

# FruitFULL Faith

A Spirit  
Filled  
Life!



Christian Resources  
for Outdoor Ministries



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# Daily Overview for *FruitFULL Faith*

Day	Scripture	Theme	Story	Campers Will
Day 1	Luke 15:3–7	Love and Joy	Lost Sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realize they have a place at camp.</li> <li>Celebrate that God's love extends to everyone.</li> <li>Find joy in welcoming one another to camp.</li> <li>Consider the joy that comes from being loved and valued.</li> </ul>
Day 2	Matthew 8:23–27	Peace	Calming Storm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge the storms and fears in life.</li> <li>Look to Jesus' example of inner peace.</li> <li>Consider inner peace as a calming force in themselves and in community.</li> </ul>
Day 3	1 Kings 17:8–16	Patience and Kindness	Elijah and the Widow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine the patience and impatience in the story of Elijah and the widow.</li> <li>Learn that patience can produce kindness.</li> <li>Explore ways patience and kindness strengthen relationships with others.</li> <li>Observe the clarity and resolve that result from a patient spirit in times of action.</li> </ul>
Day 4	Mark 12:38–44	Goodness and Faithfulness	Widow's Coin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore how goodness and faithfulness show up in character.</li> <li>Examine the risk and fulfillment of faithfulness even with uncertain outcomes.</li> <li>Imagine fully giving themselves to something they believe in.</li> </ul>
Day 5	Galatians 5:16–26	Sharing Fruit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imagine the fruit of the Spirit meeting the specific needs of the world today.</li> <li>Plan how to bear such fruit in their lives.</li> </ul>

## NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

Have you ever seen God at work and wondered why the moment was so clear? Have you wondered what you could do to try and connect with those moments and feelings? Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia will come alive this week as we explore the fruit of the Spirit. Seeing this fruit all around assures us we have encountered God. We will see how these same fruit flow freely from us when we walk in the Spirit. Scripture is honest about how complicated life can be. The fruit of the Spirit show us we are on the right track as we observe, receive, and embody these virtues..



## Day 1: Love and Joy

### Luke 15:3–7

#### Dicing the Fruit

Love: Unlike the romantic love we celebrate around Valentine's Day, this is *agape* love. This love is described as action. This is not that warm fuzzy feeling we have when we think of someone or something. It is a commandment. It's an undefeatable benevolence and unconquerable goodwill that always seeks the highest good for others, no matter how they act. The love in this passage is all about doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason. We show love when we act on behalf of others without anything in return. This takes effort and requires us to choose to act in ways that benefit others, even the others we don't like. Part of our challenge at camp is living into God's *agape* love and seeking ways to practice it each day.

Joy: Different from happy or fun, Paul uses this word to describe a community that seeks and finds inner gladness. Joy is something that we feel and experience, regardless of our current circumstances. Joy is a gift from God and is rooted in God. Joy expresses itself in us through delight, exhilaration, rejoicing, and gladness. A community that is centered in love will be joyful, remembering all that God has done for and through them. Joy is something that will endure even in the midst of the most trying circumstances. We experience joy when people tell stories of hope during a time of tragedy and when the goodness around us is undeniable. What a blessing it is that God's people have the opportunity to experience joy.

#### Mixing in the Story

When have you been lost? Was it outside in the vastness of creation or in a place crammed with people? Yes, we can be lost, even among a bunch of other sheep.

When have you been found? When have you felt loved and claimed by others? Was there a warm embrace, or was the moment shared across many miles? Feeling love and joy can happen, even when we are miles apart.

Such fruit is often found at camp. We work to welcome others with love and find joy in familiar faces and new friends. We share joy in the praise and prayers of worship and feel the love of God and our community swirling around. Such fruit is often found at camp, and it is beautiful. Just remember, some will not know what they are looking at. You may have to name this fruit, so they know what they are tasting.

This story can be very familiar to those who have spent a lot of time in a church community. The idea of leaving the 99 to go find the 1 lost sheep might even seem like a no-brainer to us. Some may have heard this idea but not experienced such love, and that has led them to doubt its authenticity. Some may be smiling and nodding along at camp, even while thinking, "They are surely not talking about me."

Jesus told this parable to a similar crowd. In the three verses that start chapter 15 we are told that Jesus was in the midst of tax collectors and sinners and that the religious leaders of the time were grumbling about Jesus' eating with people they deemed unworthy. Some in the crowd grew up with the same faith stories and values Jesus did. Others manipulated those values to serve their own desires. Others surely sat there and felt unworthy and unloved.



Have you ever been concerned about whom you might associate with? Or has anyone been concerned with your being in their company? This seems to be a powerful cultural force—this worry we have over the company we keep. But Jesus was completely unconcerned. He chose to use their grumbling as a teaching opportunity. This parable is the start of three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. Each one illustrates a similar point, building up to a climactic message of love and joy with the return of prodigal son in the last story.

However, for today we are just focused on the lost sheep, a very relatable story for that culture. Those listening would have recognized the challenges present in the question Jesus posed. Sheep could get into a lot of places a shepherd couldn't, wiggling into cracks and crevices and climbing along hillsides that might make them very difficult to find. There also would have been many predators hunting a poor defenseless sheep.

The shepherd in Jesus' parable didn't have much reason for hope. They were going to look for a sheep in a wilderness—a needle in a haystack—but they dared to hope. They went to seek out that lost sheep, against all the odds. This is the love of God. The love that keeps searching for us. The love that believes that we are worth finding, even when we think we are beyond lost.

Who are the shepherds in your life? Who are the people that show you God's love by never giving up on you? Who are the shepherds who find such joy in moments you share together? Now, think about the opposite side of the story. Who do you love, no matter what? Who knows love because of your relentlessness and the joy you find in loving them? Who are you called to shepherd?

Be mindful of campers who carry great burdens of caring for others. Be mindful of campers who feel that no one cares for them. Be mindful for those who feel unloved or don't believe the joy it brings. Particularly, be watching out for those who are lost, even in the middle of a herd. Maybe this week will be the place that God's love and their needs will come together, and the Spirit will be seen at work among us.



## Day 2: Peace

### Matthew 8:23–27

#### Dicing the Fruit

**Peace:** When a pageant contestant bases their platform on “world peace,” they are usually referring to an absence of conflict, specifically military conflict. Although the peace that Paul is referring to may lead to that, this peace is something even more profound. The word Paul uses is similar to the Hebrew word *shalom*. To understand *shalom*, think of a 5,000-piece puzzle dumped on the floor and all mixed up; then imagine it completed, with a missing piece found. Now, it is one beautiful picture. Peace means completeness, everything in its right place and in right relationship with all of creation and community. It means being restored, being made whole, being in harmony, and feeling a sense of tranquility no matter the outside forces. It is similar to joy and love in that way. The world may be in complete chaos, but God's people can feel at peace as they are drawn closer to one another and to God. When we have peace, we can be wholly integrated as a community and connected with God, even in the midst of our scary or troubling circumstances. As God's people, we can work toward peace because we are filled with that peace. Once we seek and find it within ourselves, we can guide others to find their own peace and join us as we work for peace in our world.

#### Mixing in the Story

Where are you at peace? Is it a place? a time? with someone? Peacefulness is the goal of many people's spiritual journeys, possibly because our own anxieties can get the better of us sometimes. Anxiety and worry make us do funny things sometimes.

In today's scripture passage, the disciples have gotten on a boat, following Jesus. This is the same Jesus that they have just witnessed heal multiple people throughout chapter 8 of Matthew. First, he healed a

man with a skin disease (Matthew 8:1–4); then he healed the centurion’s servant (vv. 5–13); and then he healed Peter’s mother-in-law (vv. 14–15). After all of this, Matthew tells us, Jesus healed a lot more people. Perhaps naming them all became too exhausting.

The disciples witnessed all of this, and now they are on the boat with this miraculous healer. They should be feeling pretty good about life. They are with someone who can perform miracles. What is there to worry about?

Anxiety doesn’t care how good you have it. It will come up even in times when you are feeling strong, and it was no different for the disciples. While they are on the boat, the weather suddenly changes. They are getting smashed by the waves. They are convinced they will drown, and they wake up Jesus and tell him so.

Then Jesus does something that strikes us as a little odd. He challenges them, saying, “Why are you afraid, you weak people of faith?” (v. 26). This can cause us to wonder, why was Jesus annoyed with them? They knew Jesus could save them; that’s why they woke him up. Was Jesus trying to send a message that Jesus’ mere presence on the boat was enough to ensure their safety? Or was it that they should have known Jesus would awaken on his own, at an appointed time, and save them? Maybe they were never in any real danger.

That may be what we struggle with most when it comes to peace. Worry is a peace killer, and we are very good at worrying, even while safe and secure on dry ground. Be listening to your campers so that you might understand the waves of life that threaten to drown them. Listen for anxieties and insecurities and respond without judgment or pep speeches. You might even share some of your own worries and how you have faced them. Together, you can reflect on how this scripture might speak to us today.

By sharing our struggles in a community, we are reminded that we are not alone and are assured of God’s presence in the midst of our challenges. It’s not that the waves aren’t real. It’s not even that the danger isn’t real. It’s that God is so much bigger than the waves that worry us. God sent Jesus to stand up to the waves that crash around us, and to say, “Peace.”

And that’s part of our calling too: to proclaim peace to a world full of worry, to restore calm and wholeness to places that are chaotic and broken. We know we can do this because we follow the One who did it before us. It won’t be easy. There will be waves, but peace is possible.



## Day 3: Patience and Kindness

### 1 Kings 17:8–16

#### Dicing the Fruit

**Patience:** The word for patience comes from the Greek words *makro* (long, large scale) and *thymos* (passion, anger, heat, indignation) and most commonly means enduring a hardship or offense. It is being slow to avenge or get back at someone who has hurt or offended us. It is not a lack of emotions, but rather the long-suffering one faces and the restraint one shows despite powerful emotions. People who have the power to take vengeance but choose not to are showing patience.

**Kindness:** A kind person is one who is adaptable to others and who doesn’t have to have everything their way. Kindness calls us to act with care and compassion for those who are taxing our patience. Kindness is seeing and responding to the needs of others in a useful and helpful way. At camp, we show kindness most in not just smiling and being friendly but in humbly seeking ways to serve that are useful to others.

#### Mixing in the Story

Elijah is one of those characters who has a strong personality that really develops throughout 1 Kings. He can be bold, prone to making a scene, and always seems confident, even to a point of being obnoxious. Elijah was prophet sent by God to challenge the people who worshipped Baal. He announced that there would be no rain of any kind until he says otherwise. This would devastate most places that depend on rain to grow food and would impact his own access to food.

We don’t know all that Elijah was thinking, but he must have known that this meant he would have to depend on the Lord to provide in some way. The Hebrew word *Ḥāyâ* (1 Kings 17:1, 12, 22–23) means “to live” and is paired with *Dābār*, (vv. 1–2, 5, 8, 13, 15, 24), which means “word.” The gist of Elijah’s message is that

Israel's God alone is the true God, the only God who gives life. Elijah was going to need to remember this as his story continues.

Just before our story begins, Elijah makes his grand announcement, and then the Lord sends him far away to hide out and await further instruction. Elijah doesn't have any way to take care of himself, but the Lord tells Elijah to drink from a stream, and then sends ravens with bread and meat twice a day. This early form of Instacart continued until the stream dried.

Then comes new directions from the Lord, and this is where our story picks up, with the Lord's instructions to find a widow who has been assigned to take care of Elijah. This is a little problematic. Widows in this time generally had no one to care for them and no way to make money for themselves. They were generally at the mercy of others, and this widow was no different.

Elijah, a bit condescending, explained that she didn't need to be afraid, then follows with an audacious claim that the jar of flour and the bottle of oil she made bread from would not run out. Amazingly, the widow doesn't argue. She very patiently and kindly shares her last bit of food she has, not knowing if what Elijah said would come to pass.

The point of our lesson today is not really wrapped up in the fulfillment of Elijah's message that the jar and bottle would not go empty, but in the endurance of everyone involved and God's presence with them through all of it. Patience is about enduring and choosing not to unleash our hurts on others, the world, or even on ourselves. Kindness is about the ways we see and meet the needs of those around us. Both are present in this story, and there is also another layer. We can see a lack of patience in Elijah, using fewer words than compassion might require. In many ways, we can see a contrast with the widow's kindness and patience in the wake of Elijah's impatience and demands for himself. Eventually, things change. The widow and her son bring Elijah into their home and their family. Elijah has gifts to share, and they all care for one another over time.

With patience forged by a famine, the fear of losing her son, and the cold entitlement of a cranky prophet, the widow forges a community of God, there in her home. What might we create at camp this week, and what patience might be required? Sometimes community forms quickly, and at other times it takes patience. Sometimes there are voices among us that can be a challenge to listen to and make kindness more difficult.

Still, by practicing patience and responding to everyone with kindness, especially when it is hard, we will see the Spirit of God moving throughout the camp. Community will reveal itself and transform individuals in ways we could never imagine.



## Day 4: Goodness and Faithfulness

### Mark 12:38–44

#### Dicing the Fruit

**Goodness:** We get this word from a combination of two Greek words. *Agathos* means “good,” and *agemai* means “to admire.” Together they call us to be upright in heart and in life. Strangely, this Greek word is only used in the Bible, not showing up in any secular texts. Paul uses this word to express that God's people should be actively interested in the well-being of others and that this care will define them as good. Their communities should be examples of kindness and selflessly caring for others. This embodiment of care and service is goodness.

**Faithfulness:** This is a complicated word. It includes being trustworthy and being a trusting person as exemplified by God. Being reliable and doing what we say we will do no matter the challenges are ways of understanding faithfulness. In ancient times, it referred to a guarantee or warranty. In the New Testament it is usually in reference to God. Faithfulness flows from God, rather than being something we generate on our own.

#### Mixing in the Story

If goodness is an embodiment of care and service, then we need look no further than the widow that Jesus points to in today's scripture. Having given a lot of attention to the hypocrisy and grandstanding of those in power, Jesus turns his attention to the widow and her gift.

The scribes in the story were the legal experts, and while it was illegal for them to take money for advice, it was common for people to offer them “patronage” as a way to support them, allowing the scribes to serve the community. This is similar to the way a church supports a minister so that the minister helps people without charging them for advice or counsel. Offering patronage was common in that time. Paul often thanked people (especially women) for their patronage in supporting both him and the early church, and we know that Jesus’ ministry was often funded by women in the community.

We don’t actually know what Jesus means by the line “they devour widow’s houses,” but it implies that the scribes are somehow cheating widows out of their money. Maybe they were taking too much for patronage. Or maybe widows, needing someone to trust with their resources, gave their money to the scribes for them to invest, and they were stealing from them. The widow in our story seems to have very little, and she probably looked to the Temple for the basic resources needed to survive. This particular widow could not be taken advantage of because she had so little.

Caution is required as we talk about this widow and her gift. Maybe she gave everything because all she had come from the Temple, and she was simply giving back to the place she knew would end up providing her. Maybe it was a supreme act of faith. Either way, we need to be careful not to limit the ways this story can speak. Jesus doesn’t explicitly tell the Disciples to follow her example. Instead, he allows the contrast between the two gifts to speak as a mini parable.

One layer of this story focuses on the injustice of the wealthy giving the minimum while being venerated as pillars of the community and spiritual leaders. This is contrasted with the poor, whose faithfulness shows a deeper understanding of faith than the so-called “experts.”

Another layer invites us to examine our level of commitment and investment in the things that matter most. There is a difference between giving our extras to a cause and truly investing ourselves so that our future and that cause are intertwined. If our faith is as important as we say, then surely, we should invest more than our leftovers. The widow challenges us to rearrange our lives, our finances, and our expectations to reflect our passion and belief. This call to invest ourselves can be transformative and life changing.

Giving our full self to something can also have tragic consequences. When have you given everything of yourself? Was it to a relationship? a job? a team? a passion project? When did you give so much that you just had nothing left to give? Hopefully we don’t have too many of these examples in our lives, or it wouldn’t be great for our own self-care! However, this passage does contain an instance of “giving it all,” yet it wouldn’t be great for us to “give it all” to everything all the time. There are only so many times we can give our whole self to something without losing ourselves. So many people, employers, causes, and family want us to be all-in on what matters to them. The widow in our story does not spread her resources around. She gives them, her trust, and her own care over to God.

What does all of this have to do with goodness and faithfulness? We are reminded that goodness is not about reputation but about the embodiment of God’s love so that it can be seen and inspire. Faithfulness is not about knowing all the rules or how many we follow, but a steadfastness and predictability of compassion and integrity. Faithfulness challenges us to be someone others can trust, and goodness calls us to embody God’s faithfulness in the world.





## Day 5: Sharing Fruit

### Galatians 5:16–26

#### Sharing the Fruit

Galatians offers a powerful warning about what happens when people only think about themselves, meet their own needs, and do not consider consequences. It also offers a contrast between this selfish living and those who follow Jesus and seek to live in community. The fruit of the Spirit is how people are able to live in community with one another and to show the love of God to the wider community. Today, we focus on this movement from living in the Spirit as a community to sharing the fruit of the Spirit with people everywhere.

Who doesn't want to bond with a community that leads with love? How nice is it to experience joy regardless of trying circumstances? What changes could be made in the world if we all practiced inviting others into peace? How might relationships be healed by patience? What if kindness ensured that everyone's needs were met? If goodness were paramount, how would that change the world? What if God's people were faithful in their everyday lives, not just in Sunday church attendance? How many conflicts could be avoided if we practiced gentleness? How many tears and disappointments could we avoid if we learned to use self-control?

Paul's letter reminds us what Christian community looks like. Galatians 5 challenges us to gather such fruit and share it throughout our life and throughout the world. Such community isn't about rules and regulations. It is about being led by the Spirit of God to be in community where everyone is valued, loved, and cared for. When we live by the Spirit, we will forge communities in which we are less likely to become arrogant, make one another angry, or be jealous of one another. When we live by the Spirit, we seek to share the fruit of God that is embodied in each of us.



## Day 1: Love and Joy

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Luke 15:3–7    Lost Sheep

**Scripture Focus:** Luke 15:4–5

“Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders.”

**Theological Summary:** Love and joy are actions and experiences we share with God, and they are gifts God gives to us. God loves everyone and feels great joy in welcoming people. We can do the same as we build this community together.

**Today, campers will...**

- Realize they have a place at camp.
- Celebrate that God’s love extends to everyone.
- Find joy in welcoming one another to camp.
- Consider the joy that comes from being loved and valued.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
___ What Is Missing?	PLAY	Jesus notices when someone is missing
___ Covenant	PRAY	Building a group covenant of love and joy
___ The Colors of Love	PLAY	Get to know one another better!
___ Gospel Edit	LEARN	How would Jesus tell this story today?
___ Lost and Found	LEARN	God’s joy is for the lost and found
___ Read and Imagine	PRAY	Imagine yourself in the story
___ Meant to Share	CREATE SERVE	Crafting ways to share joy and love at camp
___ Sing Me a Song	PLAY	Song game

**Leader Notes:** In some ways, today is still a welcoming and norm-setting day. Create your group covenant, lock in those names, and use love and joy as foundations for the rest of the week.

**Prayer:** Loving, joy-inspiring God, thank you for this day and this community we are building together. Help us to love one another and find joy in this place. Amen.

# Daily Activities

## What Is Missing?

PLAY

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Explain that in this game campers will take turns leaving your meeting space, and while each individual is gone, the remaining group will decide on an item to remove from the space. When an item is removed (or hidden), bring the camper back and invite them to guess what is missing. They can get clues by asking yes or no questions of individuals in the group, such as “Is it blue?” or “Is it edible?” After playing, read Luke 15:3–7 together and discuss how we can lose people in a community. Ask campers how it happens and how people can avoid feeling lost, even in a big crowd.

**Try This:** You can play this as a larger group game by occasionally “removing” a group member rather than an object. Having group members move around the activity space while the returning camper tries to figure out who is missing can make this a little more difficult.

## Covenant

PRAY

**Supplies:** large paper, markers, tape

**How:** Explain to campers that a group covenant helps lay out norms for the group, and that a covenant rooted in love and joy will make for an excellent week of camp. Encourage campers to come up with items for the covenant that fall into those categories. For example:

Love: confidentiality, respect

Joy: have fun, participate

After the covenant has been created, invite every group member to sign it. Then, if you are able, use tape to post the covenant in your meeting space.

**Try This:** If your group’s meeting space moves from day to day, select a camper each day to be the “keeper of the covenant”—it is their job to roll up the covenant and carry it with them for the group.

## The Colors of Love

PLAY

**Supplies:** large bag of colorful candy like Skittles or M&Ms

**How:** This get-to-know-you game will get campers talking about love and joy. Each camper can take a handful of candy and should set three aside for the game.

Go around the circle and for each color the person has, invite them to answer the designated question:

- Color 1: What style of music makes you feel joy?
- Color 2: Where is a place that you truly love?
- Color 3: Who is someone who has shown you love?
- Color 4: What song makes you want to dance?
- Color 5: Which holiday do you enjoy the most?
- Color 6: Who is someone in your life you love unconditionally?

**Try This:** If you have food allergies in your group that make this game difficult, you can also play it using colorful beads.

## Gospel Edit

LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Explain that today’s scripture is a parable—a type of story that uses familiar, everyday concepts to teach deeper truths—then read Luke 15:3–7 together. Point out that the story isn’t really about sheep, but people of that time and place understood sheep and shepherding so Jesus used it as an example of how God’s love works. Sheep were considered valuable enough to go look for one that was missing, and God sees each of us that way too. Invite campers to brainstorm more current examples that Jesus might use if he were telling the parable today (for example, a pet groomer realizes a puppy is missing). Chose one of the brainstormed ideas and work as a group to fill out the story. How does it go missing, and how is it found? What is the response?

**Try This:** Campers could act out their updated versions as part of worship.

## Lost and Found

LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Invite campers to share a story of something they lost and were excited to find. This could be a story about a toy, their phone, or even a lost relationship that was reconnected. Maybe they have even gotten lost and have a story about being found. After everyone has had time to share, read Luke 15:3–7 together, then reread

Luke 15:5–7. Invite campers to share why they think there would be more joy for the one who was found. Ask campers to reflect on why the sheep was lost and whether that makes a difference in how they feel about the sheep or the shepherd. If the sheep did something wrong to get lost, does it change how they feel about the story? Ask campers where they see love and joy in this story and why each of these might be difficult for the other sheep to see or feel.

**Try This:** Invite campers to think of other stories (from the Bible, movies, television, etc.) that have this same kind of storyline: joy for one who was “lost” in some way.

## Read and Imagine

PRAY

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Explain to campers that hearing scripture and imagining yourself in the story is a form of prayer. Invite them to sit comfortably or lie down and to close their eyes or stare at a fixed location. Read Luke 15:3–7 three times, once for each prompt:

- First, listen to the scripture and imagine that you are the lost sheep.
- Now, listen to the scripture and imagine that you are one of the 99 sheep who stayed where they should.
- Finally, listen to the scripture and imagine that you are the shepherd.

**Try This:** Turn this reflective experience into a conversation by pausing between each reading to discuss how it felt for campers to imagine themselves in those roles.

## Meant to Share

CREATE SERVE

**Supplies:** basic crafting supplies (cardstock, beads, yarn, glue, markers, etc.)

**How:** Point out that love can be both a noun and a verb, and that love is most powerful when it is an action—when it is shared. Explain that all the fruit of the Spirit are increased when shared rather than diminished. None can be “used up” by sharing. Invite campers to brainstorm things they can create that are giftable, simple gifts they can share with other members of the camp community that will help people to experience a glimpse of love and joy. These could be cards, decorations, bracelets, or something similar. Provide crafting supplies and let campers’ imaginations

go wild. At the end of the group session, encourage them to go out and share the gifts they’ve created not only with friends they already have but also with youth and adults they don’t know.

**Try This:** This could be done as a camp-wide exchange or even as part of a prayer partner project.

## Sing Me a Song

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Invite campers to sit in a circle to play this song game using the word “love.” Each person at in the group has to come up with a song that uses that word in the lyrics and then sing it, or at least the part of the song that contains “love.” For example, one person could sing part of “Love Stinks,” the next person could sing “Love Is All You Need,” and so on. If a camper cannot think of a song or sings a song that has already been used, they are out. The game can continue around the circle until only one camper remains in the game, or you can end it after a few rounds. Afterward, spend some time discussing how music can help us share love and joy. Ask the camper what other tools they can name for sharing love and joy between people.

**Try This:** If you have time to do so, you can do a harder round by using the word “joy.”



## Story Resources

“Joy,” by Alan Shapiro (from *Song and Dance*, [Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002]). This poem illustrates joy’s power as well as ways that joy is different from situational happiness.

“The Joy of the Lord,” by Rend Collective (<https://youtu.be/x3gLeCiMJqI>). This worship song is an upbeat celebration of the ways that joy is rooted not in circumstances but in God. The video includes chords and lyrics.





## Day 2: Peace

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Matthew 8:23–27 Calming Storm

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 8:23–24

When Jesus got into a boat, his disciples followed him. A huge storm arose on the lake so that waves were sloshing over the boat. But Jesus was asleep.

**Theological Summary:** Inner peace is a gift that doesn't come easily but has huge power in our lives and our communities if we take time to cultivate it. Jesus demonstrates this kind of peace in his reaction to the storm that overtakes the disciples' boat while he is sleeping.

**Today, campers will...**

- Acknowledge the storms and fears in life.
- Look to Jesus' example of inner peace.
- Consider inner peace as a calming force in themselves and in community.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
___ A Peace of Me	PLAY	Match people with their peace practices
___ Peace Charades	PLAY	A game to get peace on the brain
___ Scripture as Meditation	PRAY LEARN	Hearing the story with sound effects
___ Nature Mandalas	PRAY CREATE	Experiencing peace through nature
___ Gift of Peace	SERVE	Making peace cranes for others
___ Instrument of Peace	LEARN	Unpacking the "Prayer of St. Francis"
___ Peace! Be Still!	PLAY	Peace in difficulty/chaos takes practice

**Leader Notes:** The most troublesome verse in today's scripture is verse 26, when Jesus calls the disciples "you people of weak faith." Help campers to understand that fear is a natural response to trauma and that faithfulness can exist in spite of our fear.

