



LIFE AFTER CAMP



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LIFE AFTER CAMP

There really is no place like camp. The trees, the lake, the stars...it is refreshing to spend a week in the beauty of nature, disconnected from all the distractions and busyness of home. There is something special about the way relationships form and the way you feel about yourself and those around you when you are there. There is an undeniable presence of God that you can't ignore.

We believe that there is significance in the way that we can encounter Jesus at camp. We have opportunities to see Him in nature, during worship, while someone is talking about Him, or in our relationships with each other. And we are often given the opportunity to decide if we would like to follow Him.

Following Jesus in life after camp looks different than when we are surrounded by people who are all focusing on the same thing. We are faced with hard decisions, painful situations, and doubts about if Jesus is really at work. It can feel hard to remember why we chose to follow Jesus in the first place.

We wanted to put something into your hands that will hopefully help you learn how to keep following Jesus even after all the songs are sung and the campfire is put out and everyone has gone home. We hope this inspires you to create rhythms in your life that help you see and know Jesus every day. Because camp always ends, but following Jesus in life after camp doesn't have to.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is designed to help you engage in practices that help you continue to get to know Jesus throughout your life. Through trying different ways of thinking about Him, talking to Him, and reading about Him in His word (The Bible), our hope is that you would learn how to see Jesus alive and active in your daily life and develop patterns that grow your relationship with Him.

This book is organized in 5 sections: **Seeing and Knowing Jesus, Talking to Jesus, Reading God’s Word, Connecting to Spiritual Community, and Telling Your Friends and Family.** Each section has several “days” and each day gives you something to think about, something to read about, something to write about, and something to pray about.

Even though the days are numbered 1-18, you do not have to work through this whole book in 18 days. You may want to read it on Mondays // Wednesdays // Fridays, or every other day, or once a week. Because each day has several parts, you may actually want to break up when you do what you do. Maybe you want to “think about it” in the morning before school, “read about it” and “write about it” after school, and “pray about it” before bed. Or maybe you want to sit down for twenty minutes and do it all at once. It’s all up to you. Find a way that works for you and do it. For each day you will need a Bible (we suggest the New Living Translation - see the tips section in Reading God’s Word to find out more about translations) and something to write with and something to write in.

To make the most of this, we suggest trying to eliminate distractions (so put your phone away), doing it at the same time every day, see it to the end (even if you give up or forget a million times), and inviting another camper or a friend to do it with you. However you use this book, our greatest hope is that you will come to know Jesus more through it. And we think learning about Him is the best place to start!

SEEING + KNOWING JESUS



DAY 1 - WHO IS JESUS?



THINK ABOUT IT

- What do you believe about Jesus? How did you come to believe that?
- Jesus is one of the most famous and controversial people in history, whether people believe He is God or not. It has been debated for centuries whether He was just a good man and teacher, a crazy person, or actually The Saviour. When we read God's Word (the Bible), it tells us that Jesus is God's son, sent to earth to be God as a human, living amongst His people (John 1:1-5, 14). He lived a life that shows us the way of God's Kingdom. And then He died and rose again so that, when we trust in Him, the broken relationship between God and His people could be healed forever.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read John 1:1-18, John 14:1-7, Philippians 2:5-11



WRITE ABOUT IT

- Who do these verses say Jesus is?
- What sticks out to you about how these verses describe Jesus?
- What are the things that are hard to understand about Jesus?
- How would you describe who Jesus is to you?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you. Tell Him the things that confuse you about Him and ask Him to help you find clarity. Thank Him for the ways that you have already come to know Him.

DAY 2 - WHAT DID JESUS DO?



