

CHURCH GROUP DEVOTION

Unseen Strength

THE MORE YOU KNOW

In Bible Study today, campers explored how God's power is available to us even though we may not be able to "see" it. As they heard about Elisha's experience in 2 Kings 6:8-23, campers learned that they too can be strong because of the Lord.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, paper, pencils, scissors

GET IT

On the first day of camp, emotions and energy run high! There may also be a good bit of unseen anxiety. Guide campers to encourage one another with this round of High 5's. Allow campers to find a partner, or you can group each adult leader with a few campers. In their groups or pairs, guide the campers to think of five highlights from their day. On a camper's turn, she will share her five highlights, holding up a finger for each one. When she has shared all five, her hand will be ready to give a high-five to her partner or to all the people in her group.

GOT IT

Divide the campers into two equal groups. Guide them to form two circles, one inside the other. Explain that while the music plays (or until you give a certain signal), the circle on the inside will walk around in a clockwise direction and the group on the outside will move counterclockwise. When you stop the music, the campers freeze and you call out one of the questions below. Campers take turns sharing their answer with the person standing across from them in the opposite circle. Begin the music again and repeat this process with the other questions.

- » How strong do you think God is?
- » What might you need God's strength for this week?
- » What is one thing you hope will happen this week?

Ask a volunteer to read **Ephesians 3:20**. Say, **"This week God will work in our hearts in ways that we can't even see yet. His power is strong enough to change how we think and feel and act if we let Him. Let's get ready to encounter the amazing unseen things of God!"**

GOOD

Distribute paper, pencils and scissors to the students. Instruct them to trace around one hand and cut it out. Guide the students to write the following on each finger as indicated:

- » Pinkie: Something you love about God
- » Ring finger: Something you want to thank God for
- » Middle finger: Something you want God to help you with
- » Pointer: Something you are sorry about
- » Thumb: Leave it empty

When the students are finished writing, lead them to use the High-5 hand to pray for each item. Starting with the pinkie, allow campers a few moments to tell God what they have written and then fold down that finger. When they are finished, the thumb will still be up in the "thumbs-up" position as a reminder that God hears our prayers! (**NOTE: If you are short on supplies, you can simplify this activity by skipping the tracing, cutting and writing portion. Just guide the campers to use their actual hand as they pray about each item.**) Conclude by reviewing any details, sharing track time information and answering questions campers may have.



CHURCH GROUP DEVOTION

Unseen Truth

THE MORE YOU KNOW

In Bible Study today, campers discovered what it means to know the truth and live by it. As they journeyed through the temptations Jesus encountered in the wilderness in Luke 4:1-15, they saw that God gives us His truth to overcome the lies we face.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, paper, crayons, post-it notes, pens

GET IT

Distribute paper and crayons to the students. Guide them to fold their piece of paper in half like a book. Say, **“All day we have encountered the truth of God and what it means to know Jesus as THE Truth. As I read a verse from the Bible to you, draw on the front cover of your paper what you think about the truth. What does it mean to you that Jesus is all that is true and right?”**

Read **John 14:6** several times, allowing the students to draw their reflections on the truth. Next, guide the students to open their papers and say, **“What keeps you from living the true way God designed for you? Are there things you struggle with or lies that often trick you into living apart from Jesus? Draw a symbol that represents what may keep you from the truth.”** As campers draw, read **John 17:17** a few times. Lastly, lead the campers to turn to the back half of their paper. Say, **“Considering your two drawings, what do you think God might want to say to you right now? Write down what comes to mind.”** After a few moments, say: **“What do you want to say to God? Write down your response.”**

As campers finish writing, encourage them to share what they wrote with one of the adult leaders.