**Prayer:** God, some of the things we experience in life are scary. Even when we are scared—especially when we are scared—help us to breathe in your peace. Amen.

# Daily Activities

## A Peace of Me

PLAY

**Supplies:** slips of paper, pens

**How:** Give each camper a slip of paper and a pen, and invite campers to use their cards to discreetly write down something (an activity, song, person, etc.) that helps them to feel a sense of peace. For example: “Meditating helps me feel peaceful,” “I have a Spotify playlist that makes me feel a sense of peace,” or “I feel peaceful when I’m running.” After they have written down their items, have campers fold their paper in half and turn them in to you. Mix the cards up and then read each card aloud. After each card is read, go around the circle so that campers can guess who shared each item. When the author of each item or practice has been revealed, invite them to share a bit about how or why it brings them peace.

**Try This:** You could divide campers into two teams, collect their papers separately, then exchange sets. Let each team try to come to a consensus in matching the answers to members on the other team. See which team can get more matches.

## Peace Charades

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Tell campers that you will be playing charades as a full group rather than dividing into teams. Invite campers to take turns acting out the following things (song titles, themes, and events) that are related to peace:

- “Peaceful, Easy Feelin’”
- “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”
- Peace treaty
- Prince of Peace
- World peace
- Inner peace
- “Peace, Love, and Understanding”
- The Peace Corps
- Peace Candle on Advent wreath
- Peace symbol

Afterward, invite them to discuss the different ways “peace” is used in the answers. Ask campers how these expressions of “peace” are similar or different from Jesus’ use of the word in Matthew 8:23–27.

**Try This:** If your group works through these quickly and is having fun, add your own peace-related items to the list to keep the game going. You could also add other fruit of the Spirit to make it interesting.

## Scripture as Meditation

PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Scripture as Meditation Handout, speaker, playlist of sound effects (ocean sounds, storm sounds, peaceful meditative music)

**How:** Explain that one way people read and use scripture is as a tool for meditation. Encourage campers to get in a position that will allow them to be comfortable without falling asleep. Invite them to close their eyes and listen to the story from Matthew 8:23–27. Read the story as it is printed on the Scripture as Meditation Handout and use sound effects as they are listed. Don’t rush the experience—try to make it as meditative and immersive as your setting will allow.

Following the meditative reading, invite campers to discuss what it was like to hear the story in this way:

- How did sound effects change the way you heard the story?
- Who did you relate to most or understand best in the story? Why?
- If you were on the boat with the disciples, how do you imagine you would have reacted?
- What does it take to have inner peace in the midst of scary situations?

**Try This:** You can expand the reflection/discussion by inviting campers to spend a few minutes journaling about this experience. It could also be a wonderful Morning Watch or part of worship.

## Nature Mandalas

PRAY CREATE

**Supplies:** Nature Mandalas Handout, found objects in nature (campers find their own)

**How:** Explain to campers that a mandala is a geometric design used in some spiritual traditions to help people focus their mind as they meditate or pray. Sometimes mandalas are painted or drawn, and sometimes they can be created from objects found in nature. Show

them the picture on the Nature Mandalas Handout as an example. Take campers on a brief nature walk in which their task is to collect leaves, flowers, and other objects for their mandalas. When you return to your meeting space, invite campers to create their own design that reflects peace or makes them feel peaceful. Encourage campers to talk about their designs and show them off within the group. **Try This:** With their permission, take pictures of each nature mandala (or let campers use their phones to take their own pictures). If you are taking the photos, either mail printouts following camp or email/text the designs to campers so they can have them to focus their prayers in the days that follow camp.

## Gift of Peace

## SERVE

**Supplies:** Gift of Peace Handout, squares of paper

**How:** Explain to campers that origami cranes have come to symbolize peace, in part because of the efforts of a Japanese girl who folded paper cranes while being treated for the leukemia she developed due to radiation exposure in Hiroshima. The cranes symbolized both her hope for making a full recovery and her hope that peace would come in the world. The act of folding cranes can help us to develop inner peace while we hope for outer, world peace. Teach campers to make paper cranes using paper and printed instructions or one of the videos from the Peace Crane Project ([www.peacecraneproject.org](http://www.peacecraneproject.org)). **Try This:** Rather than creating cranes as gifts for individuals at camp, your group could create a garland of cranes by adding cranes to a long string or piece of yarn using a yarn needle. Drape or hang the garland in the camp worship space as an offering, or consider sending them to another camp or Church as a gift.

## Instrument of Peace

## LEARN

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Tell campers that a man known as Saint Francis wrote a prayer that has become famous in the church. Read the “Prayer of Saint Francis.”

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Invite campers to discuss the **prayer:**

- What does it mean to be an “instrument of peace”?
- What do the seeds Francis wants to sow have to do with peace?
- How does this prayer make you feel?

**Try This:** Invite campers to help you rewrite the prayer, particularly focusing on the phrases that follow each comma; for example:

- “Where there is hatred, let me \_\_\_\_\_.”
- “Where there is doubt, \_\_\_\_\_.”

## Peace! Be Still!

## PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Explain that chaos and stress are a part of life, and it takes practice and discipline to be able to hear Jesus and answer his call. Tell campers that this game requires noise and activity: When you say “Go,” everyone needs to be as noisy and active as possible and when you say “Peace! Be still!” everyone needs to become quiet and still as quickly as possible. Invite campers to play the game. Vary the way that you say “Peace! Be still!”—start by saying it loudly and forcefully, and in other rounds of the game say it quietly, slowly, with your back turned from the group, or maybe even sing it. Afterward, spend some time discussing the game together:

- Was it easy to quiet down once you got into being loud and wild?
- How well could you hear the command to be still? What made it more or less difficult to hear?
- What things in life might the loudness/wildness represent?
- What could make it easier to hear Jesus during difficult and scary times?

**Try This:** Invite campers to take turns giving the instructions in the game. When a camper is in charge, participate in the game with gusto—and be a distraction.



## Story Resources

**Peace Crane Project** ([www.peacecraneproject.org](http://www.peacecraneproject.org)).

An international exchange program that encourages students from around the world to fold peace cranes, write messages of peace on their wings, and send them to students in other countries. Their site includes great links to video and printed directions for cranes.



## Scripture as Meditation Handout

Read the scripture as printed below, taking time to pause and use sound effects (if available).

### **Matthew 8:23–27**

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus got into a boat, his disciples followed him.

*(play calm ocean sounds for a minute or two)*

<sup>24</sup> A huge storm arose on the lake so that waves were sloshing over the boat. But Jesus was asleep.

*(play storm sounds for a minute)*

<sup>25</sup> They came and woke him, saying, “Lord, rescue us! We’re going to drown!”

<sup>26</sup> He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you people of weak faith?” Then he got up and gave orders to the winds and the lake, and there was a great calm.

*(play soothing/meditative sounds or music)*

<sup>27</sup> The people were amazed and said, “What kind of person is this? Even the winds and the lake obey him!”

*(close the experience with another minute or two of meditative music)*

## Nature Mandalas Handout



(Photograph credit: Laura Guy, used with permission)

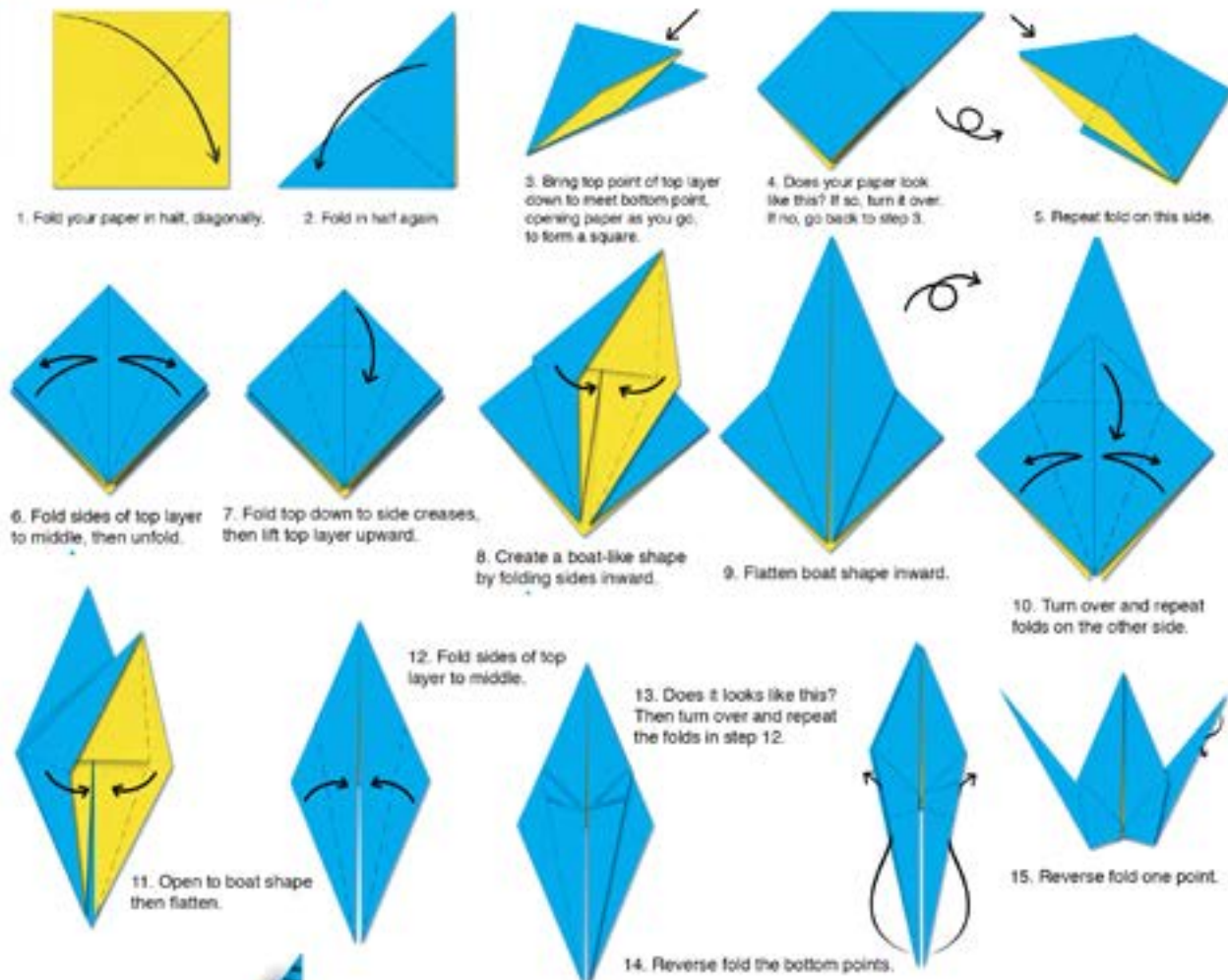
## Gift of Peace Handout



### HOW TO FOLD A PEACE CRANE

To participate in The Peace Crane Project you will need a square piece of paper, plus markers, pens, paint, or pencils.

Blue represents the front side of the paper. Yellow represents the back. Your paper may look different.



Write and draw words and pictures of peace on your Peace Crane.  
Share it with the world! Join the Peace Crane Exchange List:

**PeaceCraneProject.org**

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## Day 3: Patience and Kindness

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** 1 Kings 17:8–16 Elijah and the Widow

**Scripture Focus:** 1 Kings 17:10–11, 15

Elijah left and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her, “Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink.” She went to get some water. He then said to her, “Please get me a piece of bread.”...The widow went and did what Elijah said. So the widow, Elijah, and the widow’s household ate for many days.

**Theological Summary:** When we are kind, it is easier to have patience with others; when we are patient with others, we can grow in kindness. These two fruit can help bring people together and sustain them during difficult times.

**Today, campers will...**

- Examine the patience and impatience in the story of Elijah and the widow.
- Learn that patience can produce kindness.
- Explore ways patience and kindness strengthen relationships with others.
- Observe the clarity and resolve that result from a patient spirit in times of action.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
___ If You Really Knew Me	PLAY	Group building game
___ Patient Pattern	PLAY LEARN	Experiment with patience and kindness
___ Role Models	PLAY	Guessing game
___ Good Examples?	LEARN	Unpacking a tough text
___ Is This Fair?	PRAY LEARN	Exploring power dynamics
___ Award Season	CREATE SERVE	Imagining different awards
___ Careful Prayer	PRAY	Praying for patience and kindness

**Leader Notes:** This is a relatively unknown scripture passage for most students (and adults), so it may require more unpacking. Be mindful of power dynamics within camp—who is expected to be patient and kind and who gets away with something different?

**Prayer:** God, patience and kindness are two of the most difficult fruit to grow. Help us to grow them in ourselves and in our community in ways that are genuine and true.



## Daily Activities

### If You Really Knew Me

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Invite campers to sit in a circle. Explain that for this game, listening and memory are required. One person will begin by completing the sentence: “I’m \_\_\_\_\_, and if you really knew me, you’d know \_\_\_\_\_.” Examples could be “I’m Lara, and if you really knew me, you’d know that I like chocolate” Or “I’m Terrance, and if you really knew me, you’d know I love cats.” Since we are deeper into the camp experience, encourage campers to risk sharing something more than they would have on Day 1. After the first person shares their sentence, the next person in the circle will share their sentence and then repeat the name and shared information of the person who went before them. Each time someone new goes, they must share their sentence and then repeat the info for everyone who came before them. When you have made it all the way around the circle, encourage whoever went first to recall the information shared by each person in the group. Afterward, spend some time talking about the pressure we put on ourselves and the expectations we have of others and how they might impact our patience or kindness.

**Try This:** If you make it through round one with ease, challenge the group by having everyone switch places in the circle. Then have volunteers try to remember every person’s information.

### Patient Pattern

PLAY LEARN

**Supplies:** various colors of beads

**How:** In advance, place four beads in a row, then cover or hide them. Provide a large number of beads of different colors and divide campers into two teams. Explain that they must guess the number of beads in your row and get the correct color pattern before time runs out. Do not tell them it is a competition. Explain that they can show you their beads at any time and you will give them one clue. Examples of clues include “You have too many beads” or “One of these beads is a correct color.” Let them keep trying till they get it right or time runs out. One minute should be enough for a group to either figure it out or get frustrated and give up. Afterward, spend some time debriefing their

experience, especially where competition set in, where they got impatient, and how they treated everyone else in the activity. Invite them to share what triggers impatience in their own lives and what are their greatest challenges to kindness.

**Try This:** If you want to up the stakes, you could make the color code a “password” for extra snacks or a special dessert later in the day.

### Role Models

PLAY

**Supplies:** slips of paper, pens

**How:** Give every camper a slip of paper and a pen and invite them to write down the name of a famous person or character who exemplifies either patience or kindness. Be sure everyone keeps their names secret. Have campers fold their papers in half and place them in a hat or other container. Once all names have been collected, explain that the goal of the game is match people with the name they wrote down. You will go around the circle giving each person a turn to guess what someone else picked. If the guess is correct, the person whose character was correctly guessed will join the team of the person who made the guess, and the guesser will get another turn. If someone correctly guesses the name written by someone who has built up such a team, the entire time moves to join the guesser’s team. You can play until everyone has had a turn to guess or until everyone is united onto one team. Afterward, invite campers to share why they chose the names they did and how those examples help them.

**Try This:** If you have time, you can play multiple rounds of this game. You could also go back to previous day’s themes and have campers use names based on those fruit of the Spirit.

### Good Examples?

LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible, large paper, markers

**How:** Set the context for today’s story by explaining that Elijah is a trash-talking, bombastic, big-ego prophet of God who had recently been famous and on top of the world—but now he is on the run, with a lot of people looking to kill him. He is forced to rely on God and the hospitality of strangers with little means in order to survive. Read 1 Kings 17:8–16 together. Ask campers how they feel about each of the characters, writing each character and the campers’ descriptions on a large piece of paper. Invite campers to name where they see patience or lack of patience in the story, then

look back through the story and invite them to imagine how they might react. Where can they imagine losing their patience or struggling to be kind? Be sure to point out that being kind and patient are not always easy and sometimes requires sacrifice. Invite campers to share which of the characters they most easily relate to and why.

**Try This:** You could invite campers to “keep score” between Elijah and the widow to see who collects the most points for being kind and patient. Campers can even debate how points should be awarded and why. If you have a creative group that likes to talk, this could take on a life of its own. Make sure to name places they are kind and patient, or not, with each other.

## Is This Fair?

## PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Explain that a lot of the dynamics we see in our society have always existed, including between those who have power and those who do not. Read 1 Kings 17:8–16 together and ask campers what clues we have to the power people held. For example, we can look at who has titles, who gets named, who has the power to make choices, and so forth. Ask campers to look at each of the characters in the story and rank them in order of power. Invite campers to reflect on how power tends to change the way we treat people in the world today and how that might inform this story in 1 Kings. Now, ask campers where they have seen people who have less power in our world being asked to demonstrate more patience and kindness than those who have power and if they think this is a fair expectation.

**Try This:** Depending on the context and makeup of your group, you can expand this activity by bringing in news stories that showcase the ways we expect patience and kindness from those on the bottom or at the margins while forgiving impatience and unkindness from those at the top or in the center.

## Award Season

## CREATE SERVE

**Supplies:** large paper, markers, and whatever extra craft supplies you have available

**How:** Invite campers to consider what qualities are usually celebrated and rewarded in our society and write them on a large piece of paper. Some examples might be wealth, athletic ability, talent, industriousness, power. Now, brainstorm awards shows that people

watch on TV or give attention to. Ask campers what other ways we reward people for these traits. This might include endorsement deals, following them on social media, or paying high salaries. Now, ask campers to imagine what an awards process for patience and kindness might look like. Who would be nominated, how would voting work, and how would it be celebrated? Would there be a big event or show? Who might host? Invite campers to make their own awards for the camp community using basic craft supplies. Encourage campers to be creative, using whatever medium they’d prefer—these can be letters to specific people within the camp community, badges, drawings, and the like. When your group session is over, send campers out with a mission to present their awards to their fellow campers.

**Try This:** This could be an all-camp awards ceremony at the end of the week with awards for different fruit of the Spirit being recognized. Consider how to celebrate everyone and ensure no one gets left out. Maybe this is the new camp tradition you have been waiting for!

## Careful Prayer

## PRAY

**Supplies:** (optional) paper and pens

**How:** Ask campers if they have heard the phrases “Be careful what you pray for” or “Be careful what you wish for.” Explain that patience, in particular, is a fruit of the Spirit that some say we should be careful about praying for—because when we ask for patience, we might be given situations that require patience. Invite campers to share a time they asked for patience and ended up with more ways to practice it. Ask if they think this is how God works or simply a reality of life. Explain that it is helpful to really think through our prayer requests so that we do some self-reflection when talking to God, but it is also OK to boldly pray for really big things too. God wants us to have big hopes and dreams. Invite campers to share some of the bolder prayers they have shared with God. Close this activity with a prayer affirming the big hopes and dreams campers have expressed for the world and for the patience to wait and work for them to come true.

**Try This:** Using pens and paper, you could make this a writing exercise. Invite campers to write down or sketch both some of their more cautious prayers and some of their more audacious prayers. At the end of your group time together, create a way to destroy these prayers (water, cautious use of fire, shredder, etc.) as an act of giving them to God.



## Story Resources

***Forrest Gump*, directed by Robert Zemeckis (Paramount Pictures, 1994).** The character of Forrest Gump is marked by both patience and kindness. While you certainly would not want to show this entire movie (it is quite long and many sections are inappropriate for camp), you could use scenes from Forrest's relationship with his beloved, Jenny, to showcase patience and kindness in the midst of difficulty.



## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Mark 12:38–44 Widow’s Coin

**Scripture Focus:** Mark 12:41–43

Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who’s been putting money in the treasury.”

**Theological Summary:** Goodness and faithfulness are more than mere personal attributes—they are things we do for others and our community. When we constantly invest in the well-being of others, we are doing good; when we are trustworthy and reliable for others, we are being faithful. Both require God’s work in us to be made real.

**Today, campers will...**

- Explore how goodness and faithfulness show up in character.
- Examine the risk and fulfillment of faithfulness even with uncertain outcomes.
- Imagine fully giving themselves to something they believe in.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
___ Choose Well	PLAY	Balloon game
___ Fruit Hunt	PLAY	Reverse scavenger hunt
___ This or That	PLAY	Practicing discernment
___ What’s My Motivation?	LEARN	Exploring motivation in scripture
___ Risks and Rewards	LEARN	The cost faithfulness
___ Touch Stones	PRAY CREATE	Create a reminder of goodness
___ Charting Choices	PRAY SERVE	Mapping commitments to serve

**Leader Notes:** Goodness and faithfulness aren’t an either/or state of being. They are activities that rely on our choices and priorities. Help campers to see that when they choose to work for the good of their communities, they are practicing goodness and faithfulness.

**Prayer:** Holy One, goodness and faithfulness don’t always come to us naturally or easily. Help us to care for others in ways that are both faithful and good. Amen.



## Daily Activities

### Choose Well

PLAY

**Supplies:** at least 40 balloons, marker, masking tape or string

**How:** In advance, blow up 40 balloons. Using a marker, write various fruit of the Spirit on half of the balloons and write various selfish desires on the other half. Many are listed in Galatians 5. Using masking tape or a string, divide your play space, then fill it with balloons. Divide campers into two teams and have them stand on opposite sides of the space. The challenge is to keep as many fruit of the Spirit balloons as possible while moving balloons with selfish desires to the other side of the space. No one can hold on to a balloon, but they can use hands to push them. Call out “Go” and let campers start moving balloons. After a few minutes, call out “Stop!” Count the fruit of the Spirit balloons on each side and proclaim a winning team based on that count. Note that there is no rule preventing campers from running across the line to move balloons, although you are welcome to adapt this as you play to change up the experience. Afterward, debrief the game by discussing what it is like to try sort out good fruit from selfish desires in the midst of life’s chaos.

**Try This:** You might consider adding some ambiguous words that are not from Galatians. Things like “winning,” or “stubbornness” might create some debate as to whether they are good or bad.

### Fruit Hunt

PLAY

**Supplies:** (whatever items students bring in a backpack or pillowcase)

**How:** Give campers a few minutes to go to their cabins and put some of their own items they think might be useful in a scavenger hunt in a pillowcase or backpack to bring back to your group area. You could also ask campers earlier in the day to do this so they are ready when your group session begins. Explain that when you call out a word, they have two minutes to find something in their backpacks/pillowcases that can represent that word. When the two minutes is up, invite campers to share the item they selected and explain the connection between item and word. Instead

of specific items, call out fruit of the Spirit. Campers have to present an item and explain how it reflects that fruit to earn a point.

**Try This:** This could be an all-camp activity with campers working in small groups to bring back things they find around camp. Just set clear rules in advance and try to avoid having “winners” or “losers.” If it does get too competitive, be sure and debrief how easily we can be distracted from the fruit we are trying to exemplify.

### This or That

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Explain that you are going to share some people, stories, and actions. For each one, ask campers to move to one side of your play space or another depending on their answer. If they think it shows patience or kindness, they move to one side, and if not, they move to the other.

- Cheating on a test
- Caring for a sick or stray animal
- Sticking by a friend when they’ve made bad choices
- Cheating on a partner
- Stealing simply because you want something
- Stealing because your family is hungry
- Giving generously when you have lots of money
- Giving all you have when you are poor

Feel free to add in some of your own examples. After each round, invite campers to share their thoughts before moving on to the next. Encourage them to really get into the nuance of some of the situations that are more debatable.

**Try This:** If campers really get into this activity, invite some of them to present their own scenarios. You can use your veto power and vet the scenarios if you are afraid inappropriate ones may be shared.



## What's My Motivation?

LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible, large paper, markers

**How:** Read Mark 12:38–44 aloud together and invite campers to name the characters and their motivations, writing the answers on a large piece of paper. If they need a little more information, explain that scribes were legal experts, kind of like being a biblical scholar and a lawyer all rolled up in one, and often were people of power and influence. Explain that widows often relied on family to care for them, and if they had none were reliant on funds that were raised in the temple. Spend some time discussing the motivation of each character, especially Jesus. Ask campers why Jesus points out the difference in what was given. What does Jesus value in this story? Invite campers to imagine this as a symbolic story about people with different values and motivations. What might be some examples from our society of those who give for different reasons? What might be other examples of people who risk or care or share at different levels of commitment?

**Try This:** Make a list of questions campers still have about this text or its characters and invite a member of the camp staff who is equipped to answer more questions to join you and dive deeper. Don't be afraid of any conversation, and don't be afraid to say "I don't know." All these conversations are worth having, and all are about a God who is bigger than we can fully grasp.

## Risks and Rewards

LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible, large paper, marker

**How:** Explain that choosing to act out of faithfulness and goodness carries with it both risk and reward. Ask campers to brainstorm risks people sometimes take for others. These might include responding to an emergency, parenting, or sharing feelings in a relationship. For each risk, ask campers to list a possible reward. Read Mark 12:38–44 together and encourage the group to listen for the risks and rewards present within the story. Ask campers what each person is hoping to get out of their action. This includes Jesus. What does Jesus hope will happen by sharing this teaching? Ask campers how goodness and faithfulness are related to the risks and rewards you have been discussing.

**Try This:** You could turn this into a prayer activity by asking campers to think about a risk they want to take in their life and share it as a silent prayer to God; or they can share it with a partner and pray for each other.

## Touch Stones

PRAY CREATE

**Supplies:** small rocks, paint pens or markers

**How:** Explain to campers that throughout history people have carried small coins or tokens, sometimes called "touch pieces" or "pocket pieces," that serve as good luck charms or reminders of behavior they want to practice. By touching it, there is an impact on their decisions. Give each camper a small rock and invite them to create their own Touch Stone by putting a symbol or color on it that represents something they need to remember in order to make their best decisions. Invite them to keep these in their pocket or someplace close when they get home so it can help them remember to choose acts of goodness and faithfulness.

**Try This:** This could also be done with pennies, mirroring the gift of the widow. You will want to provide nail polish or another way to seal the marker or paint campers use to decorate them.