THINK ABOUT IT

- What do you think you would have thought about Jesus if you were on earth when He was?
- When we read the Bible, it says that Jesus is God's son, sent to earth to be fully God and fully man, living amongst His people whom He created and loves so much. There are four books in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) which are all about His life, mostly the last 3 years of it. It was in those years that He showed the world God's character by living out the ways of God's Kingdom on earth. He loved people by spending time with those no one else would talk to, serving the poor, miraculously healing the sick, forgiving people, pushing against the hurtful customs of society, and training up some disciples to help share His message of love and salvation.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read two of these stories: Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 19:1-10; John 4:1-30



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What sticks out to you about the things Jesus did?
- How would you feel if you were one of the people He interacted with?
- What do these verses tell you about God's character? The ways of God's kingdom?
- How have you experienced Jesus like this in your life?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask Jesus to teach you how to be more aware of how to follow the way of God's Kingdom in your everyday life. Ask Him to teach you about how He loved people and how you can do the same.

DAY 3 - WHY DID JESUS DIE?



THINK ABOUT IT

- What do you think the world would be like if Jesus didn't die on the cross?
- God created the world in a perfect order, everyone and everything in perfect peace with one another. Because He loved His us so much, God gave the people He first created the choice to do things that kept that peace or to do things that broke that peace and brought death, both physically and spiritually (Genesis 1 & 2). When His people chose to break that peace and order, the relationship between God and His creation was broken. This is called sin. Since then, God, in His justice and grace, said that He would conquer sin and death and make a way for us to be connected to Him again. That way is Jesus. God said that the brokenness of sin can be healed through the sacrifice of Jesus' life on the cross and Him raising to life again.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23-26; John 3:16-17
- You can read the whole story of Jesus' death and resurrection in Luke 22-24.



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What do these verses tell you about sin? What do they tell you about Jesus? What do they make you feel?
- How have you experienced the brokenness of sin in yourself or the world around you?
- What do these verses tell us about God's love for His people?
- What do you think being made right with God looks like for you?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Spend some time reflecting on how this story has affected your life. Thank Jesus for the ways that you see Him healing the brokenness from sin in you and around you.

DAY 4 - IS JESUS ALIVE?



THINK ABOUT IT

- If you lived in Jesus' time, do you think you would have believed Jesus rose from the dead or thought it was fake? Why?
- The story doesn't stop after Jesus dies on the cross. Three days later He rises from the dead! But He didn't just die and come back to life, He actually conquered death and brought new life into the world through the forgiveness of sins. He was then taken to Heaven to be with His Father. He did not leave us on earth alone. He says that now we can have His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to help us live a new life that is not ruled by sin and brokenness but is marked with His truth and life. That means that as His Spirit lives in us, He is alive in us! He tells us that we will be able to do the same things He did by the power of His Spirit, like asking Him to heal people and helping them come to know Him. He also promises us that He will go back up to Heaven and then come back again, once and for all, to heal everything completely and make everything new again, like it was when God first created all things.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Matthew 20:1-10; Acts 1:3-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What does a new life in Jesus look differently from their old life for some one who first starts to follow Him?
- What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?
- Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit in your life? What was that like?
- What do these passages say about how you can live now?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask Jesus to give you His Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn how to live more like Jesus did. Thank Jesus for the gift of His Spirit.

DAY 5 - HOW CAN I FOLLOW JESUS?



THINK ABOUT IT

- When you hear the word “follow”, what do you think of?
- Sometimes the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection can be overwhelming. We are often left with lots of questions: Why didn’t God just stop sin from coming into the world? Couldn’t He have made a different way to heal our brokenness instead of Jesus? Why would He love us so much to die for us? Can I really live a life that follows the way of His kingdom? The best part about following Jesus is that He invites us to follow Him even with all of our doubts, questions, or confusion. He just says, “Come with me, we’ll figure it out along the way.” Following Jesus means that we are willing to be taught by the Holy Spirit how to live a new life in the way of God’s kingdom, a way of love, peace, and forgiveness.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Mark 1:16-20; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Matthew 22:37-40; Luke 9:23



WRITE ABOUT IT

- Jesus asks his disciples to leave their nets to follow Him. What are the “nets” that you have to put down to follow Jesus?
- What would be hard for the disciples to follow Jesus? What is hard for us?
- Who is our neighbour? What does it mean to love them as we love ourselves?
- What needs to change in your life to start to live a new life following Christ?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask Jesus to help you to know how to follow Him. Ask Him to show you who your neighbour is and how to love them. Ask Him for strength for facing the hard stuff. And ask Him to show you what needs to change in your life to continue to follow Him.

