

BEFORE CAMP DEVOTION #1

Adventure Awaits!

MAIN IDEA

Introduce the theme for CentriKid 2017 by exploring what light does.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

1 John 1:5-7

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Bible, Tent, Campfire supplies, Flashlights, Glow-in-the-dark stars, S'mores ingredients (graham crackers, marshmallows, Hershey's chocolate bars)

CONNECT

If possible, make a plan to meet the students at a campground or outdoor area where you can set up a tent and have a campfire. Ideally, begin at dusk. Have a few flashlights handy for students to use. If outdoors is not an option or you need to meet during the day, set up a tent indoors and block out the light from windows with black garbage bags. For an indoor "campfire," you can wrap red, orange, and yellow tissue paper around a flashlight and set it upright in a ring of stones. Place a small space heater nearby to imitate the warmth of the fire. You can attach glow-in-the-dark stars to the ceiling so you can refer to the light they provide.

As students gather around the fire, initiate conversation about the lights that are present. Ask, "**What do you notice about the light from the fire? How does it help us? What about the flashlights you are holding? How are the stars helpful? What other lights do you notice?**" Allow campers to discuss how light reveals things hidden in the dark, it protects us, warms us and gives us direction. Say, "**The theme for CentriKid this summer is ADVENTURE AWAITS: Follow the One True Light. At camp, we will discover how Jesus is the one true Light who reveals, shows us the way, and brings us life.**"

REFLECT

Distribute supplies for campers to roast marshmallows over the fire and assemble S'mores. If indoors, you can prepare these ahead of time in an oven (see recipe

below). While the campers are eating, read **1 John 1:5-7** aloud. Encourage campers to listen closely for how God is described as you read verse 5 again. Ask, "**What does this verse say about God? What does that mean?**" After campers share their ideas, guide them to quietly focus on one light source. Lead them to examine what the light does to the darkness. Read **1 John 1:5-7** again. Say, "**At CentriKid we will explore what it means to follow the one true Light.**"

PROJECT

Lead students to sit in a circle around the campfire. Say, "**We read in the Bible that God is light. The Bible uses other names for God as well like Savior, wonderful, and Prince of peace. Think of a name for God or a word that describes something true about God.**" While students are thinking, distribute one glow-in-the-dark star to each camper. Explain that you will pray as a group to praise God for who He is by saying aloud the name or word for God that they thought of. Lead the first person to hold up their star and say the name of God aloud. Take turns, doing the same thing all the way around the circle until everyone has had a turn. Lead the campers to conclude the prayer by saying together, "**Jesus—You are the one true Light!**" Encourage campers to put their glow-in-the-dark star somewhere near their bed at home so that they can remember that Jesus is the one true Light every time they see it.

INDOOR S'MORES RECIPE

- Preheat the oven to 300 degrees.
- Line a cookie sheet with graham cracker squares, one per camper.
- Place 1 marshmallow on each graham cracker square.
- Bake till marshmallows are just lightly golden brown.
- Remove from oven and quickly add chocolate bar piece and top each with another graham cracker square.
- They will stay good long enough to serve in large quantities.

BEFORE CAMP DEVOTION #2

What Do We Do?

MAIN IDEA

Familiarize students with the CentriKid schedule to emphasize how we follow Jesus—the One True Light.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Psalm 25:4-5

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible; Copies of the sample CentriKid schedule ([found here](#)); CD player or iPod (cued to play a familiar worship song); Bowl of dry cereal (one piece of cereal per child); Paper cups of water (2 per child); Psalm 25:4-5 printed on large piece of paper; Water balloon; Basketball; Poster board; Glue sticks; Small pieces of scrapbook paper or magazine pictures; 2 recreation cones; 4 pieces of construction paper (yellow, green, blue, red); 3 pieces of paper labeled Basketball, Art Studio, and Wet & Wild; Blanket

CONNECT

Ahead of time, arrange the items around the room to create an obstacle course that follows the CentriKid schedule. Designate one corner of the room as the worship center, one as the cafeteria, one as a Bible Study Room/Track Time Room, one as the recreation field, and the middle of the room as “The Spot,” or the central meeting location on campus. Choose an additional location to be the dorm.

Place the following items at the indicated locations:

- » Worship center=CD player or iPod (cued to play a familiar worship song)
- » Cafeteria=Bowl of dry cereal (one piece of cereal per child) and paper cups of water (2 per child)
- » Bible Study Area=Bible, Psalm 25:4-5 printed on large piece of paper, water balloon, Basketball, poster board, glue sticks, small pieces of scrapbook paper or magazine pictures
- » Recreation Area=2 recreation cones
- » The Spot=4 pieces of construction paper (yellow, green, blue, red); 3 other pieces of paper labeled Basketball, Art Studio, and Wet & Wild
- » Dorm=Blanket

As students arrive, provide them with a pen and a small printout of the CentriKid schedule to carry with them through the obstacle course. Gather the campers at the dorm location. Explain that you will see how quickly the entire group can move through a mini-version of a day at CentriKid. Guide the campers to review the schedule they were given and allow them to guess how long it will take to complete the mini-day if they must do a short activity for each item on the schedule.

