Father?

Jesus faced terrible temptations in His humanity, yet resisted disobeying God right to the point of death. We usually sin before the temptation gets that bad.

Application for Christian and non-Christian Campers:

The God, who created you, knows everything about you. God became a man, and came here. Think about it. Why would God become a man?

He would not need to become a man to condemn us or judge us.

He became a man so that He could help us.

Sometimes Christians forget that Jesus experienced being human. He endured temptation the same as we. But He did not disobey, even when it was hard.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| Should we sin? | NO |
| Should we follow Jesus' example of obedience? | YES |
| Should we seek God's help to overcome temptation? | YES |

Remember, Jesus is not only a man... but He is the God-man. So He is more than able to take care of our needs when we turn to Him in complete obedience.

So this week, as we learn about this God-man... do not be afraid of Him.

Wrap-Up: Read and explain Memory Verses

1 Tim 2:5 "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

- Notice that the mediator is God. It also says He is man.
- A mediator is someone who stands between. Why would we need someone to stand between us and God?
- We will find out more about this as we go through the week.
- But what we do know now is that it must have been important enough to God to send His own Son as the mediator.

John 3:17 "For God did not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

- The purpose for the coming of the God-man was not condemnation. But then, mediation does not involve judgment.
- The purpose was to save. A mediator? To save?
- We will learn what we need to be saved from in the days ahead.

Ideas for PM Devotions:

Talk about your own life, and how you learned to know about God's existence and power.

Encourage any sharing about where campers are at in their discovery of God. Do not squelch the discussion by correcting poorly based ideas. Use it as a stepping-stone to find out where they are. Wrap it up by saying that we will be learning more about God throughout the week.

What is God like?

Group Discussion...

Almighty, Omnipotent, Omniscient
Supreme, Creator
Love, Truth
Etc...

Ideas for Skits:

The Klaakan-Human Solution...

For this sketch it is necessary for all Klaakans to wear a red hat (or some other article) so that they are identified as a group. A different article of clothing should distinguish the Humans.

Curtain opens with humans finding water and excitedly going to drink it. As they do several Klaakans appear from nowhere and begin a heated argument with humans. The Klaakans talk a strange language, and it is not understood.

After some time, the Klaakan leader raises his hand for silence. His people are immediately silent. The others slowly quiet down and begin to listen. The Klaakan leader points to one of his servants and then offstage sending for someone. The servant quickly returns with a stranger, who wears the distinguishing clothing of both groups. The Klaakan leader speaks to the stranger. The stranger responds. The leader responds again and motions to the humans. The stranger then turns to the humans and says in perfect English... "We are Klaakans. We have used this pool of water for many years. Why have you come to poison it?"

The leader of the humans says, "We are humans. We are thirsty and need water to live. Will you please let us drink?" The stranger turns back to the Klaakans and repeats the message in the other language. The Klaakan leader changes his countenance, and turns to take a bucket of water. He dips it into the water and offers drinks for all.

They had no mediator? Oops...

During WW2, Japan was considering peace on the condition that they keep their emperor, whom they believed to be a god. USA listened to public opinion and demanded unconditional surrender. Japan could not accept these terms. So 2 bombs were dropped on military targets: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thousands died, because there was no mediator who understood both sides.

Sketch begins with a divided stage... Japanese and US headquarters. Audience should understand the terms of both sides. Audience also realizes that neither the Japanese nor Americans are really communicating.

Always In Control...

Athlete walks onto stage with a basketball. He spins it on his finger, and maintains it while speaking to audience. (or could use a juggling act)

"Some people think that God is somewhere out there, and doesn't care about our world anymore. They figure He started it spinning and dropped it. God doesn't do that. He is always in control. He watches over the earth, and each of your lives. He cares. He loves.

I try my best to maintain control. (Ball drops.) But I am not God."

ONE LIFE-GOAL!

Jesus follows God.

Objectives: To help each camper understand that Jesus Christ is not only God, but that He lives like God, and follows God. Having learned how Jesus lived and approached people will show campers how we ought to live and approach people. They will be challenged to become more like Him.

Main Passage:

Luke 2:40-52, Php 2:5-7a **Memory**

Verse:

Mark 10:45

Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-22

Bonus Verse: Php 2:5

Background Info: The Scriptures are almost silent about the first 30 years of Jesus' life. The little it does say tells a lot about Jesus' approach to life. He didn't come to condemn or to change. He came to save. We need to have the same approach.

Jesus worked as a carpenter until He was 30, at the prime of His life. This is important for a couple reasons. First, it shows that He was willing to become acquainted with life before telling others how to live. Since He was not an omniscient little child, He needed the experience for His own growth and understanding of life. People listening to His words, would be more willing to trust experience.

Second, Jesus didn't come to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many. He shows that life is not about being important, but about being a servant. Isn't it interesting that by being the greatest servant ever, He gained the greatest honour of importance in all history? (*Mk 10:44-45*)

Discovering God:

We want to study Jesus' childhood and lifestyle in ministry: How He lived.

Jesus belongs to God. This is why He lived like God.

Has the way someone acts or behaves ever reminded you of someone else? (*Ask for examples*)

This is even more noticeable when the two people are from the same family, like father and son, or mother and daughter. Jesus lived like God. But Jesus isn't only the Son of God; He is God. No wonder He was able to live like God!

Read Php 2:5-7a.

Just a short study

How much like God was Jesus when He was born?

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation..."

What does the verse teach? Let's do a phrase-by-phrase study.

- ✓ We are to have the same mind, or attitude that Jesus showed when coming to earth.
- ✓ "Thought it not robbery to be equal with God"... "Did not consider being equal with God something to be held onto or grasped" → Instead, He let it go.
- ✓ "Made Himself of no reputation"... "Emptied Himself" → He let it go completely.

So of what did Jesus let go? What did He leave behind when He was born?

1. Remember how we said that Jesus wasn't born as an omniscient little baby, thinking omniscient thoughts in the manger? He left behind His awesome knowledge.
2. He also left behind His awesome power.
3. He left behind His glory. (His glory is like His radiance that shines so bright that it would blind us if we saw it. The Scripture says that no one can look on God and live.)

So was Jesus like God at all, when He was born?

- ✓ Well, yes. He was like Him in that He is God.
- ✓ He could not sin, or go against His own nature.
- ✓ His nature is love.
- ✓ But He would only express love according to the level of His growth.

Read Luke 2:40, 52.

Just a short study

How did Jesus learn then? Did He suddenly become like God overnight?

The Bible says that Jesus grew...

"And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." Luke 2:40

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52

Growth is a slow process. It involves experience.

It's important to know the difference between mistakes, ignorance and sin.

- ✓ Sin is disobedience, and involves a rebellious heart. At times we learn to do right by suffering from doing wrong. Jesus did not. It was against His nature to do so.
- ✓ A mistake is not fulfilling an obligation due to oversight. Ignorance sometimes causes us to not perform as well because of lack of experience. Having a lack of experience is not sin. A mistake is not sin. Jesus probably learned by making mistakes and by experience. Perhaps He hit his fingernail when using a hammer. Perhaps He forgot to sweep under the table when sweeping the floor. Perhaps He was scolded for this. But it was not rebellion. He was learning and growing because of experience and opportunity.

So Jesus learned by doing right and seeing how good a choice it was.

He learned by suffering for right and knowing it was the right choice. Cf. Heb 5:8

He learned by experience, failure and success.

He learned by listening to His parents.

He learned by attending the synagogues, and listening to the teaching as the teachers read from the word of God.

He remembered what He learned.

The verses also teach that He grew taller... (like we do), and that He grew in favour with God and man. This means that Jesus honoured God and people in what He did. As a result He earned honour and favour from others.

Read Luke 2:41-52.

Role-play it as a group

What was Jesus like growing up?

When Jesus was 12 years old, He went on a road trip to Jerusalem with his parents. The people from Nazareth would have traveled in a caravan... several families together. They made the journey every year.

The time came for them to go back home, but it wasn't until the next day that Mary and Joseph noticed that Jesus was not in the group. Where was He? Did He get lost? They left the group and backtracked to find Jesus. Three days later they found Him, talking to the teachers in the synagogue.

What is a synagogue?

In those days, in Israel, they did not have schools like we have today. Instead the kids learned at home about the trade of their father, or of an uncle. Jesus learned carpentry because Joseph was a carpenter. Some of the young men would go to a synagogue to learn about God from teachers of the Bible. So a synagogue was sort of like a school where you go to learn about God.

This was probably not the first time Jesus had gone to the synagogue, and definitely not the last. There were synagogues in most towns, and Jesus would have learned much about the Scriptures simply by listening. Now that He was 12, He had become quite aware of whom He really is, and is now asking questions and giving answers – amazing the best teachers.

Mary & Joseph most likely scolded Him, *"Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."*

We might assume that Jesus answered back in order to protect Himself. We might read His words with a negative attitude. *"Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*

- ✓ Was Jesus a bit sassy? No. Rather He was asking a real question.
- ✓ Have campers practise this part of the role-play again, to see if they can say the words of Jesus without negative attitude, but out of respect for His parents. (Note: this helps to teach them how to be more tactful in their responses as they grow up and try to gain independence.)

By the age of 13, Jewish boys would take on the responsibility of a man, often taking his father's trade. Jesus would have learned carpentry well. He was a hard worker. He knew responsibility. He would have had to get along well with people as a carpenter. Jesus may have sold furniture in the markets. Customer service teaches a lot about getting along with others. The people would have talked about their lives, and about the community around them. So Jesus knew people. But since He spent so much time in the synagogue, He also knew truth. The more He learned and grew – the more people around thought highly of Him. He was maturing to be more and more like God in everything He did. He is God.

Read Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-22.

Role-play it as a group

What was Jesus like when He started ministry?

At 30 years of age, Jesus left the carpenter's shop and went to meet John the Baptist at the Jordan River. His baptism was the beginning of His teaching ministry. Did you notice what happened when He was baptized?

- ✓ The Holy Spirit comes from God in the shape of a dove and rests on Jesus.
- ✓ God speaks from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

After this Jesus went into the desert... to face temptation. What happened?

Luke 4

1. He goes without food for 40 days... and is very hungry.
2. Satan comes to tempt Him in the areas of His present weakness.
 - a. Make some bread for yourself if you really are the Son of God.
Jesus hadn't had any occasion to see miracles happen yet. Most of us would want to try something like this just to see if it really is possible. Jesus also needs food. Yet He resists the temptation.
 - b. Look at all that I control... I will give it to you if you worship me.
If Jesus resists this one, He'll have to die to pay the price.
 - c. If you're God, jump off this pinnacle and the angels will help you.
Jesus hasn't really tested all that He understands about being the Son of God. What an opportunity to test it, and to silence the devil once for all.
3. He resists each temptation with Scripture.
 - a. What attitude does He show against Satan? HE JUST SPEAKS TRUTH
 - b. Is He angry and frustrated? NEITHER
4. The Holy Spirit comes and helps Him.