TALKING TO JESUS



TALKING TO JESUS

When you make new friends, you need to do things to help your friendship grow. In the same way, building a relationship with Jesus takes some work. You need to do things to get to know Him more and things to have Him know you more. You need to spend time together. You need to talk to and listen to each other. As you do this, you will start to see how knowing Jesus affects your life. You will start to pay attention to how you can be like Him in your thoughts, your words, your actions, and your decisions. One of the ways you can do all of this is through prayer.

Have you ever heard anyone say that they will be praying for you? Or tell you that you should pray about a decision you have to make? Sometimes it can seem like prayer is a really important and powerful thing that we can screw up if we don't do it right.

Prayer is simply defined as having a conversation with Jesus. Just like a conversation with a friend where you speak honestly and listen well to get to know each other and show value to one another, Jesus invites you into conversation with Him. He encourages you to share your thoughts, your hurts, your doubts, and your needs with Him. He asks you to listen so you can hear what He has to say. He says He wants you to ask Him to do powerful things for people around you. He wants you to see and know Him and feel seen and known by Him through a rhythm of daily conversation. In this section you will explore different ways to pray.

TIPS ON LEARNING TO PRAY

- Set a time every day that you are going to do it - and then do it!
- Find a place that you won't get distracted or interrupted.
- Write down things that you pray for in a journal, or a chalkboard, or even a note on your phone.
- Pray through singing the worship songs that you listen to.
- If you feel like you are supposed to, let people know you are praying for them and ask them what they need prayer for.

DAY 6 - WHY SHOULD I PRAY?



THINK ABOUT IT

- Have you ever wanted something so badly you asked your parents or guardians for it over and over again? What happened?
- There are lots of different thoughts on what prayer is and when and why we should do it. Some people only pray when there is a crisis. Other people pray to say thanks. Other people pray when they need a good parking spot. Some people pray in anger when something bad happens. Some pray because that's what they were taught to do.
- Prayer is a little bit of a mystery. The Bible is clear that it is something that Jesus did, that Jesus invites us to do, and that God responds to. People pray to express sadness, gratitude, fear, need for help or healing, and authority over evil. Though it is a mystery why God chooses to respond to each prayer in the way He does, one thing seems apparent when we pray; He changes us through it.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Matthew 6:7-13; James 5:13-18; Luke 18:1-8



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What are the questions you have about prayer?
- What stops you from praying to God?
- How would you feel if you prayed for something and it didn't happen?
- What types of things do these verses tell us to pray about?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask the Holy Spirit for a desire to be in conversation with God each day. Ask Him to teach you about how to pray. Thank Him for wanting to be in conversation with us.

DAY 7 - PRAYING IN FAITH



THINK ABOUT IT

- Have you ever made a wish? What was it and why did you wish it?
- Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something. It's believing that they are who they say they are and will do what they say they will do. There is a verse in the Bible that says "Faith shows the reality of what we hope for..." (Hebrews 11:1). Faith in God is believing that He will be who He says He will be forever.
- Praying in faith is not like making a wish and hoping it comes true. It is believing that we are asking a powerful God, our good Father, to help us in the way that is best for us. Faith is also trusting that even if God does not answer our prayers in the way that we want Him to, He will still bring good things out of the situation. Praying in faith is asking big things of God, knowing He can do them, and surrendering our control by saying to God "not my will, but yours be done."



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Matthew 7:7-11; Mark 11:22-25



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What makes you doubt or lose faith in who God is?
- What helps your faith to be strengthened?
- How do these verses encourage you to have more faith?
- What stops you from believing that God will answer your prayers?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask God to help you increase your faith in Him. Ask Him to teach you how to pray in faith, believing He is a good Father who gives good gifts to His children.