Instruct the campers to write their time guess on the back of their schedule. Indicate the location of the various places on campus. Explain that you will begin as if you are waking up on your first full day of CentriKid. Collect the pens and lead the campers to lie down so that at least a hand or foot is touching the edge of the blanket.

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BEFORE CAMP DEVOTION #2

What Do We Do? continued

CONNECT (CONTINUED)

Begin the timer and start the day! Lead the campers to do the following activities at these places:

- » Cafeteria=Eat a piece of cereal (Breakfast)
- » Dorm=Say the prayer, "God, I love you, Amen." (Time Alone With God)
- » Worship Center=Do 5 jumping jacks and shout, "Jesus is the Light" (I Can't Wait)
- » Bible Study Room= Read aloud Psalm 25:4 (Bible Study)
- » Recreation Field=Play freeze tag for 10 seconds (Rec)
- » Cafeteria=Drink water (Lunch)
- » The Spot=Organize into a line behind the color of paper that coordinates with the grade you just completed: 3rd—yellow; 4th—green; 5th—blue; 6th—red
- » Bible Study Room=Read aloud Psalm 25:5 (Bible Study)
- » Worship Center=Play "Simon Says" for 10 seconds (Party)
- » The Spot=Line up behind the Basketball sign
- » Track Time Room=Do the over-under relay down the line with the basketball (Basketball—Track A)
- » The Spot=Line up behind the Art Studio sign
- » Track Time Room=Each person glues a piece of paper to the poster board to create a mosaic (Art Studio—Track B)
- » The Spot=Line up behind the Wet & Wild sign
- » Track Time Room=Stand in a circle and pass the water balloon from person to person around the circle without dropping it (Wet & Wild—Track C)
- » Dorm=Give 2 people a high-five (Hang Time)
- » Cafeteria=Drink water (Dinner)
- » Worship Center=Sing a praise song (Worship)
- » Dorm=Stand in a circle, hold hands and pray "Thank you, God, for this day. Amen." (Church Group Time)
- » Dorm=Lie down with at least a hand or foot touching the edge of the blanket (Lights Out)

You may need to give verbal directions to indicate where you are going, or you can encourage the students to check their schedules to tell you what's next. Call time once everyone is lying down for "Lights Out." Check their time guesses and determine who was closest to the actual time needed to complete the mini-day obstacle course.

REFLECT

Lead the children to gather around the print-out of **Psalm 25:4-5**. Ask the following questions to help students discuss their experience:

- » How did you know what to do and where to go in our mini-day of CentriKid?
- » How was it like or unlike a real day at camp?
- » What or who can help you know where to go at CentriKid?

Ask a volunteer to read **Psalm 25:4-5**. Ask, "**How can God help us know what to do or where to go?**" Allow the students to share their responses. Say, "**At CentriKid, there are many activities and we want to be sure you all get to the right places. Most importantly, we want to learn how to follow Jesus—the one true Light. A great adventure awaits us!**"

PROJECT

If your adult leaders are able to be present, guide a few students to stand around each leader. If they are not present, print each adult leader's name on a separate piece of paper and guide the students to gather around each name. Say, "**We have great adults who will be going with us to camp. They love you and want to help you have the best experience at CentriKid. They will help you know where to go and what to do. Let's pray for our leaders so that God will give them what they need to help you.**" Encourage the campers to pray in their small groups for the leader they are standing with.

**FIND THE TYPICAL CAMP SCHEDULE:
[CENTRIKID.COM/ABOUT-US/
SCHEDULE/](http://CENTRIKID.COM/ABOUT-US/SCHEDULE/)**

BEFORE CAMP DEVOTION #3

Prepare for Adventure

MAIN IDEA

Prepare kids' minds and hearts for God to work in and through them at CentriKid.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 8:28

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible; Pens or pencils; Slips of paper or note cards, each with a different activity that students may encounter at CentriKid; Duct Tape; Permanent Markers

CONNECT

Allow the students to pull a card from the bucket. Lead the students to read their card and decide whether they think that activity would be a hard thing for them to do or a fun thing. If they think it would be hard, direct them to stand on one side of the room while those that think their item would be fun can stand on the opposite side. If they think it would be both fun and hard to do, they may stand in the middle. Guide the students to share with a person near them why they think their activity would be hard or fun. You may call on a few volunteers to share with the whole group their reasoning for how they categorized their activity. Say, **"Some of these things might be hard for some of you, but fun for others. All of us have the opportunity to be adventurous at CentriKid this summer—whether it means we make a new friend or follow God in a deeper way."**

REFLECT

Ask a volunteer to read aloud **Romans 8:28**. Ask the following questions, allowing campers to respond:

- » How does that verse describe the way God works? (For the good)
- » Does God only bring good in a few things? (No, in ALL things God works for the good.)
- » Who is this verse talking about when it says "those who love God"? (Anyone who loves God and follows Him in obedience)

Guide the students to form groups of three. In their groups, students can read the activities on their cards and consider these questions: **What are some things that God might teach you in those situations? How might they work together for good?** Encourage the students to write one thing that God might teach them through the situation on their card. After a few minutes, gather the students and allow a few volunteers to share what they wrote with the whole group.