So Jesus first learns the hardship of real life. He knows what it is to stand against temptation. He knows what it is to go hungry.

Now He enters the synagogue in His hometown, and begins His ministry with a Scriptural announcement. *Read again what He said and discuss what He was about to do.*

- ✓ He was about to reach out to people, to teach the truth, to love them, to heal them according to their needs, to show compassion, and to free.
- ✓ Jesus came as a servant. He came to give and meet people where they are. He did not come for Himself. And now He meekly explains His purpose. They are amazed, for they know Him as Joseph's son.

To Think About...

Jesus lived like God and behaved like God. He belongs to God, and came to serve us. Anyone who has seen Jesus has seen the Father. Jesus represented the Father well.

It is important to know this. If Jesus is the God-man, who lives like and belongs to God, then it makes sense that He'd request that we follow Him. Its like He says, "I belong to God... I live like Him... so follow Me and live like Me."

Application for Christian and non-Christian Campers:

Surely it is significant that God would leave heaven to become man! Everyone should be asking why our Creator would do this. What trouble are we in that we need a mediator?

Why should we be concerned whether Jesus lived like God or not?

1. It proves He is God. It proves He belongs to God, that He is the God-man.
2. This means that He can be our mediator and can be trusted to help us.
3. If He was able to conquer sin and temptation, and says He can help us, then we need to seek His help to change our hearts.

Wrap-Up: Read and explain Memory Verses

Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- Jesus did not come to be known as a great person.
- He came to serve, to give His life.
- A servant lives for others, not for himself.

Php 2:5 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

- We are to be servants like Jesus, not to try and live only for ourselves.
- We cannot be like Jesus in having His wisdom...
- But we can have His attitude of serving.

Ideas for PM Devotions:

Read Philippians 2:3-4

Group Discussion

What does it mean to esteem others better ourselves?

Do we ever serve out of our own desires?

How often do we really serve with others in mind?

What does it mean to look out for the interests of others?

In what way did Jesus do this?

What opportunities do we have to do it?

- ✓ at camp
 - ✓ at home and at school
-

Ideas for Skits:

Hey, I act like me!

Actor comes on stage and role plays himself. This can be done in a couple of ways.

Actor 1: *(Sees audience, taken back, begins to converse, asks questions, pauses, etc)*
Oh, hello. How are you doing? Do you guys like just sit here or something? Well, it's good to see you. After all, I got nothing to do. Hey, you want to hear a joke? Well, there was this guy who loved **Caesar** salad. So one day he's in this restaurant, and a woman at the next table has a **Caesar** salad. So he **sees her** salad and tries to **seize her** salad. *(laugh)* Hey, wait a second – that sounded like a joke I would tell. Hold it, my voice sounds like me. *(Picks up mirror or opens wallet)* Whoa – it is me! *(Freeze stage, and finish with narrator as below.)*

Actor 2: *(Sees audience, introduces himself... as himself)*
Oh, hello, I'm _____. How are you doing? You know, I have played the part of a lot of different people. I have done Moses, and Joseph, and even Abraham Lincoln. But today, for some strange reason, they asked me to do a different role. They asked me to play the part of... ME. Do you think I can do it? *(Freeze stage.)*

Narrator: It's easy to act like yourself. Jesus was able to act like God, because He is God.

If you were 40 days in the desert...

Narrator: The stage is set. We are going back in time to when Jesus was in the desert for 40 days without food, when He was tempted by the devil. But this time... it's not Him in the desert. It's you! You are not God, but for some reason you have the same powers. And this time the actor is representing you... the individual who is watching.

You: *(walking as though famished: holding tummy and looking feeble.)* I am so hungry... my stomach hurts so much... I need food.

Devil: Psssst... Hey you. What you complaining about food for? You have the power... couldn't you just make those stones there into a big pizza?

You: Pizza... oh yes...

Devil: Or Chinese food. Just think what Chinese would do for you right now, eh!

You: Chinese it is. Stones, be turned into Chinese. *(You grab the food and start stuffing it in, trying to appease your hunger.)*

Devil: Do you see how well I can help take care of you? Why don't you listen to me more often?

You: Mmmmmmm, this is so good. I was so famished.

Devil: Just enjoy. *(Turns to audience)* That was easy. I got you bowing to me already, and all I had to do was give you one thing you already wanted. Now I guess I don't have to even bother with those other two temptations, do !!

THE PERFECT MODEL!

Jesus shows us how to follow.

Objectives: To help each camper admit that Jesus Christ has the right to teach us how to live like God, and that we must obey. To also help them understand that it's impossible for us live like God, and that we need His help. Having understood our need for His help, campers will either desire to call to God for help and strength or refuse to listen to Jesus.

Main Passage:

Matt 4:19; 5:1-12,13-16 **Memory**

Verse:

Matthew 5:6

Matt 5:17-22, 27-28

Bonus Verse: Luke 14:27

Background Info: I believe that one of the hardest things for Christians to comprehend about the Scriptures is the importance of the law. We tend to run from it, and cling to what we call grace. We are afraid that if we proclaim the law, that we will turn people against God. It seems to us that the law is negative, and exactly opposite the application of forgiveness. So rather than declare the law to the world, we think it proper to concentrate on the New Testament.

Unfortunately, this approach produces premature believers. It immediately hinders their growth and development, and does not necessarily bring them to the point of salvation. Confusion ends up holding them back from making Christ their Lord.

One of the first things Jesus said was that we should not forget to teach the law and do the law. Paul said that it was by the law that we realize our need of Christ. So do not step over the elements of this lesson that try to deal with the preparation of the heart through the law.

Discovering God:

Beatitudes and the Law – We are unable to follow, because we don't belong to God!

One of the first things that Jesus taught was how to be like Himself... like God, our Creator. He did this by sharing the Beatitudes, and the Law.

Has anyone ever come up to you and just started telling you all the things you are doing wrong? It's kind of hard to take from someone who hasn't spent the time showing us they care. But if they are willing to show that they care... then it is not so hard to listen. And some people are able to do it so well, that we almost are glad they did. These people never condemn us.

Jesus was able to show people their sin very carefully. He was not harsh and condemning. Yet He never minced the truth by pretending that sin didn't matter.

But Jesus also knew that some people are unapproachable when it comes to sin. They've lived in it so long that they are afraid to hear the truth. The longer we let sin have its way, the more we hate God.

Read Matthew 4:19.

Short Study

Fishing for what?

Peter and Andrew were fishing for fish in the Sea of Galilee. Jesus saw them and called them. "Follow Me."

Why did Jesus ask them to follow?

- ✓ To help them learn how to live like God (and once they knew this, then...)
- ✓ To teach them how to become fishers of men

Why is living like God, so important?

- ✓ God made us. He has the right to ask us to live the way He made us to be.
- ✓ Living the way we are designed will give us happier and healthier lives.

Read Matthew 5:1-12.

One Good Study

The Beatitudes? - Have the campers list the 8 qualities.

Poor in spirit Able to mourn Meek Hungry for righteousness	Merciful Pure in heart Peacemaker Persecuted for doing right
---	---

How well do you do in each of these areas?

Quality of Life	What does it mean?	How does it apply to my life?
Poor in spirit	<i>"being without, need to beg"</i> The Bible demonstrates that poverty is not a bad thing, because the poor learn to rely on God.	Poverty of the spirit shows a need to seek God for daily life, in attitudes, in hope, and even in your relationship with God. Do you feel an inner need to rely on God?
Able to mourn	Mourning is grieving over felt loss. Some people mourn over insignificant loss. Others go through life without mourning, and can become angry and bitter, and can end up overreacting easily.	The mature learn what is worth mourning: loss of good relationships. Mourning may or may not include crying. But it always includes an acceptance of the loss inside the heart. Are you able to let yourself feel and accept loss?
Meek	<i>"patient submission"</i> with poverty and humility. The meek do not resent adversity, because they trust that it comes to them based on God's all wise and loving purposes.	How well do you take it when another person does something that offends you? How well do you take it when you try hard to help someone you love, but they don't understand and get angry with you?
Hungry for righteousness	Righteousness is being right and pure in thought and actions.	Do you ever want to do something that you know is wrong? Do you desire to be completely pure and right before God?
Merciful	The ability, when wronged, to not be angry and to not take revenge.	Do you have any grudges? Is there anyone you would like to get even with?

		God is merciful with us. We should do the same.
Quality of Life	What does it mean?	How does it apply to my life?
Pure in heart	“clean” having nothing to hide	Can you stand before God with a heart that is untarnished by sin? A heart that has not sinned is always more capable of seeing truth and making sound judgement.
Peacemaker	When a peacemaker is in the group, they tend to help soften arguments and melt tension.	The place to start being a peacemaker is in your own life. Are you able to be at peace with everyone who wishes to pick a fight with you? Or are you easily angered?
Persecuted for doing right	To be able to take persecution when you have done nothing wrong... yet accepting it with all the above qualities.	Can you trust God’s purposes when you suffer for the good things that you do? Can you accept the way people who hate God treat you when you decide to follow Him?

How did you do? How many of these qualities are totally present in your life?

Just imagine if someone were to have all these qualities! Would we like to be around this type of person?

Do you think you would like to be around this kind of person?

Some would say **yes**... and some say **no**! And did you know that how you answer says more about yourself than it does about the other person?

“Yes” – Many of the people wanted to follow Jesus. They were either the type who wanted to see more miracles, or those who wanted God to help them with their disobedient hearts.

“No” – Many of the people hated Jesus, and even tried to kill him. Why? The Bible says that it was because they did not know God, and because they were evil. People who want to do wrong, don’t like people who don’t want to do wrong.

What kind of person are you?

Jesus had all the qualities. When He was in the desert and Satan tempted Him, He didn’t sin, nor get angry. He simply told Satan the truth. In everything Jesus did, we see all these qualities present. No wonder some people wanted to be around Him.

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

Short Study

Salt & Light?

So what is the purpose of salt in food?

- ✓ It adds flavour to the food. It makes the food taste better.
- ✓ When we act like Jesus does, we add flavour to the world. Our way of life changes the way things happen here.

What does light do?

- ✓ Light chases darkness away, and shows what is hiding.
- ✓ When we do what Jesus does, these things are so different than what the world does, that they take notice. It changes how they act.
- ✓ Ask for examples!

Can we be salt and light? The beatitudes seem good, but we don't do them very well on our own. But look at these next verses!

Read Matthew 5:17-22,27-28.