DAY 8 - PRAYING FOR OTHERS



THINK ABOUT IT

- Has anyone told you they were praying for you? What did that mean to you?
- Many times throughout the Bible people are encouraged to pray for others and people ask others to pray for them. It is beautiful about being a part of a community that talks to Jesus on behalf of each other and with each other. When we talk to Jesus about people in our lives, we lift our eyes off of our own needs and on to others. When we pray for people, our hearts grow in love for them. We also grow in awareness of what they may need and how we can help prayers be answered in their life by serving them, encouraging them, or providing for them. In the Bible we are encouraged to pray for both those people that we know and love already and those who are our enemies. We see people pray for God to provide for physical needs, emotional needs, and spiritual needs. We also see people pray for others who are far away or pray with people right then and there. In the book of James it says that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective, so let's pray for each other!



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Ephesians 1:15-20; Matthew 5:43-48



WRITE ABOUT IT

- Who are people you pray for already? Who are people you want to pray for?
- What do these verses encourage us to pray for in the lives of others?
- Who do these verses make you want to start praying for? What do you want to pray for them?
- What are situations in the world that you feel led to pray for?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Take the answers to your questions above and start praying in faith for them now!

DAY 9 - PRAYING BY LISTENING



THINK ABOUT IT

- What is the quietest sound you have ever heard? What did you have to do to be able to hear it?
- When we are getting to know a new friend, it is important for us to share who we are with them, but then also allow space for them to share who they are with us. It is the same with God. We believe that God is a God who wants to communicate with His people. We see this in so many different ways. In the Bible we see Him talk to people through crazy things like a burning bush, an angel, even a donkey! We see Him talk to us through the person of Jesus and, after Jesus leaves earth, through the Holy Spirit. God says He wants His children to hear Him, but that doesn't mean it won't take some practice.
- We have so many busy things going on in our hearts and brains every day. To listen to God we must quiet ourselves and pay attention to what He is saying through our thoughts, through our circumstances, through His word, and through nature around us.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read John 16:13-15; Acts 1:1-19



WRITE ABOUT IT

- Why is it important that we listen to the voice of God?
- Is there a time you felt like God spoke to you? What did He say?
- What do these verses say to you about listening to God?
- What is something you would like to hear from God about right now?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Take some time to sit in quiet and listen to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Take note of any words, pictures, phrases, or songs that pop into your mind. Ask the Spirit what they mean. Thank God for speaking to you.

DAY 10 - PRAYING IN THANKFULNESS



THINK ABOUT IT

- What is something that you are thankful for in your life? How do you show that gratitude?
- Being thankful goes beyond just saying thank you when we get something. Thankfulness is a mindset we have when we pay attention to goodness in our life, feel deep gratitude for it, and then express it, usually in words. In the Bible, there are countless examples of people who give thanks to God in prayer. They thank Him for the way He shows Himself to them, how He loves them, how He forgives them, how He provides for them, and how He sustains and teaches them in hard situations.
- The act of thankfulness is one where we take our eyes off of all the things we don't have and take a moment to see all the blessings we do have and respond by praising God. It helps us realize our blessings, see how He is at work in our hardships, and decreases our desires for the things we don't need. It also reminds us to keep looking for God at work to continue to be thankful throughout each day.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Psalm 100



WRITE ABOUT IT

- Do you think people see you as a thankful person? Why or why not?
- What are the things that you can thank God for in this moment?
- How do these verses encourage you to be thankful?
- Do you feel like you can pray if you are not thankful for the things happening in your life? Why or why not?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Tell God all the things that you are thankful for right now. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the things you need to be thankful for. Ask Him to help you be thankful for the things in your life that are difficult right now.

READING GOD'S WORD



READING GOD'S WORD

The Bible is the story of God's action of grace and His purpose for us, His children. It tells us who He is. The Bible is the work of over 40 human authors by the power of the Holy Spirit who inspired them in their writing. It is made up of 66 different books written in different styles like stories, poems, and historical accounts. The Old Testament is made up of books written about life on earth before Jesus came. The New Testament is made up of books written about life with Jesus on earth and then after He goes up to Heaven.