PROJECT

Say, **"It is important to remember that while you are having fun or trying something that might be difficult, so are those around you. You might be the new friend someone else meets. You might be the one who encourages a homesick roommate. You might help someone learn more about Jesus. What is something you could do to be a blessing at CentriKid?"** Create a brainstorm list as campers give ideas. Write the list on a white board or a large poster for all to see.

Lead the students to make duct tape bracelets to remind them to be a blessing at CentriKid. Distribute a strip of duct tape to each student. Demonstrate how to fold a third of the tape length-wise and then fold the other third on top of that in order to fold the sticky side in. Distribute permanent markers. Guide the students to write a phrase or draw symbols to remind them to do one of the things from the brainstorm list at CentriKid. Assist the students in putting on the bracelets, using a small piece of tape to connect the two ends of the bracelet around their wrists. Conclude by praying for the students, that they would be a blessing as you encounter the adventure ahead.

AFTER CAMP DEVOTION #1

Prepare a Share Night

MAIN IDEA

Prepare and present a share time for family members and friends.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 5:16

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, Pens or pencils, Paper

CONNECT

Form three groups of students. Guide them to stand in a line with their group. Whisper a portion of **Matthew 5:16** (Let your light shine before men) to the first person standing in the first line. Whisper the next phrase to the first person in the second line (so that they may see your good works) and whisper the last phrase to the first person in the third line (and give glory to your Father in heaven). Encourage the first person in each line to whisper what they heard to the next person in their line and pass it on. When the message gets to the last person in each line, they should shout out what they hear.

Ask the following questions:

- » What was the message you heard?
- » Was the message clear each time it was passed?
Why or why not?
- » Why does Jesus want us to shine His light?
- » How can we shine His light clearly to others?

REFLECT

Say, “**We learned about Jesus and experienced many different things at CentriKid. One way we can practice shining the light of Jesus is to share what happened at camp.**” Explain that the students will help plan a share night for their family members and friends. Distribute paper and pencils to the students. Lead the students to reflect on their experience by completed the following sentences on their paper:

- » Something really fun at CentriKid was...
- » The name of someone new I met at CentriKid is...
- » One interesting thing about that person I met is...
- » At CentriKid, I learned this about God...
- » Something I liked about worship at CentriKid was...

After everyone has completed the sentences on their paper, ask for a volunteer for each sentence to be ready to share about that topic at the share night. You may have more than one student share about each sentence. Make note of who will be speaking on which topic.

Brainstorm with the students about other things they could share or present as a group or in smaller groups. Here are a few ideas to get started:

- » Choose a favorite worship song from CentriKid to teach to those who attend the share night.
- » Recite the Key Verse together with motions.
- » If anyone participated in a performance track (creative dance, sign language, drama) at CentriKid, they could perform what they learned at camp.
- » Share what spiritual decisions students made at camp.
- » Establish what the group needs to do to prepare these items for Share Night (locate music, practice, etc.)

PROJECT

Lead the campers to create invitations to take home to family members or give to friends. Be sure to include the date, time, and location of the share night. Pray together with the campers that sharing about CentriKid may lead others to see these good works and bring glory to their Father in heaven.

AFTER CAMP DEVOTION #2

Shining Light in Dark Places

MAIN IDEA

Pray for God's light to shine in places where students go.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 8:12

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, Transportation (or items for prayer stations if travel is not possible)

CONNECT

Ahead of time, choose three locations in your town where students go often (schools, ball fields, parks, etc.) Arrange to meet your students at a central location where you can establish the goals and purpose of the prayer walk. Guide the students to recite John 8:12—the Key Verse from CentriKid—or ask a volunteer to read it aloud. Emphasize that God wants everyone to follow Him so they will not have to walk in darkness. Explain that today they will have the opportunity to walk in the light by praying for God's light to shine in dark places.

REFLECT

Explain that they will visit three different places where kids their age often go. In each place, they will take time to do the following:

- » Ask God where His light needs to shine. Listen for any places, people, or situations that come to mind.
- » Ask God to let His light shine there.
- » Offer your heart and life to be channel for God's light to shine through in those places, people, or situations.

You may choose to do this as one group, walking around the location as you pray. Or, you can divide into smaller groups, each with an adult leader, to walk in different directions to pray.

If traveling to the actual locations is not feasible for your group, you can set up three different prayer stations in your meeting area. Place different items at each station to represent the locations you chose. Guide the students to move from station to station, praying as indicated above.

PROJECT

Gather the group at the central location and debrief the prayer experience with the students. Find out what they heard from God or felt led to pray about. Remind the students that they can pray anytime, anywhere, and as they go. Challenge the students to look for ways that God's light is present with them as they go into these places.