Short Study

God's Way!

What does God use to measure sin? How does He decide if we are doing right?

1. The Law is the standard by which God measures sin and righteousness.
2. Notice that Jesus came to establish the Law. This means that He came to give support to the 10 Commandments. He did not get rid of them. He wants us to obey them. He wants us to teach obedience to them.
3. Our righteousness would have to be better than that of the Scribes and Pharisees. These religious leaders were seen as pretty clean people. So what Jesus is saying in verse 20 is that nobody can be good enough to go to heaven.

What does the Law tell us to do?

1. "Do not kill." What does Jesus say this means? 5:21-22
 - a. It means that we should not even hate. Hate is like murder in the heart.
 - b. To call someone a fool is as bad as murder – it shows our desire to hurt.
2. "Do not commit adultery." What does Jesus say? 5:27-28
 - a. It means that looking at any person (except our wife or husband) to want them sexually is the same as committing adultery in our heart.
3. What are the other commandments, and how do we sin with the heart?

"Worship God only"

Do not look to things or people for direction or happiness.

Put God first in every area of your life.

"Do not make idols or images of God."

Do not let what is seen become more important than God.

"Do not take God's name in vain."

We must not say God's name without consideration of who He is.

Before the scribes penned God's name, they bathed 7 times. We must have a high respect of our Creator.

"Keep a day of rest each week."

God did not make us to work all the time. We need a day of rest in seven.

"Honour your parents."

Do what you know your parents want before they ask. Do not complain. Never slight them in word or attitude.

"Do not steal."

Do not even want what is not yours. Be satisfied with what God gave you.

“Do not lie.”

Do not even justify your actions in your own mind.

“Do not covet.”

Thank God for His provision. Be completely satisfied with your lot in life.

If you do not measure up to this standard completely, you cannot earn eternal life.

To Think About:

So Jesus is God, and man: the God-man. He belongs to God, so He also lives like God and acts like God. He taught the Beatitudes to show His grace and the Law to show us His standard of how we need to live and act like God.

But we have already failed. We have sinned and deserve the punishment on sin. The punishment is eternal death, and separation from God.

Application for Christian and Non-Christian Campers:

We have all sinned. None of us can obey God’s perfect standard completely. We all deserve to be punished forever because of our sin. If you do not know what Jesus did to help you from this punishment, then you need to ask Him to help you understand your need for a mediator! You need to ask God to show you what you have done wrong, and how you can escape the punishment on sin.

What is a mediator?

A mediator is a go-between... it is a person who comes between us and God to bring us together again... who deals with our sin so that we can escape God’s punishment.

Some of you know what Jesus has done for you. Have you begun to accept the sin in your life that Jesus came to destroy? Have you forgotten His plan for you to follow God? Jesus is God’s Son and has the right to tell us how to live.

We need to keep seeking God’s help to do right and live and act like Jesus.

Wrap-Up: Read and explain Memory Verses

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

- God will provide righteousness to anyone who seeks it. *“He that seeks Me shall find Me.”*
- We all need to live right before God. But we cannot do this on our own, so we must seek Him for help. After all, He was sent as the mediator.

Luke 14:27 “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

- Jesus has the right to ask us to follow Him.
- To follow Him, we must live and act like God.

Ideas for PM Devotions:

Review of the past three days...

Group Discussion...

Basic questions:

- ✓ Who is God?
 - ✓ Who is Jesus Christ?
 - ✓ Does God have the right to ask us to follow Him?
 - ✓ Does God have the right to punish us for our sin?
 - ✓ Does your sin bother you?
 - ✓ What should you do if it doesn't? (Ask God for help.)
-

Ideas for Skits:

But Dad isn't even here!

Dad: Ok, Tom, I won't be back until tomorrow, so I am leaving you in charge. You can stay up an extra half hour, but I want you in bed by 10:30. Do you understand?

Tom: *(nods with whole-hearted agreement)* No problem, Dad. I won't stay up.
(The father gives his son a pat on the shoulder, and exits. Son sits by TV.)

Time: *Time passes. 8 pm, 9 pm, 10 pm, 11 pm, midnight, 1 am, 2 am... Use person with a sign as the clock. On every hour the clock sounds. Tom then looks at the clock and makes a comment...*

Tom: 8 o'clock... Oh, I've got lots of time.

9 o'clock... I have time for another movie.

10 o'clock... Oops, this movie won't be over for another hour.

I guess it won't hurt to stay up for a few more minutes.

11 o'clock... I should be in bed, but I wonder what else is on?

midnight... That was a good show. Let's see what's on now.

1 am... Hey, I always wanted to see this show.

2 am... Yawn, I guess I should obey Dad and go to bed. *(turns off TV, exits)*

Narrator: Did you notice how Tom called it obeying? Was he being obedient?

One less fly...

Narrator: Sometimes we think that we can sin a little and get away with it. But God clearly tells us that our sin will find us out. So be careful to be obedient.

Sly: Hey Mama Fly, may I buzz on over to the big house and visit Freddie?

Ma: Okay Sly, but remember to stay away from big box on the porch. If you go into that box there will be a big loud zap, and no more Sly-the-Fly.

Sly: Don't worry, Mama Fly, I won't even go near that creepy zapper thing. *(He flies around, exits stage. Mama Fly switches places with Freddie. Sly flies back on stage.)*

Freddie: Hey Sly, how are you?

Sly: I'm great, Freddie. Hey let's check out the farmer's house?

Freddie: Ok, but let's stay away from the fly zapper thing.

Narrator: Freddie and Sly buzz around all day, staying completely clear of the zapper. But soon, Sly is boasting about his fast flying.

Sly: See Freddie, you never will catch me, cause I am just too fast for you.

Freddie: I can so catch you. It's just that my left wing is a bit sore this morning.

Sly: You know that zapper thing. I bet all the flies it got were just too slow.

Freddie: Huh??

Sly: Watch! I bet I can get right through the box and the zapper won't even touch me.

Freddie: I don't think so, Sly. Let's just go home.

Sly: No, Freddie, just watch. *(He flies over to the zapper and rushes through it as fast as he can. There is a loud zap. Freddie cries. Sly is laying on the floor of the cage, and has completely stopped moving.)*

Narrator: All of us have sinned. And the punishment for our sin is eternal death.

JESUS, THE WAY-MAKER!

Jesus pays our price!

Objectives: To help each camper see Jesus Christ as their only mediator to God. Having understood that He paid our way, campers will either desire to call to God for help and strength or refuse to listen to Jesus. They will also learn how to trust God for forgiveness, for salvation and for continuing to walk with Him.

Main Passage:

John 1:29b

Mark 14:53-16:15

Leviticus 1:1-5

Memory Verse:

Bonus Verse: 1 Peter 2:24

Background Info: The Scripture uses various methods to describe the gospel message: need for a mediator, need for atonement, need to restore relationship, etc. But in every method there are some constants. Sin is our turning away from God, and destroys life. God paid the penalty through the work of Christ, but He requires repentance and belief from us.

Two things are important at this point. First, repentance and belief are results of the work of God in our hearts. The balance is that God commands repentance and belief. Yet, if we take it completely as the responsibility of the unsaved, it becomes an effort of works. This is why it is so important for us to be sent to share the message, so that God can do His work in the heart. And this is the second consideration: that we ought to understand the Scriptures. Belief is not a prayer. But prayer is a result of belief.

Discovering God:

Because Jesus was accused, convicted, and punished by death and later rose from the dead, we can belong to God again!

What is God's punishment on sin?

Romans 6:23 DEATH & SEPARATION FROM GOD FOREVER

The reason we need a Mediator is that we've disobeyed our Creator. He gave us life, but we didn't want Him in our lives. So we rejected God and life. It makes sense that the result is eternal death.

Read Leviticus 1:1-5.

Read & Role Play an Offering

A Sin Offering?

God explained how He wanted a burnt offering done.

Notice the freewill... Why do you think this was important to God? Why not make everyone do it?

- ✓ Because sin destroys relationship, and anyone who doesn't want to confess their sin, obviously doesn't want relationship with God.
- ✓ Because the more we love sin, the less we are interested in changing our heart to follow God. Besides, we need God's help to change our heart.
- ✓ This shows us that we cannot force someone to seek God for forgiveness.

But if someone sinned and wanted God's forgiveness, that person could choose to take either a perfect bull or a perfect ram from his own livestock.

First, he was to put his hand on the head of the bull or the lamb. This was symbolic of placing his sin on the animal. The animal was then sacrificed, which means it was killed. This symbolized the lamb dying in place of the one who had sinned.

The priests then sprinkled its blood on the altar, which signified atonement for the sin.

“Atonement”

- “pacify, appease, mercy provided for”
- means the death of the bull or ram appeased God’s anger

Read John 1:29.

Read

The Lamb of God...

John referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God.

- ✓ What do you think this means?
- ✓ A sacrifice lamb could be used as a sin offering. This offering appeased God’s anger on sin for a while. Why might John think of Jesus as the Lamb of God?

We know that Jesus died on the cross. Do you think that He did it as a sacrifice to appease God’s anger on our sin?

Read Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-47.

Read as you Role Play

Who arrested Jesus?

In most countries, the government makes laws, and the police enforce them.

It wasn’t too much different in Israel when Jesus was there. The country was a province of the Roman Empire. Rome made laws and Roman soldiers enforced them. But at that time, Rome was mostly concerned about public order and taxes. So they usually allowed each province to govern its own internal affairs. Caiaphas, the high priest, was chosen to rule in Judea with about 70 elders: the scribes and priests. This council was called the Sanhedrin. But they were not allowed to put people to death without sanction of the Romans. So they had to find something to charge Jesus with, and then present their case to Pilate.

So for what was Jesus arrested?

Did Jesus do anything wrong? Did He disobey any of the 10 Commandments?

Verses	Of what was He accused?	What was the result?
14: 55	Tried hard to find something.	They were not successful.
56	Made up false charges.	Testimonies did not agree.
57-59	Will destroy the temple.	Testimonies did not agree.
60-65	Blasphemy. Said He is the, “I am”	Everyone agreed.
15: 1-5	Accused of many things.	Jesus kept silent.

Jesus hadn’t done anything wrong. They arrested Him because they were afraid of Him, and they spent several hours looking for reasons to justify the fact that

The high priests hated what Jesus taught. They wanted to stop His teachings once for all. This is why they had Him killed. But they had a problem. Jesus had said something about rising from the dead in three days. If his followers believed that, they might want to steal his body from the grave, hide it in a different place, and claim that Jesus had risen from the dead. Then they would keep on teaching what Jesus taught. So the high priests asked for the cave to be sealed shut, and for a Roman guard to watch over the tomb so that no one could steal the body.