The Bible is also filled with instructions on how to live a life like Jesus, comfort for when we are in pain, guidance for making decisions, hope when things feel overwhelming, information about who we are because we are God's children, and promises from God to us. It can help us find our direction, convict us to leave behind sin that is separating us from God, and remind us that God is at work around us.

The Bible can seem hard to understand. It can feel like it doesn't connect with our current life or that we need to study special things to understand it. Like prayer, reading the Bible takes practice, and the best thing to do is start.

TIPS ON LEARNING TO READ THE BIBLE

- Get a Bible that you can understand. The Bible was originally written in languages other than English and had to be translated so we can read it. There are different translations of the Bible used for different purposes like accuracy or readability. For learning to read the Bible, we recommend the New International Version or the New Living Translation.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for help in understanding what you are reading.
- Start by reading stories about Jesus' life from the books of Luke or Mark.
- Reading books from the New Testament that end in "ians" is also helpful.
- Underline things that stand out to you. Have a Bible journal or a note on your phone to write down questions you have and ask trusted people who follow Jesus. Ask your friends to do it with you and talk about it with them.

DAY 11 - WHY SHOULD I READ THE BIBLE?



THINK ABOUT IT

- Have you ever had to figure out how to use something or play a game without a manual? What would have helped you figure it out?
- There is nothing more frustrating than trying to do something that you have never done before without any instruction on how to do it. Whether it's getting to a friend's house in a different neighbourhood for the first time or putting together Ikea furniture, having something that guides us helps us know how to do what is being asked of us.
- Because a new life in Christ means learning the ways of God's Kingdom, God gave us many things to guide us in knowing how to live that out. He gave us an example in the life of Jesus, He gave us a helper and teacher in the Holy Spirit, and He gave us instructions in His word, The Bible.
- The Bible can be confusing, frustrating, and seem contradicting. It can cause us to have questions. It can also expose us to the character of God and give us a clearer understanding of what it looks like to live life in His Kingdom on earth.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Psalm 119:104-105; James 1:22-25



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What are the questions you have about the Bible?
- What stops you from reading the Bible?
- What do these verses say about what God's word is helpful for?
- What questions about life and faith do you hope God can answer through the Bible?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask God to give you a curiosity about His word and a desire to read it. Ask Jesus to help you know how to live like Him through reading God's word. And ask the Holy Spirit to teach you as you read.

DAY 12 - THE S.O.A.P. METHOD



THE METHOD

- The S.O.A.P. method is a simple 4 step method that you can use for any groups of verses, called a passage, that you read. It is best done with a pen and a journal so that you can write down your responses. S.O.A.P. stands for scripture, observation, application, prayer.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - **SCRIPTURE:** Pick a passage of scripture to read. This can be one story about Jesus' life, a chunk of verses from one of the letters that end in "ians", or something else you've chosen from another place in the Bible.
 - **OBSERVATION:** Take note of what sticks out to you. What did you feel drawn to? What didn't sit well? What questions do you have?
 - **APPLICATION:** What does this passage cause you to do? What could God be communicating to you about an action that you need to take in your life?
 - **PRAYER:** Respond in prayer. Talk to God about the things that stood out to you. Ask Him the questions you have. And listen to Him about the actions that this passage may be encouraging you to take.



TRY IT

- Take 15 minutes to try this method. Pick one of these passages: Matthew 5:1-12; Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 4:17-32; Galatians 5:16-26 or choose another one on your own. Use the prayer prompt below before you start.
- What did you like about this method? What didn't you like?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help things you need to think about stick out to you and to teach you as you read.