## Charting Choices

PRAY SERVE

**Supplies:** large paper, marker, writing paper, pens

**How:** Divide a large piece of paper into four quadrants. Write "Bad" on the far left of the horizontal line and "Good" on the far right. Write "Low Risk" at the bottom of the vertical divider line and "High Risk" at the top. Invite campers to consider how they can serve in ways that are good, faithful, and appropriately risky or sacrificial. Remind them that personal safety and boundaries are important to keep in mind as we make choices. Ask them to brainstorm some of the causes that matter to them and their communities and what they might do about them. As they share, work as a group to decide where each action might go on the chart. How "good" is the action? How "risky" is it? To provide some context, you might offer some examples for the other side of the chart that would represent bad choices with varying degrees of risk. After plotting possible actions on the chart, encourage campers to spend some prayer and meditation time making a commitment for how they will serve one of these causes when they get home. Give campers paper and pens so that they can journal about this, using whatever writing or drawing style they prefer as long as somewhere on the paper they make a clear commitment and add their signature. When campers have finished journaling, invite those who are willing to share something about the commitments they've

made. Close with a prayer for the commitments made and for the good and faithful change the campers hope to create.

**Try This:** You can make this activity feel more like a “traditional” prayer by circling up at the end. Begin the group prayer and then invite each person around the circle to share the commitment they’ve made. When it comes back around to you, close out the prayer and say “Amen.”



## Story Resources

**“Nine Stories Made by and About Young People Making a Difference,” Leah Clapman, PBS Newshour, December 19, 2014** (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/student-reporting-labs-giving-back>). Nine stories about young people making a difference. Includes short video interviews.



## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** 1 Samuel 24 David and Saul

**Scripture Focus:** 1 Samuel 24:4–7

David’s soldiers said to him, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he promised you, ‘I will hand your enemy over to you, and you can do to him whatever you think best.’” So David snuck up and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. But immediately David felt horrible that he had cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. “The LORD forbid,” he told his men, “that I should do something like that to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lift my hand against him, because he’s the LORD’s anointed!” So David held his soldiers in check by what he said, and he wouldn’t allow them to attack Saul. Saul then left the cave and went on his way.

**Theological Summary:** In our “act tough, be bold” culture, gentleness and self-control seem difficult to find—but they are of critical importance in God’s value system because they help shape and channel our impulses toward peace and right relationship.

**Today, campers will...**

- Identify how self-control can lead to gentleness.
- Examine how difficult self-control can be when we feel threatened.
- Explore how confidence is connected to self-control.
- Understand the role of grace in sustaining and restoring relationships.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
___ Card Castle	PLAY	Stacking game
___ Change Your Tune	PLAY LEARN	Self-controlled musical chairs
___ Humblebrag	PLAY LEARN	Trying one of David’s specialties
___ Which Came First?	PRAY LEARN	Hearing ourselves in the story
___ Next Steps	PRAY SERVE	Reflection on self-control
___ Gentle Poets	PRAY CREATE	Gentleness poem
___ The Laughing Game	PLAY	Laughter vs. self-control

**Leader Notes:** Because this story is a bit odd and contains some bathroom humor, it can be easy to get distracted. Help campers to find the lesson about gentleness and self-control in the midst of this story of David practicing (and flaunting) these fruit instead of harming Saul.

**Prayer:** God, the world encourages us to be brash and over the top. Help us to find value in gentleness and self-control and help us to grow these fruit in our lives.



## Daily Activities

### Card Castle

PLAY

**Supplies:** notecards or playing cards (optional: Jenga set)

**How:** Invite the group to make a castle out of cards, seeing how high they can build it. This can be with notecards or playing cards, but notecards allow for some folding that playing cards do not. You might even want to let campers work in a few teams so that everyone can be more hands-on with the building. Once they are done, or after they have had a while to work, spend some time discussing the role of self-control in this activity, and where gentleness comes in.

**Try This:** You could also do this with a Jenga set, even writing conversation prompts on the blocks in advance and having campers discuss them as they go. Some questions could be “What is a time when someone treated you with gentleness?” or “How strong is your self-control?”

### Change Your Tune

PLAY LEARN

**Supplies:** music source and speaker, chairs (or space markers, such as cones)

**How:** In advance, place chairs in a circle with one less chair than there are people. Explain the basic rules of musical chairs: Campers will walk in a circle while the music is playing, and when the music stops everyone must try to sit in a chair. Play a couple of rounds, then explain that the goal will remain the same, but everyone must do their best to display self-control and gentleness. That means no darting for chairs, no pushing people aside, and no running. Start the music and play. After a few rounds of this version, start over and explain that the same rules are in place, but a prize will be awarded. Start the music and play. After playing for a few more rounds, stop the game and either affirm the group for the ways they managed to keep showing gentleness and self-control by letting others have a chair, or reward the one person without a chair for doing the most to let others sit. Spend some time debriefing the challenges of self-control and gentleness when competition, peer-pressure, and other factors push us in other directions.

**Try This:** If mobility is an issue for someone in your group, make sure they have a job. They can be in charge of the music or, if they are comfortable doing so, you can challenge the group to create a way to play that involves everyone. The game may look different, but the goal is still the same: practicing gentleness and self-control.

### Humblebrag

PLAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Ask campers if they can explain the phenomenon sometimes called a “humblebrag.” (This is a statement someone makes that is designed to sound humble while really bragging about a situation, possession, or even one’s own “humility.”) Invite campers to share some of the “best” humblebrags they’ve heard lately. Give them time to tell the stories, including their own moments of slipping into humblebrag mode. Encourage campers to think of ways that someone might humblebrag about the fruit of the Spirit in their lives and share a fruit-inspired humblebrag. Read 1 Samuel 24 together and ask campers how David might have handled the situation in a worse way, and then how it could have done it without the humblebrag.

**Try This:** You could dive a little deeper by inviting campers to debate the bigger impact on “humility”: gentleness or self-control. Just the act of debating will probably contradict both and create some fun conversation.

### Which Came First?

PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Read 1 Samuel 24 together, then divide campers into two teams to debate which fruit of the Spirit comes first in the story. Some may argue for gentleness while others may suggest self-control. Give them a few minutes to consider their points of emphasis, then let the two sides face off to convince you which comes first. Afterward, invite campers to think of examples from their own lives where they had to practice gentleness or self-control and share how the two were related in that experience. If campers can’t make the connection in their own experiences, you might let the group ask some questions to help them make the connection. Remind campers that these are two fruit of the Spirit that are important to practice, and the more we practice them the easier they become. Ask campers

what the greatest challenges to gentleness and self-control are in their lives and in our world.

**Try This:** You can keep the debate portion as simple or elaborate as you like. You could also award points based on how they present their points of view and take away points for interrupting or displaying other contradictions to self-control and gentleness.

## Next Steps

## PRAY SERVE

**Supplies:** None

**How:** Explain that fruit of the Spirit are seen in what we do not do as often as in the things we actually do and that this is particularly true with gentleness and self-control. Invite campers to stand in a circle and think about how they engage the community around them. Do they step up when there is an opportunity, or do they hang back? Invite those who tend to step forward to imagine who might have an opportunity to serve or share their voice if they chose not to volunteer or jump in. Invite those who tend to be more cautious or reserved to imagine who might get a break or feel less pressure to jump in if they were more assertive. Ask all the campers to take a moment in silent prayer with God, then take a step forward or backward depending on how they feel the need to challenge themselves to step outside their comfort zone. Close with a prayer of blessing for all the ways everyone in the camp community takes care of one another, and for campers exercising self-control to try new ways of being in community.

**Try This:** Consider having campers sit with a partner who tends to respond differently from them. Together, invite them to brainstorm examples of ways people could both step up or step back in new ways.

## Gentle Poets

## PRAY CREATE

**Supplies:** paper, pens or pencils, markers

**How:** Explain that much of scripture and many of the most famous prayers are also forms of poetry, and that David was known as a poet and musician. Invite campers to use this time to create poetry of their own that expresses something they feel or have learned about the fruit of gentleness and self-control. For those campers who are comfortable taking off and writing in rhyme or free verse, just let them at it! For those who are uncomfortable and need more direction, lift up

acrostic poetry as a way to get started, focusing on the word “gentle.” For example:

G - ift of the Spirit  
E - ncouraging me to slow down  
N - ever clenching a fist in anger  
T - alking with words of peace  
L - ooking on others with compassion  
E - ven when they lash out in return

Those who have gifts for visual arts can write the word “gentleness” or “self-control” and then illustrate it as a form of visual poetry. Once campers have set to work, play some reflective music in the background so that there isn’t silence. When campers are done with their prayerful creations, invite them to share their work.

**Try This:** Create a gallery space somewhere around camp so that your group and others can post and share their works of prayer, or select some from each group to share during worship.

## The Laughing Game

## PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** If you have time at the end of your group meeting, invite campers to practice self-control by engaging in a G-rated laugh battle. Let campers take turns sitting or standing in front of the group. It is the job of the rest of your group to try to make their friend laugh, and it is the job of the person in the middle to try and not laugh. There should be no touching, inappropriate jokes, or other negative behaviors. Silly faces, sounds, and dances are within bounds. After playing, spend some time talking about when it might be ok to lose our self-control. This might include sharing joy, smiling, and expressing love when our society might more repressive.

**Try This:** If you have campers who are willing, flip the roles. Have the individual attempt to make the group laugh—if any one person in the group breaks into a giggle, the individual wins their round.





## Story Resources

**42, directed by Brian Helgeland (Warner Brothers, 2013).** The story of baseball great Jackie Robinson showcases (among other things) the incredible self-control that he had to exert not only in his sport but in his life as he faced mountains of racism and resistance throughout his career and life.



## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Galatians 5:16–26

**Scripture Focus:** Galatians 5:22–23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.

**Theological Summary:** The fruit of the Spirit describe not only the behavior and actions of individuals who are shaped by the Spirit of God, but also the behavior and actions of communities. God grows these things in us so that we can share them out into the world, for the sake of all others.

**Today, campers will...**

- Imagine the fruit of the Spirit meeting the specific needs of the world today.
- Plan how to bear these fruit in their lives.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
___ A Memory of Fruit	PLAY	Who were we? Who have we become?
___ Meaningful Places	PLAY PRAY	Visiting the meaningful places at camp
___ A Good Recipe	LEARN	How do the fruit come together in life?
___ Playlist to Share	CREATE SERVE	Fruit of the Spirit playlist to share
___ What Did We Grow?	PRAY LEARN	Which fruit grew this week?
___ Affirmations	PRAY SERVE	Wrapping up the week with affirmations

**Leader Notes:** The last day of camp can be emotionally fraught for campers this age. Create space for reflection and goodbyes, honor big emotions without manipulating those emotions, and make room for campers who are still in fun mode.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to end this week well. Thank you for working within and among us here at camp. Help us to use what we've learned to bless others. Amen.



## Daily Activities

### A Memory of Fruit

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** If you did the “What’s Your Fruit” activity on Day 1, see if campers can remember the fruit or positive trait that each person shared along with their name. This can be a group effort. If not, see how much campers can remember from the Day 1 activity and conversation. Spend a few minutes discussing how it feels for others to remember things we have said and done. Remind them of the impact they can have on others, as evidence by the week at camp. Encourage them to share what they have learned so they can continue making a positive impact on others.

**Try This:** Encourage campers to lift up some of the positive qualities and fruit of the Spirit that they’ve seen in one another throughout the week.

### Meaningful Places

PLAY PRAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** This activity is an opportunity for your group to celebrate the week. Explain to campers that you are taking a special kind of walk together. Ask everyone to think of two or three places around the camp that have been especially meaningful to them this week, or that will now have strong memories attached. Leave your meeting space together and invite campers to take turns leading the group to those meaningful places. Encourage campers to share the stories or explanations of why each spot is meaningful. Before leaving any particular spot, ask if any other campers also chose that location and encourage them to share their own stories.

**Try This:** If weather or other factors prevent such a physical journey from taking place, you can do this same activity via storytelling. Invite campers to simply name, describe, and talk about the places around the camp that hold special memory and meaning.

### A Good Recipe

LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Read Galatians 5:16–26 together. Remind campers of what they have learned about each of the fruit of the Spirit and invite them to consider how those fruit could be seen as ingredients in the recipe for a Christ-follower’s life. Ask campers what flavor they might assign to each fruit, and which fruit they think go really well together in life.

**Try This:** You could enhance this conversation about the scripture by providing ingredients (pretzels, candies, cereals, etc.) so that campers can create and perfect their own snack mixes. Draw comparisons between the two topics (How much Chex cereal is too much? How much self-control is too much?). Be sure to let individual allergies dictate which ingredients you provide.

### Playlist to Share

CREATE SERVE

**Supplies:** large paper, markers

**How:** Explain that one goal of this final camp day is to figure out how to share what the community has learned in the world outside of camp. Invite campers to think about songs they know and love (all genres of music, religious and secular—encourage students to be thoughtful about the language in the songs they choose) that communicate truth about the various fruit of the Spirit. Create a playlist of the songs campers come up with or, create a different playlist for each of the fruit of the Spirit. Write the songs on a large piece of paper. If campers have their phones, let them take pictures of the playlist—or take a picture and email it to campers.

**Try This:** You could also create a real playlist on Spotify that can be shared with the group and with others. Remember, there is a Spotify Playlist for each day provided by InsideOut Curriculum. You might want to share it with campers.

## What Did We Grow?

### PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** none (optional: notecards or papers you collected on Day 1)

**How:** If you did the “What Will We Grow” activity on Day 1, hand out the papers you collected and invite campers to spend a few minutes reading and reflecting on what they wrote or drew. Otherwise, ask campers how they feel they have grown this week, and which fruit of the Spirit might have grown the most in them. Invite campers to share ways they have seen God at work in their life and in others at camp. Finally, ask campers how they would like to keep growing at home and which fruit they are most excited about sharing. Close with a prayer of affirmation and encouragement to share the fruit of the Spirit. Here are some words if you need them: “God, thank you for the ways that you have grown good fruit in us and in our community this week. Help us to see the ways you continue to work in us throughout the year. Amen.”

**Try This:** Assign prayer partners within your group and encourage them to pray for each other throughout the next school year. Give campers time to check in with their prayer partners about what they hope for the next year and exchange contact information.

## Affirmations

### PRAY SERVE

**Supplies:** paper, pens or markers, envelopes

**How:** Explain that a powerful and prayerful way to close out a group’s time at camp together is to share affirmations of one another. This is a way to tell the people in our group that we’ve really paid attention and seen them throughout the week. Sitting in a circle, give each camper a piece of paper and instruct them to write their name in a top corner. Then instruct campers to hand their paper to the person on their left. Invite campers to write a brief affirmation for the person whose name is on the paper and then pass the paper to their left when they are finished. Keep writing and passing until everyone receives their own paper. Once everyone has had their own paper returned to them, full of affirmations, invite campers to take a few moments to read what has been shared.

**Try This:** You might want to collect these and mail them at a later date to help campers reconnect with their thoughts and reflections at this moment.



## Story Resources

***The Rainbow Fish*, by Marcus Pfister (New York: North-South Books, 1992).**.. Wonderful story of a beautiful fish that finds even greater beauty and purpose in what they share with others.

# Worship and Devotions

Camp Offers a unique opportunity to connect campers and the creation in worship. The resources in this section are designed to help you and your campers express your faith and give thanks to God. You will find cabin devotions and song recommendations, as well as outdoor worship resources that are age-appropriate.

**Song Recommendations:** Remember that we are simply giving some suggestions and that our list should not be considered the definitive list for the themes. The goal is to provide you with a starting place for music selection, while also providing some recommendations from different genres or generations you might not have thought about. Some music will be great for sing-along while other music is best used for reflection or as a response to scripture. Singing is a powerful community builder. Be sure to provide enough time for campers to learn songs by singing them more than once. It is also important to teach new songs matching the diversity of God's people. You can also check out our Spotify list for *FruitFull Faith* and each daily theme.

**Cabin Devotions:** We recommend doing devotions by cabin before bed. This is a good time to let campers reflect on their day and connect with one another. Showers and getting ready for bed can be a chaotic time that is particularly difficult for younger campers and those who are homesick. It can also be a time when community is challenged by teasing or the insecure posturing of peers. A devotion to end the night can put things back on track or help keep community norms in the forefront of campers' minds. Versions for Youth and Children/Intergenerational devotions are provided. While planning your devotions is important, your attitude is the most important factor in their success.

**Planning Worship:** We recommend having campers plan worship. Although they will need help, camp provides an opportunity for campers to step into roles normally played by adults. There is also creative freedom not found in the local congregation. Campers can be loud, silly, angry, excited, joyful, or thankful as they share their hearts with God. Each age group has its own challenges and gifts when it comes to planning. Lean into the blessings of your camp and find ways for personal gifts to become a gift of worship.

**Daily Worship** resources will provide you with a simple structure for planning, but you can also use the various pieces in your own way. You can mix and match—pick and choose. They are arranged in a suggested order of:

Gathering  
Litany  
Prayers of the People  
Scripture  
Celebrating and Centering Responses  
Stewardship  
Communion  
Closing

We hope these resources will help you create worship services that allow campers to express their faith, the creation to sing God's praise, and the community to feel the Spirit move. We know that when creation, Christ, and community come together, worship is happening!

## Parts of the Service

**Gathering:** This is a practice or symbolic gathering moment. It can be a creative way to enter, to welcome, or to call the community to a time of worship.

**Litany:** This is intended to center the camp for worship in a way that connects with the scripture or daily theme. You might want to write words for any responses on posters if you are worshiping outside. If you have technology in your services, these can be projected.

**Prayers of the People:** Each day's prayer experience is different, but each invites campers to be connected in prayer. Some are more reflective and some more expressive, but all are a good way to pray through the daily themes or in connection with the day's scripture reading.



**Scripture:** Some scriptures work well as a skit. Some lack a narrative but can be shared in other creative ways. This section is provided to help you present the scriptures to campers in creative ways while still being true to the text.

**Celebrating and Centering Responses:** You probably want to pick one of the two or put them at different parts of your service. Celebrating responses are more active while centering tries to create a calmer mood in the service. You might want to use these as described or use them as a jumping off point for the creativity of your campers.

**Stewardship:** More than “giving,” stewardship is about being responsible for what God has put in our care and working as partners with God for the care of all creation. At camp, we might take an offering for a special project or mission, or even to support camp scholarships, but we can also talk about care for the earth and how to use our blessings to care for others.

**Communion:** This curriculum is created by representatives of many church traditions, and all celebrate communion in different ways. The communion resources provided are intended to be an “introduction” or “invitation” to the table that can be used with liturgy and prayers specific to your tradition. These resources also assume the table is open to everyone present. If this is not the case for your tradition, remember that these are just resources and you are free to edit or use other resources that reflect your beliefs and practices.

**Closing:** A closing is often called a benediction. It is a blessing and a sending out. Remember that worship has moods, and how you leave worship can impact the rest of your day. Think about what comes next. Do you need campers to be upbeat, or do you need them to be calm and attentive? Will you make announcements after the benediction or before? We recommend making the benediction the last thing as often as you can so that in your gathering time, the last words are either to or from God.

# Daily Worship - Children & Intergenerational

## Day 1: Gathering Fruit

### Galatians 5:16–26

#### GATHERING

**Say:** Welcome everyone! We are so glad to see each one of you. We feel so blessed to be able to gather together with you in this place. You know, even though we are each an individual, specially made and unique in our own ways, something extra special happens when we are gathered as a group to worship God. Let's join together now as we do just that!

#### LITANY

Invite campers to respond with the phrase "Blessed are you."

Leader: Our God.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: You give us so much.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: You sustain us.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: You help us grow.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: You brought us together.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: You are full of grace.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to link arms with the person beside them as they feel comfortable. As the leader prays, direct the group to sway side to side, moving together as one. Ask campers to reply to each section of the prayer with "Grow us together."

Leader:

As we gather in this place, God, we ask you to grow us together as one.

Where there is hurt, bring your healing.

Where there is fighting, bring your peace.

**All: Grow us together.**

Leader:

Where there is loneliness, bring friendship.

Where this is fear, bring trust.

**All: Grow us together.**

Leader:

Help us to know one another.

Help us to listen to one another.

Help us to love one another well.

**All: Grow us together. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE

**Say:** Our scripture today comes from a letter written to people, encouraging them to be led by the Holy Spirit or to stay in step with the Spirit. If we follow the Spirit, we should be growing in the fruit of the Spirit. Let's get ready to follow the Spirit by getting up on our feet! As we read, let's take a big step in place for each fruit of the Spirit we hear. But what kind of fruit is it? Let's read Galatians 5:22–24 and find out.

Have a camp leader read the scripture slowly, while others demonstrate taking a big step in place each time a fruit of the Spirit is mentioned.

**Say:** Did anyone count how many times we took a step? There are nine fruit mentioned, but all of them are from one Spirit. As we think about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control—and allow them to grow in our lives—we realize that we can't get too much of this kind of fruit. Wouldn't it be great to have a big basketful? Let's pray!

Dear God, we want to be full of your good fruit. Help us to grow together in the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

## RESPONSES

### *Celebrating:*

**Supplies:** large pieces of paper, markers

In advance, write each fruit of the Spirit on an individual piece of paper. As you begin the celebration portion of worship, give each piece of “fruit” to a leader or camper and have them stand in a wide circle around the worship space, so that all in the center can see them clearly.

**Say:** We can all use a little more of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. I’m going to read out different situations, all of which need an extra helping of at least one fruit of the Spirit. Listen to the situation and then point to the fruit you think you would need most if this happened to you. You can definitely point to more than just one:

- You have a test at school the next day, but your friend asks you to join them in a game online.
- You get invited to a neighbor’s birthday party.
- Your younger sibling is being gross at the dinner table and making a huge mess.
- A classmate has been trying to cheat off you in school.
- Your favorite grown-up asks if you can help out with a chore.
- You win a spelling competition.
- An older member of your family asks you to come visit for the holidays.

**Pray:** Dear God, we can’t get enough of your good fruit! Help us to grow in them and to share them with others. Amen

### *Centering:*

Invite campers to stand with their arms stretched upward.

**Say:** Imagine you are a tall fruit tree. Your roots go down into good soil. Beside you, a river is flowing by so you always have plenty of cool water. Your branches stretch up to the warm sun; the breeze is gently rustling your leaves. As I pray, I want you to imagine fruit of the Spirit growing and ripening.

Creator God, who gives life to all things,

Let us grow in love. *(pause)*

Let us grow in joy. *(pause)*

Let us grow in peace. *(pause)*

Let us grow in patience. *(pause)*

Let us grow in kindness. *(pause)*

Let us grow in goodness. *(pause)*

Let us grow in faithfulness. *(pause)*

Let us grow in gentleness. *(pause)*

Let us grow in self-control. *(pause)*

Amen.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Say:** When we think about fruit, such as watermelon, grapes, or blueberries, we often think about sharing them with others around us. Think now about the people you know at home, at school, or in your community. Are there any people that come to mind that might need a little extra love, peace, or joy? Can you think of someone whom you can be more patient with or who needs kindness? Maybe you know someone who is full of goodness and faithfulness whom you could say thank you to. Maybe someone in your life needs you to demonstrate gentleness or self-control. Think about these people and close your eyes. Now, using your index finger, draw their name in the air in front of you.

**Pray:** Loving God, we lift up our community to you. Help us to grow together in the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** When we come to communion together, we remember the night that Jesus and his friends celebrated a holiday meal called the Passover. As they ate and drank, they said very special prayers for each part of the meal. This is a Passover prayer that is said before drinking from the cup: “Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.” As we gather together at our communion table, let’s remember how our Creator has blessed us so abundantly.

## CLOSING

Invite campers to copy the leader’s actions.

**Say:** God who created the world.

*(Using both hands, make a large circle.)*

You want us to grow in the fruit of the Spirit.

*(Stretch arms up high.)*

You want us to grow in friendship with others.

*(Stretch arms wide.)*

You love us and will never leave us.

*(Give yourself a tight hug.)*

Let your love flow to those around us.

*(Shake hands with a neighbor.)*

Amen.

## Day 2: Love and Joy

**Luke 15:3–7**

## GATHERING

**Say:** Wow!, Look how many of us are here today! Whenever we gather together as God’s family, it is a special time of celebration. Why? Well, just because we are glad to be side by side with one another in the presence of a God who loves us.

Invite campers to greet one another by name and with an expression of gladness, as in this example:

“Hi, Sam! I’m glad you’re here”

This is a great opportunity to learn the names of those around you!

## LITANY

Invite campers to listen as the leader speaks and to echo the last line spoken in each phrase.

Leader: Gracious God, we love being together in your presence. We sing for joy.

**All: We sing for joy.**

Leader: Loving God, you know us inside and out. Thank you for how you made us.

**All: Thank you for how you made us.**

Leader: Abundant God, you pour out so many blessings on us. You make our hearts glad.

**All: You make our hearts glad.**

Leader: Joyful God, we are thankful for our friends around us. Fill us with your perfect love.

**All: Fill us with your perfect love.**

Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to close their eyes during the prayer. If they are comfortable, ask them to wrap their arms around themselves and give themselves a firm “hug” each time they hear the word “love” or “joy.”

Dear God, your love moves and grows and changes us. Your love is patient and kind. We don’t always want to love those around us in that way. We can sometimes be stingy with our love. We can sometimes be selfish with our joy, keeping it to ourselves. Let our love for others be like yours, big and bold! Let us find complete joy with you and with others.

Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

Perform Luke 15:3–7 as a skit. You will need two leaders to perform the skit in tandem (see the worship handout with The Lost Sheep Skit instructions).

**Say:** Even though the shepherd in our story had a hundred sheep, each and every one was very precious. The shepherd loved and valued the sheep enough to rush and find it when it was lost. In your life, who would rush to help you? Who would you rush to help if they needed it?

**Pray:** Loving God, when we are together, with you and with our community, we know your love surrounds us. We are so thankful for each person here. Help us to value one another and to celebrate together. Amen

## RESPONSES

### *Celebrating*

Ask the campers to think about a time they got lost, and how it felt when they were found. If they cannot think of one, ask them to think of a time they felt alone and how that changed. Ask them to turn to a partner and share an example. Invite some who are willing to share their example with the camp! For each, invite campers to shout, “hazzah!” to celebrate the joyful outcome.

## Centering

**Say:** In our story today, the shepherd’s love was more than a feeling, it was an action. Because of the shepherd’s great love for the sheep, both felt great joy at finding each other again. God is like a shepherd who loves and cares for you. I would invite you now to close your eyes and imagine yourself in a lovely safe spot.

Slowly read the following as the campers sit quietly with eyes closed:

God loves you.