Read Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-47.

Read as a group

Three days later...

Early on the Sunday, several women came to the tomb. The stone was rolled away. Jesus was not there. What happened to the Roman guard?

Matthew 28:2-4 says that an angel came from heaven, rolled away the stone away that sealed the tomb, and sat on it. This scared the guards so much that they fell down as if they had died.

What did the angels tell these women?

1. Do not be afraid.
2. Jesus is not here. He is risen from the dead as He promised.
3. Go and tell the other disciples.

To Think About:

Had anyone else ever died and risen again? Some had come back to life for a short time, maybe even a few years. But Jesus is the only one who has risen again for good. The Bible tells us that "He ever lives." He will never die again.

This means that His death was very important for two reasons.

1. He is not just a sacrifice animal that could hide our sin for a while. Instead, He is the God-man, who could actually pay the penalty completely.
2. He will never die again. He has actually conquered death itself. He paid the sin penalty, and then had victory over it. It is done. If we belong to Jesus, sin has no more power over us!

Application for Christian and Non-Christian Campers:

Perhaps you never have given your life to Jesus, or this may be the first time you heard what Jesus did for you. You need to admit that you have sinned and do deserve to be punished. If you want to live close to God again, free from the hold of sin, you can believe what Jesus did for you. He said that He will forgive anyone who comes to Him. But seeking His forgiveness also means turning around and following Him.

So if you want His forgiveness, bow your head and tell Him so. Tell Him that you believe He died for you, and rose again to have victory over sin. Ask Him to help you follow Him.

Have you made a commitment to Jesus before and turned your back on Him? Sometimes Satan loves to come along and say how bad we are as Christians.

“Look what you just did. You call yourself a Christian? What do you think others would say if they knew what you did? Do you really think God will forgive you again?”

If you believe Satan, what will happen? Will you quit trying? Stop serving God? Stop telling others about Jesus? This is exactly what Satan wants. He doesn't want anyone teaching about Jesus. He wants us to think Jesus is still dead.

Instead, remember that all your sin is paid. The victory is finished. You can come to Jesus, confess your sin, and believe that He has taken it away. You can tell Satan that you belong to Jesus. You will go to the Scripture to find the truth. You will be able to rejoice in your salvation again.

Wrap-Up: Read and explain Memory Verses

John 1:29b “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

- Jesus is the sacrifice lamb of God. He paid for sin once for all. Another sacrifice will never be necessary. Nor can any other sacrifice take away and pay for sin completely.

1 Peter 2:24 “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.”

- Jesus paid our sin penalty. By belonging to Jesus, we do not have to follow sin any more. We can serve righteousness. Now we can follow Jesus as He asked. We can live like Jesus.
-

Ideas for PM Devotions:

Share your testimony. But try to choose an area of unbelief and how God helped you to believe. Share how truth and belief changed your actions.

Remember to consider attitudes, actions, feelings and beliefs. The word of God is very practical. But the changes it makes are very relational. In other words, talk about how it affected your relationships to friends and family as well. Many of us hate how we treat our families, but we are powerless to change until we call out to Christ and let His truth surround us.

Ideas for Skits:

Pay for that again, Sir!

- Shopper:** *(Lady comes into a store and clearly picks up only one thing. She places it on counter. She doesn't say much. But neither does the shop owner.)*
- Owner:** *(Punches some numbers on the till.)* That will be \$1.99.
- Shopper:** *(Reaches for and puts change on counter, takes item and turns to leave.)* Thanks.
- Owner:** *(Grunts, then watches as shopper leaves. When shopper is almost out, owner recognizes something and calls out.)* Hey lady, wait. Come back.
- Shopper:** *(Turns)* Pardon.
- Owner:** Your jacket, you bought that here.
- Shopper:** This? Yes, I bought it here last week.
- Owner:** That will be \$300.
- Shopper:** No, Sir, you don't understand. I paid for this jacket last week.
- Owner:** But you bought it here and you owe me \$300.
- Shopper:** *(tries to figure out how to convince, then searches in purse)* Here, the receipt. See it says, "Jacket", "\$300", and "Paid".
- Owner:** You bought it here; that will be \$300. *(Doesn't even look at receipt)*
- Shopper:** What? How many times do you really expect me to pay for this thing?
- Narrator:** I am so glad that Jesus only had to pay the penalty of my sin once.

Wash your hands!

This sketch is a comparison between the need to wash hands and the need to have a heart cleansed from sin.

- Asst Cook:** *(Comes into the kitchen, puts on an apron and washes hands.)*
- Head Cook:** Good morning, welcome to the job. Be sure to wash your hands, and then get me a bag of carrots from the cooler.
- Asst Cook:** I uh... well... I just did wash Sir.
- Head Cook:** Well... wash again. It doesn't hurt to be sure.
- Asst Cook:** *(washes again, scrubs harder this time)*
- Head Cook:** Oh yes, before you get the carrots, please wash your hands.
- Asst Cook:** *(washes and this continues five or six times, until finally the assistant comes front stage, and talks to the audience. He tells a story which brings 2 different actors to stage. These actors then mime as the narrator speaks...)*
- When Jesus bent down to wash his disciples' feet, Peter pulled away, and said, "No, Lord, I can't let you wash my feet."
- Jesus said, "Peter, if I don't wash you, you will have no part with me."
- So Peter says, "Well then please wash my feet, and my hands, and my head too."
- Jesus finished the conversation by saying, "Peter, if you are washed, then you are completely clean."
- When Jesus washes sin away, He doesn't have to do it again. He washes us completely clean... forever.

WALKING WITH JESUS!

Jesus empowers us to follow.

Objectives: To help each camper see that God gives us power to live like God through His Holy Spirit. Having understood this, the campers will learn to rely on God's strength by seeking to spend time with Him every day.

Main Passage:

John 14:16-18,25-26; 15:26

Memory Verse:

Matthew 28:19-20

John 16:7-15, Acts 1:6-11

Bonus Verse: 1 Corinthians 5:17

Background Info: Perhaps one of the hardest things to understand is the work of the Spirit of God. We must be careful in our interpretations though. It is easy to get sidetracked on this topic. Whether interdenominational or not, I believe it is best to stick to the central message of the Holy Spirit's ministry to believers.

At the time of salvation we know that the Spirit of Christ, (the Holy Spirit) comes into the believer and changes the heart. A work is done within the believer to give new life, and to make us more like Christ. Though I believe that this work is the baptizing work of the Spirit, immersing the new believer into the body of Christ, some denominations will teach that it is a separate and distinct work. It is not necessary to confuse the new Christian at this point. Teach the work of salvation as the Spirit comes in and changes us. Teach that He is our helper and guide, reminding us of Jesus Christ, and giving understanding to the Word of God. He never leaves us.

Discovering God:

God did not leave us without help – The Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and Prayer!

Jesus had spent three years with the disciples. He taught them. He ate with them. He went from city to city with them. For three long years, He was with them almost every day. They were learning about a different kind of life.

They learned about how to love people, and how to love God. Jesus clearly taught that they were to turn the other cheek, to suffer for righteousness, and to be merciful. He had taught them to live and behave like God. He taught them how to be salt and light in the world.

Then for 3 years, Jesus did exactly what He taught. He cared for people. People came to Him, He reached out and healed them and forgave them. He said that He came to save the world, not to condemn or to be king. And sure enough, He spent His time with those that were known for being bad people.

In fact, one time when Jesus was teaching His disciples, the religious leaders, who were known as the well-behaved good people in the community, brought a woman who was caught in the act of sleeping with a man to whom she was not married. They threw her to the ground, accused her, and demanded that she be punished. But Jesus said that the one without sin should be the first to condemn her, and they all had to leave. And then Jesus also forgave her. And of all people, He had the right to condemn her. He was the only one without sin. Yet He forgave her as well.

They believed in Jesus. He was consistent. He lived out what He said. And in the end, He even paid the price of sin for the whole world.

Now that He had risen from the dead, He spent enough time with them to show them that He really was alive. He showed them His wounded hands and feet. He ate with them. He reminded them of things He had been teaching. He told them that He was going to leave and go back to heaven.

Do you sometimes find it hard to remember a whole bunch of stuff that your teacher tells you? Jesus had taught the disciples so much in the three years, and now they realized that they had all misunderstood so much of it. They didn't even believe that He was going to die. And after He had died, it didn't even cross their minds that He would rise from the dead. Yet now He tells them that He had told them all this before.

So I wonder if they thought, "How will we ever remember all the things Jesus taught us, if we are so confused already?"

Read John 14:16-18.

Read & Consider

Present Always?

Why would Jesus need to send "another" Comforter?

- ✓ After Jesus died and rose again, He ascended into heaven. Since He left earth in his bodily form, He promised to send another Comforter.
- ✓ "Comforter" comes from a word meaning "intercessor" or "consoler." This means that the Spirit of Christ prays for us and holds us close to God.

How long will the Holy Spirit be with us?

- ✓ Forever! This means He will be present with us for the rest of our life.

Where does the Spirit live?

- ✓ He lives in us.

Did you notice the different names used to refer to the Holy Spirit?

- ✓ Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Holy Ghost

Read John 14:25-26.

Read & Consider

His Job Description...

What else does the Holy Spirit do for us?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| ✓ Teaches us all things | ✓ Guides us |
| ✓ Reminds us of the words of Christ | ✓ Gives peace |

So this means that the Holy Spirit can help us to understand the Bible. He reminds us of things we have read and memorized. He shows us our need to let God change our hearts. He helps us to be at peace when everything is going wrong... by reminding us that we can trust in God.

Read John 15:26.

Read & Consider

He Always Points to Jesus.

The Holy Spirit never points to Himself. Instead, He testifies of Jesus. This means that those who talk more about the Holy Spirit, than about Jesus, risk the danger of false teaching. Our focus in general should always focus on the person of Christ. The Holy Spirit will remind you about Jesus.

Read John 16:7-15.

Read & Consider

More on the Holy Spirit's Job Description...

What does the Holy Spirit do for the world around us?

- ✓ He will reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- ✓ He will convince or convict the world of sin. That is, he will so apply the truths of God to men's own minds as to convince them that they are sinners. He causes people to feel their sin and guilt before God.

Read Acts 1:6-11.

Read & Role Play

What is our Main Job Description?

We are to be witnesses of Christ to the world.

What is a witness?

- ✓ One who sees, and tells what he/she sees.
- ✓ The principle is that they would always tell it exactly as it is.
- ✓ The disciples witnessed what they saw Jesus do and heard Jesus say.
- ✓ We can tell the world what Jesus has done in our lives.

Where should we go to tell people about Jesus?