DAY 13 - UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT



THE METHOD

- Interpretation is finding something's meaning by asking clarifying questions. When you read the Bible, there are things you can do that help you understand it better. Because the stories in it happened a long time ago and in a different culture, you need to ask questions that help you understand what the story means for that time. This is called understanding the context. When you understand the original context, you can know how to apply the lesson learned to your own life.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - Pick a passage of scripture to read. After read, answer these questions:
 - Who is writing this part of the Bible or speaking the words in the passage?
 - Who are these words being written to or who is hearing these words?
 - What is going on in the situation in this passage? Where is it happening?
 - Why is this being written about or said in this situation?
 - To find some of the answers to these questions you may need to read some of the verses before this passage or after the passage, look at the first chapter of the book you are reading to see if it tells you who is writing it and who it is being written to, or look on some of our suggested apps and websites (see last pages) for more information.
 - After you have gathered this information, ask yourself these questions:
 - What can I learn from the principles (or lessons) in this passage?
 - What are actions that I would have to take to learn those lessons?



TRY IT

- Take 15 minutes to try this method. Pick from one of these passages: Matthew 14: 13-21; Luke 18: 9-14; Mark 12: 41-44; Matthew 14: 22-36 or choose one of your own. Use the prayer prompt below before you start.
- What did you like about this method? What didn't you like?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you as you read, helping you find the information you need to understand the passage.

DAY 14 - WRITING GOD'S WORD



THE METHOD

- When we write things down, our brain processes them differently than if we just read them. The act of writing slows us down to help us think about the words we are writing down in a different way. When we take time to write out God's word slowly, God often gets our attention with one or two thoughts that He wants us to take away.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - Have a notebook or a few fresh pieces of paper ready to use. Have a writing utensil that you prefer to use (or markers or pencil crayons if you want to add colour).
 - Take the passage you have chosen and read it out loud once. After you have done that, write it out on your piece of paper. As you write, pay attention to what words or phrases stand out to you.
 - After it is written out once, circle or underline any words or phrases that stood out to you.
 - Write out the words or phrases that stood out to you again. Feel free to write them creatively or with emphasis (like different fonts or sizes).
 - Spend some time praying and asking God to speak to you about these words or phrases. Write down any thoughts you may have about what He is saying or how you may have to apply what He is saying to your life.
 - End off by writing out the whole passage again, keeping in mind what you feel like God spoke to you about the words or phrases He emphasized.



TRY IT

- Take 15 minutes to try this method. Pick from one of these passages: John 15: 1-8; Ephesians 3: 14-19; Romans 5: 3-5; Romans 12:1-2 or choose one of your own. Use the prayer prompt below before you start.
- What did you like about this method? What didn't you like?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be aware of what He is saying to you and to get your attention as you read and write.

DAY 15 - MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD



THE METHOD

- The Bible says that God's word is useful for living life in the way of God's kingdom. When we are faced with tough situations or are tempted to choose sin, remembering God's word may help us act in a way that is pleasing to God. In Psalm 119:11 it says "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." We can hide God's word in our hearts by memorizing it, helping us to be able to bring it to mind when we are faced with situations that we need to remember it.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - Pick a verse or a couple of verses to memorize.
 - Write the verse out on a piece of paper, broken into sections of 4-8 words, that you can see clearly.
 - Memorize the first section of words by repeating it over and over again, eventually not looking at the sheet of paper. Make actions if it helps!
 - Memorize the next section of words by saying the first section and the second section one after the other, repeatedly.
 - Continue adding sections until you know it all. Remember to memorize the reference (the name of the book, the chapter, and verse numbers).
 - Once you have it memorized, try it again in an hour. Then continue to try to say it a few times a day (meal time, bathroom breaks, anytime you are in your room) to make sure you remember it.
 - Keep a list of the passages you have memorized. If you have more than one, try to say them both back to back.



TRY IT

- Take 15 minutes to try this method. Pick from one of these passages: Colossians 3: 12-14; Ephesians 3: 20-21; 1 Timothy 4: 12; 1 John 3: 18-19 or choose one of your own. Use the prayer prompt below before you start.
- What did you like about this method? What didn't you like?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help these words sink deeply into your heart.