GOT IT

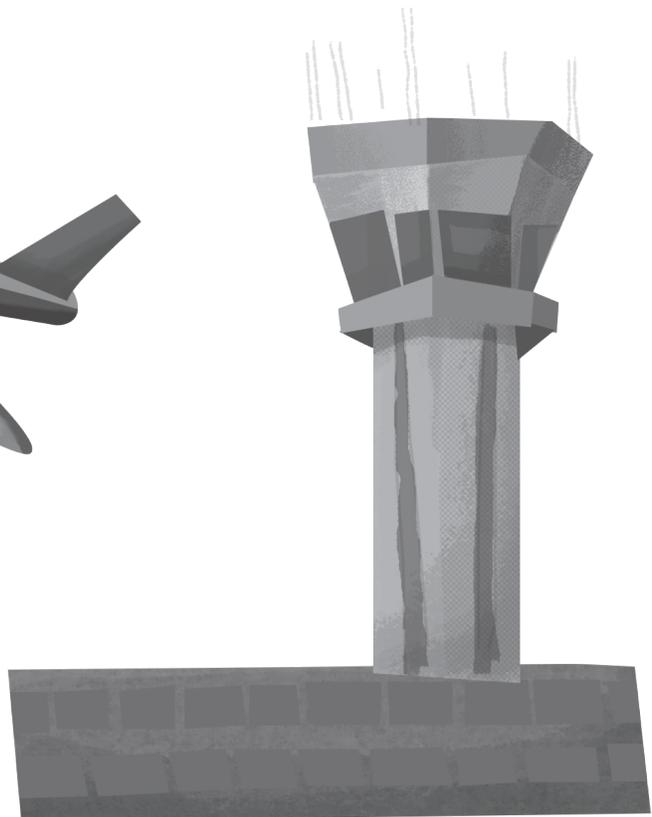
Ask a volunteer to read **John 14:26**. Say, **“It is incredible to know that Jesus sends His Holy Spirit to those who follow Him to remind us of everything He has taught us! He knows we easily forget the truth, so He is sending the truth with us! Let’s help each other remember God’s truth by passing it on.”** Distribute a post-it note and pen to each camper. Guide the campers to write one thing they know is true about God on the post-it note. Lead the campers to find a partner in a creative way, share their truth and then exchange post-it notes. Continue with different partners for a few rounds. Here are a few ideas for how to pair up:

- » Find someone with the same type of shoes.
- » Pair up with a person who is NOT in your Bible Study group.
- » Partner up with someone who has the same color hair.

After the last round, encourage the campers to stick the post-it they end with in their Bible or devotion book.

GOOD

Group a few campers with each adult leader. In these small groups, guide the campers to read aloud the truth on their post-it note. Allow time for the adult leaders to pray for the campers in their groups regarding these truths.



CHURCH GROUP DEVOTION

Unseen Peace

THE MORE YOU KNOW

In Bible Study today, campers examined **Acts 16:11-34** to see how Paul and Silas were ready to respond with the gospel so that others might receive the peace God offers. They discovered how they too can be ready to share the Good News about Jesus.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, bowl of water, dry sponge

GET IT

Guide the campers to sit in a circle. Enlist a volunteer to read **Romans 10:15**. Ask, **“Did you ever think about feet being beautiful? Why do you think this verse says that those who bring the gospel have beautiful feet?”** Lead the campers to consider who has brought the gospel to them using the following prompts:

- » Raise your left foot if you heard about Jesus from someone today. Call on a volunteer to share who they heard it from.
- » Tap your right foot if you saw someone reading their Bible today. Call on a volunteer to share who they saw.
- » Wiggle your toes if you noticed someone helping a friend. Call on a volunteer to share who saw and what they did to help.
- » Wave your left foot if someone listened to you today. Call on a volunteer to share who listened to them.
- » Rotate your right foot in a circle if you know someone who lives out the gospel of peace. Call on a volunteer to share who they know and how that person lives out the gospel.

GOT IT

Ahead of time, ask a CentriKid staffer or one of your adult leaders to prepare a brief story (3-5 minutes) about a time when God prompted him or her to bring the gospel to someone else. Encourage the person to include details in their story about what happened—How did they know what to do or say? What helped them be ready? How did the person or people respond?

Say, **“Many of you have experienced the gospel in a variety of ways. When someone brings the gospel to us, we can choose to receive it. If we accept God’s offer of forgiveness and His new way of life, we can then share the gospel with others.”** Introduce the person who will be sharing their story and encourage the campers to listen carefully to the ways this person shared the gospel. After the story, allow the campers the opportunity to ask a few questions.