God celebrates you.

God knows all about you.

God sees you.

God anticipates you.

God is full of joy when you are near.

God is ready for you.

God can carry you.

God sings over you.

Dear God, thank you for your great love for us.  
Amen.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Say:** The shepherd in our passage today ran quickly to find the single sheep that strayed from the flock. When the sheep was found, everyone was ready to celebrate! Just like we bring other offerings to God, we can bring our joy and excitement to God as an offering.

Invite campers to share with their neighbor something that brought them joy over the past few days.

**Say:** Now, to celebrate together, we’re going to do the wave!

Instruct campers how to do a celebratory “wave” as you might do at a sporting event. Finish your celebration with a round of applause.

**Pray:** Loving God, we celebrate you and our community together. Fill us with your perfect love and joy. Amen.



## COMMUNION

**Say:** God's love is an active love! Just like the shepherd in our story today, God's love rushes in, finds us, and lifts us up! God's joy fills us and helps us to sing and celebrate, no matter the circumstances. When we come around God's table to eat and drink, we celebrate how God has drawn us all near, and we remember God's great love for us. Let's celebrate together.

## CLOSING

**Say:** And now, as we end our time of worship, remember the Shepherd who carries the sheep to safety. No matter where you go, no matter how dark and rocky it may be, no matter how lonely it may seem, the Shepherd is strong enough to carry you wherever you need to go. Go in peace.

Amen.

Have campers mirror the leader's actions.

Go in the knowledge that you are a beloved child of God  
*(hug yourself).*

Go in the knowledge that everyone around you is a  
beloved child of God  
*(extend arms as if inviting others into a hug).*

Go in the knowledge that God has called us  
*(raise arms toward the sky).*  
*(Bring hands to torso in a prayer hands position.)*

## The Lost Sheep Skit

The following skit is done by two actors playing the roles of the shepherd and the sheep. Together they tell the parable of the lost sheep. You may want to add costume pieces such as sheep's ears and a shepherd's staff to indicate each role.

**Sheep:** Last night I was walking through the pasture, passing all my brothers and sisters and going out to the edge of the field.

**Shepherd:** Last night I was walking through the pasture, making sure the sheep were settled down for the evening. Even though my flock has a hundred sheep, I knew right away that something was wrong!

**Sheep:** At first I was excited to wander into a part of the field I had never seen before. It was getting dark, but I was pretty sure I could find my way back.

**Shepherd:** The little one with the black spot on their left side was missing! They couldn't have gotten too far so I rushed to see where they had gone.

**Sheep:** But soon, I knew I had gone too far. Where was my flock? Where was my shepherd?

**Shepherd:** I love my sheep and couldn't let that little one come to harm, so I ran down the rocky slope, where I knew little sheep like to wander.

**Sheep:** I wasn't in the open country; I was in a dark and rocky place.

**Shepherd:** Getting stuck in the valley can be dangerous for my sheep.

**Sheep:** I couldn't find my way! Where was my shepherd?

**Shepherd:** Where could they be?

**Sheep:** Where was I?

**Shepherd:** I called out for the little one. All my sheep know my voice.

**Sheep:** Then I heard my shepherd calling!

**Shepherd:** It didn't take me too long before I found them, in the valley just as I thought!

**Sheep:** I was so relieved. I jumped for joy!

**Shepherd:** I shouted for joy; I was so happy my little one hadn't come to any harm.

**Sheep:** My shepherd picked me up.

**Shepherd:** I put my lamb on my shoulders.

**Sheep and Shepherd:** Together we went home!

## Day 3: Peace

### Matthew 8:23–27

#### GATHERING

**Say:** Shalom everyone! Have you heard someone use the word “shalom” before? It is a Hebrew word that can be used to say hello or goodbye, but the full sense of the word means wholeness, harmony, and peace. Think of something that was broken but has been repaired and restored. Think of a machine that once had missing pieces but is now whole and running smoothly—that’s shalom! And today, it’s the fruit of the Spirit we will be exploring. Let’s begin by greeting one another with peace by saying, “Shalom my friend.”

Invite campers to turn to their neighbors and greet one another with the phrase “Shalom my friend.”

#### LITANY

Demonstrate the simple actions for each line and invite campers to copy them.

God’s peace in our creation. (*Spread arms upward.*)

God’s peace in our relations. (*Spread arms sideways.*)

God’s peace in our hearts. (*Lay hands over your heart.*)

God’s peace in every part. (*Move hands down along your body.*)

God’s peace here as we stand. (*Place hands on hips.*)

God’s peace across the land. (*Open hands outward.*)

Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to respond with the phrase, “Spirit, move over us.”

Leader: God of healing and harmony, we gather in your presence.

**All: Spirit, move over us.**

Leader: Calm our hearts and minds.

**All: Spirit, move over us.**

Leader: Strengthen our friendships.

**All: Spirit, move over us.**

Leader: Restore us to wholeness.

**All: Spirit, move over us.**

Leader: Help us work together.

**All: Spirit, move over us.**

Leader: Fill us with your peace.

**All: Spirit, move over us.**

Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE

Before reading the scripture for today, create a storm soundscape with your hands. Begin by dividing campers into three groups. Invite group one to rub their hands together to create the sound of the wind. Invite group two to snap their fingers to create the sound of the rain drops. Invite group three to slap their hands against their legs to create the sound of the waves against the side of the boat. Choose a leader to “conduct” the soundscape, directing the group with their hands to grow louder or softer or to cut off all together. Experiment with your soundscape, making the sounds faster and slower, louder and softer.

**Say:** Now we are ready to begin our story for today. As we read, we are going to continue our storm soundscape. But listen for the phrase “great calm.” As soon as you hear that phrase, I want everyone to stop.

Continue to allow the “conductor” to direct the soundscape as you read the scripture, changing the volume as appropriate for the story. Be sure the phrase “great calm” is clear when it is read.

**Say:** Great job, everyone, helping to tell our story today! Let’s give a big round of applause for our soundscape!

**Pray:** Dear God, the world is an unpredictable place. Storms of life come and go, but where you are, there is peace. Help us to remember this. Amen.

#### RESPONSES

##### Celebrating

**Say:** There are a lot of things that can really rock our boats! Problems in life can come in all shapes and sizes. But Jesus was able to bring peace and calm in the middle of the storm, and we can follow his example by speaking peace into our communities. Let’s work together to create some handshakes that we’re going to call the “Shalom Shake.”

Invite campers pair up and work together to invent a special handshake. They might bump fists, shake with two hands, or give a high five. Spend a few moments allowing pairs to practice. Then ask campers to find a new partner and teach each other their “Shalom Shakes.”

**Say:** Great job! I saw a lot of cooperating as you worked together to create your handshakes. Let’s pray together now.

**Pray:** Loving God, you bring your peace with you. Help us to remember this and to share your peace with those around us. Amen.

### Centering

**Say:** Jesus’ friends were terrified when they were caught in the storm. Maybe you are afraid of storms too, or maybe there are other fears and worries that upset you. Our world can be a scary place. But Jesus brought peace along with him. We can share that peace too as we grow in the fruit of the Spirit. I want you to close your eyes and imagine your favorite fruit growing. As I say the word “grow,” I want you to breathe in and hold the breath in your lungs. Don’t let it out until I say so.

Say the word “grow” slowly, five times. The campers should be slowly taking a deep breath until their lungs are completely filled.

**Say:** Now blow that air out, letting go of any anxious energy you might have.

Repeat this breathing exercise a few times for practice.

**Say:** There will always be times when we feel anxious or afraid. That’s just the nature of the world we live in. But remembering our story today—remembering that Jesus was able to say, “Be still” and that the wind and waves obeyed him—can help us be at peace too.

**Pray:** God of peace, you want us to be whole, to be calm, to be in harmony with those around us. Thank you that you are strong enough and love us enough to make that happen. Where you go, there is peace. That is amazing! Amen.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Say:** God has given us a lot of blessings, but did you know that time is also a blessing from God? We can’t make time; we can’t save time; we don’t even know how much time we have. Let’s thank God today by spending just a little time in stillness and peace. Take a deep breath and know that you are in the presence of a God who loves you.

Allow campers to sit silently for a few moments. You will know when they are ready to wrap up when you begin to see them shifting and becoming restless.

**Say:** Jesus told his friends, “My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.”

**Pray:** Loving God, thank you for your peace. Help us to remember it and to share it with others. Amen.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** When Jesus gathered his friends around him to celebrate the Passover meal, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, “This is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. Then he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. I assure you that I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way in God’s kingdom.” The new covenant that Jesus talks about is like a peace treaty between God and people. Let’s remember that today as we share communion.

## CLOSING

**Say:** As we leave this place, let’s remember that we are still growing together in the fruit of the Spirit. How can we bring peace to our own hearts and to our community?

Sing the following song several times as campers leave. You may want to dismiss campers one group at a time, allowing the remaining campers to sing the group out.

Shalom my friend, shalom my friend.

Shalom, shalom.

God’s peace be with you, God’s peace be with you.

Shalom, shalom.

Shalom my friend, shalom my friend.

Shalom, shalom.

'Til we meet again, 'til we meet again.

Shalom, shalom.

## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

### 1 Kings 17:8–16

#### GATHERING

**Say:** Welcome, everyone! Let's wait for a moment to be sure everyone is here and seated. Today we are going to be exploring two aspects of the fruit of the Spirit, patience and kindness. These two are similar in some ways because they both require us to give up something we may want. For example, when we patiently wait for others, we give up doing things in our own time. When we share what we have with others, we give up something for the good of the other person. Let's think about these things as we come together for worship.

#### LITANY

Invite campers to respond with the phrase, "Help us, God."

Leader: When we're tempted to stay in our comfort zones,

**All: help us, God.**

Leader: When we always put ourselves above others,

**All: help us, God.**

Leader: When we rush through our day,

**All: help us, God.**

Leader: When we give up when things are difficult,

**All: help us, God.**

Leader: When we get angry too quickly,

**All: help us, God.**

Leader: When we always want our own way,

**All: help us, God.**

Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to respond with, “We praise your holy name.”

Leader: Tender God, you never run out of patience.

**All: We praise your holy name.**

Leader: Holy God, you show us new mercies every day.

**All: We praise your holy name.**

Leader: Creator God, your kindness lasts forever.

**All: We praise your holy name.**

Leader: Loving God, you pour out your many blessings on us.

**All: We praise your holy name.**

Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

**Say:** Today, I need your help to tell our story. I want you all to listen carefully, and when you hear each of these words I want you to respond with the following phrases:

Jug: “Glug, glug”

Widow: “Sigh.” (*Have campers sigh dramatically.*)

Bread: “To keep me fed!”

Wood: “Heave ho!”

Little boy: “Boo hoo” (*Have campers dab their eyes.*)

Allow a few minutes to practice listening for and responding to the words with the correct phrases before reading the story. The cue words are in bold for you. You will need to pause as you read the story to allow campers time to respond with the correct phrase.

### Elijah and the Widow

Elijah the prophet was out in the wilderness alone without any water or **bread**.

But the Lord spoke to Elijah and said, “Go to Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I have ordered a **widow** there to take care of you.”

So Elijah went and when he reached the town gate, he saw the **widow**. She was gathering **wood** for a fire. Elijah said to the **widow**, “Bring me a little water in a cup so I may have a drink?”

As she was going to get his water, Elijah said, “While you’re at it, bring me a piece of **bread**.”

The **widow** answered, “As surely as the Lord your God lives, I have no **bread**. I have only a handful of flour in a jar and only a little olive oil in a **jug**. I came here to gather some **wood** so I could go home and cook our last loaf of **bread**. My **little boy** and I will eat it and then die from hunger.”

“Don’t worry,” Elijah told the **widow**. “Go home and cook your **bread** as you have said. But first make a small loaf and bring it to me. Then cook something for yourself and your **little boy**.”

The Lord, the God of Israel, says, “That jar of flour will never be empty, and the **jug** will always have oil in it, until the day the Lord sends rain to the land.”

So the **widow** went home to her **little boy**. She used the oil in her **jug** to make **bread** for Elijah. And, just as promised, the **widow** and her son and Elijah had enough food every day. The jar of flour and the **jug** of oil were never empty.

**Say:** In our story today, who had to be patient? Whose actions were kind? We all have times in our lives when we need a little kindness and patience shown to us. We also have times when we need to show those fruit of the Spirit to others as well. This means not only being friendly and using kind words with one another, but also actively looking for ways we can help and encourage people. It means putting others’ needs before our own.

**Pray:** Dear God, help us to be mindful of those around us. Help us to see the ways that others need our kindness. It’s hard to be patient when we want things our own way, so give us strength and wisdom to be patient with others. Amen.



## RESPONSES

### Celebrating

**Say:** When we think about ways that we can be kind and patient with others, it's important to listen and put other people's needs before our own. Let's celebrate with a super fun song today that makes us listen closely to those around us and wait for our turn to sing.

Divide the campers into three groups. Assign each group to sing one section of the song. The three sections are:

- "Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelu"
- "jah!" (yuh)
- "Praise ye the Lord!"

As you sing, each section should wait and listen for their section. When their turn comes, they should stand and sing.

"Praise Ye the Lord"

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelu

jah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelu

jah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu

jah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu

jah!

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu

jah!

Praise Ye The Lord!

### Centering

**Say:** Patience and kindness are things that we all need and that we all can give. Close your eyes for a moment and think of someone who has been especially kind and patient with you. It might be a close friend, a teacher, or someone from camp. Imagine that person standing on your right side. Remember what they did to show you kindness and imagine their love and patience flowing over you. Thank God for that person and ask a special blessing just for them.

Now imagine someone you know who might be in need of kindness and patience. It might be someone in your family or someone you just met. Maybe that person has had something hard happen to them, or maybe they have something difficult coming up soon. Imagine that person standing on your left. Now ask God to fill you with love and patience for that person. Ask God to show you what kindness looks like for that person. Ask God to bless that person and surround them with love.

**Pray:** Loving God, you care for all people. Bless those people who are full of kindness and patience. Bless those who need an extra portion of this fruit today. Bless all who are here. Amen.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Supplies:** large jar, at least one index card per camper and leader, large piece of poster board with a basket drawn on it, tape

In advance, write one word on each card, using each word an equal number of times: speak, share, smile, help. Put the cards in the jar. Find a spot to hang the poster board. This will be used in the stewardship section of the following day's worship.

**Say:** In our story today, kindness and patience were shown through some special acts of caring and sharing. Today, each of us will take a card from the jar. Over the next day, try to show your kindness and patience for your friends by doing what the card prompts you to do. For example, if your card says "help," see how you can help someone between now and tomorrow. It could be in a big way or in something small. Then write it on the back of your card and bring it with you to tomorrow's worship time. We will be putting all our actions into the basket tomorrow.

Show campers the basket that has been posted for tomorrow's worship. Be sure to have the tape ready for tomorrow worship when campers will be prompted to bring their cards forward. You may want to have extra cards in case campers lose the ones they have been given.

**Pray:** Dear God, you ask us to be good neighbors to those around us. Help us to know how to be kind. Help us to have patience, even when it's difficult. Amen.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** Jesus shared a lot of meals with many different people during his ministry. By sharing this meal together today, we remember how he loved those around him. Let's think about how he taught that we should love one another as he loved us.

## CLOSING

**Say:** Kindness and patience are like muscles that we can strengthen over time. The more we use them, the easier it is! As we leave this place, let's be mindful of those around us, looking for ways we can practice the fruit of the Spirit. Go in peace.

## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

**Mark 12:38–44**

### GATHERING

**Say:** Welcome to our worship time! I am so glad to see you all here today, and I hope you are ready to give your all during this special time together. You know, there are many ways we can worship God every day. We can do small things, such as noticing God's amazingly beautiful creation. We can do big things, such as committing to serve others through hard work over a long period of time. But we know that something very special happens when we come *together* as a community to celebrate and worship God! Let's do that now.

### LITANY

Invite campers to repeat the phrase spoken by the leader while copying the actions and substituting plural pronouns for the singular.

Leader: God of goodness, you have filled me up. (*Move open hands up over your head.*)

**All: God of goodness, you have filled us up.**

Leader: You are always faithful; you overflow my cup. (*Move open hands up and in a circle in front of you.*)

**All: You are always faithful; you overflow our cups.**

Leader: Your goodness is all around me your love on every side. (*Hug yourself.*)

**All: Your goodness is all around us, your love on every side.**

Leader: Your love reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. (*Open hands upward.*)

**All: Your love reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.**

Leader: Of your goodness and faithfulness, I will always sing. (*Cross hands over your heart.*)

**All: Of your goodness and faithfulness, we will always sing.**

Leader: Knowing I can find my home in the shelter of your wings. (*Bring both hands together as in prayer.*)

**All: Knowing we can find our home in the shelter of your wings.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to respond with the phrase, “God, hear our prayer.”

Leader: Dear God, in you we find a perfect example of goodness and faithfulness. We see it in how you love and care for us. But we know there are many problems in our world, and it makes us sad and sorry when we see that people cause harm.

**All: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Help us, dear God, to take better care of one another. Help us to show concern and goodness for others in meaningful ways.

**All: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Help us to be committed and faithful to others, dear God. Help us to be true and trustworthy, just like you.

**All: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

You will need two leaders to read out the story today.

Leader 1: Jesus taught his friends about many things. He taught by healing people, by telling stories, and by speaking in the synagogue. Wherever he went, many people listened to Jesus. One day, while he was in the temple courtyard, he said:

Leader 2: “Watch out for people who are supposed to be experts on God’s rules. They don’t love God at all. Instead, they love all the attention and praise that they get. They love fancy dinners and making long speeches. At the same time, they cheat women who are poor and helpless out of their money. In the end, they will be sorry for their bad behavior.”

Leader 1: Jesus was sitting across from the offering box, watching all the people putting in their money. Many rich people threw in loads of money. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins—a measly two cents. Then Jesus said:

Leader 2: “The truth is that this poor widow offered more than all the others put together. Others gave what they’ll never miss; they gave their leftovers. But she gave extravagantly what she couldn’t afford—she gave her all.”

**Say:** Our story shows people giving money to others, but in very different ways. Who do you think demonstrated goodness and faithfulness in the story? I wonder which person in this story you feel you can most relate to.

**Pray:** Good and loving God, your faithfulness is there for us day after day. You are full of goodness, and you love us no matter what. Help us to be good to others, noticing their needs and doing all we can for them. Help us to be faithful, reliable, and trustworthy to others, just as you are to us. Amen.

## RESPONSES

### *Celebrating*

Invite campers to think of people who are so devoted to a project, task, or act of service that they are known by it. This might be “the donut lady” at Church or the “high-five guy” that volunteers as a school crossing guard. Invite them to turn to a neighbor and share their answers, then invite campers to share some responses with the full camp. For each example, ask the entire to camp to respond with “That is so good!” To close out this time, sing, “God Is So Good.”

### *Centering*

**Say:** Sometimes as we read scripture, special phrases or words can have an impact on us, especially if we reread a section. Close your eyes and take a deep breath. As I reread our story today, this time from the Bible, pay attention to any words or phrases that stand out to you. When I am done reading, sit quietly and think about those words or phrases for a moment. Think about people who they associate with those words and which ones might be good mentors or role models for them in the future.

Read Mark 12:38–44.

**Pray:** God, we thank you for being our teacher today. Thank you for those who set a good example for others. Help us to learn and grow. Help us to be good and faithful. Amen.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Supplies:** large piece of poster board with a basket drawn on it, tape, pens, extra cards from the previous day's stewardship activity (in case any campers have forgotten to bring theirs back)

In advance, hang the large piece of poster board with the basket on it in a place where everyone will have easy access to it. This activity is carried forward from the previous day's stewardship activity.

**Say:** In our story today, the widow quietly gave all she had without showing off or drawing attention to herself. I hope you remembered to bring your card from yesterday! You were invited to write your act of kindness or patience on it. If you forgot, we have extra cards for you to pick use. We're going to ask you to quietly come forward and tape your card onto our basket today.

Invite campers to come forward and add their cards to the basket.

**Pray:** Dear God, you ask us to give what we have out of love for you and for others. Today we give, not from seeking attention or praise, but because of your love. Amen.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** The widow in our story today gave all that she had to live on to help others. In the same way, Jesus gave all that he had—he gave his own life—because of his great love for us. As we share communion together, let's remember the sacrifice Jesus made and how it brings us together today in peace and love.

## CLOSING

**Say:** Part of God's goodness to us is giving us a community to enjoy. As we leave one another today, let's remember how good it is to be together, to have friends, and to have leaders to care for and who care for us. Go with God's goodness, remembering to be kind to one another and to be thankful for one another.

## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

### 1 Samuel 24

## GATHERING

**Say:** Let's all take a great big breath together today! Watch as I breathe in for a slow count of ten and see if you can match my breathing. Now let it out gently! How did you do? Breathing is an easy thing to do. We do it all day long without even thinking! But taking a good deep breath takes self-control. Part of the fruit of the Spirit is both gentleness and self-control, two things that we can ask God to help grow in us.

## LITANY

Demonstrate the simple actions for the following lines—or invent your own—and invite campers to copy you.

Dear Creator God,

You gave us eyes,

to see and to know. (*Touch your eyes.*)

You gave us muscles,

to move and to grow. (*Flex your arms.*)

You gave us feet

for running around, (*Point to your toes.*)

hands that can touch, (*Wave both hands.*)

and ears to hear sounds, (*Touch your ears.*)

a heart and a mind, (*Cross your hands over your chest, then touch your temple.*)

a spirit and soul. (*With palms facing you in front of your chest, wiggle your fingers and then raise them upward.*)

Now please give us gentleness and self-control. (*Fold hands together in front of you.*)

Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to respond to the leader with the phrase, "Always, always and forever."

Leader: Mighty God, you're full of power

**All: always, always and forever.**

Leader: Gentle God, you draw us near

**All: always, always and forever.**

Leader: Eternal God, you keep your promise

**All: always, always and forever.**

Leader: Protector God, you're full of kindness

All: always, always and forever.

All: Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

Perform 1 Samuel 24 as a poetic skit. You will need a narrator and at least two people to play the roles of David and Saul (see the worship handout with the David and Saul Skit instructions).

## RESPONSES

### Celebrating

**Say:** David was a young man with great strength and skill! He was in great danger because King Saul was hunting him down. But when his friends encouraged him to kill Saul in the darkness of the cave, David knew it was wrong. Instead of dealing with Saul the way he had with the giant and the bear, he spoke with Saul and tried to restore their relationship. He was learning to have self-control and to be gentle! We can learn too. Here are a few things we can do to grow in self-control and gentleness.

Demonstrate the following list of activities by showing campers the designated actions, or invent your own actions:

Pray. (*Fold hands as in prayer.*)

Take a breath. (*Breathe in deeply.*)

Write it out. (*Mime writing.*)

Take a walk. (*Swing arms in a marching motion.*)

Sing a song. (*Pretend to hold a microphone, and lip sync.*)

When campers have learned the actions, see how quickly they can do them as you call out the list. Continue to call out the activities, in any order, faster and faster to see if campers can keep up.

**Pray:** Dear God, we are not always gentle; we are sometimes out of control. But we know that we can grow and get better at these things. Help us as we grow. Amen.

## Centering

**Say:** You are strong and growing stronger all the time. The stronger we grow, the more care we must take with the people and things around us. The stronger we grow, the more we must grow in gentleness and self-control. Close your eyes and open your palms in front of you. Now I want you to imagine the people or things I will mention and think about how you would greet them, either by shaking their hand or by some other means.

As you read out the list, encourage campers to keep their eyes closed, and give them time to imagine greeting the following people:

- a young child
- a huge elephant
- a fuzzy caterpillar
- a tall basketball player
- an energetic puppy
- a very old man
- someone in your family
- someone who is new in your community
- someone who has been mean to you
- someone who has taught you something

**Say:** God gives each of us blessings and strengths. We can ask God to help us grow in gentleness and self-control. This fruit of the Spirit will help us use our blessings to bless others. Let's take a deep breath and remember how near God is, and how strong and blessed we are.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Supplies:** paper, drawing utensils

**Say:** Just like David, God has given each of us different kinds of strengths and blessings. We might be strong in reading or sports. It might have blessings such as living in a place where it is safe to play outside or where we don't need to worry about getting enough to eat. David was a very strong and talented young man. In our story today, he could have hurt Saul, his enemy, but he uses the strength of his self-control. He chose to respect Saul as king. Take a moment to draw some of the ways that God has blessed you and made you strong. How might you use these things in a gentle way, to bless others?

Invite campers to bring their drawings forward to the front of the worship space, to a basket, cross, or altar. As they come forward, invite them to think about how they can use their blessings with self-control.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** David took a great risk when he came out of the cave. He knew that Saul had an army ready to kill him. But he also knew that it was important to try to be friends with Saul again, to reconcile with him. As we come to the table today, let's remember that in this place we are reconciled to God and to one another. Let's come together in peace and gentleness.

## CLOSING

**Say:** Our God is big, strong, and mighty! But God can also be gentle, like the softest whisper. As we go, let's remember that God is blessing and growing us! God will help us grow in self-control, so we can bless others as well. Go in peace.



## David and Saul Skit

While a narrator reads the following poem, the story can be acted out as a skit with at least two actors, one playing David and the second playing the remaining roles. Actors can be more dramatic or amplify the humor of the story depending on the temperament and tone of the campers.

### Never Maul Saul: 1 Samuel 24

When David was young, he met a bear.  
It was big and mean, but he wasn't scared.  
He took up his sling and a little rock,  
and that's how David protected his flock.

When David was young, he met a giant.  
David was bravely God-reliant.  
He took up his sling and a little stone.  
When the giant was dead, David went home.

Young David met old Saul the King.  
When Saul was upset, young David would sing.  
But Saul was angry, and Saul was jealous.  
He raised an army with 3,000 fellows!

His jealous feeling grew and grew,  
bigger than a bear and a giant too.  
Saul was full of the jealous feeling!  
He stomped on the floor, and he spit on the ceiling.

Killing David was his goal.  
You see, he had no self-control.  
David knew he couldn't stay,  
and so he bravely ran away.

Out in the wilderness, deep in a cave  
with a group of his friends, hid dauntless Dave.  
Then who should arrive but old King Saul,  
come to answer nature's call!