- ✓ Jerusalem was the city where they were. Judea was the province. Samaria was the next province. Uttermost parts means everywhere else.
- ✓ This suggests that we should start in our hometown, with those we know. Then we can move on to other areas around us, and then to the whole world.

Jesus then ascended up in to the clouds.

This means he just started rising up... until He was out of sight.

- ✓ The disciples couldn't believe what they saw... and just stared up into the sky.
- ✓ An angel appeared and said that Jesus would come again, down from the clouds in the same way He went up.
 - ✓ Has this happened yet? Has Jesus ever come back? NO
 - ✓ Will He ever return like He said? YES
 - ✓ When will He return? SOON

To Think About:

Jesus is the God-man. He belongs to God, and He lives like God. He asks us to follow Him, and also live like God. Our problem is that because of our sin, we cannot live like Jesus did. So Jesus died to take our sin. He rose again to give us victory over death.

So when Jesus left, He sent His Spirit to change us by living in us. He changes us from the inside, and reminds us of truth, and helps us to live right before God.

How does the Holy Spirit live inside us?

- ✓ Each of us has three parts. When you die, the real you is no longer in your body. The spirit part of you is the life part. The soul is your choice, thoughts and feelings.
- ✓ When we disobey God, our spirit is separated from God, and we begin to grow old and die. When the Holy Spirit comes inside, He is giving His life to our soul and spirit again.

Application for Christian and Non-Christian Campers:

If you have never given your life to Christ, then the Spirit of Christ does not live in you. You do not belong to God. You do not live like Him, and will die without Him. Remember, Jesus came to give you life, but you have to choose whether or not you will give your life to Him.

Perhaps you gave your life to Christ and now you are finding that you no longer live for Him. Did you know that Jesus moved into your life with His Spirit? Did you know that He is always there to help you live like God, and to help you stay away from sin?

Jesus prays for you. So does His Holy Spirit. So you can trust Him to help you be stronger than sin. When you find yourself fighting against temptation, remember that God's Spirit lives in you. Say, "No," to the temptation! Say, "Yes," to Jesus. You live with power over sin. Jesus overcame it completely. His Spirit cannot sin. And His Spirit lives in you.

So with this kind of help, you can turn away from sin every time. But in order to do so, you need to keep your heart close to God. You need to make good habits. Pray and read your Bible every day. And when temptations come - say, "No," right away. Waiting is the one thing that will make it even harder to be obedient.

*"Therefore submit to God.
Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

James 4:7

Do you notice what comes first in the verse?

- ✓ You cannot resist the devil, unless you first submit to God. If you try to resist the devil on your own strength, you will fail.
- ✓ If you do try to resist the devil on your own, then you haven't really accomplished anything. Satan wants us to think that we don't need God. So if you are thinking that from time to time, then you have already missed the truth – that repentance and submission to God is totally part of good relationship.

Wrap-Up: Read and explain Memory Verses

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

- A disciple is a taught one, or in this case, a follower of Jesus. After Jesus made it possible for us to follow God, He asked that we tell others about Him. He died for the world, so He wants us to tell the world.
- Do you notice that Jesus said He is with us always? He will help us live like Jesus Christ. He will not leave us comfortless. He will teach us what to say to others and how to live.

1 Peter 2:24 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

- Jesus changes us from the inside. He gives us a desire to do right again. He helps us to seek after righteousness. Anyone who has given his or her life to Christ is no longer the same person. We can still choose to sin, but we can also choose not to sin. Sin doesn't have control over us anymore.

Ideas for PM Devotions:

Talk about the hardest times to be a real Christian in front of others. Discuss the hardest time to stand up for God.

- ✓ Why do we find it so difficult to stand for Christ?
- ✓ Of what are we really afraid?
- ✓ Jesus did not give us a spirit of fear, but rather of power and love. We should not fall to fear, but believe that Jesus is with us in those hard times.
- ✓ If we decide to not stand, then we never know how hard it really is. But if we decided to stand for Christ, and not give in to peer pressure, when do you suppose we might learn? Perhaps we will find out that God really does help you through the tough situations, when we are willing to honour Him.

What are some other ways to find strength in standing up for Christ Jesus?

Ideas For Skits:

My Pocket Dictionary!

Tourist to France finds the use of a pocket English-French Dictionary very useful. Make up situations where she refers to her booklet, and is glad she did. Perhaps an embarrassing moment like being stopped by the police, or being told to get out of harms way, or being offered food at a restaurant in which she is allergic. Finish with a comparison of the ever-present dictionary, and the fact that the Holy Spirit is always with us, and is come to provide information.

Water Me, Please!

Individual takes pose as a houseplant. Starts out small. When someone comes by, the plant says the same three words, "Water me, please." Modify the intensity with which it is said, according to the level of thirst. Water the plant twice so that growth is seen: then stop watering it until about the 5th time when, the plant dies.

Narrator: Watering the plant is sort of like reading the Word of God and prayer. As Christians, we need to spend time with our creator so that we can be more like Him, and far more effective.

Energy Bar!

A tired man climbs onto stage and looks upward. He wipes his brow, takes another breath of courage, climbs a few more steps, and stumbles.

Climber: Ouch.
This hill is so steep, and I am so tired. *(Takes a drink of water)* Refreshing
(He takes a few more steps, and falls again.) Ouch.
I gotta rest. *(lays back, and then something occurs to him)*
Hey, my energy bar! *(He reaches into pack, unwraps it and eats. Then stands back up and climbs onward with very little struggle.)*

Narrator: Sometimes we get tired of standing for Christ. We need to find refreshment, rest, and energy by spending time with God and in His Word.

Doctor, Doctor!

A man carries his son into the doctor's office.

Man: Doctor, Doctor. My boy is so sick. Can you please help him?
Doctor: Let's have a look. *(stethoscope, tongue, chest cavity)*
Boy: *(Moans and groans from time to time throughout)*
Man: Do you know what's wrong?
Doctor: What has he been eating?
Man: Nothing. Well, the only thing he eats is the cream filling between white cookies. But we haven't had any in our house for about a month.
Doctor: Your boy needs food. He cannot live without good food, and it is even more important since he is trying to grow. He will die if he doesn't eat. Sir, its just like Christians. They can't become stronger Christians without spending time with God either.

Extra Lesson

DO YOU LOVE ME?

Becoming a Disciple...

Objectives: To help each camper see that God not only forgives us, but that He offers His trust and complete freedom from sin. Having understood the meaning of full freedom in Christ, campers will be able to begin to live a more victorious Christian life.

Main Passage: Matt 26:9-75; John 21:15-17

Memory Verse: Jude 24-25

Ps 103:1-18; Rom 8:1-2 **Bonus Verse:** Romans 8:1

Background Info: Paul said something of great significance to the Galatians. They were struggling with the teaching that they had to make themselves better by becoming circumcised. Some Christian Jews were teaching that they needed Christ and circumcision. So Paul said that if we received the Spirit of Christ through faith, then how is it that we think we can be made perfect through the works of the flesh? This also means that it is far better to consider our position in Christ than our present standing. Peter found this out when He was asked the threefold question after the resurrection.

Discovering God:

Peter learns forgiveness and trust – and sees a new relationship between himself and Christ. We also need to learn who we are in Christ.

Read Matthew 26:69-75.

Read & Have Campers Retell Story

Denial...

Why does Peter deny Jesus?	FEAR
What change do you see in Peter's response?	HE BECOMES ANGRIER
Why do you think this change occurs?	HE BECOMES MORE
FEARFUL	
How did Peter feel afterward?	HE WEPT BITTERLY
Do you think Peter felt justified?	NO
Why is it hard to tell our friends that we are followers of Jesus Christ? (Discuss)	

Soon Jesus was crucified, and died. Peter felt responsible. He had denied knowing the Son of God. Now Jesus was dead and buried. Peter had no hope.

But wait?

Three days later Jesus shows Himself alive. Peter sees Him, but He remembers denying Jesus. Do you think that Peter is feeling good about himself yet?

- ✓ How can he feel good about himself? He didn't stand up for the Son of God. Jesus knew. He had predicted it would happen. What is Jesus thinking now?

Read John 21:15-17.

Read & Have Campers Retell Story

What is Jesus trying to say?

To what did “more than these” refer?
 What lambs did Jesus want fed?
 And why did He ask three times?

THE FISHING OCCUPATION
 HIS PEOPLE
 PETER DENIED JESUS 3
 TIMES – JESUS WAS
 SHOWING TRUST
 TRUST SHOWS

So why would Jesus tell this to Peter?
 FORGIVENESS

Do you think Peter understood Jesus’ message?
 What would forgiveness have meant to Peter?

YES
 THAT JESUS WASN’T
 HOLDING ANYTHING AGAINST
 PETER

If we don’t admit that we are followers of Jesus, we might feel like hypocrites when we come to God. We can be very hard on ourselves. In fact, Satan likes it when we are hard on ourselves. He does not want us to remember that Jesus paid the price for all our sin in full. Nothing is owed! We are forgiven.

- ✓ Nothing is held against us. And that is so good!
- ✓ Peter never brought it up again. And neither did Jesus.

Read Psalms 103:1-18.

Read and Study

Divide above passage so each camper studies 2 verses. They take turns reading their verses and what they learned about God’s mercy and forgiveness.

How Great is God’s Forgiveness?

First, we must remember that God is not only love. He is also just. His justice must be met. So must His love. His justice will not allow forgiveness without payment for sin. His love was so strong that He gave His own life to meet His own justice, so that He could forgive anyone who trusted Him.

God forgives completely. One can go east forever without getting there. You can’t ever find west either. The two directions never meet. And that is how far God has promised to remove our transgressions from us. He remembers them no more.

Holding Grudges?

Has anyone ever held a grudge against you because of something you did, and were not willing to let the grudge go no matter what you did?

What does that feel like?

- ✓ It makes us feel like we are in a hopeless situation. No matter what we do, we cannot appease the anger of the other person.
- ✓ It destroys trust, hope and love in both directions.
- ✓ It makes for bad relationships with those around the situation.
- ✓ I start feeling like I am being judged, by the grudge-bearer, in everything I do.
- ✓ I find it easy to do it again, because I lose trust in myself.
- ✓ I forget that God forgives me in that area.

Trust and Forgiveness!

Why does trust show forgiveness is complete?

Have campers discuss this. Ask for any personal examples in their lives.

Imagine that someone hurts you badly. Perhaps they passed on some information about you that you had entrusted to them in confidence, and it got around the whole school.

You are angry at the way your friend treated you. You are sure of just a few things...

1. *This is not a good friend, not to be trusted with personal information.*
2. *You will never tell this person anything again.*
3. *You may even try to forget it – but you realize that the trust is still gone.*

Now imagine this... Your friend comes to you, and offers a humble apology. You want to be friends again. You explain how it hurt, and your friend understands.