CONNECTING TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY



CONNECTING TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

It is amazing to feel like you are a part of something bigger than yourself. It could be a sports team or a band performing beautiful music or a family or a friendship group. Whatever it is, being a part of something where all people are working together for a specific purpose is remarkable.

Community forms when a group of people have a common demanding task. When spiritual community forms, the common demanding task is knowing Jesus, being transformed by Him, helping others know Him too, and doing it all together. Spiritual community is important because it means we do not have to be alone in the journey of following Jesus.

At camp, we experience spiritual community in our cabins or when we gather to worship and learn together during chapel. In life after camp, spiritual community is known as the Church. The Church is God's people, gathered together to help one another become more like Him so that we can go out into the rest of the world to help others know who He is.

Connecting to spiritual community is an important part of following Jesus in life after camp so that you can have people to encourage you, challenge you, and affirm you as you grow, so you can do the same for them.

TIPS ON CONNECTING TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

- It can be hard to find the right church or youth group so give yourself time.
- It may be awkward at first, try not to be discouraged if it is.
- Invite a friend - going with some one is so much easier.
- Check it out online first.
- Ask a cabin-leader or other campers where they go and go with them.
- Find one that will be easy for you to go to (a night when you are not too busy or one that is located close to your house).
- Don't give up! Attend a few times before you decide if you fit there or not.
- Remember it's NOT CAMP and that is okay! It will feel different but that doesn't mean it's not good. Church and camp both play important and different roles in our following Jesus in life.

DAY 16 - WHAT IS A HEALTHY SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY?



THINK ABOUT IT

- What has been the best team or group that you have been a part of? What made it so great?
- When something is terrible, it seems easy to explain why we think it's so bad. There are characteristics or marks that we identify as undesirable parts of that experience. The same is true for when something is awesome. There are certain things that we can see and experience that we know makes it something worth participating in.
- In the Bible, spiritual community has characteristics or markers that help us know that those who are gathering together are experiencing new life in Christ in a healthy way. Throughout the New Testament we see examples of what these gatherings are meant to include, how we can participate in them, and what benefit they have in our lives.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read Acts 2:42-47; 1 John 4:7-21; Romans 1:10-12



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What are the things that these spiritual communities are known for?
- Have you ever experienced a spiritual community do this? What was it like?
- What would you do if you didn't see these things happening in a spiritual community?
- What part of experiencing community in this way would feel uncomfortable for you? Why?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- If you have hesitations about being a part of spiritual community, talk about them with Jesus. Ask Him to help you overcome them. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you about what healthy spiritual community looks like.

DAY 17 - HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY?



THINK ABOUT IT

- How does the experience change when you go from being a spectator at a sports game or a theatre production to being part of the team or the cast?
- Spiritual communities like church or youth group are not just places that you come to watch a show. Though there may be a program or a Sunday morning service that has the feeling of just watching, being a part of a spiritual community means actually playing a part in helping that community form and grow. It means making connections to the people around you, caring about their lives and their relationship with Jesus, and allowing them to care for you. Sometimes being a part of spiritual community means you give sacrificially to someone in need, take time to encourage some one who needs strength, commit to praying for situations in other's lives, or allow them to challenge you to a higher standard.
- Being a part of a spiritual community means participation. It is not a passive role. It means asking Jesus how you can be active in being a part of the spiritual lives of those around you.



READ ABOUT IT

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:15-16



WRITE ABOUT IT

- What scares you about participating in spiritual community?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to work together like a body?
- How could other people see Jesus through a spiritual community that functions like a body?
- What role do you play in the spiritual community that you are in right now?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- If you don't have a spiritual community right now, ask Jesus to show you a place that may be good for you to start attending. If you do have a spiritual community right now, ask Jesus to show you how to participate in it well.

TELLING YOUR
FAMILY + FRIENDS



DAY 18 - WHY SHOULD I LET MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS KNOW ABOUT MY FAITH IN JESUS?

As you desire to follow Jesus, it's important for you to let the people around you know about what you are learning, how you are changing, and how they can support you in that journey. This last day encourages you to think about who you should share with and how to share with them.