"Now's your chance," cried David's friends.  
"With your sling and a stone, this fight can end!"  
"God forbid it," David said,  
and he cut the edge of Saul's robe instead.

David was gentle and oh, so quick  
the old king never felt the snip.  
Out Saul went and once again  
was hunting Dave with his 3,000 men.

But David ran outside and bowed.  
"I'll never hurt my king," he vowed.  
"I've cut the corner of your robe,  
Can you now see, I'm not your foe?"

Old King Saul knew he'd escaped  
because of David's self-restraint.  
David's vows had all been kept,  
so old King Saul sat down and wept.

## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

### Galatians 5:16–26

#### GATHERING

**Say:** Welcome everyone! I am so glad to be together again, one last time before we say farewell. We are so blessed to gather together in this place. Each one of us has special blessings, given to us by God, and I hope that your stay at camp has helped you explore those and share them with those around you. Let's join together now in one final time of worship.

#### LITANY

Invite campers to respond with the phrase, "Blessed are you."

Leader: Oh, God, your love and faithfulness meet together.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: Your goodness and peace go hand in hand.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: Your joy springs up from the earth.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: And your kindness rains down from heaven.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: God, you give what is good, and with patience you bring an abundant harvest for us.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: With gentleness and self-control, you go ahead of us, preparing the way.

**All: Blessed are you.**

Leader: Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to link arms with the person beside them as they feel comfortable. As the leader prays, direct the group to sway side to side, moving together as one. Ask campers to reply to each section of the prayer with "Thank you, God."

Leader:

As we gather in this place, God, we know that your Spirit has been moving in and through us. You have helped us notice the fruit of the Spirit and to grow in that fruit.

**All: Thank you, God.**

Leader:

You have helped us to better understand your word and one another. You have blessed us in so many ways.

**All: Thank you, God.**

Leader:

Help us to continue to grow in the fruit of the Spirit and to look for your goodness wherever we are.

**All: Thank you, God. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE

**Say:** At the beginning of our time together, we talked about a special letter written to people, encouraging them to be led by the Holy Spirit and to grow in the fruit of the Spirit. I hope you have had a chance to get to know what that fruit looks like, sounds like, and feels like! We are going to read the scripture one last time together and this time, as we read, I want you to reach up high each time you hear a fruit of the Spirit. Imagine that you are gathering it and putting it into your basket.

Have a camp leader read the Galatians 5:22–24 slowly, while others demonstrate reaching up and picking a fruit each time a fruit of the Spirit is mentioned.

**Say:** Now that we have gotten to know the fruit and allowed it to grow in our lives, wouldn't it be great if we could share it with everyone we meet, both at home and in our communities?

**Pray:** Dear God, we are so thankful that you want us to grow and learn. We are so thankful that you want us to share with others. Help us to remember all the things we have learned during our time at camp and to take them with us wherever we go. Amen.

## RESPONSES

### Celebrating

**Supplies:** large pieces of paper, markers

In advance, write each of the fruit of the Spirit on an individual piece of paper. You may want to reuse the ones you made for the worship session on Day 1.

**Say:** We have gotten to know the fruit of the Spirit pretty well this week. I have written each of the words associated with the fruit of the Spirit on the papers I hold in front of me. I'm going to read out different clues, and your job is to guess which word I am holding.

Hold the paper, one at a time, so that campers can't see which word is written on it. You will need to shuffle the words so that they are not in the familiar order. Below are the clues and their corresponding words:

- Shepherds show this to their sheep when they take good care of them. (Love)
- When the sheep are reunited with their shepherd, they feel this. (Joy)
- When we trust that God is able to do all things, we can have this, even when life is stormy. (Peace)
- When we are slow to anger, we show this. (Patience)
- When we help those in need, we show this. (Kindness)
- When we act in selfless ways for the good of others, we show this. (Goodness)
- When people can trust us to do the right thing, we show this. (Faithfulness)
- When we curb our strength in order to help others, we show this. (Gentleness)
- When we set firm boundaries for ourselves and stick to them, we show this. (Self-Control)

As you give the clues, call on individual campers to see if they can guess the correct word. Many of these clues could overlap. Acknowledge all the answers given by campers as valid guesses, but try to get them to guess the specific word.

**Say:** Some of those were a little tricky, but you did a great job! Let's pray together.

**Pray:** Dear God, we can't get enough of your good fruit! Help us to grow in them and to share them with others. Amen.

### Centering

**Say:** We have all grown so much over our time at camp, but growing sometimes takes a little effort. We want to be sure to keep working to gather up as much of that good fruit as possible. Imagine you are climbing a ladder up a huge tree that is full of beautiful fruit. As I pray, I want you to imagine that you are going higher and higher up into the leafy branches.

Creator God, who gives life to all things:

Deepen our love for you and others. *(pause)*

Let us share joy in our communities. *(pause)*

Surround us with peace. *(pause)*

Help us to practice patience. *(pause)*

Let us grow in kindness. *(pause)*

Show us how to act with goodness. *(pause)*

Teach us faithfulness. *(pause)*

Give us gentleness in our hearts and minds. *(pause)*

Strengthen our self-control. *(pause)*

Amen.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Say:** The fruit of the Spirit was not meant to be kept to ourselves, but to grow and be shared as a community. Let's pray for one another.

Invite campers to turn to their right and place their hand on the shoulder of the person next to them. Ask them to pray for God's love and joy to fill that person. Repeat the action and prayer, this time asking campers to turn to their left.

**Pray:** Loving God, we lift up our community to you. Help us to be led by the Spirit, to grow and flourish, in our families and with our friends. Amen.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** When we celebrate communion together, we remember that we are part of a bigger family, the family of God. This was made possible because Jesus shared himself with us, making us an everlasting promise. Being a family means that we do our best to share the things we have with others. So, as we share this bread

and this cup, let's imagine that we can also be sharing the fruit of the Spirit with all our family in Jesus Christ.

## CLOSING

Invite campers to copy the leader's actions.

**Say:** God who created the world:

*(Using both hands, make a large circle.)*

You want us to grow in the fruit of the Spirit.

*(Stretch arms up high.)*

You want us to grow in friendship with others.

*(Stretch arms wide.)*

You love us and will never leave us.

*(Give yourself a tight hug.)*

Let your love flow to those around us.

*(Shake hands with a neighbor.)*

Help us remember what we learned here together.

*(Shake hands with another neighbor.)*

Amen.

# Daily Worship - Youth

## Day 1: Gathering Fruit

**Galatians 5:16–26**

### GATHERING

Have a bowl of fruit at the gathering entrance and invite campers to take one on their way in, but not to eat it yet. Then, begin the service by eating your fruit together as a shared snack.

### LITANY

Leader: As the week begins and we get to know one another,

**All: we gather together in God's name.**

Leader: As we learn about God's word and the stories of God's children,,

**All: we gather together in God's name.**

Leader: As we try new things and challenge ourselves,

**All: we gather together in God's name.**

Leader: As we support one another and make new friends,

**All: we gather together in God's name.**

Leader: As we show up this week as our full, unique, honest selves,

**All: we gather together in God's name.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ask campers to share with a partner or a small group what their experience of prayer is. Talk about some familiar postures of prayer—hands clasped or folded, hands together, palms open, head bowed, kneeling, and so forth. Then ask campers to imagine a new way of praying, a posture or stance they haven't tried before or even something they haven't seen before! To close, offer a simple prayer, or maybe the Lord's Prayer, as campers try out their new stances.

### SCRIPTURE

Invite different volunteers to read out the various fruit of the Spirit when you get to them in the scripture. That way, each fruit has its own voice, and we can hear the diversity of the Spirit's gifts while reading them.

### RESPONSES

#### *Celebrating*

Write the fruit of the Spirit on a few beach balls and invite campers to keep them in the air as you play some upbeat music. Whenever a camper hits the ball up, they should shout out whatever fruit of the Spirit their hands were touching. The more balls you have in the air, the more chaotic and Spirit-filled this will be!

#### *Centering*

Ask campers to sit in silence as you read the fruit of the Spirit from the scripture. Invite them to pay attention to how their bodies respond to the different words. Which words make them clench their muscles? Which words cause them to relax, or get excited? Which words bring them comfort, or make them sad? Explain that our bodies often know more than we realize. Invite campers to imagine what fruit might be important for them to explore this week.

### STEWARDSHIP

Invite campers and staff to walk around the room and meet people they haven't met before. When they introduce themselves, ask them to share their name, pronouns, and one personality trait or skill or talent that they can contribute to the camp community. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for all the gifts God has gathered at camp this week.

### COMMUNION

**Say:** What is it with God and food analogies? There must be something spiritual about food. Maybe it is the way food sustains our body while also engaging our

senses. Maybe it is the way food draws people together. Maybe it is the way food connects us to Creation itself. At the Lord's Table, we remember how Jesus took the leftover food from their Passover meal and transformed it into a new tradition that has spiritually fed us for more than 2,000 years. It connects us to Jesus, to creation, and to one another. All are welcome to join this feast!

## CLOSING

Ask campers what things they collect at home and invite them to shout some out. Explain that this week is about collecting fruit of the Spirit. Encourage them to be on the lookout, to see where it might be growing, and to collect those fruit of the Spirit as they live in community together.

## Day 2: Love and Joy

**Luke 15:3–7**

### GATHERING

As campers arrive, play some upbeat love songs to set the mood, such as Beyonce's "Crazy in Love" or Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance with Somebody." After campers arrive, invite them to turn to a partner and share what they think the difference is between excitement and joy.

### LITANY

Leader: As the sun shines on our day, we remember:

**All: We are children of your love and joy.**

Leader: When we are nervous in the face of new experiences, we remember:

**All: We are children of your love and joy.**

Leader: When we struggle to love ourselves, we remember:

**All: We are children of your love and joy.**

Leader: When we struggle to see the joy all around us, we remember:

**All: We are children of your love and joy.**

Leader: When we are lost in the woods, we remember:

**All: We are children of your love and joy.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Provide slips of paper and pencils so campers can write a joy to share anonymously. Read a few out loud and divide the rest among staff to pray for sometime before bed. Assure campers that everyone's joy will be lifted in prayer.

### SCRIPTURE

Read today's scripture with emphasis and enthusiasm. Try to avoid the serious tone of voice often used when reading the Bible. This could even be read by a few campers.



## RESPONSES

### *Celebrating*

**Supplies:** large paper or whiteboard, marker

Ask campers to call out what they noticed in the story. They don't need to raise their hands; they can simply shout out keywords and messages. Write these words on a large piece of paper or whiteboard at the front of the worship space. Now, invite campers to look at the list and shout out other things in their life that those words might describe. For example, if the word "lost" is on the list, someone might shout out "getting lost in a store," or "losing a big game." Remind campers that the sharing can be stream of consciousness and does not have to be done in an orderly manner. They can just shout out responses. Close the experience by naming that God hears all that is shared and all that we keep to ourselves. Thank God for helping us connect our life story to the scripture story in so many ways.

### *Centering*

Send campers on a Lost and Found Scavenger Hunt. Tell them to go find something that seems "lost" or like it doesn't quite fit in. This could be an oddly shaped rock, a torn leaf, a fallen pinecone, and so forth. When campers have come back together, invite them to place their items in the front of your worship space. Ask campers to look at the items shared and think about what they might represent in their own life. When have they experienced being different, or seen someone lost? You might invite a few people to share if you have time. Close the experience by naming that God provides opportunities everyday to reconnect things that have been lost, even us.

I paws everything to be with you." Invite campers to show the love they feel for God by bringing joy to one another each day of camp. You can let campers keep their valentines or collect them. Some of these might even become a fun product to reproduce and sell in the camp store.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** There are a lot of stories where people leave a trail to follow, and the most famous is probably the story of Hansel and Gretel, who left breadcrumbs to find their way home. Sometimes, when we feel far from God or deep in sadness, just a little crumb of love or joy can lead us back to hope and happiness. We remember that Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Remember me." When we remember Jesus' love or when we experience it from others, it is like a bread crumb leading us back to God. We are all invited to follow the trail of love that leads to this table and be reminded how much love God has for us all!

## CLOSING

Invite campers to silently reflect on something at camp that has reminded them that they are loved. Now, invite them to shout out something at camp that has brought them joy. Challenge them to look for joy and love all week, in creation and in one another.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Supplies:** paper, pens

Invite campers to write or draw a valentine to God, using a theme of something they love. For example, if they love disco music, they could write "God of Glitz and Glory, you put the Boogie in my Soul!" One who loves puppies might draw some paws and write "God,

## Day 3: Peace

### Matthew 8:23–27

#### GATHERING

Invite campers to sit or lie down in a way that is comfortable for them and ask that they remain silent. Then instruct them to focus on their breathing and be calm. If a thought appears in their head, tell them to let it pass, and see if they can calm their minds.

#### LITANY

Leader: Though the storms of life are raging,

**All: we are in God's boat.**

Leader: Though the hurricane is scary,

**All: we are in God's boat.**

Leader: Through our sorrow and our sadness,

**All: we are in God's boat.**

Leader: Through our joy and through our laughter,

**All: we are in God's boat.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Read the following prayer out loud, providing time after each line for campers to silently pray based on the prompts.

Father God, Mother God, Parent God, today we bring you our silent prayers of peace. Though we do not say them out loud, you hear the longings of our hearts.

Hear us now as we pray for the peace of our loved ones.

Hear us now as we pray for our own peace.

Hear us now as we pray for the peace of the world.

Hear us now as we pray for the peace of people we don't like very much.

Hear us now as we pray for the peace of our fellow campers and counselors.

We bask in your everlasting peace. Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE

Read today's passage in a calm, meditative voice, with peaceful music playing in the background. Be sure to remain calm as you read words that express fear or frustration.

#### RESPONSES

##### *Celebrating*

Ask campers to shout out things that break the peace in their lives. Choose a few and ask the entire camp to shout them loudly and quickly as you wave your hands in the air, then stop and be silent when your hands drop. For example, if someone says, "cranky parents" break their peace, everyone can keep shouting, "cranky parents, cranky parents..." until you give the signal. After you have done a few, ask campers to take a moment in silence to think about where they need to find peace and what they might need to work on to find it.

##### *Centering*

Ask campers to silently stand or squat based on how various prompts make them feel. If the topic brings them stress or anxiety, ask them to rise proportional to the level of angst. If that topic brings them peace, they can lower themselves, squat, or even sit down. Prompts might include family, school, friends, love life, personal identity, church, music, sports, and so forth. Remember, what is peaceful for one person may be a stressor for another. Close the activity by naming the diverse responses and encouraging campers to be a place of peace for those in their life, and to seek out relationships where they can feel peace.

If your camp has a labyrinth, that would be a great option too.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Invite campers to share a more personal "passing of the peace." Have them greet one another with direct eye contact and say, "Peace to your storms." Those responding say, "May our peace increase." Encourage campers to try and be sincere and try to make a connection with each person they greet. Remind them that how we speak to others can be a blessing and that

our words can create or disrupt peace. We have the power to speak peace into the world.

## COMMUNION

Light candles and set them around the communion table, string Christmas lights, and turn off the lights in the room. Play instrumental music in the background or have someone play soft guitar.

**Say:** Jesus' disciples probably had many times on their journey that were just as scary as that the one on the boat, including the last days they spent with Jesus before his death. In the upper room, peace was probably hard to come by as Jesus kept talking about the challenges ahead. Yet, this was a familiar holiday celebration to them. It may have been filled with fond memories and was surely a reminder of God's presence with their people over thousands of years. Today, when we come to this table, we can hear Jesus saying, "Peace, be still" as he speaks to our hearts. May those who find comfort in this ancient ritual be blessed by the meal we share, and may we all hear Jesus speaking to the fears in our hearts and minds. God invites us all to this table. May we all find peace here.

## CLOSING

Remind campers that we all impact one another and that true peace requires us to care about the peace others are seeking. Encourage them to listen to one another's voices through the week and try to understand what peace looks like to them. Repeat the prayer from the litany, this time assigning each line to a different group.

## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

### 1 Kings 17:8–16

## GATHERING

Make a really long line or complicated entry process to get in to worship. Campers should have to wait a while, even to a point of impatience. Be sure to give directions and updates ("We will be going in soon") in a kind tone, even if campers get cranky. Once all are inside, remind them that patience can be difficult, but God has been waiting on us to get everything right for longer than we know, and has done it with grace. Encourage them to worship out of thanksgiving for God's patience and kindness.

## LITANY

Leader: As we share another day with one another, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

Leader: As we open ourselves to God's loving kindness, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

Leader: In those moments where we feel undeserving of joy, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

Leader: In those moments where our hearts are heavy with sadness, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

Leader: As we sit beside one another with real and powerful emotions, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

Leader: As we strive to be better neighbors, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

Leader: As we see the gifts and strengths we already have, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

Leader: As we exist, just as we are, our honest selves, we proclaim:

**All: I am enough.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to think about where they imagine themselves in five years, then in ten years. Ask them to imagine the steps that will have to take place along the way for those things to happen. Invite them to lift a silent prayer to God for patience on the journey. Now, invite campers to imagine the things that can go wrong along the way, and ask them to lift a silent prayer that they might not let obstacles or hurts along the way pull them away from being kind and loving people.

## SCRIPTURE

As someone reads today's scripture, invite campers to groan loudly anytime someone says something or does something in the story that they think is impatient or lacks kindness. Remind them that this is about the content of the story rather than a critique of the person reading.

## RESPONSES

### *Celebrating*

Invite campers to work in pairs or groups of three to pick something in nature that symbolizes God's patience. If you worship outdoors, you might play some music as they roam around to choose something in the immediate area, such as a leaf from the ground they can hold or a particular tree they can see. Ask campers to talk with each other about how it shows patience and then write an ode or poem of celebration in honor of that item. You can invite campers to share with another group or bring them all forward and read a few out loud.

### *Centering*

**Supplies:** several plastic bins or shallow boxes, sand (or other sensory filler such as dry rice or beans)

Fill plastic bins or shallow boxes with sand (or other filler) and invite campers to run their hands along it for a calming sensory experience during worship. As they take turns, play some quiet music in the background. Encourage campers to think about the pressure they put on themselves and ways they feel critiqued. Ask them to name ways they need to be more patient and kinder to themselves, then allow another camper to take their spot.

## STEWARDSHIP

Ask campers to brainstorm big problems in our world that will require patience to resolve. Then ask them to brainstorm small kindnesses that might be first steps to making a difference. Invite them to lift up silent prayers for particular issues they care about and ask God to help them take some first steps toward making a difference.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** The symbols we use in this celebration take a long time to create. The process from planting seed to gathering grain to making bread is long and complicated. Just the baking of bread requires patience. The planting and tending of a vineyard is a tedious task. Transforming grapes into wine or juice is also really complicated. Even experts can mess it up along the way. Patience is baked into this meal. Kindness is squeezed into this celebration. As we gather at Christ's table, we give thanks that God's kindness is also packed into us, from the very beginning, and that God continues to work on us with patience and grace. Let us share this meal, knowing that God is not done with us yet, and we still have a lot of work to do in the world. May this meal grant us the patience of God and help us to share God's kindness with all people, everywhere.

## CLOSING

Ask campers to think about something at camp that causes them to lose their patience. This could be waiting to go to the pool or waiting on someone taking a long shower before them. Whatever it is, invite them to imagine that issue, then ask God to help them to be more patient and treat others with kindness as we live through this week of camp together.

## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

### Mark 12:38–44

#### GATHERING

**Supplies:** paper, scissors, pencils

Ahead of time, cut out small circles of paper. Place them on a table at the entry to your worship space and provide pencils. As campers come in, ask them to take a “paper coin” and write something they feel is of great value or worth investing their time and energy in. Provide a box or other container for them to place their “investments.”

#### LITANY

Leader: When the world tells us to value wealth and status,

**All: we seek only God’s goodness.**

Leader: When the world demands extravagant sacrifice,

**All: we seek only God’s goodness.**

Leader: When injustice and inequality run rampant,

**All: we seek only God’s goodness.**

Leader: When the wants of the few are placed over the needs of the many,

**All: we seek only God’s goodness.**

Leader: As we work to make the world a better place,

**All: we seek only God’s goodness.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Set up a prayer wall in the space for campers to use throughout the service, and provide sticky notes and writing utensils. If indoors, this can be an actual wall or a bulletin board. If outdoors, this can be an easel with cardstock or a large cross. Explain when in the service it is appropriate for campers to get up and post prayers, or provide a designated time and play some background music as they reflect and move.

#### SCRIPTURE

Today’s scripture is simple to act out as someone reads. You can have some campers playing the different roles while a narrator reads, or let some creative campers act it out with their own creative presentation. Try inviting campers who do not fit the gender expectations of the

scripture characters participate in the various roles so that we can all imagine ourselves in all the different roles.

#### RESPONSES

##### *Celebrating*

If you did the Gathering activity, pull out the “paper coins” and read the values and hopes campers thought worthy of deeper investment. If not, ask campers to call out where they would most want to invest their time, energy, and treasure. This might be in spending time with family, or focusing on getting an education, or ending poverty. There are no wrong answers, as long as they are sincere. Remember, this generation tends to be very pragmatic and values self-reliance, so do not assume all monetary listings are selfish. As different hopes or values are shared out loud, invite the rest of the campers to affirm them by shouting, “Amen!”

##### *Centering*

**Supplies:** large paper, old coins, tempura paint, wet wipes or damp paper towels

Set out some old coins and tempura paint on large sheets of paper. Invite campers to take a coin, dip it in the paint color of their choosing, and spin or roll their coin around the paper in silence. As they do this, tell them to focus on things people have done for them over the years, and the ways people have stuck by them in hard times. Be sure to have wet wipes or damp paper towels available in case they get paint on their hands.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Invite campers to think about what they have that can make a difference at this point in their lives. Remind them that money is just one tool we have for making a difference. Ask them to turn to a person beside them and share at least one thing they know they can do for others. If someone struggles to name something, their partner can name gifts they see in that person and encourage them to share that gift.

#### COMMUNION

**Say:** If the woman in our story were playing poker, we would say she was “all in.” In some ways, that is what

Jesus was telling the disciples when they celebrated Passover. Over the years, people had added all kinds of rules and expectations that had been used to connect people to God, but often it made them feel disconnected. Jesus wanted us to know that God is not just with us when things are going well, but that God is totally committed to loving us all the time. Not just some of us, but all of us. Jesus came to show us that God is “all in” on all of us! This is what goodness and faithfulness looks like from God—love and grace for all of us!

## CLOSING

Give each camper one more paper coin and ask them to write something they invest too much in that does not really make them happy or the world better. This might be popularity, money, useless sports statistics, or even an unhealthy relationship. Invite them to drop this coin in the box on their way out as a symbol of letting it go to make more room for God’s goodness and faithfulness.

## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

### Matthew 16:13–18

## GATHERING

Ask campers to enter worship in silence and calmness. Have some volunteers or staff around the worship space silently encouraging rowdiness. They can do this by pointing and waving at campers, making silly faces, even doing a silly dance, but all of it should be done in silence. Once all campers are gathered, state that there will always be challenges and obstacles to overcome, but with self-control and gentleness, we can work to be our best selves in any moment.

## LITANY

Leader: When we are afraid, angry, and lonely,

**All: God holds us gently in their arms.**

Leader: When we are lost, hiding, and silent,

**All: God holds us gently in their arms.**

Leader: When we are loud, strong, and confident,

**All: God holds us gently in their arms.**

Leader: When we are confused, worried, and frantic,

**All: God holds us gently in their arms.**

Leader: When we are anxious, depressed, and struggling,

**All: God holds us gently in their arms.**

Leader: When we are healing, resting, and recovering,

**All: God holds us gently in their arms.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invite campers to think of things that often lead them to make bad decisions. This might be a fear or a stressor, or something like pride, or even hormones. Ask them to think of a time when they wish they had handled a situation with more gentleness or self-control. Now, invite them to imagine how they could have handled it differently, and lift a prayer to God that they might do better in the future.



## SCRIPTURE

Invite some creative campers to make sound effects to help tell the story. This scripture invites giggles, so you might as well lean into it and let campers have fun with the telling. This will not diminish the seriousness of the message at all and might just add to it. Once the scripture has been shared, invite campers to hear it again while practicing self-control and not laughing at it. Make sure the reader does not play up the giggle triggers so campers can focus on the story more.

## RESPONSES

### *Celebrating*

Explain that there are many ways to respond to all the emotions that build up inside us that often make self-control or being gentle more of a challenge. Invite campers to join in a primal scream, letting out all their energy. Be sure to warn anyone with sensory issues what is coming so they can be prepared or adapt. Now, invite campers to shake any stress or tension out of their bodies, like a dog trying to dry off. Ask campers what other things they do to release stress, let go of anxiety, and practice self-control.

### *Centering*

**Supplies:** eggs, pencils

Give random campers throughout your worship space an egg and a pencil. Invite campers to write something about a relationship or a situation in their life where they need to practice self-control or gentleness. They can also write a way others show gentleness or self-control with them. Campers should pass eggs and pencils to one another until everyone has had a chance to write something. It is ok if the words overlap as multiple campers write on the same egg. You can play some calm music to help keep a reflective mood. Afterward, set the eggs in the front of your worship space and remind campers that we are all fragile and deserve care and grace. If you want to make this more complicated, you could have a pot of water waiting, and slip the eggs in to hard boil. Pull them out at the end of the service, surprising campers by peeling the shell and reminding them how strong we can become as we practice gentleness and self-control.

## STEWARDSHIP

Ask campers to brainstorm ways that gentleness and self-control are important to the ecosystems around camp and to our environment in general. Invite them to imagine things they could do to make a difference, then choose one to practice when they go home. Say a prayer, asking God's blessing on the campers as they try to put this fruit of the Spirit into practice to care for creation.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** How much self-control do you think it took for Jesus to sit with those who would betray him, abandon him, or just might have not been fully listening? How much self-control did it take for him to just keep on talking and keep on loving them? How hard do you think the days that followed were for Jesus as people tried to start fights in his name and tried to humiliate him in public? How could he remain gentle in his words and manner when it must have felt as though everyone was against him? At this table, we remember Jesus, and by remembering him, we challenge ourselves to follow his example. It is not easy, but it is a challenge worth living up to. As we share this meal together, we remember how Jesus practiced gentleness and self-control so that everyone would know they are welcome here!