GOOD

Ahead of time, fill a small container with water. Hold up a dry sponge for the group to see. Ask for a volunteer to squeeze water out of the sponge. When this is unsuccessful, ask for suggestions for getting water to come out of the sponge. Encourage the volunteer to soak the sponge in the bowl of water and then try to squeeze out water. Ask, **“How is soaking and squeezing the sponge like the experience of receiving and responding to the gospel?”** Emphasize that in order to respond with the gospel of peace we must first have received it. Offer to talk and pray with any campers who are considering receiving Jesus as their Savior. Lead the rest of the campers to find a partner and share about a time when they had the opportunity to respond with the gospel. If they cannot think of a time, encourage them to share what they could do to be ready to respond with God’s love the next time.



CHURCH GROUP DEVOTION

Visible Faith

THE MORE YOU KNOW

In Bible Study today, campers learned how the unseen things of God are made visible when we trust God and obey by faith. As they dug into Hebrews 11, they got a visual of how God's work in us leads to action that points others to Jesus.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, painter's tape (or any other object to mark a spot on the floor)

GET IT

Stretch a long piece of painter's tape across the floor or create an imaginary spectrum by marking the two endpoints of the line with two chairs (or books or whatever) on opposite sides of the room. Explain to the campers that this spectrum line is like a number line with lots of points along the way, ranging from very low to very high. Guide the campers to stand on the line in the spot that best describes where they are in each category below.

How do you feel about your relationship with God right now? One end of the spectrum would be "I don't know God at all," and the other end would be "God and I are the best of friends."

How much do you trust God? One end of the spectrum would be "I don't trust God at all" and the other end would be "I trust God with every single thing in life or death."

How willing are you to do what God says? One end of the spectrum would be "I don't want to do anything God says," and the other end would be "I would do anything God says, even if it makes no sense to me."

Take note of where kids place themselves so you can follow-up one-on-one at a later time if needed.

GOT IT

Say, "**Sometimes it may be hard to trust God if we don't know how faithful He is. We must remember that the One we put our faith in is worthy to be trusted. Even after God did amazing miracles and provided for His people, they still needed to be reminded of His faithfulness. Let's take some time to remember how faithful God is to us! What has God done for you or others this week? How has He been faithful in the past?**" After each person who shares, encourage the group to respond by saying together, "**Our God is faithful!**"

If your group is young or you think they may need help getting started, print the following phrases on slips of paper ahead of time. Allow volunteers to pull a slip out of a cup and read a way God has been faithful in the past.

- » God provides food for us to eat.
- » God gave us safe travel to CentriKid this week.
- » God sent Jesus to rescue us from our sins.
- » God never leaves us.
- » God gave us leaders to bring us to camp.
- » God forgives our sins when we confess them.
- » God gives us strength when we are weak.
- » God helps us know what to do in tough situations.

Ask a volunteer to read **1 Thessalonians 5:24**. Say, "**When God asks us to do something, we can know that He is faithful and He will give us what we need to accomplish what He asks.**"

GOOD

Ask, "**Who can remember jumping off the diving board or into the swimming pool for the first time? Did you ask your dad or a grown-up you trusted to catch you? How might that be like a 'leap of faith?' How is that like the way we obey God by faith?**" Acknowledge that God may be asking the campers to obey Him today. Encourage them to consider one step of obedience they could take today. Maybe they need to forgive someone or contribute to the missions offering or commit their life to Jesus. Encourage the campers who are ready to obey what God says to take a symbolic "leap of faith." Place a piece of tape or marker on the floor. Place another piece about 2 feet away. Guide the campers to stand behind the first piece of tape and the adult leaders to stand on the far side of the second piece. Call on the first volunteer to step up to the tape and say, "**By faith in God, I will...**" (finish the sentence with their chosen step of obedience). Then they can jump to the other piece of tape. Encourage the adult leaders to high-5 and cheer them on after they jump. The volunteer can stay on that side to affirm the next jumper. Close with a group prayer, committing yourselves to obey God by faith.