So you decide to forgive. You say it is ok, that you will put it behind you. Now remember that forgiveness is not the same as trust. One can forgive and forget, but trust can only be rebuilt through time.

Also, it is not as easy to trust without forgiveness.

To tell your friend private information... you'd have to trust and forgive.

Imagine Jesus forgiving Peter. He does so by giving Peter a responsibility that is very important to Jesus. He wants Peter to share the gospel to the world. This is a life and death mission for Jesus. He can't entrust the words of life to the wrong people. It is evident that Jesus has forgiven Peter completely.

Read Romans 8:1-2.

Read Three Times

Completely Gone...

When a punishment is paid in full, the courts are not allowed to sentence the criminal again. Judgment is done when the penalty is paid.

Why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?

1. Because Jesus has paid the penalty in full. Nothing more is owed.
2. Because Jesus' death is on our behalf.
3. Because nothing is left to pay.

What does it mean to be "in Christ Jesus?"

1. It means that we trust in what He did for us.
2. It means we believe in Christ's death for us.
3. It means that we belong to Him.

Thinking just a bit deeper... (verse 2)

What is it that condemns us in the first place? Is it our sin?

1. No, it is the law that condemns, because of our sin. God's law says that the person who sins shall die.
2. So once a person has sinned, the law of God condemns him/her.
3. The law of sin and death cannot do anything else.

But the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is able to set us free... why?

1. Because the penalty of death was paid.
2. Jesus had victory over death.
3. Nothing else is owed.

To Think About:

Peter was forgiven. He was forgiven because Jesus took the penalty of Peter's sin. God could not just pretend Peter's sin did not exist. His justice demanded that it be punished. But His love provided that Jesus take the penalty instead.

So Peter is free from death and the judgement of the law will no longer affect Peter.

Application for Christian and Non-Christian Campers:

It is the same with any of us. If you belong to Jesus, then all your sin is paid for. No penalty will ever need to be carried out again. It is finished.

Christians need to remember that our sin is paid. The sentence of the law cannot condemn us any more.

Sometimes we begin to think that we must not be saved because we still find ourselves doing wrong things. When we think this way, we condemn ourselves. But God has already paid the penalty through His Son. So if He does not condemn us, why should we condemn ourselves?

If you belong to God, you are free from sin. Christ lives within you, and you are free to serve God as He asks. We no longer have to feel like we are losers. We are the forgiven children of God.

If you have never given your life to Christ, then the Spirit of Christ does not live in you. You do not belong to God. You do not live like Him, and will die without Him. Whether you condemn yourself or not, the law still does.

Remember, Jesus came to give you life, but you have to choose whether or not you will give your life to Him. There is no other way to pay for sin.

Wrap-Up: Read and explain Memory Verses

Jude 24:25 "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our

Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

- God is able to present us faultless before the glory of a perfect, holy God. He does this by the payment of a penalty, which completely forgives us, and gives us a clean slate.
- Faultless is without fault. In other words... God doesn't hold a grudge. And we will see that He also trusts us to share the gospel with others like He asked of Peter.

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

- What else can condemn us? If the law is satisfied that a penalty is done, then we are free. And if we are free, then we are free indeed.

Ideas for PM Devotions:

Talk about how we hold grudges on one another. Ask why we find it so hard to forgive.

Read the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-15. Discuss how Jesus said that if we do not forgive, then our father couldn't forgive us either. God wants us to enjoy complete forgiveness. But if we do not forgive, then we cannot understand true forgiveness.

How can we forgive others who have really hurt us? It is so hard.

- ✓ Consider how much Jesus had to suffer for my sin.
 - ✓ Consider that I am not really any better than the person who hurt me.
 - ✓ Thank God for not condemning me completely for my sins.
 - ✓ Ask God for help to forgive my friend who hurt me.
 - ✓ Choose to forgive. It is a good thing to even say the words. I forgive _____ for what they did to me.
 - ✓ In some situations it may be wise to communicate the forgiveness, but do not flaunt it as though we are better.
-

Ideas For Skits:

Just a Parking Ticket...

Scene 1 Mail is dropped into the front door slot of an apartment.

Roomie 1: Hey that's the mail. I bet it's for my roommate again.

Roomie 1: Let's see. *(Leafs through each piece)* Not me. Not me. Not me. Not me.
See I told you. He always gets all the mail.

Roomie 1: Hey, what's this? *(Turns over envelope and looks through to light)*
Huh? Oh, no, my roommate got a speeding ticket. He can't afford this.

Roomie 1: *(Pulls out his chequebook and writes a check to the courthouse, and puts it in the envelope, while muttering about caring for his friend.)*

Scene 2 Mail is dropped into the front door slot of an apartment.

Roomie 2: Hey that's the mail. I bet there's something for me again.

Roomie 2: Let's see... *(Leafs through each piece)* ...a letter from home... my sports catalogue... telephone bill... and a letter from the courthouse. *(Pause as realization settles in)* What from the courthouse? *(Opens envelope)*

Roomie 2: It's a receipt ... for ... a \$500 ... speeding ticket? Oh my, I never paid for this?
"I wonder who paid it for me?"

Time's Up!

Scene begins with a man brought to judgment by a crime boss, because of a \$20 debt.

C. Boss: I will ask you one last time... Where is the \$20 I loaned you? Pay up!

Loanee 1: Please, I only have \$18. Please give me one more day.

C. Boss: Do you think I am a fool? I gave you enough time. *(Nods to the muscle.)*

Muscle: Takes man out as he screams.

C. Boss: Next. *(Pause as other henchmen escort a second man into room.)*

C. Boss: I think you know that your first payment is due today.

Loanee 2: Please, I only have a couple dollars. Please give me one more day.

C. Boss: Do you think I am a fool? I gave you enough time. *(Waves at the muscle.)*

Muscle: *(Takes man out as he screams.)*

C. Boss: Now bring in the boy who owes me the 2 million. *(2 other muscle escort a scared boy into room. They stand behind him as he faces the crime boss.)*

C. Boss: I think you know that your first payment of \$50 grand is due.

Boy: I uh... well, Sir, I uh... don't have it all uh... with me, Sir.

C. Boss: Listen carefully to me, boy. Do you think that I am playing games? *(gets louder as he progresses)*

Boy: Uh... well no, Sir, I don't.

C. Boss: So where is my money?

Boy: I don't have it, uh... Sir.

C. Boss: *(Nods to his me, they grab him and begin to escort him away.)*

Boy: Please, Sir, I don't deserve your forgiveness, but will you please?
Pleeeeeease, Sir.

C. Boss: Stop. Bring him back. *(They do.)* Boy, today's your lucky day. I forgive you the \$50 grand. No wait, since I feel so generous, I forgive the 2 million. Go, you're free.

FOLLOWING WITH BOLDNESS!*Discipling Others...*

Objectives: To help each camper see that when God works in our hearts with His Spirit, we are changed and we can stand up with boldness for Him.

Main Passage:

Acts 4:13
Acts 4:1-20

Acts 3:1-26

Memory Verse:**Bonus Verse:** Hebrews 12:1-2

Background Info: Peter was the one who was not able to say he was with Jesus when Jesus was crucified. He stayed far away and denied Christ three times. But when he finally submitted to Christ, and received the Holy Spirit there was a big change in his courage. God changes us from the inside.

The change was a direct result of the Holy Spirit in Peter's life. But be careful to interpret the Scriptures accurately. Just because the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 made changes in Peter and the other disciples, does not mean that the Holy Spirit is a second blessing separate from salvation. The mistake is to link salvation in Peter as prior to the ascension, and to assume that the Acts 2 event must therefore be a separate thing. Remember what Jesus had said to His disciples... "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." John 16:7

If Jesus did not leave, the Holy Spirit could not come. Since the grace of salvation includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, it would have not been possible for the disciples to be Christians in the full sense until the Pentecost. But after He came, believers received the Spirit of Christ at the moment of salvation. I believe that all Christians have the power of the Holy Spirit as promised.

Discovering God:

Peter preaches with no fear – Living Jesus in the Real World! We also need to learn who we are in Christ.

Review the story of Peter's Denial and Jesus' forgiveness

Remember how Peter denied knowing Jesus at his trial? He denied knowing Jesus three times. Jesus had even warned Peter this would happen, and Peter had said it never would. But he did it. We all get afraid and weak when we are alone.

Then Peter was forgiven and even trusted to share the words of Jesus.

But just because one is forgiven and trusted doesn't mean a change has happened. When Peter was so afraid of being killed, he denied knowing Jesus. How can he learn bravery just by being forgiven?

"HE CAN'T"

People cannot change without God changing them on the inside.

Read Acts 3:1-11.

Quick scan to get the context!

A lame man walks...

Peter and John had gone into the temple to pray, and they met a lame man, begging at the gate. He asked them for help. They had nothing to give him, but reached out and told him to get to his feet and walk. The man got to his feet and walked, and jumped and praised God.

The people knew the man, and knew that he was not able to walk. So when they saw him walking and jumping, they were amazed.

Now I wonder if...

Did Peter know who would hear his words that day?

Considering that they were in the temple, it was likely that some of the high priest's family would have been in the crowd.

Compare Acts 4:1-6 with John 18:13, 24.

- Who were Annas and Caiaphas?
- What danger could they present to Peter and John?

Read Acts 3:12-26.

Campers read and comment

Peter boldly preaches in the open area!!

Peter hears the amazement in the crowd of people and begins to speak to them. Notice how bravely he speaks. He no longer runs away.

Perhaps have the campers read and share the different parts where Peter became exceptionally bold in what he said... considering that he was in the temple of Jerusalem and did not know who was his audience.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 13 | Peter referred to Jesus as a glorified servant of God. |
| 13, 14 | Peter accused them of murder, of an innocent man. |
| 15 | He said Jesus rose from the dead, knowing the Sadducees disagreed. |
| 19-22 | He commanded them to repent, and turn to Jesus... |
| 23-26 | He claimed that Jesus was the promised seed of Abraham, which meant that He is the Messiah. The priests would never agree to this. And Peter knew it. In fact, Peter knew that this was the very thing that Jesus had claimed of Himself, and that the high priests had used against Him to get Him crucified. Even though it was true, Peter was taking the chance that it would get him arrested too. |

Read Acts 4:1-20.

Short Study

After the sermon...

As Peter is finishing his speaking, the high priests and other rulers in the temple came and arrested him and John, and put them in jail for the night. If he didn't know to whom he would answer before, he does now!

How many people believed Peter's message and were saved? Who knows how many heard and did not believe. It was a very large crowd.