## CLOSING

Challenging campers to "pass the gentleness," similar to the tradition of "passing the peace." In this version, have campers touch fingertips as lightly as possible and say, "Gentleness be with you." They can respond with "and self-control to you also."

## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

### Galatians 5:16–26

#### GATHERING

Open this service the same way the week did, with a bowl of fruit at the gathering entrance. Invite campers to take a piece and wait for everyone to be seated, so all can eat at the same time.

#### LITANY

Leader: As the week closes and we say goodbye,

**All: we share together in God's name.**

Leader: As we remember God's word and the stories of God's children,

**All: we share together in God's name.**

Leader: As we take what we learned in camp out into the world,

**All: we share together in God's name.**

Leader: As we grow into the love that God offers us,

**All: we share together in God's name.**

Leader: As we show up every day as our full, unique, honest selves,

**All: we share together in God's name.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Review the daily themes of the week and ask campers to think about which fruit of the Spirit they feel they have "collected" the most at camp. Which did they receive the most or grow in the most? Now, ask them to imagine where in their lives or the world around them that fruit might be shared. Where in their community might they share that fruit? Allow a time of silence for campers to lift their answers to God in prayer.

#### SCRIPTURE

While reading scripture, pause after each fruit and ask campers to shout out where they saw that sign this week, either in themselves or in someone else at camp.

## RESPONSES

### *Celebrating*

**Supplies:** large piece of paper, ink pads or fingerpaint, markers

Provide ink pads or fingerpaint in various colors and invite campers to leave a thumb or fingerprint on a large piece of paper. After they clean their finger off, they can draw on a stem or leaf to make their print look like a piece of fruit. Campers can even sign the page so that there is a "camp picture" of fruit to commemorate the week. Add these paintings to a wall that displays the work of each week's campers, or cut them up and give each camper a piece as they leave camp.

### *Centering*

Participate in stretching or yoga together, where the facilitator models easy and calming stretch poses. This can be done during a song or a prayer. After a few different poses, invite campers to create their own pose to represent each fruit of the Spirit. As you call them out, invite campers to strike their calm stretching motion to express that fruit of the Spirit.

## STEWARDSHIP

Ask campers to think about a problem they know is waiting for them at home, or an issue in the world where they feel called to make a difference. Invite them to imagine which fruit of the Spirit might be the most helpful for addressing that issue and think about ways they can share that fruit. Ask them to turn to a partner and share their thoughts and say a prayer for each other.

## COMMUNION

**Say:** In many traditions, when they come to the Lord's table, they share the words Paul wrote to the church in Corinth saying, "I pass on to you what I received from the Lord..." We pass on what we receive. This week, we have received much fruit of the Spirit. Now, we prepare to go and share it. We serve one another, receiving from one what we will pass on to another. Today, we can all serve and be served, gather and share, receive and proclaim the love of Jesus.

Be sure to have campers pass the elements from person to person rather than just coming to a central point to receive.

## CLOSING

Give each person a piece of fruit as they prepare to leave. Ask them to look at it and imagine it is all they have received at camp. Now, have them imagine how they might share it. Send them out with this question and challenge.

# Cabin Devotions – Children and Intergenerational

Please use these devotional questions as conversation starters followed by a short experiential prayer. We recommend you use the devotions in your cabins before bedtime, but they can be adapted to share in the morning as a group. If you want a “Morning Watch” experience, print out the questions for each camper and allow them to guide themselves. Decide how the devotions best fit your campers and focus on them. The most important part of any group experience is to be fully present and engaged at this time.

## Day 1: Gathering Fruit

### Conversation Prompts

- Why do you think God gave us fruit of the Spirit instead of naming it something else, like vegetables of the Spirit?
- What are some ways you noticed this kind of fruit at camp today?
- How can being welcoming help others enjoy camp?
- Who can you share the fruit of the Spirit with tomorrow?

**Prayer Suggestion:** “God, thank you for giving us so many ways to be fruitful for you. Help us to produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control at camp this week. Amen.”

## Day 2: Love and Joy

### Conversation Prompts

- What are you supposed to do when you are lost?
- Why do you think Jesus liked to compare us to sheep?
- How can you make sure no one feels like they are lost this week?

**Prayer Suggestion:** “God, thank you for helping us when we feel lost or need help. You love us enough to come be with us wherever we are and celebrate us with great joy. Amen.”

## Day 3: Peace

### Conversation Prompts

- What are the things your family does during a storm or scary time?
- How do we help others find peace when they are scared?
- What are times and places where people might be scared, and how might we help them find peace?

**Prayer Suggestion:** “God, thank you that you answer our prayers even when we don’t see that you are already with us. Help us tell others that you bring peace. Amen.”

## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

### Conversation Prompts

- What do you think is the best way to ask for help?
- Why might we still help others who don’t ask nicely or ask for too much?
- Where can you help at camp even if you are not thanked?
- What can you do or say for someone who helps you in a big way?

**Prayer Suggestion:** “Lord, we thank you that we can help one another. Teach us how to know when you are calling us to help someone. Amen.”

## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

### Conversation Prompts

- What do you do with pennies at home?
- What could the widow have given if she hadn't had any money?
- How do you think God wants us to show our faithfulness?
- Where have you noticed goodness in camp so far?

**Prayer Suggestion:** "God, thank you for being happy with the gifts we give you. Help us to remember that you want us to pray and to trust you. Amen."

## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

### Conversation Prompts

- When is it hard for you to have self-control at home?
- Why do you think some people don't treat others with gentleness?
- What parts of camp life help you practice gentleness and self-control?
- How can you help others have more gentleness and self-control?

**Prayer Suggestion:** "Dear God, thank you for giving us chances to show self-control and gentleness to the world. Help us practice these every day. Amen."

## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

### Conversation Prompts

- What is the best thing you learned about the fruit of the Spirit?
- Who will you share something about camp with when you get home?
- How would you like camp to be even better for next year?

**Prayer Suggestion:** "God, thank you for the fruit of the Spirit that we get to share with everyone. Help us to keep growing and connecting to you and our camp friends. Amen."

# Cabin Devotions – Youth

Please use these devotional questions as conversation starters followed by a short experiential prayer. We recommend you use the devotions in your cabins before bedtime, but they can be adapted to share in the morning as a group. If you want a “Morning Watch” experience, print out the questions for each camper and allow them to guide themselves. Decide how the devotions best fit your campers and focus on them. The most important part of any group experience is to be fully present and engaged at this time.

## Day 1: Gathering Fruit

### Conversation Prompts

- If you could change the order of the fruit of the Spirit, how would you?
- Why do you think other characteristics like gratefulness or helpfulness weren’t included?
- Where have you seen fruit of the Spirit at camp, and how can we avoid unfruitfulness?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do you hope camp will be the most like this week?

**Prayer Suggestion:** Take a moment of silence. Ask campers to imagine gathering fruit in an orchard for God. Picture whether to pick the largest and most ripe or whether to collect the smallest and unnoticed to offer as a treasure to God. Ask campers to pray for their fruit that God has gifted them to grow. Finish by asking them to thank God for his incredible creation, both seen and unseen, that he has made good for us.

## Day 2: Love and Joy

### Conversation Prompts

- Who do you know who has gone to find someone who was lost?
- What do you think the ninety-nine sheep did while the shepherd was gone, and why?
- Where can we celebrate more joyfully and often at camp this week?
- How can we be more like the shepherd with all of the campers here?

**Prayer Suggestion:** Take a moment of silence. Ask campers to picture the rest of the story, such as what it took for the shepherd to find the lost sheep and how the sheep felt while alone. Now ask them to pray to see the faces of people who are lost but don’t know what to do. What would help to bring them home? Ask campers to silently name some of the people or groups of people they wish that they could be with and celebrate together. Imagine what the best party would look like and how many people they’d invite. Close with a short sentence prayer.

## Day 3: Peace

### Conversation Prompts

- When have you seen someone overreact because they were scared?
- What do you think the disciples could have done differently in the story?
- Where are the storms in our lives and communities right now?
- How do you think Jesus wants us to bring peace to these situations?

**Prayer Suggestion:** Take a moment of silence. Ask campers to reflect on times they have felt that Jesus was sleeping or not responding quickly enough to help them. Remind them that Jesus is there and does answer prayers. Have them focus on those people and places that need this reassurance too and pray silently for them. Close with a short sentence prayer.

## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

### Conversation Prompts

- What if the widow hadn’t helped Elijah but gave that bread to her son first?
- When should we help someone who is demanding or rude?
- How do we know where God is calling us to show hospitality to strangers?
- Why do you think God had this particular widow help Elijah?



**Prayer Suggestion:** Take a moment of silence. Invite campers to remember a time when they received help from an unlikely person. Then have them think about whether they would accept help from someone who is a stranger or poorer than them. Ask them to imagine the two sticks the widow gathered as if a cross. How can we see patience and kindness in the cross? Reflect on people they've seen give even when they were the ones who needed help. Have them thank God. Close with a short sentence prayer.

## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

### Conversation Prompts

- Why do you think the widow gave everything she had to live on?
- How do you feel when you see someone secretly give a lot?
- What could the widow give next after she had no money left?
- Why did Jesus tell the disciples to watch instead of going up to thank her?

**Prayer Suggestion:** Take a moment of silence. Ask campers to imagine giving all they had to live on to God. Invite them to notice how they feel by what their bodies are doing—are they stressed or relaxed? Invite them to take deep breaths, holding them and then releasing slowly. Now ask them to imagine giving all their prayers to God to live fully. Reflect on the difference between giving and taking. Have them hold their arms out with palms up to receive God's blessings and then turn their hands and palms down to offer them back to God. Close with a short sentence prayer.

## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

### Conversation Prompts

- Why do you think the sheep and goats were mentioned in the story?
- What made David decide to risk his and his men's lives by confronting Saul?
- How would you react if your enemy said they weren't trying to harm you?
- What are some things at camp that could teach gentleness and self-control in the larger world?

**Prayer Suggestion:** Take a moment of silence. Ask campers to close their eyes and imagine the caves in their lives. Where are the places that they need to stop hiding in? Have them picture these. What are the ways they can confront others with gentleness and stop running? When do they need God's help most with self-control? Invite them to silently pray and then open their eyes. Close with a brief sentence prayer.

## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

### Conversation Prompts

- What was the most unexpected thing you learned this week at camp?
- What do you think would grow the fruit of the Spirit even more here?
- How can you share the fruit of the Spirit in new ways at home and at school?

**Prayer Suggestion:** Take a moment of silence. Invite campers to reflect on their camp experience. Name the fruit of the Spirit, pausing after each word to have campers think of what they saw that reminded them of each particular word this week. Ask campers to hold on to these pictures and read the words again, this time imagining the changes or new things God might do in their lives at home with the fruit. Ask campers to stand up in the circle and look around at the people they see, praying for fruitfulness. Tell them to turn so they face outward in that circle and invite them to see God's world and seek to bear fruit for God in all the directions of a compass. Close with a brief sentence prayer.

***This prayer practice could also be a closing prayer process for the full camp.***

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# Song Recommendations

There is no designated music time, theme song, or music guide for this curriculum. Below are recommendations to help you prepare for opening gatherings, worship presentations, or a music session with children. Most are readily available in hymnals or with a simple online search. Many have videos on YouTube which you can use to lead children should you lack music leaders.

## Day 1: Gathering Fruit

### ***Galatians 5:16–26***

#### ***Focus on seeing / experiencing fruit***

- Fruit of the Spirit's Not a... (Traditional)
- Fruit of the Spirit (KindSpring, 2016)
- Fruit of the Spirit Song for Kids (Starskills, 2017)
- Imagine (John Lennon, 1971)
- Spirit Song (Hymn)
- Fruit Salad (The Wiggles, 1994)
- All Good Gifts (*Godspell*, 1974)

## Day 2: Love and Joy

### ***Luke 15:3–7***

#### ***Lost Sheep***

- I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy (Traditional)
- The Gift of Love (Hymn)
- In This Very Room (Hymn)
- Joyful, Joyful (Hymn)
- Happy (Pharrell Williams, 2013)
- Joy of the Lord (Rend Collective, 2015)
- Lovely Day (Bill Withers, 1977)
- Walking on Sunshine (Katrina and the Waves, 1983)
- I Just Want to Celebrate (Rare Earth, 1971)
- Love Is an Open Door (Disney's *Frozen*, 2013)
- Still I Will Love (Shaina Taub, 2018)

## Day 3: Peace

### ***Matthew 8:23–27***

#### ***Calming Storm***

- I've Got Peace Like a River (Traditional)
- Come and Find the Quiet Center (Hymn)
- Give Peace a Chance (John Lennon, 1969)
- Peace Train (Cat Stevens, 1971)
- I Wish You Peace (The Eagles, 1975)
- Let There Be Peace on Earth (Hymn)
- Be Still My Soul (Hymn)
- Sweet Hour of Prayer (Hymn)
- It's Alright (Indigo Girls, 1997)
- My Future (Billie Eilish, 2020)
- Surface Pressure (Disney's *Encanto*, 2021)
- Everything's Alright (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, 1971)

## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

### ***1 Kings 17:8–16***

#### ***Elijah and the Widow***

- We Shall Overcome (Hymn)
- Wait (Marvin Sapp, 2010)
- Patience Song (Have Fun Teaching, 2012)
- Waiting on the World to Change (John Mayer, 2006)
- Go the Distance (Disney's *Hercules*, 1997)
- I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (Hymn)
- We Shall Be Free (Garth Brooks, 1992)
- Treat People with Kindness (Harry Styles, 2019)
- Brave (Sarah Bareilles, 2013)
- It Is Well with My Soul (Hymn)
- The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow (Hymn)
- Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant (Hymn)
- Jesu, Jesu (Hymn)
- What Does the Lord Require of You (Hymn)
- Come As You Are (The Many, 2019)

## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

### **Mark 12:38–44**

#### **Widow's Coin**

- Count on Me (Bruno Mars, 2010)
- Lean on Me (Bill Withers, 1972)
- I'll Be There for You (The Rembrandts, 1995)
- Close Every Door (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, 1968)
- The Climb (Miley Cyrus, 2009)
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Hymn)
- A Woman and a Coin (Hymn)
- Day by Day (*Godspell*, 1974)
- O For a World (Hymn)
- God Help the Outcasts (Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, 1996)
- For Good (*Wicked*, 2003)

## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

### **1 Samuel 24**

#### **David and Saul**

- Kill Em with Kindness (Selena Gomez, 2015)
- Down by the Riverside (Hymn)
- Stronger (Kelly Clarkson, 2011)
- Warrior (Demi Lovato, 2013)
- If We're Honest (Francesca Battistelli, 2014)
- Survivor (Destiny's Child, 2001)
- Strong, Gentle Children (Hymn)
- These I Lay Down (Hymn)
- How Could Anyone (Hymn)
- Boomerang (Jojo Siwa, 2016)
- Shake It Off (Taylor Swift, 2014)
- All Belong Here (The Many, 2017)

## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

### **Galatians 5:16–26**

- This Little Light of Mine (Traditional)
- We Are One in the Spirit (Hymn)
- I Am the Light of the World (Hymn)
- We Are the World (USA for Africa, 1985)
- Go, My Children, with My Blessing (Hymn)
- Pass It On (Hymn)

# Arts and Crafts

## Leaving Our Mark

**Supplies:** knife, paint, plates, paper, markers, paper towels, fruit (the more options, the better)

**How:** Slice fruit in half so the middle is visible. Lay it flat on a paper towel to absorb extra moisture, then gently dip it in paint (or brush paint onto the fruit) and test it on an extra piece of paper to discard extra paint or make sure you have enough. Now, use the fruit to create an image on a piece of paper. Let campers practice a few times, then invite them to make a self-portrait, make their own geometric design, or maybe create a flower garden out of fruit stamps by drawing on stems and leaves. Make sure to provide space for campers to exhibit their work if desired and affirm everyone's creations as works of art. As you are working, ask campers which fruit of the Spirit are needed to create a fruit stamp masterpiece.

## Coloring the Spirit

**Supplies:** paper, and either crayons, paints, or colored pencils

**How:** Make a list of the fruit of the Spirit and place it where everyone can see. Ask campers to close their eyes and listen as you call out a fruit of the Spirit, and have them think about the first color that comes to mind. Ask campers to put that color on their paper in whatever shape, pattern, or splatter they feel fits that fruit of the Spirit. Repeat for each fruit of the Spirit. This does not have to resemble any particular object or tell a story. It is simply an artistic response in color and shape. Once campers are done, invite those willing to share their work and find a good way to display their art. If you have time, you could go back through the fruit and ask campers what style of music each might inspire or what textures (rough, watery, slick, etc.) they wish they could have put with each color.

## Bark of the Spirit

**Supplies:** pieces of tree bark (fallen or from firewood), markers

**How:** In advance, pull pieces of bark and wipe the flat side clean for campers to work on. You will want thicker bark with less texture. Invite campers to choose a fruit of the Spirit, and use markers to place small dots to write out their word on their piece of bark. Encourage them to use as much of the surface space as possible. The closer they place dots, the easier it will be to read the word. They can choose how clear to make the word and how much artistic flair they want to add. In the extra space, invite campers to add more dots to create patterns, draw shapes, or add color that they feel reflects that fruit of the Spirit. This could be a fun take-home craft to help tell others what they learned at camp.

**Try This:** You could invite campers to add their work to the campfire stack and let the words they added be burned as prayers, lifted to God by the camp.

## Fruit Mache

**Supplies:** green balloons, newspaper, flour, water, paper towels, paper plates, paint and brushes, string

**How:** In advance, make mache paste by mixing water and flour until it resembles white glue. If you are not ready to use it immediately, store it in a refrigerator. Begin by having campers tear newspaper into small strips, and let each one blow up a balloon and tie it. The size of the balloon will be the size of their craft. Now, have campers dip strips of paper in the paste, wipe off excess paste, then stick it to the balloon. They will want to cover the full shape, with only the mouth of the balloon showing. They can tie a string around the balloon mouth to carry and hang the project to dry. Allow time to dry, then let campers pick a color for their fruit and paint it, once again hanging it by their string. Once it is dry, they can stick a pin or scissors in to pop the balloon, then pull just enough of it out to form a stem.

**Try This:** You could poke small holes in the projects, then use twist-ties to connect them all to a stand of lights and turn the individual fruit into a string of lanterns.



## Fruit-Festival

**Supplies:** paper plates of various sizes, scissors, markers or paint and brushes, hole punch, string

**How:** Invite campers to make decorations for a fruit-festival by decorating paper plates to look like sliced pieces of fruit. You can cut the plates into half-circles or wedges after they color them. After you have a lot of fruit, punch holes in them and string them on a line to make bunting. Use your fruit to decorate the dining hall or other camp space. At the end of the week, you can send each camper home with a piece of fruit to remember their camp experience.

# Multi-Day Activities

## Flowing with the Spirit

**Supplies:** heavy paper, liquid glue, pencils, watercolor paint, salt, soft brushes, water

**How:** Invite campers to make a simple line drawing with a pencil on the paper. Trace over the lines with a medium thickness of liquid glue. Sprinkle the glue liberally with salt (it should be completely coated). Let dry overnight. The next day, invite campers to take their salty drawings and add colors by dripping watercolor paint onto the salt. Encourage campers to look at the way the paint travels along the salt lines.

As campers are working, ask them about how the color moves along the lines and how much control they feel like they have. Remind them that the Holy Spirit does not always move as we expect but can have beautiful results. Ask campers how gathering or sharing fruit of the Spirit might invite us to let go of control or expectations.

## Soaking in the Spirit

**Supplies:** fabric items (must be made from natural fibers), soda ash, water, MX Dye powder (tie dye), ice, aluminum foil (optional), tubs/large bowls, rubber bands, rubber gloves, spoons

**How:** In advance, make a soda ash solution (1 cup soda ash powder to 1 gallon of water). Invite campers to fold or crumple their fabric item any way they would like and then bind it in rubber bands. Soak the fabric in the solution for at least 20 minutes (or overnight). With gloved hands, remove the fabric from the solution, gently squeezing out as much liquid as you can. Place the fabric in the bottom of a tub. Cover the fabric in ice, keeping as much directly on top of the fabric as possible. (Foil can be used to create a sleeve around the fabric to hold the ice in place.) Use spoons to sprinkle dye powder over the ice, being careful not to get too close to the camper's face. Wait for the ice to melt. As campers are working, ask them what they think will happen as the ice melts and where the dye might be carried. Ask them which fruit of the Spirit are needed for this activity.

The next day, invite campers to use gloves and take the rubber bands off of their fabric. Invite them to reflect on how it matches their expectations and to show one another what they have created. Now, invite campers to rinse their fabric and see what happens. Ask them what changed, what remained, and what fruit of the Spirit they have experienced in this phase of the project.

Finally, collect all of the pieces of fabric and wash them in hot water. Invite campers to share their final results, as well as their thoughts as the process went on.

## Seed Houses

**Supplies:** six standard-size rectangular sponges, plate, grass or chia seeds, water, rubber band (optional)


**How:** Invite campers to build a house from the sponges: Stack four sponges on top of one another, and place the stack on its side in the middle of the plate. Place the last two sponges on top, leaning on each other, so that it looks like an angled roof. (If the sponges don't stay standing against each other, dampen them first and/or wrap the rubber band loosely around the middle of the "house" for support.) Spread the seeds over the top and side of the house according to package directions. Add water. Each day, campers will need to come and check on their house and add water, if necessary. What do they observe? Why does it take so long to see results? It can be difficult to be patient, but there are many things that take a great deal of time to see change. What does it mean to do things in God's time?

## Fruit Tree

**Supplies:** basket/container, markers, colored paper, hole punch, yarn

**How:** Invite campers to cut the colored paper into circles or fruit shapes, then punch holes into each one and thread with a small loop of yarn so it can be hung. Choose a tree or other functional landmark at camp where campers regularly pass by. Throughout the week, invite campers to observe where and when they see the fruit of the Spirit in action, then draw or write their observations on the fruit papers and hang them in the tree. By the end of the week, the tree should bear much fruit, showing the Spirit's movements at camp. You can





take a picture and make copies to send home with the campers or share on your social media. At the end of the week, campers can help “harvest” all the fruit, and you can send some home with each camper to help them share all they learned at camp. Some might even want to hang one on their Christmas tree.

**Try This:** If there is no tree that will work, choose a wall in a well-traveled part of camp instead. Invite campers to tape their observations to the wall, encouraging them to see if they can fill the whole thing.

### Weave Us Together

**Supplies:** cardboard, scissors, yarn, legal sized paper, pens/markers

**How:** In advance, cut a piece of cardboard approximately 15 inches by 15 inches. Cut a hole in the middle that is approximately 8 inches by 10 inches. Tie pieces of yarn around the cardboard so that each side of the opening has a piece of yarn lining it. Tie a few more pieces each direction to form a simple grid across the open space. Invite campers to cut the paper into inch-wide strips, lengthwise. Throughout the week, campers can write or draw short prayers on the strips of paper as they feel called. When they write a prayer, they can weave it between the lengths of yarn. By the end of the week, it could be its own prayerful tapestry. At this point, extra cardboard can be trimmed away from the sides or decorated by the campers. You can do one for the entire camp, one per cabin, or some smaller scale versions for each camper as a devotional tool to take home.

**Try This:** For a more permanent prayer tapestry, try using ribbon in place of paper.

# Games

## My Life in a Circle (Day 1 recommendation)

**Supplies:** string, scissors

**How:** In advance, cut lengths of string 15–20 feet long, and tie the ends together to form a circle. Leave a little extra string hanging down from the knot so it is easily found. Lay the string circles out on the ground of your activity space. You need enough for every six campers to have a string circle. Divide campers into groups of approximately six and assign each a string circle to stand around. Ask campers to stand on the outside of their circle. Have the group identify the knot and ask the person closest to the knot to share one of the funniest things they remember in their life. Explain that they need to walk as they tell the story and only have until they get back to the knot. The entire group follows them as they walk, so that everyone is moving around the circle. When they reach the knot again, their turn has ended and the person behind them gets to share a story. Do this until every person in the circle has had a chance to share.

## Symbol Building

**Supplies:** none

**How:** The goal is for the entire group to form the shapes that the leader calls out in the fastest time they can. You can do this as one total group challenge or with multiple teams. The symbols are representative of the fruit of the Spirit. They need to imagine the bird's eye view of the activity space. Start with a simple practice symbol of a circle. After they complete the circle, challenge them with a heart, cross, and peace sign. If you have a strong group, you could add an hourglass, sunshine, or other more complicated symbols. Afterward, allow time for campers to reflect on the symbols and which fruit of the Spirit they might match up with.

## Fruit Mingle

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Gather the large group together. The goal of this large group game is to meet people with similar fruit-based affinities, putting a spin on a classic icebreaker game. Have campers move around the space in a way that feels comfortable to them. Encourage them to walk or skip or move in whatever way suits them. As the leader calls out a number and fruit-based items, such as, bananas, cobbler, or fruit salad, those who like it gather together and those who do not gather together, making groups based on the number called out. For example, “five watermelon” means campers get in groups of five (or close to it) based on how they feel about watermelons. Once in small groups have each person share their name something they like or dislike about the item called out. When the leader exclaims “Fruit Mingle!” campers set off moving around the space in whatever fashion best suits them.

## Logo Lookout (Day 3 or later recommended)

**Supplies:** notecards, markers or colored pencils

**How:** Give each camper two notecards and a marker and ask them to write their name in large letters on one. On the other, ask them to create a logo for themselves and try to make it fill as much of the space on their card as possible. Collect all the cards and shuffle them up. Place them face down in a grid layout on the ground. Invite campers to take turns turning over two cards to try and make a match. If a camper's name and logo are turned over on the same turn, they can shout out “That's me!” or just raise their hand. While campers are taking turns flipping cards, others can watch from around the edges of the play space.

# Group Building and Challenge Activities

## Sneak a Peek

**Supplies:** scissors and paper (or building blocks)

**How:** Create a pattern out of small squares of paper and cover it so campers cannot see. Divide campers into teams of four to five and have each assign a runner, who will look at the pattern and then run to their group to describe it. Runners can only look for five seconds at a time before they must return to their group. Once with their group, the runners describe what they saw so the group can try to recreate the pattern. You can repeat with different patterns and different runners for each team.

Debrief questions:

- What was most challenging about this activity?
- How did the limitation of time impact your efforts?
- How was the communication in your group?
- Which fruit of the Spirit were helpful or present in this activity?