THINK ABOUT IT

- Have you ever felt misunderstood? What did it feel like when people finally understood where you were coming from?
- Sometimes it's easy to feel misunderstood. It can feel like people don't understand why you dress the way you do, or listen to the music that you do, or watch the movies you do. It can especially feel like people don't understand you when they don't understand why you make some decisions in your life.
- Following Jesus with your life requires a change of heart, mind, and actions. When you follow Jesus you begin to think, talk, and act like Him, which may be different than how you lived before. Sometimes this change can confuse people and cause them to ask questions. That is why it's important that you let them into why this change is happening!
- Talking to your family and friends about what you believe can feel scary. It may feel like they won't be interested or understand. It's an important part of letting them know about the life you want to live and how they can support you.
- A conversation about what you believe shouldn't be forceful. Let them know that it's important to you that they know about what you are learning, share the things that you believe or are questioning, and ask them if they have questions or concerns. It's important to be as open as possible.
- It may not be easy and it may take some time, but it's worth it when our friends and family can support us in following Jesus.



READ ABOUT IT...

- Mark 5:1-20; Psalm 96:1-3; Matthew 5:14-16



WRITE ABOUT IT

- Why would it be beneficial to let others know what you believe?
- Who are the people you want to let know that you want to follow Jesus? How can you start a conversation with?
- What makes you nervous about talking to those people about what you believe?
- What effect could you sharing your beliefs have on their life?



PRAY ABOUT IT

- Ask Jesus to help you see who you should share with. Ask Him for help in knowing when and how to share with them. If there are those who you think will not accept your expression of faith, ask for wisdom in how to share carefully and patience as you help them understand.

TIPS ON TELLING YOUR FRIENDS + FAMILY

- Let your friends and family know that you are curious about the new things you learned about God at camp.
- Ask them what they believe and how that affects their life.
- Ask them if you can share with them what you believe.
- It's not always easy to have these conversations, but it's important to be open and honest so your friends and family can support you as you grow.

WHAT NOW?

Congratulations! You have made it to the end! We hope that your journey through this book has been a helpful start to learning how to follow Jesus in life after camp. You may be wondering, “Now what?” Glad you asked! There are plenty more places you can go to access resources to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Here are a few that we think are awesome (and easy to use).

YOUVERSION (APP)

YouVersion is a Bible app that puts the Bible at your fingertips! Not only can you read the Bible any time you have your phone, you can also follow some of their reading plans that help you read and reflect on passages. They also give you goals to read through parts of the Bible in specified amounts of time. There are reading plans that are based on specific books of the Bible or on certain topics like forgiveness or generosity. You can also link up with others and read with them.

We recommend the reading plans:

- Life: Is This it? (Alpha)
- Who is Jesus? (Alpha)
- Discover Faith (12Stone Church)

BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS (WWW.THEBIBLEPROJECT.COM)

If you want to learn more about what is in the Bible, these videos are an awesome resource. They help us understand the background of each book and share its content with beautiful imagery and story-telling. There are also several video series that instruct us on how to understand the Bible better.

We recommend these video series:

- How to Read the Bible
- Biblical Themes
- Gospels & Acts

ECHO PRAYER (APP)

Echo Prayer is an app that you can use to write down the things you are praying for, set reminders to pray for them, and share prayer requests with others who have the app.

WORSHIP PLAYLISTS (SPOTIFY OR APPLE MUSIC)

If you want to spend time with Jesus through worshipping Him in song but don't know what types of songs to look for, we encourage you to look up worship playlists on Spotify, Apple Music, or even YouTube. You can also look up artists by name.

We recommend worship artists like:

- Elevation Worship
- Rend Collective
- Hillsong (Worship, United, Young and Free)
- All Sons & Daughters
- Isla Vista Worship
- Upper Room Music

These are just a few suggestions to help you continue following Jesus in life after camp. The most important part is to continue on in your rhythms of spending time with Him, reading His word, talking to Him, and being connected to others who believe in Him too!