Peter knows that the high priests will not be happy with him. He knows they had already tried to get rid of the teaching of Jesus. But now he has not only preached to a huge crowd in front of the temple, but many of them had become followers of Jesus as well. This would make the high priests even angrier.

Read Acts 4:8-20.

Read and Think

Aren't you already in enough trouble Peter?

So Peter is asked by what authority he healed the man.

Do you notice where the Scripture shows that he got his boldness?

- ✓ He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ This is the Spirit of Christ, who lives with him and helps him always.

Peter responds to the question. He does not add unnecessary information. Yet he is direct and to the point, without mincing words. What does he say now that could get him into deep water with the high priests?

10	Peter is specific about whom Jesus is, and that it was Jesus' miracle.
10	Peter accuses them of killing Jesus again.
10	Peter again affirms that Jesus rose from the dead.
12	He points to Jesus as the only way to have sins forgiven.

Verse 13 tells us an amazing thing. The rulers and priest recognized something about Peter and John. They knew that they were disciples of Jesus. How did they know this?

- ✓ Because they were untrained men, who were bold and knew what to say.
- ✓ So they figured that Jesus must have trained them.
- ✓ They did not know that the Spirit of Christ lived within Peter and John.

But since the healed man, who was 40 years old, and had never walked, was standing and walking in front of them, the chief priests and rulers were not able to argue anything in front of all the people.

So they had a private meeting, before giving their decision. This was like a jury that meets in private before coming back to give their decision. In this case, however, the jury is also the judge.

They decided to warn Peter and John to not speak or teach anything more in Jesus' name. But Peter and John said they would continue to do so. They were bold again. They stood up for what was right in front of the authorities. And the rulers were unable to do anything except offer further threats, and let them go.

Everyone understood that it was God who had done the healing, and they believed in Jesus, in whose name the miracle had been done.

NOW DON'T MISUNDERSTAND!

Do not misunderstand the application to this event. They asked the priests whether it was better to obey them or God. We might think that this gives us permission to disobey our parents or the government in certain cases. Some think they don't ever have to obey non-Christian parents. Some think they don't have to obey anything request that is "against God's ways."

But how do you define "against God's ways?" Remember, the same God also told us to obey our parents and governments. He didn't make an excuse for those whose parents were not doing right. Disobedience dishonours the God who asked us to be obedient.

So to what were Peter and John referring?

Most of the time a non-Christian parent is **not** really asking you to disobey God. They are rather asking that if you want to say you believe in God, then do it all the way. Don't live on the fence.

Illustration: A teen was told that he could not attend church or pray any more, so he shared his dilemma with another Christian, saying he had no choice but to disobey his parents. The older Christian asked to speak to the boy's parents. They told him that they had no problem with their son attending church at first, but that the more he went, the more disrespectful of them he became. They figured that if church was teaching him disrespect, then it was not a viable option.

We must be sure that our actions please God. He says that, "*When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*" Proverbs 16:7

This means that if our ways don't please Him, we may find ourselves with more resistance from the world. Truthfully, isn't it the Christians who compromise with the world that causes the world to hate Christ more?

To Think About:

Peter would never be able to be so bold without the help of the Holy Spirit. He would not have known what to say. He would have stumbled and made a fool out of himself. Instead of the high priests taking a step back, they may have laughed at them, and let them go. But the end result would have been different.

What do you think would have happened?

- ✓ During the first day's message, the 5000 may not have been saved.
- ✓ God would not have been glorified on the next day as a result of the release.

Application for Christian and Non-Christian Campers:

What can you do on your own? On what do you rely completely on God for? Do you need God every day?

We need to be asking others to follow us like Peter and John. This takes God's help.

We need the help of the Holy Spirit every day. What does He do?

- ✓ Encourages us.
- ✓ Reminds us of Truth
- ✓ Reminds us of Christ.
- ✓ Teaches us.
- ✓ Prays for us.
- ✓ Helps us understand Scripture
- ✓ Speaks through us in time of need
- ✓ Blesses others through us

If you have never given your life to Christ, then the Holy Spirit can also help you. The Scripture says that the Holy Spirit helps the world by convicting them of sin and righteousness and judgment. If He is making you think you need Jesus, then the Holy Spirit is working on your heart. But He will not work forever, if you keep saying, "No."

Wrap-Up: Read and explain Memory Verses

Acts 4:13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

- Remember that before meeting Jesus, we are unable to follow Him. We are sinful and we even tend to speak out of selfish motives.
- But those who are with Jesus are changed to become more like Him.
- But we also have the power of God with us at all times to live right before God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Many people in the Scriptures obeyed God showing faith in Him. These people, and so many who live around us today, prove to us that we can stand for God, even in the midst of tough times, and awkward peer pressure.
- We have to keep our focus on Christ, just like a racer who concentrates on the finish line. We need to remember Him who suffered more than shame for us.
- The good thing is that God does not ever make us do this on our own strength. But to make the strength available to us, we must first act on it in faith.

Ideas for PM Devotions:

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Group Discussion...

Why did Jesus say, "All authority is given unto Me?"

This shows He has the right to ask us to obey.

Why did Jesus say, "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age?"

We need His help. He has never left, since the end of the age is not yet here.

Discuss ways to stand against peer pressure.

Ideas For Skits:

A Spy With a Bug...

Man walks around stage, and seems to understand information about his surroundings on stage. He occasionally puts his 2 fingers to his ear, as though trying to listen better, shows that he understands, and continues. He mutters as he goes.

A Spy: I am in the room.
I am looking for a black square on the floor.
But there is a carpet. It's about 10 by 10 feet. It's a large throw rug.
It's under the southeast corner.
Yes, its here.
Flashlight... and penknife... lift the tile... look on the back...
Five, Six, Nine, Three, Five, Five, Four (*replaces tile and corner of rug*)
Yes, there are two pictures on the wall.
The right one (*lifts the picture off, revealing the safe*)
Ok, now what were the numbers?
Five, Six, umm... (*He puts the wire back in his ear as though it fell out.*)
Five, Six, Nine, Three, Five, Five, Four (*Opens door*)
Here is the scroll. I have it. (*Exits*)

Narrator: The Holy Spirit is like an ever-present guide. He is always there to help us understand truth, and to remind us of what is right.

I Can't Hear You!

This sketch is written for the purpose of explaining that in order to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, we have to keep obedient and close to God.

Person 1: (*walks up to stage and speaks to audience*) I suppose that you may wonder what this is all about. In fact, some of you may think of this as too simple, maybe even like Sesame Street. I simply ask that you pay attention, because among the simple truths of life we often miss the obvious.

Voice: I am over here. Can you hear me?

Person 1: I can hear you. It is so nice to always hear your voice. (*He walks away.*)

Person 1: (*Pauses as he listens*) Hello? Are you there? Hello? You said you'd never leave? Hello?? (*Gets a bit frantic*)

Voice: You are walking away. You cannot hear when you are far away.

Person 1: Oh wait... I hear your voice now, but it's faint. (*He walks toward voice.*)

Voice: I am always here. Don't go away from me, or you will not hear me.

Person 1: Really? Let's see. I am close. Talk to me.

Voice: I am here.

Person 1: I can hear you. I am close. (*He walks away.*)

Person 1: Hello? Talk to me.

Voice: I am here.

Person 1: Hello? (*Pause*) I am far. I cannot hear you. (*He walks close.*)

Voice: I am here.

Person 1: Yes, I am close. I can hear you. (*He walks away, continues to act - like Ernie.*)

Voice: (*walks over to audience*) Close and far you understand. But why do you wander away from God, and then wonder why you no longer hear His voice?

FIRST NIGHT OF CAMP...

It is important not to spend too much time talking about yourself. Help your campers open up by asking some caring questions. Listen well. Let your campers know that you are interested in them.

Jesus showed interest through questions. He asked the Samaritan, "Where is your husband?" On the Emmaus road he asked, "Where are you going?" Both questions opened up avenues to share.

Questions can be asked the first night, during an informal chat or during one-on-one times spent with each camper.

1. How did you hear about camp?
2. Why did you come to camp?
3. What skills did you sign up for?
4. What was the most exciting thing that happened to you so far this year?
5. Tell me about your family?
6. Who is your best friend?
7. What is he or she like?
8. Who is your hero?
9. What do you like to do in your free time?
10. Tell me about your relationship with your dad/mom.

FIRST NIGHT OPTION...

Create verbal pictures of God's greatness and power.

- ✓ Show the power by asking questions about the greatness of the universe.
- ✓ Tell them about your awe in one thing. Ask about theirs. Talk about it for a while.
- ✓ Then drop the thought: "Isn't it amazing that God made it all just by speaking?"

Create verbal pictures of God's love and care.

- ✓ Show His love and care by talking about how He was more concerned for Adam & Eve than for all the greatness He had just created.
- ✓ Have them talk about the things God provided..., i.e., taste buds to recognize flavours
- ✓ Then drop the thought: "And He gave everything He made for us to enjoy."

DEVOTIONAL DISCIPLINE...

Morning Devotions

½ hour each morning

During this time your primary objective is to teach your campers how to have devotions and to give them practice in a daily habit that should last after they leave the camp. Explain why and how we have devotions. Then model good devotions for them. It is not necessary to learn lots. Put to practice one thing each day, and you will have done 365 things in a year! That's good devotions.

Meet as a group at first. If some are able to do devotions on their own, you may wish to let them to do it individually or as pairs, under your supervision. Others may need help all week.

Evening Devotions

½ hour each evening

The closing moments of the day can be most important. The pace is slower, and thoughts become more serious. It's your task to gather together these thoughts, create a feeling of closeness, and end a very active day with a few moments of quiet conversation, appropriate Scripture and prayer. Anticipate this time eagerly. It is one of the best opportunities you have to get next to your kids, determine their needs and observe their spiritual growth.

The setting is important. Gather comfortably in a circle so that you can have good eye contact. Be sure everyone is ready for bed before you begin. This should be the final event of the day, not just an interlude between trips outside for a drink.

Using flashlights instead of overhead lights will help create a quiet mood. This means that once the lights are off for devotions, they stay off. Be sure each camper has his own Bible to use. Try to start devotions at the scheduled time and finish them on time as well.

Our purpose for the evening devotion is to wrap up the Discovery, chapel and other events of the day. Avoid a cut-and-dry approach where you simply read a Scripture passage, say a few things about it and then close in prayer. Allow for spontaneity. Be alert to the mood that may have been created at the evening campfire or chapel.

Group devotions are a new experience for some, and they may be reluctant to participate. Be sensitive to this. Teach by example how to pray for specifics and to discourage lengthy prayers. Plan ahead. Good devotions do not just happen.

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL TO CHILDREN...