## Circle of Silence

**Supplies:** blindfolds, can, marble or rock

**How:** Have campers form a circle standing arm's length apart, with one volunteer wearing a blindfold in the center. Place the marble or rock in the can. The object of the activity is for the campers in the circle to pass the can from person to person, making a full round of the circle without detection from the blindfolded person in the middle. They are not allowed to make noise or talk as they pass the can. The camper in the center will listen to try to determine where the can is as it is being passed. When they hear the object, they point to the direction of the sound. Let campers take turns in the middle. If it gets too easy, you can add extra rocks or louder items.

Debrief questions:

- What made this activity challenging for you personally?
- What did you learn or how did you adapt as you played longer?

- How did the group relate to one another through this activity?
- What fruit of the Spirit were helpful or clearly present in the activity?

## Fruit Juggle

**Supplies:** five oranges

**How:** Arrange campers in a circle facing the center. Do a refresher on everyone's name by going around the circle and having each person say the name they wish to be called. The leader will begin the group fruit juggle. Call out the name of someone across the circle and toss them the orange. They do the same until every person in the circle has both caught and tossed the orange without anyone getting it twice. Do this round again, passing to the same person that you passed to last time, but a little faster. Play again, keeping the orange going in a continual loop of your passing pattern. As you go, add oranges. You can also call out "reverse" to make it more challenging. If you really want to increase the difficulty level, ask campers to leave the circle formation and keep moving in the center of the space.

Debrief questions:

- What skills were helpful in this activity?
- What challenged you the most?
- How did the group change or improve as you went?
- What fruit of the Spirit was present as you played?
- Which fruit of the Spirit would have made this activity easier?

## String Shapes

**Supplies:** long rope or string

**How:** Tie a rope at its ends to form a circle large enough for campers to form a circle around the outside. Have them pick up the rope, and explain that they must keep hold of the rope at all times while making whatever shape you call out. Call out simple shapes and allow time for the group to form the rope into that

shape without letting go. For more of a challenge, have all campers mute themselves and form the shapes in silence. If they get really good at this, you can call out more complicated shapes or let them create some they come up with and see if you can guess them.

**Debrief questions:**

- Who surfaced as a leader in this activity?
- What happened when you were not allowed to speak?
- What strategies did the group use to complete the shape?
- Even though there was no time limit, did you feel rushed?
- What fruit of the Spirit were evident in this activity?
- What fruit of the Spirit might have made this activity easier?

## Conducted Story

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Have campers sit or stand in a circle. Select one camper to be the “Conductor.” The goal of the activity is to construct a fun story together, one sentence at a time. The Conductor begins the story with a sentence or partial sentence. For example, “Larry was heading out for a day in the mountains when...” The Conductor will point to a camper to go next, going through everyone in the group randomly until each person has had a chance to contribute their sentence to the group story. You can then change out the Conductor and begin a new story.

**Debrief questions:**

- How do you feel about the stories?
- How did it feel to build off others’ sentences?
- How was it to have a sentence early in the story compared to later?
- What fruit of the Spirit was evident in this activity?

# Science and Nature

## Fresh Water Wondering

**Supplies:** pitcher (clear if possible), 2 cups (clear if possible), a tablespoon, a teaspoon, water, paper, marker

**How:** This activity demonstrates how much of the world's water is actually freshwater that we can drink. In advance, fill the pitcher with water and set it where everyone can see, then write these percentages on pieces of paper: 60%, 80%, 86%, 91%, and 97%. On separate pieces of paper write, "Strawberries," "Grapes," "Oranges," "Humans," and "Oceans." These percentages match the items listed, in order. Once campers arrive, explain that the percentages represent statistics about water. Four are the amount of water that something is made of, and one is the amount of the earth's water that is saltwater that fills the oceans. Let them work as a group to try and match the percentages, encouraging them to come to a consensus on their answers.

Once they have made their guesses, ask them to brainstorm places we find water in the world. This would include oceans, polar ice caps, saltwater lakes, glaciers, atmosphere, deep groundwater, lakes, rivers, streams, and so forth. Explain that the water in the pitcher represents all the water in the world. Ask a volunteer to pour two tablespoons of water into the first cup. Explain that this represents the water stored in the polar ice. Ask another volunteer to put one tablespoon of water into the next cup. Explain that this represents the water in saltwater lakes, glaciers, and the atmosphere. Now ask them how much of the world's water that is left they believe we have for drinking water. Have another volunteer come up and have them measure out one teaspoon of water. Have them hold the teaspoon and explain that this is the amount of freshwater on the planet for humans and animals to drink. The rest of the water left in the pitcher is the amount of water in the oceans: 97%. At this point, reveal the correct answers to the percentage matching activity.

### Additional questions:

- When are you most aware of the limited amount of water in our world?
- In what ways do we use water as a tool in our lives?

- How can we conserve water?
- Which fruit of the Spirit might inspire us to be mindful of our water resources?

## Look Up, Down, and All Around

**Supplies:** timer

**How:** Invite campers to find a place outside where they can sit comfortably. Explain that they will have two minutes to explore their space by looking down, then up, then all around them. The final portion of their time is to look at everything and see what they can identify and what they are curious about or can't name. Give them an update on time every thirty seconds to help them stay on task. After they are done, gather them to discuss the experience and see what might have gone unnamed, and identify things they are curious about. Encourage them to seek answers from other staff through the week. Now, invite campers to identify which fruit of the Spirit might be helpful for scientific observation. If you have time, you can repeat the activity with campers sitting and working in groups of two or three. Invite some conversation on how working with others changes the experience.

### Additional Questions:

- What fruit of the Spirit did you experience while observing?
- What makes observation difficult for you?
- What might you learn about yourself by watching the world around you?
- What might you learn about God from watching creation?

## In My Defense

**Supplies:** large paper, marker

**How:** Invite campers to brainstorm animals that live in or around camp and make a list. Once they have a good list, ask them how each of those animals protects itself against other animals or humans. For each, see if the campers can match one or more fruit of the Spirit that the animal exhibits. For example, an opossum "playing dead" shows a great deal of self-control. Those who hide might show a lot of patience. If you have time, take a hike and look for animal prints or try to identify places animals might live without disturbing anyone's habitat.

**Additional Questions:**

- How do the defense tactics of animals compare to those of humans?
- What might the animals teach us about fruit of the Spirit?
- Which animals might be safer if humans displayed more fruit of the Spirit?

**Meeting a Tree**

**Supplies:** Blindfolds (optional)

**How:** Invite campers to pair up and decide who will be the first to “meet a tree.” That camper should close their eyes or wear a blindfold. The camper who can see then guides their partner to a nearby tree and places both of their hands somewhere on the tree. Now, the blindfolded camper has one minute to get to know the tree. They can smell it, feel its branches and leaves, and even listen for how the breeze moves through the tree. Remind campers who are guiding to watch out for poison ivy or other dangers that should be avoided. After one minute, have campers trade roles, then go meet another tree. Once they get back, ask campers how they feel about the tree they met and what they know about it now that they have spent time getting to know it.

**Additional Questions:**

- What did you notice about the tree that you might miss with just your vision?
- If you have seen that tree before, how did this experience change your perception of the tree or your relationship with the tree?
- How did this experience impact your relationship with your partner?
- What fruit of the Spirit do you think your tree might help you understand?

**Time and Tides**

**Supplies:** large paper, marker

**How:** Invite campers to name things that happen slowly in nature and write them on a large sheet of paper. These might include erosion or forming of rock formations. Large trees take many years to grow, and

ecosystems develop over time. For each thing on the list, ask campers to identify what factors impact its growth or change. These might be sunlight, water, wind, floods, and so forth. Remind them that the creation around us is constantly in a state of change, sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly, but always changing. Invite the campers to take a hike around camp to identify factors that change the landscape. Are there creeks, or evidence of where heavy rains have etched a path? Are there hills that show erosion? How might strong winds or storms have made an impact? After your walk, invite campers to imagine what the camp might look like in a hundred years, and how future campers might have to adapt to changes in the landscape. Ask the campers what they can do now to help protect the ecosystem that is there now.

**Additional Questions:**

- What fruit of the Spirit might the slow and steady changes of creation help us better understand?
- How might sharing fruit of the Spirit in our lives make an impact on the environment around us?
- What factors are slowly shaping your life, and how might you be different over time?

**Joyful Eruption**

**Supplies:** corn starch, washable paint, water, baking soda, white vinegar, multiple containers to hold vinegar, ice cube trays, bowls, sidewalk chalk (optional)

**How:** In advance, make the ice chalk by mixing  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup cornstarch,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup baking soda,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water, and enough paint to give the mixture a bright hue. Pour this mixture into an ice cube tray and freeze overnight. Repeat at least twice more so that you’ll have multiple colors to work with. Also in advance, pour white vinegar into containers. Place multiple colors of ice chalk cubes in each bowl and hand out to campers. Choose a sunny, paved area and invite the campers to place the ice chalk cubes on the warm pavement, close enough together that the colors will meet up as they melt. Invite campers to watch the colors begin to melt and merge. Invite campers to pour a little vinegar on the chalk. What happens now? Add a little more. What is happening to the colors? Joy is like an unexpected



eruption of color. It can puff up; it can mix things up; and it makes a beautiful, swirly memory! As the campers observe the chalk, invite them to thank God for the rainbows and surprising joy.

Additional Questions:

- How did the experiment match your expectations at each stage?
- How does expectation impact joy, and how does patience fit into that experience?

## Standing Strong

**Supplies:** Bible, paper cups, sheets of corrugated cardboard (at least 2'x2')

**How:** Read Mark 12:38–44. The woman who brought a coin to the temple offering didn't have much to give at all, and yet Jesus says that what she gave has a larger impact than what the other, richer people gave. Faith often means seeing what little you have around you and believing that more is possible than what you might first think. Show campers the paper cups and the cardboard. Take five cups and arrange them in three rows (two, one, two). Place a sheet of cardboard on top. Arrange five more cups on top of that, and one more sheet of cardboard. Ask campers how much weight they think it will hold, then experiment with various items from around camp. You should be able to place up to 50 pounds of weight on top. This can be a campfire log, rocks, or even a small camper! Have fun talking about expectations and how strong things can turn out to be.

Additional Questions:

- How do we judge how strong something is?
- How could you use items from nature to make this structure stronger?

# Table Talk

Use these questions to prompt theme-related and fun discussion during mealtimes, downtimes, or as time fillers. Use the questions in whatever way best serves the needs of the group.

If the discussion goes down a different path, be open to that and allow the campers to be creative and explore ideas together.



Table tent



- What is your favorite fruit?
- Can you tell a story from picking or shopping for fruit?
- What fruit do you refuse to try?

## DAY 1 : Gathering Fruit

Youth

Youth

## DAY 1: Gathering Fruit

- What is your favorite fruit?
- Can you tell a story from picking or shopping for fruit?
- What fruit do you refuse to try?



## Youth

### DAY 2: Love and Joy



- Who always makes you feel good when they walk in a room?
- How do others know you are having a good time?
- When have you hidden an emotion?

## Youth

### DAY 2: Love and Joy



- Who always makes you feel good when they walk in a room?
- How do others know you are having a good time?
- When have you hidden an emotion?



## Youth

### DAY 3: Peace

- How do you relax when you are feeling anxious or stressed?
- Are you better at relaxing alone or with other people?
- When or where do you feel the safest and most at peace?

## Youth

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- How do you relax when you are feeling anxious or stressed?
- Are you better at relaxing alone or with other people?
- When or where do you feel the safest and most at peace?





- What is your biggest pet-peeve?
- When do you have a hard time waiting?
- Who is always patient with you?

## DAY 4: PATIENCE AND KINDNESS

Youth

Youth

## DAY 4: PATIENCE AND KINDNESS

- What is your biggest pet-peeve?
- When do you have a hard time waiting?
- Who is always patient with you?





**DAY 5: Goodness and Faithfulness**



- What are some things you always count on to always be the same in your life?
- Who never gives up on you?
- How long does someone or something have to be good till you trust it will stay that way?

**DAY 5: Goodness and Faithfulness**



- What are some things you always count on to always be the same in your life?
- Who never gives up on you?
- How long does someone or something have to be good till you trust it will stay that way?



## DAY 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

Youth

- Is it easier for you to be super quiet or very loud?
- Which emotion are you most likely to share without intending?
- What emotion do you share the most?

Youth

## DAY 6: Gentleness and Self-Control



- Is it easier for you to be super quiet or very loud?
- Which emotion are you most likely to share without intending?
- What emotion do you share the most?

## Youth

### DAY 7: Sharing Fruit



- What do you want to make sure you don't forget about this week?
- What have you learned at camp that you could share with others?

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### DAY 7: Sharing Fruit



- What do you want to make sure you don't forget about this week?
- What have you learned at camp that you could share with others?

**Children/Intergenerational**  
**DAY 1: Gathering Fruit**



- What is your favorite fruit?
- Which fruit sounds or looks the silliest to you?
- Can you tell a story from picking fruit or shopping for fruit?

**Children/Intergenerational**  
**DAY 1: Gathering Fruit**



- What is your favorite fruit?
- Which fruit sounds or looks the silliest to you?
- Can you tell a story from picking fruit or shopping for fruit?

- What do you like doing so much, that it always gets you excited?
- How can other people tell you are having a good time?
- When have you gotten the giggles so bad, you could not stop?



## Children/Intergenerational DAY 2: Love and Joy

### Children/Intergenerational

#### DAY 2: Love and Joy



- What do you like doing so much, that it always gets you excited?
- How can other people tell you are having a good time?
- When have you gotten the giggles so bad, you could not stop?

- When have you gotten so wound up it was hard to settle down?
- What do people in your life say or do that is as you try to calm down?
- What helps you feel better when you are worrying too much?



## Children/Intergenerational DAY 3: Peace

### Children/Intergenerational

#### DAY 3: Peace



- When have you gotten so wound up it was hard to settle down?
- What do people in your life say or do that is as you try to calm down?
- What helps you feel better when you are worrying too much?





- When do you have a hard time waiting?
- What do you do when you are having a hard time waiting?
- Who is always patient with you?

**Children/Intergenerational**  
**DAY 4: Patience and Kindness**

**Children/Intergenerational**  
**DAY 4: Patience and Kindness**



- When do you have a hard time waiting?
- What do you do when you are having a hard time waiting?
- Who is always patient with you?



- What snack always tastes good, no matter your mood?
- Who do you count on to always be kind?
- What are some things you always count on to be the same?

## Children/Intergenerational DAY 5: Goodness and Faithfulness



## Children/Intergenerational

### DAY 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

- What snack always tastes good, no matter your mood?
- Who do you count on to always be kind?
- What are some things you always count on to be the same?

- If you were a puppy, what trick would be the easiest or the hardest for you to learn?
- Is it easier for you to be super quiet or very loud?
- What emotion is the easiest for you to share?



## Children/Intergenerational DAY 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

### Children/Intergenerational

#### DAY 6: Gentleness and Self-Control



- If you were a puppy, what trick would be the easiest or the hardest for you to learn?
- Is it easier for you to be super quiet or very loud?
- What emotion is the easiest for you to share?

**Children/Intergenerational**  
**DAY 7: Sharing Fruit**



- Who do you know that is really good at sharing?
- What have you learned at camp that you could share with others?



**Children/Intergenerational**

**DAY 7: Sharing Fruit**

- Who do you know that is really good at sharing?
- What have you learned at camp that you could share with others?

# Story Resources

## (Movies, Books, and Links)

This section provides ideas for additional storytelling resources along with some extra tools for exploring daily themes. Some of these are children's storybooks or movies while others are recommended as tools for leaders. It is recommended that you read through the list and imagine how you might use any resource before making a purchase. InsideOut has no relationship with the publishers on this list other than the one Chalice Press book listed. These are simply recommendations from our writers and leadership team to help equip your camp. You will find age-specific recommendations from this list at the end of each day's Daily Activities.

### Day 1

**"The Fruit of the Spirit."** A fun song about fruits and the fruit of the Spirit. Fun, rollicking song that will get the kids laughing as they try to keep up. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFumjSl68s>

***The Day When God Made Church: A Child's First Book About Pentecost*, by Rebecca McLeod Hutto (Brewster, Mass.: Paraclete Press, 2016).**

A great book about the day of Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Spirit. This is a good introduction to why we talk about the Holy Spirit for those who haven't heard of it before. It's also just a lovely book.

***When I Pray for You*, by Matthew Paul Turner (New York: Convergent Books, 2019).** A lovely picture book about how a parent might pray for their child. It brings in all the aspects of the fruit of the Spirit in a charming poem, illustrated beautifully and diversely. It would work really well for an end-of-the-day prayer time.

***The Giver*, by Lois Lowry (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993).** Jonas, the twelve-year-old in the story, sees things differently, which helps change his world. At the beginning of this story, no one can see colors, only things in black and white. You can share more by reading aloud from chapter three, starting with "Jonas thought again about the incident" and ending with "waiting for the thing to happen again." It refers to the first time he sees color when he plays catch with an apple with his friend Asher. You can discuss how God helps us see ordinary things differently by giving us the fruit of the Spirit, and

then invite the campers to connect this with times they might have seen God at work when others didn't.

**"The Fruit of the Spirit."** A fun way to memorize the fruit with music. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA-TMUDQ7us>

***Won't You Be My Neighbor? (Tremolo Productions, 2018).*** This documentary looks at the life, career, and guiding values of Fred Rogers (of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* fame)—a man who, in many ways, was guided by and exemplified the fruit of the Spirit in his life and work.

***Maybe God Is Like That Too*, by Jennifer Grant (Minneapolis: Sparkhouse Family, 2017).** A boy and his grandmother look for God in the city and see the Divine in everyday occurrences of people displaying the fruit of the Spirit. This would make a terrific introduction to the week as the first day winds down.

### Day 2

***Who Counts? 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, 2 Sons*, By Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017).** This is a delightful and short retelling of the three "lost" parables, and is a great introduction to them for young listeners. Easy to follow, delightfully illustrated.

**"The Parable of the Lost Sheep," Kids Hub TV** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJLfC8gPmAM>). This is a great animated retelling of the parable, with no language, just music.

***Frozen* (Disney, 2013).** This is the story of two sisters who struggle with things that tear them apart, but in the end find love and joy in each other and the world around them.

***Lilo & Stitch* (Disney, 2002).** Stitch is an alien who has escaped to earth. Lilo is a young girl dealing with grief and loneliness. They find each other and create a family full of love and joy. A good movie to show that all types of people can be loved and accepted.

**Caterpillar Summer**, by Gillian McDunn (New York: Bloomsbury, 2019). Share from Chapter 1 starting with the words “Most days, Cat didn’t mind watching Chicken” and ending with “She walked over and squatted down, ‘Chicken.’” You’ll be able to remind the campers that Jesus often called people “sheep,” just like the pet names of our main characters, so the parable was really about more than a lost animal. The extra reading option helps to show what it is like to search for a missing person. In this section of the book, Cat is babysitting her little brother after school until he disappears while at the fish market in San Francisco. Want to listen at the campfire? Here is a full seventeen-minute reading of the first chapter: <https://youtu.be/Zy7Gw1yHYE8>

**Scary Campfire Stories** (<https://www.ultimatecampresource.com/campfire-stories/scary-campfire-stories/>). A compilation of scary stories you can choose from.

**“Joy,” by Alan Shapiro (from *Song and Dance*, [Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002]).** This poem illustrates joy’s power as well as ways that joy is different from situational happiness.

**“The Joy of the Lord,” by Rend Collective** (<https://youtu.be/x3gLeCiMJqI>). This worship song is an upbeat celebration of the ways that joy is rooted not in circumstances but in God. The video includes chords and lyrics.

***Guess How Much I Love You*, by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram (Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2008).** This story illustrates the depths of love that the parent feels for the child, not unlike the love the of God for God’s creation.

***Raya and the Last Dragon* (Disney, 2021).** Mistrust and jealousy cause a community to break apart. One character begins a journey to repair the rifts and encounters many challenges along the way.

### Day 3

***The Quiet Book*, by Deborah Underwood (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2010).** This is a book that talks about the different “quiet” we might face in a day. The peaceful quiet, but also the quiet of fear or other emotions. A good book to use to talk about how we can feel peace even when there are big things happening.

**“What Is Peace” (video reading of the book) by Etan Boritzer,** ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-k08r\\_EnDc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-k08r_EnDc) ). A book about peace as both peace inside and peace as action. A great explanation of peace and how sometimes we can give up what we want for peace, but sometimes we can stand our ground and keep our peace inside. About 14 minutes long.

**“The Berenstain Bears: House of Mirrors/Too Much Pressure,”** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob8SSQpZDLY>). Two episodes that deal with accepting our physical appearance and also trying to keep a balance in life. Both episodes can address the way we are given inner peace by the Spirit. About 23 minutes long total.

**“Homemade Stress Balls,”** Coping Skills for Kids (<https://copingskillsforkids.com/blog/homemade-stress-balls> : Great craft that serves as a stress reliever and fidget item.

***Evan Almighty*, directed by Tom Shadyac (Universal Pictures, 2007).** Congressman Evan Baxter is called by God to make an ark in Virginia, like Noah. In this ten-minute clip, the flood comes from a broken dam and Evan’s ark becomes a refuge for the very people who have been watching and mocking him (<https://youtu.be/a-Q0F1rVYjs>). This scene can be used to reassure campers that even when we seem to doubt God, he will take care of us.

**“Currents, Waves, and Tides,” *Smithsonian Institution*** (<https://ocean.si.edu/planet-ocean/tides-currents/currents-waves-and-tides>). An introduction to the science behind waves from the Smithsonian.



**“Wave in a Bottle Experiment,” *Kidspot*** (<https://www.kidspot.com.au/parenting/things-to-do/wave-in-a-bottle-experiment/news-story/24a29605002a9e0dd59eabcc5780d3b4>). Experiment for kids designed to give a visual representation of waves.

**“ASMR, explained: why millions of people are watching YouTube videos of someone whispering,”** (<https://www.vox.com/2015/7/15/8965393/asmr-video-youtube-autonomous-sensory-meridian-response>). An introduction to ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response), a physical sensation of relaxation some people experience in response to certain sounds.

**Peace Crane Project** ([www.peacecraneproject.org](http://www.peacecraneproject.org)). An international exchange program that encourages students from around the world to fold peace cranes, write messages of peace on their wings, and send them to students in other countries. Their site includes great links to video and printed directions for cranes.

***I Am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness*, by Susan Verde** (New York: Abrams Books, 2017). This book follows a character through a series of ups and downs, demonstrating ways to stay centered, no matter what. This could be used to help campers discover ways to keep their peace, even when their world seems out of control.

***Charlotte’s Web*, directed by Gary Winick** (Paramount, 2006). Wilbur the pig is rescued from certain doom as a newborn runt but has a lot of challenges in front of him as a farmyard pig. When he is feeling scared and lonely, he finds an unlikely friend who helps him to find peace in the midst of turmoil. This movie shows how a community can be brought together to find hope and to help one another out. Campers may find parallels between certain characters and people they know in their own communities. How do the characters help each other? Who helps them find peace?

***Frozen II* (Walt Disney Pictures, Walt Disney Animation Studio 2019)**. Queen Elsa hears an inexplicable call to something she cannot explain. Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, and Olaf embark on a new adventure, facing challenges that they quickly become overwhelmed by. Together and apart, they find ways to support each other and calm the storm that has overtaken an enchanted wood. This movie demonstrates the ways that different people approach difficult or scary situations, and the way that one’s community can help you find peace, even when the world is overwhelming.

## Day 4

***Lilo and Stitch* (Disney, 2002)**. Lilo is a young girl, living with her sister after her parents’ deaths and struggling to fit in. Stitch is a runaway alien, bent on destroying all in its path. Lilo initially shows kindness and patience with Stitch, even when it is hard, and in the end that pays off as Stitch and Lilo form an unbreakable bond that expands to include many other characters.

***Maybe God Is Like That Too*, by Jennifer Grant** (Minneapolis: Sparkhouse Family, 2017). A lovely short picture book that talks about how God’s love and kindness is shown in everyday situations. Good book to spark discussion about how and when we can show the fruit of the Spirit in everyday life.

***How Kind*, by Mary Murphy** (Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press). A picture book for young children where kindness is contagious and leads to a great ending. Would be good for young campers or maybe for slightly older campers to read to younger campers.

***Wonder*, directed by Stephen Chbosky** (Lionsgate, 2017). Ten-year-old Auggie is willing to share about who he is in class when he is shown kindness by his teacher and another student, Julian, in this clip: <https://youtu.be/zJMCctR8ivc>. Campers who have seen the movie or read the book will note that Julian became Auggie’s bully, allowing you to talk about how real kindness takes constant resolve and patience.

**Downloadable Prayer Labyrinths** (<https://www.relax4life.com/download-paper-finger-labyrinths/>). This is a database of free downloadable finger labyrinths. Choose one or print multiple options and let campers choose new patterns to guide their prayers.

**Forrest Gump, directed by Robert Zemeckis (Paramount Pictures, 1994).** The character of Forrest Gump is marked by both patience and kindness. While you certainly would not want to show this entire movie (it is quite long and many sections are inappropriate for camp), you could use scenes from Forrest's relationship with his beloved, Jenny, to showcase patience and kindness in the midst of difficulty.

***I Am One: A Book of Action*, by Susan Verde (New York: Abrams, 2020).** This book highlights the way that every good thing in the world starts with a single action by a single person. Even the smallest act of kindness can make all the difference. Use this book to illustrate conversations on the power of kindness and patience.

**Desmond and the Very Mean Word, Desmond Tutu (Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2012).** When other kids are mean to Desmond, his first response is to use mean words back. He realizes later that he doesn't feel any better for the way he fought back. With the help of his priest friend, he begins to realize other ways to respond to mean behavior. This book offers a main character that both the younger and older campers will be able to identify with, as well as wisdom on the employment of patience even when things are terrible.

## Day 5

**Big Hero 6 (Disney, 2014).** A story about how a young boy must choose to be faithful to the memory of his big brother, who was killed in an accidental fire. He leaves behind a robot who is designed to stay faithful, good, and true. A good story to talk about how staying good and faithful can be hard when circumstances are sad or hard.