Variety is the spice! Puppets, storytelling, drama, object lessons, games, role plays and many other methods are used to effectively present the way of salvation to children in many different settings. It may result in the privilege of leading a child to Christ. The following principles have proved to be helpful for teachers in guiding children to understand what it means to become a Christian.

Avoid symbolism. Children talk literally. They often misunderstand a figure of speech that is meaningful to adults. For example, young children may interpret "letting Jesus into your heart" as a tiny figure of Christ physically entering their chest. On the other hand it is very good to teach children how to understand an allegory.

Choose terminology carefully and be consistent in its use. One easily understood concept is that of becoming part of God's family (see John 1:12). The family relationship is meaningful for most. Even a child from an unhappy home can be helped to respond to a loving, heavenly Father.

Ask questions to encourage discussion of feelings as well as understandings. For example, "What is one thing you like about Jesus?" or "How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves you?" As a child expresses both thought and feeling, it is possible to guide both knowledge and attitude.

Talk individually with each child. Avoid asking for responses in a group. Children are easily pressured into doing what others do, without having made a truly personal commitment. If a child shows interest in becoming a Christian, arrange a time when (s)he can have your full attention.

Freedom of choice is of utmost importance. Decisions made to please the counselor are invalid, before God and the parents. Avoid enticements or other pressures. Allow God to work in the heart. Offering a child time to think about this step is a helpful approach.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and to the child. The Spirit will help you know when He is dealing with a child and when it is the right time to invite the child to become part of God's family. As you pray regularly for a child, and get to know him well, you can depend on the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom in dealing effectively with that child's need.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CAMPER SAYS...

I'm not so bad. *Prov 21:2, 10 Commandments*

I'm not good enough yet. *Lk 5:31-32; 16: 11-31*

I can't understand. *Jn 7:17*

I can't hold out. *Heb 7:25*

I tried once and failed. *Heb 7:25*

I don't need a Saviour. *Jn 3:18*

I'll wait till later. *Prov 27:1*

I don't believe in Christ. *Acts 4:12*

I can't leave my old friends. *I Cor 15:33*

There's too much to give up. *Mk 8:36*

There's too many hypocrites. *Rom 14:12*

What will people think? *Jn 5:44*

What about other religions? *Prov 14:12*

What about the heathen? *Rom 1:20*

There are too many mysteries. *Jn 13:7*

God won't send anyone to hell. *Mt 25:41*

God is love, there is no danger. *II P 2:4*

It is too late. *Ezek 33:19*

HOW TO LEAD A CHILD TO CHRIST...

This is the job of the Holy Spirit. Our part is to teach the Word of God. The Holy Spirit yields faith to those who hear! "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Rom 10:17

Note: Salvation does not depend on what we do (works). Neither does it depend on the "sinner's prayer," nor on sincerity. It depends on God's response to real faith. Real faith comes as a response to God and His word. Therefore we must not just tell kids that God will accept them if they say a prayer of forgiveness, and they can go to heaven because Jesus died for them.

BUT what part of the Word should I teach? There are two important points to consider.

1. All of God's Word gives life, because it is all true.
2. But Scripture teaches a process whereby we come to salvation.

What must I know to be saved?

- ✓ That God loves me, but hates my sin – which is rebellion against Him.
- ✓ That I have disobeyed God, and deserve His punishment: death.
- ✓ That I cannot save myself.
- ✓ That Jesus, God's Son, took my punishment: He died.
- ✓ That Jesus rose from the dead, and wants to give me new life.

If a child believes this, understanding sin and its punishment, then that child is saved.

How to tell them about sin? Or about hell?

- ✓ Let the Spirit of God tell them about sin. Don't just use Rom 3:23 - wimp!
- ✓ Take them to the law, and explain what God expects of us - His standard of judgment.
- ✓ Tell them what the law says about judgment: "The soul that sins shall die."
- ✓ Tell them that hell is described as torment in eternal fire. Don't play on this. Just say it!

More Hints:

- ✓ **Never pressure**, though you may ask if they want to accept Christ. Your camper will think that you are the greatest. Don't use this to direct their choices.
- ✓ **Ask what they want.** Don't assume it is to accept Christ, even if you have just made an appeal about it. They may have stayed to tell you about a pet canary.
- ✓ If a camper wants forgiveness from God, **ask why.** Be sure they know what the punishment for sin is. It is important. It is a confession that God is right, and that they cannot be saved on their own. Besides, if they did not know this, their coming to you may be works.
- ✓ Ask if they want God's help. Ask if they want to turn back to God. Ask if they believe that Jesus came to pay the penalty of their sin. Ask if they know that He is raised from the dead.
- ✓ If they affirm these points, then they are saved. **Have them thank God.** *The prayer may be as simple as admitting belief, and asking Jesus to take over as Lord. This is easily explained when you understand that sin is rebellion against the "Lord".*

HOW TO TEACH A BIBLE STUDY...

1. Concept

- A. Major Emphasis/ Theme for the day
 - ✓ Qualities of a good aim: brief enough to be remembered; clear enough to be written down; specific enough to be achieved and evaluated.
 - ✓ The aim determines what is included in the lesson and what is left out.
- B. Introduction
 - ✓ Examples, illustrations and/or lead up questions to make the emphasis more understandable.
 - ✓ Interest and curiosity must be aroused before there will be purposeful Bible Study. Keep your introduction in line with the aim.

2. Content

Search Scripture for the answers. Remember that it is DISCOVERY TIME. Much of our teaching says too much, leaving nothing for the mind of the camper to discover.

- A. Get the Facts -- What does it say? Use questions that begin with who, what, when, where, list, find, and describe. Tell the group what to look for in the Bible section. Usually a list of two or three questions is useful. This focuses attention on the things you feel are significant for the lesson. After the passage is read, ask the campers for the answers to the questions asked.
- B. Interpret the Facts -- What does it mean? Use questions that begin with why, how, explain, what is the significance of? Look for words to define. Paraphrase in your own words.

3. Conduct

Apply the facts -- What must I do? This is what it says. What am I going to do about it? Write down very specific ways in which you are going to do what God says. Do it as part of your study. Help the campers see how this spiritual truth applies or operates in their normal life situations. It is important to save ample time for this part of the lesson. Ask the campers to give situations from their own experience where this truth is involved.

4. Conclusion

- A. Something to help you communicate the lesson better. It could be an object lesson, a song, a puppet play, a skit; They involve the camper in the lesson and make it more meaningful.
- B. Review memory verse.
- C. Pray for each other and for the staff at camp.

Sample Study Outline

Objective
Introduction [lead up questions/ example/ illustration]
Bible Study
Illustration/example(s)
Conclusion questions/activities(s)

Application - spend time doing what you have been learning about
Review memory verse

TEACHING AIDS...

Acrostic

Taking a word and defining it using every letter in the word itself.

Banners & Posters

Divide your group, give them the topic of the day or an idea and have them draw their own idea of it. When they are done, they come back to the group and share about their poster or banner and how it relates to the topic or idea.

Bible Reading

As a child's reading skill increases, more independent Bible Reading may be accomplished. Be sure to clarify difficult words. Stick to a verse or two at a time.

Case Study

A true or hypothetical situation that the learners can discuss: The situation should usually be a problem that the kids often face. Have the campers suggest possible solutions to the problem and carefully evaluate each suggestion and its possible outcome. The purpose of the case study is not only to analyze a problem, but to apply to the solution the Biblical principles being discussed.

Chalk drawing and Writing

Use chalk as a visual aid writing down important things the campers say or are to remember. Use it to draw the idea that you are talking about.

Circle Response

This gets a response from every member of the group. Propose a question or situation to the group and get every member to express his/her opinion. This method can be used when one or more people dominate the discussion when you want everyone's response.

Collage

You collect material from magazines that relate to the topic. They then paste this material on a sheet of construction paper.

Drawings

No artist ability necessary. Drawings are a fun way of expressing feelings.

Graffiti

A phrase such as "Happiness is..." or "Forgiveness Means..." is written at the top of a chalkboard or large sheet of paper. You then ask the campers to help you fill it in by using as many definitions as possible.

Imaginary Diary

The camper reads the assigned passage and then tries to put himself/herself in the place of the suggested character. He or she uses his/her imagination to write a paragraph or more that the person might have written in their diary that day. There are no right or wrong answers. Allow the campers to share their work at the end of the session.

Lecture

A lot of talking: The lecture method is used to provide background to a certain topic that is to be dealt with. This method should be used with discretion. It is probably one of the most overused teaching methods around.

Open-ended Sentence / Story

This offers youth an opportunity to think through ways to apply Biblical truths for daily living. Provide a sentence or a paragraph that is not finished. The learner must finish it in relation to the day's topic.

Puppets

Puppets may be used in many forms of creative dramatics. Biblical and modern day stories come to life through puppet characters. Bible stories aid the understanding in applying biblical truths to modern day life.

Pantomime

Acting out a story, letting your actions express the words and meaning

Paraphrasing

Campers are asked to put into their own words a certain passage of Scripture.

Personal Experiences

Share some of your own joys and struggles as it pertains to the Bible Study. Ask your campers to share some as well.

Play Reading

Acting out the Scriptural text

Question & Answer

The secret to success in discussion is writing good, clear questions. Avoid "yes", "no" or obvious answer questions. Use factual "who, what, where, when, how" and the thought provoking "why" questions.

Repetition

Don't just talk about the main theme of the lesson once and allow the students to lose sight of what you are trying to say.

Role Plays

Each group is given a situation that they must act out. The value comes in acting out the situation along with a discussion of the meaning involved.

Storytelling

Have clearly in your mind a good, vivid description of each character in the story. Look into the faces of the campers. Show facial expression as you tell the story. Put expression into your voice as well. Speak slowly, clearly and distinctly.

Student Teach

Allow some of the more mature campers to teach a whole or part of a lesson. Make sure you help them in the preparation.

"HEY, JESUS, SHOW US GOD"

Jesus, the God-Man!

Jesus is 100% God and 100% man. He belongs to God.

A study of Jesus' birth: Who is He? Where did He come from?

One Life-Goal!

Jesus belongs to God. He lived like God, and followed God.

We want to study Jesus' childhood and lifestyle in ministry: How He lived.

The Perfect Model!

Jesus taught how to be like Himself, how to follow God!

We are unable to follow, because we don't belong to God!

Jesus, the Way-Maker!

Jesus pays our price.

Therefore we can belong to God again!

Walking with Jesus!

Jesus empowers us to follow.

Jesus provided our necessary help: Holy Spirit, Word of God, and Prayer!

Do You Love Me?

Becoming a disciple, a follower

We need to learn forgiveness and trust – and who we are in Christ.

Following with Boldness!

Discipling others... asking others to follow.

Living Jesus in the Real World! Standing boldly for Jesus!