***I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness*, by Kerasocet (New York: Schwartz, 2018).** A story about a young girl who befriends another girl who is being bullied and changes an entire community. A good book to talk about how showing goodness and faithfulness can be shown in many ways.

***Pay It Forward*, directed by Mimi Leder (Warner Brothers, 2000).** Eleven-year-old Trevor lives in Las Vegas with his mother. At school, he offers an idea for his assignment to change the world that requires acts of kindness. These acts also change the lives of his mother and teacher. In this montage, his "pay it forward" concept is explained along with why he has the idea: <https://youtu.be/BdHWSq1p4vw>.

**The Peace Crane Project** ([www.peacecraneproject.org](http://www.peacecraneproject.org)). While the word *peace* is at the center of this project, the story of Sadako is a powerful example of faithfulness. Her continued effort in the face of overwhelming realities is inspiring. The PCP website has a tab with various ways to explore Sadako Sasaki's life story.

***Spiderman: No Way Home*, directed by Jon Watts (Marvel, 2021).** Turning the assumptions of most hero stories inside out, Peter Parker is determined to rescue the villains he faces from the problems that sent them down a darker path. In the end, Peter sacrifices much to help others and along the ways demonstrates his belief in the goodness of people and faithfulness to his own beliefs.

**“Nine Stories Made by and About Young People Making a Difference,” Leah Clapman, PBS Newshour, December 19, 2014** (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/student-reporting-labs-giving-back>). Nine stories about young people making a difference. Includes short video interviews.

**Horton Hears a Who! by Dr. Seuss (New York: Random House, 1954).** Horton the elephant hears a cry for help and does all he can to answer that call, even when everyone around him tells him he shouldn’t. This story shows an example of diligent care and faith that perseveres even in the face of extreme opposition. Campers will enjoy the silliness it presents but also recognize Horton’s wisdom as he endeavors to save the Whos.

**Vivo (Sony Pictures Animation, 2021).** A kinkajou travels from his home in order to help his human friend one last time. Along the way he meets all sorts of new characters and learns that he has to put faith in friends and sometimes set aside his preconceived notions. This movie goes a long way toward showing what an adventure even meeting someone new and accepting them for who they are can be. Campers could consider the complexities of helping others and making a difference as they watch this movie.

**“Hands,” by Jewel (track # 3 on *Spirit*, Atlantic Records, 1998, compact disc).** A song about how small decisions have power to make change.

## Day 6

**Inside Out (Pixar, 2015).** A now-classic movie that applies to many situations. A young girl must deal with all the emotions as she grows up, and she learns to show some self-control in the process.

**Eric, The Boy Who Lost His Gravity, by Jenni Desmond (Maplewood, N.J.: Blue Apple Books, 2014).** A short book about a young boy who learns the importance of keeping his temper, and then helps his sister to learn the same thing.

**Katie Loves the Kittens, by John Himmelman (New York: Henry Holt, 2008).** Katie wants the kittens to love her, but she is so impulsive that it doesn’t work that way until the end. A good story about showing self-control.

**Ice Age (Twentieth Century Fox, 2002).** A movie about the rescue of a human child by three unlikely creatures—a woolly mammoth, a saber-toothed tiger, and a sloth. A story of self-control, learning gentleness and kindness, and also forgiveness. Has some sad scenes in it, but overall a very kid-friendly animated movie.

**Island of the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O’Dell (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1960).** Twelve-year-old Karana is alone on the island. The others have left for another island after Aleuts killed her father, the chief, and wild dogs have just killed the only person with her, her little brother Ramo. She wants revenge, especially on the leader of the dogs which was left behind by the Aleuts. After campers read Chapter 15 aloud, tie this in with self-control leading to gentleness. Ask campers to share times when they’ve felt threatened or had difficulty with self-control in their lives.

**Spider-Man: Far from Home, directed by Jon Watts (Marvel Studios, 2021).** Peter Parker is determined to reform, rescue, and reclaim the goodness in those others see as villains, even to the point that other more fearful heroes look like the villains in the story. Peter’s gentleness and self-control challenge the traditional superhero genre.

**Star Wars: Episode VI—Return of the Jedi, directed by Richard Marquand (Lucasfilm, 1983).** Luke Skywalker shows enough self-control to not fight his father, claiming there is goodness in him, no matter what others might see. Luke is willing to put his life on the line to bring out the goodness that his father and others struggle to see.

**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, by J. K. Rowling (New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2007).** Early in this book, members of the Order of the Phoenix chastise Harry for his use of the “expelliarmus” spell, because he has become known for using it even in life-threatening battles. Harry never stops using it though—he chooses to be gentle and use self-control, over and over.

**42, directed by Brian Helgeland (Warner Brothers, 2013).** The story of baseball great Jackie Robinson showcases (among other things) the incredible self-control that he had to exert not only in his sport but in his life as he faced mountains of racism and resistance throughout his career and life.

***What the Road Said*, by Cleo Wade (New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2021).** Someone on a journey begins to feel afraid and asks the road what will happen if they go the wrong way or move too slowly. The road encourages the traveler to be gentle with themselves, and patient. This story is a good illustration of what it might look like to take one's time in making decisions when one isn't sure what to do next. The road encourages the traveler not to let their fear rule the day, but to have confidence in themselves.

***The Mitchells vs. The Machines* (Sony Pictures, 2021).** The Mitchell family is having trouble respecting one another or getting along. They are also on a road trip across the country when a robot apocalypse begins, and they find themselves the last people in the area who haven't been captured. They must learn to be gentle with one another and to work together in order to save the world. This movie can be a bit intense, though its silliness makes it palatable for younger viewers. It illustrates the way that we can repair relationships with some patience, love, gentleness, and self-control—and maybe even do more than that.

**“100 Mandalas”** ([www.100Mandalas.com](http://www.100Mandalas.com)). Kathryn Costa, author of *The Mandala Guidebook*, provides a wonderful overview and links to videos and samples.

## Day 7

***Babe*, directed by Chris Noonan (Universal, 1995).**

A pig who wants to be a sheepdog changes the farm and world in which he lives. A great movie that shows love, patience, self-control (and lack of), gentleness, and so much more. It does have some slightly tense scenes.

***When God Made You*, by Matthew Paul Turner (New York: WaterBrook, 2017).** Wonderful book about the celebration of each person's unique and wonderful nature. This author's books are great because they use child-friendly language without being babyish or dumbed down. This is just one of his titles; any of them would really fit.

**“Video that will change your life. I have no words left”** (<https://youtu.be/PT-HBl2TVtI>). Use this compilation of acts of kindness to show the compounding and far-reaching nature in sharing the fruit of the Spirit.**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid..** Tie this video in by discussing the people who have made a difference to each camper in their lives and how we can thank and imitate them to please God.

***Stone Soup*, by Marcia Brown (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1947)..** Powerful story about the ways a community grows when each person shares the gifts within them and allows others to care for them in return.

***The Rainbow Fish*, by Marcus Pfister (New York: North-South Books, 1992)..** Wonderful story of a beautiful fish that finds even greater beauty and purpose in what they share with others.

***Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*, by Amanda Gorman (New York: Viking, 2021).** This book encourages people to embrace changes. The poetry is stirring, no matter your age, and the illustrations fill out the message with thoughtful detail. This book could be used for a short story time and even as a way for campers to start thinking about what the fruit could look like away from camp.

## ***FruitFULL Faith Journal***

Journaling can be a powerful spiritual practice, allowing campers to process the concepts being presented at camp and to hear what God is saying to them directly about their unique concerns and situations.

The following pages offer some reflection questions, particularly for older campers. For younger campers, you might ask more general questions that are the same each day, such as

- What was your favorite part of the day today?
- What did you learn about God today?
- Did you hear or do anything today that made you think of something God might want you to start or stop doing?

Emphasize that each camper's journal is sacred and should be left alone by other campers. If you think journals would be safer if the counselor gathered them and put them in a safe place, have counselors do so.

Whether or not you use any of the suggested questions, consider setting aside time for journaling. Tell campers that their journals are just for them. If they would rather draw than write words, that's fine. Journals are tools for getting in touch with ourselves and with God.

# *FruitFULL Faith Journal*

## **Day 1: Gathering Fruit**

Galatians 5:22–26

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires. If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit. Let's not become arrogant, make each other angry, or be jealous of each other.

### **Reflect:**

Which fruit of the Spirit is easiest for you to understand?

Is there a fruit of the Spirit that is hard for you?

Who in your life shows you fruit of the Spirit?

### **Respond:**

Draw a tree. Place the fruit of the Spirit on the tree, and around each fruit write or draw a way that you might show that fruit in your life.



# FruitFULL Faith Journal

## Day 2: Love and Joy

Luke 15:3-7

### Lost Sheep

Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives."

### Reflect:

What do you think made the sheep wander away?

How do you think the sheep felt before the shepherd found it? How did it feel after?

Where do you see yourself in this story?

How do you see God's love for you in this story?

### Respond:

Draw some sheep. In one sheep, write your name and then in the other sheep, write the names of people you love. Then, draw a big heart all around the sheep to remind you that God's love is for everyone!

# FruitFULL Faith Journal

## Day 3: Peace

Matthew 8:23-27

### Calming Storm

When Jesus got into a boat, his disciples followed him. A huge storm arose on the lake so that waves were sloshing over the boat. But Jesus was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, rescue us! We're going to drown!"

He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you people of weak faith?" Then he got up and gave orders to the winds and the lake, and there was a great calm.

The people were amazed and said, "What kind of person is this? Even the winds and the lake obey him!"

### Reflect:

How do you think the disciples felt during the storm?

Where do you see yourself in the story?

What kind of scary or hard things happen to us every day?

### Respond:

Draw a picture of what you think it looked like before Jesus calmed the storm, and another picture of what you think it looked like after. Be sure to include yourself on the boat.

# FruitFULL Faith Journal

## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

1 Kings 17:8-16

### Elijah and the Widow

The LORD's word came to Elijah: Get up and go to Zarephath near Sidon and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to take care of you. Elijah left and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her, "Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink." She went to get some water. He then said to her, "Please get me a piece of bread."

"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any food; only a handful of flour in a jar and a bit of oil in a bottle. Look at me. I'm collecting two sticks so that I can make some food for myself and my son. We'll eat the last of the food and then die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that. This is what Israel's God, the LORD, says: The jar of flour won't decrease and the bottle of oil won't run out until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth." The widow went and did what Elijah said. So the widow, Elijah, and the widow's household ate for many days. The jar of flour didn't decrease nor did the bottle of oil run out, just as the LORD spoke through Elijah.

### Reflect:

What do you think made the widow decide to show patience and kindness to Elijah?

What do you think Elijah learned from the widow?

What is one situation or one person that you can show more kindness or patience toward?

### Respond:

Draw a big jar. In the jar, write down names of all of the people you want to show kindness and patience to this week. Ask God to help you show this fruit of the Spirit.

# FruitFULL Faith Journal

## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

Mark 12:38-44

### Widow's Coin

As he was teaching, he said, "Watch out for the legal experts. They like to walk around in long robes. They want to be greeted with honor in the markets. They long for places of honor in the synagogues and at banquets. They are the ones who cheat widows out of their homes, and to show off they say long prayers. They will be judged most harshly."

Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who's been putting money in the treasury. All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on."

### Reflect:

How do you think the widow felt when she saw everyone else putting in so much more?

How did Jesus say we should remember her? Do you have people in your life that show goodness and faithfulness?

Where do you see yourself in the story?

Is it easy for you to show goodness to others and be faithful with all you have, or is this a hard thing to do?

### Respond:

Draw some people in your life who show goodness and faithfulness. After you draw them, remember to pray for them!

# FruitFULL Faith Journal

## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

1 Samuel 24:1-5, 8-11a

### David and Saul

Even as Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was informed that David was in the En-gedi wilderness. So Saul took three thousand men selected from all Israel and went to look for David and his soldiers near the rocks of the wild goats. He came to the sheep pens beside the road where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to use the restroom. Meanwhile, David and his soldiers were sitting in the very back of the cave.

David's soldiers said to him, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he promised you, 'I will hand your enemy over to you, and you can do to him whatever you think best.'" So David snuck up and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. But immediately David felt horrible that he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

Then David also went out of the cave and yelled after Saul, "My master the king!" Saul looked back, and David bowed low out of respect, nose to the ground.

David said to Saul, "Why do you listen when people say, 'David wants to ruin you'? Look! Today your own eyes have seen that the LORD handed you over to me in the cave. But I refused to kill you. I spared you, saying, 'I won't lift a hand against my master because he is the LORD's anointed.' Look here, my protector! See the corner of your robe in my hand? I cut off the corner of your robe but didn't kill you.

### Reflect:

What do you think it means to be gentle to someone else?

What does it mean to show self-control?

I wonder what you would have thought if you saw this story in person.

What helps you to show self-control and gentleness?

### Respond:

Can you draw a time when you showed self-control? Can you draw a time when you showed gentleness or when someone showed gentleness to you?

# FruitFULL Faith Journal

## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

Galatians 5:16–26

I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do. But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law. The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's kingdom.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit. Let's not become arrogant, make each other angry, or be jealous of each other.

### Reflect:

I wonder if you understand the fruit of the Spirit differently than you did on the first day.

Everyone is given the fruit of the Spirit. Which one do you think you are best at showing?

What can you do to better exemplify all of the fruit the Spirit gives us?

### Respond:

Draw another tree, like you did on the first day. On the tree, draw ways that you will show the fruit of the Spirit to others around you. Remember to share your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control with those around you. Remember, you can always ask God to help!



# Connecting Camp to Home



We know that the most powerful influence on any person's faith life is those closest to them. For most children and youth, that is their family. All the camps, youth groups, and VBS programs in all the world can't equal the power of faith shaped by family and mentors.

The goal of these activities is to provide some practices for families at home. The themes follow the daily themes from camp. This provides another opportunity for campers to share their experiences with family and their family to join the conversation.

## Each day has the same outline:

**Scripture to Read** – This can be done individually or as a family. You can use the other activities and questions to dive deeper, or just discuss the reading.

**Questions for Reflection** – Whether it is a meal time, in the car, or an intentional conversation together, these questions invite storytelling and idea sharing.

**Activity to Share** – Every activity is different. Some are more complicated. Some require a little planning. All of them will create quality family connections.

**Challenges for Living it Out** – These can be used for reflection in the moment, as an invitation to share stories from the past, or as goals to vision around in the future.

You don't have to do these in any order, or even have to do them all. The hope is that these questions, activities, and challenges will provide a buffet or options for your family.

These could also be activities you share with other families in your church community. There is no wrong way to use these daily sheets. They are for your use, and our prayer is that they will help campers and families grow closer to each other and to God.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 1: Gathering Fruit

**Scripture to Read:** Galatians 5:16–26

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What does it mean to “get along” with others? Why do you think this often seems harder than necessary?
- Which fruit of the Spirit seems the hardest for you personally?
- How does watching others exhibit these fruit of the Spirit impact you?
- How might you practice using these gifts in your daily life?

**Activity to Share:**

We talk about fruit as singular because it is all of the same Spirit. We know it has different expressions. Can you come up with an example of what each fruit of the Spirit means to you?

- On a large piece of paper, or marker board, write the fruit of the Spirit and ask each person to write an example next to it. Post this somewhere where everyone can see it as a reminder to keep gathering fruit of the Spirit.
- For nine days, assign each day a fruit of the Spirit and have everyone post or text a picture that exemplifies or reflects that fruit. You could print them out and make a collage to hang.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- “Gather” fruit by looking for it in the world around you.
- Pick one fruit you struggle to see or share and practice using it for a week.
- Think about who you struggle most to get along with, and find a way to practice fruit of the Spirit in connection to them.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 2: Love and Joy

**Scripture to Read:** Luke 15:3-7

**Questions for Reflection:**

- When have you been lost, or felt lost? How did it feel to reconnect with others?
- When have you found something that you were sad about losing?
- Who did you tell about it or celebrate with?
- How might love and joy keep us from getting or feeling lost?
- How do you think your life might be bringing God joy?

**Activities to Share:**

1. As a family or church, invite younger members to interview older members about a time they were lost, or a time they found something important. Have them ask about the love and joy they felt in that experience. Provide time for everyone to share the stories they heard.
2. Make a list of times that feel strange to share love or joy and talk about ways you might share them, even when it is a challenge.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Use “love” in a sentence once a day for a week.
- List a joy every time you complain about something.
- Tell other people when they have brought you joy, or even just made you smile.
- Check in, once a week, on ways you are adding to one another’s joy, and ask what else you could do together to create joy or show love.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 3: Peace

**Scripture to Read:** Matthew 8:23–27

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What most commonly disrupts your personal peace?
- What are your biggest concerns for peace in your community or in the world?
- What helps you regain peace in your own heart and mind?
- How can finding peace in ourselves lead to peace in the world?
- If you were going to wake up Jesus to deal with an issue in our world, what issue would it be?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Find a quiet space together and start taking long, deep breaths. See if you can get into rhythm, all breathing together, just by listening to the people closest to you and finding a common pace. Afterward, spend a few minutes talking about how simple calming moments can make us feel more peaceful.
2. Draw pictures of things that make messes, cause chaos, or disrupt peace in the world. Let each person share their picture. After everyone has shared, brainstorm ways that we can seek peace in the midst of those troubles and focus on things we can do to help one another work for peace.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Set a time each day to pause and take a few peaceful breaths.
- Think about how you create, perpetuate, or impact the chaos around you, and see how you might limit your impact, especially on others.
- Don't be afraid to cry out for peace in the midst of trouble. You can't disturb a peace that does not exist.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

**Scripture to Read:** 1 Kings 17:8–16

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What is the difference between patience and doing nothing?
- When is it most difficult for you to be kind or patient?
- When do you make it hard for others to be patient or kind?
- In our scripture, Elijah seems to be someone who struggles to be patient and kind. How might he have treated people differently?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Work together to make a meal for someone in need. This could be a family member, neighbor, friend, or stranger. Or spend time cooking at a homeless shelter. Take some time afterward reflecting on the patience required to fix food, work together, and serve others. What made it fun, challenging, and rewarding?
2. Have each person pick someone they struggle to express kindness around. They do not have to say who it is out loud. Allow time for each person to brainstorm ways they might practice patience with that person, then spend a week practicing patience. Afterward, spend some time sharing how practicing patience impacted kindness. You can also do this in reverse, practicing kindness toward someone who tries your patience.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Look for ways patience or kindness can deepen difficult relationships.
- Remember that kindness and patience are not one-time things; they require repetition.
- Ask for grace and forgiveness when you have struggled to be kind or patient.
- Try to figure out why people who are not kind struggle to be so. It may help you have patience with them.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

**Scripture to Read:** Mark 12:38–44

**Questions for Reflection:**

- How often do you think the woman in the story comes to the temple?
- What do you think coming to the temple means to her?
- How much do you think the woman would give if she were suddenly wealthy?
- How often does a person have to do something good or faithful to really be considered faithful?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Goodness and faithfulness are not one-time actions. They are a way of being that shapes, or is reflected in, our character. Make a list of things you think reflect goodness or faithfulness and pick one to invest your time and energy in as a family or church group. This might be a mission project, fundraising effort, or relationship with someone in need. After a few months, spend some time reflecting on how the experience has impacted you individually or together.
1. Make a list of people you feel reflect God's goodness and faithfulness and choose one to interview. Invite them to share a meal or dessert and ask them about how they invest their time and energy in the things they care about. Afterward, spend some time reflecting on how that person might inspire your own levels of commitment or time management.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Make commitments and stick to them, even when it is inconvenient.
- Give of yourself, in some way, to things that matter to you.
- Give in ways that require some level of sacrifice without reward for you.
- Make sure you believe in the things to which you are most invested.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

**Scripture to Read:** 1 Samuel 24

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What is the silliest or strangest thing in this story to you?
- How do you think David shows self-control?
- Could David have shown more self-control at the end, or did he need to confront Saul in public?
- How can gentleness lead to self-control or how can self-control help us be more gentle?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Ask everyone to make a list of their “pet-peeves,” then brainstorm together healthy ways of responding to each. Encourage everyone to pick one on the list that is a challenge for them and try to use the suggestions to show better self-control. Check back in a week or so to see how the experiment is going.
2. Let each person take a turn rolling a ball toward a wall and seeing who can bounce it off the wall and get it to come back to them. Try again with a goal of having the ball touch the line but not come all the way back. Do it again and see who can hit the wall and have it come back the least distance. Finally, try to roll it toward the wall without hitting it. Who can get the closest without making contact? Spend some time talking about the challenges to being gentle. What are the challenges to being gentle with people?

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Share your thoughts without demanding your way.
- Care more about the person you are making a decision with than the outcome.
- Know where you struggle to show self-control so you are ready to respond in healthy ways.
- Practice giving grace to others and to yourself when there is a failure to practice self-control or gentleness.
- Write a prayer you can say in times of struggle rather than being overly aggressive or losing control of your emotions.



# Take Home Sheets



## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

**Scripture to Read:** Galatians 5:16–26

**Questions for Reflection:**

- Which fruit of the Spirit do you most easily share with others?
- How does sharing fruit of the Spirit with others impact you personally?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel your community needs you to share most right now?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Make a list of challenges or issues in the world or community, then match a fruit of the Spirit with each, thinking about how each might make a difference. Invite each person to pick one issue and the fruit they will share to try to make a difference. This could be a global issue or something in your family. There is no issue too big or too small for fruit of the Spirit to make an impact.
2. Keep a fruit bowl out in a public space and encourage everyone to stop and give thanks for a place they have seen or shared a fruit of the Spirit before taking a piece of fruit. After the bowl has been emptied, spend some time reflecting on how the fruit bowl has impacted everyone.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Share fruit of the Spirit with no expectation for what you get in return. If you are looking for a reward, you're not really sharing fruit of the Spirit.
- Don't be afraid for others to see fruit of the Spirit growing in your life.
- Regularly find ways to give God thanks for the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

# Letters from Camp

These templates are designed for you to send to the families of campers throughout the year. Through email or with an old-fashioned stamp, you can keep in touch, encourage faith formation, and improve your next summer's registrations. Edit the drafts to fit your setting and help campers make the connection between camp, home, church, and life in new ways.



## Letters from Camp • 3 Months



Dear Campers and Families,

We had a great time learning about and gathering fruit of the Spirit at camp. Hopefully you have found a lot of ways to share that fruit at school, at church, and in your community. With a new school year starting, you have surely had opportunities to use such fruit as patience and kindness. Hopefully there has been a lot of love and joy as well. We hope your time at camp helped you see God at work in new ways and navigate any unexpected challenges. We hope you have continued to feast on the Spirit's fruit and have seen them all around you.

We give thanks for you and your family and will be praying for you while you are away from camp. Camp may have a set number of days, yet we know the same God who gathered us in the summer is with us all year long. Our prayer is that you would know what a blessing you have been to us and so many others, and that the fruit of the Spirit would continue to fill you up, even as you share them with others.

In Jesus' name,

*INSERT CAMP REP NAME HERE*



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## Letters from Camp • 6 Months



Dear Campers and Families,

It may not seem like a growing season based on the weather outside, but we trust that the fruit of the Spirit is still ripe for the picking, all around you. Where are you practicing peace or patience? Where are you sharing joy and love? How have goodness, faithfulness, and self-control made a difference in recent days? When have you seen kindness and gentleness make a difference? Maybe they showed up through the holiday season as you gathered with family? Maybe you have seen them as the school year pushes forward and people are stressed and tired. These fruit of the Spirit we talked about at camp are important all year long.

As a new year takes shape, look for the people who are actively sharing fruit of the Spirit with you and those you see sharing them with others. At camp, when we think of those who share the Spirit's fruit, we think of you! We look forward to having you back this summer for another amazing week together in God's creation.

In Jesus' name,

*INSERT CAMP REP NAME HERE*



## Letters from Camp • 9 Months



Dear Campers and Families,

We are getting ready for you! Who knows what God will do with us this summer and who will share the adventure with us, but we are getting ready for whoever God sends our way. For those who have been to camp, we know this is a return to holy ground. I wonder if there is someone whom you might invite to experience with you. Is there someone who needs to experience camp for themselves? We would love for you to invite them and link them into a long chain of friends and family who have experienced God at camp.

While at camp this summer, we will be exploring the theme **Linked by Love** and dreaming up new ways to have fun together in God's creation. Registration is open at INSERT CAMP WEBSITE, and you can always reach us at INSERT CAMP EMAIL if you have questions.

In Jesus' name,

*INSERT CAMP REP NAME HERE*

# Writers and Partners

## **Anne Shelton – Younger Children**

Anne has been involved in children's ministry for more than thirty years. She has served in churches large and small, all over the United States and even overseas. Her passion is helping children and families find ways to see God all around them and to grow their faith every day! Anne has been active with the Forma Network for Christian Formation and is now one of our most experienced children's writers for InsideOut.



## **Teryl Cartwright – Older Children**

Teryl is a writer and teacher. God has blessed her with many exciting opportunities to pilot new Bible studies, ministries, and camp activities. She's enjoyed writing Christian curriculum for over twenty years and now serves as the Culture of the Call Coordinator at the Institute for Discipleship. She is a certified lay servant in the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church, but also has fun being a mom, grandma, and game inventor.



## **Rev. Erin Beardemphl – Intergenerational**

Erin is a camp veteran who lives in Southern California with her husband and two campers. She is an avid tie-dye artist, a writer of camp fun, and a preacher on the side for her colleagues in United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ churches in the area.



## **Chris Kaake – Younger Youth**

Chris first experienced camp at age four, and is probably walking around camp right now, trying to figure out what to do next. Its highly likely she just created a new team building activity. Her background is in nonprofit work and writing, and she has a passion for building community that comes through in all her work. Chris loves working with all ages, and with Junior High and High School youth in particular. Her faith has always been informed by her camp community, and she strives to pass that on in her work.



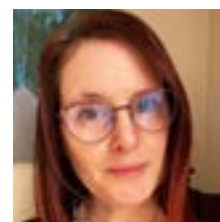
## **Lara Blackwood Pickrel – Older Youth**

Lara has been active in youth ministry and outdoor education for 25 years. She currently serves with the people of Hillcrest Christian Church (Overland Park, KS) as Senior Minister, with emphases on preaching, administration, and ministry with children, youth, and families. Through the years, Lara has written curriculum for a number of publications including Inside Out and Bible Lessons for Youth. You can find some of her musings on life and faith at <http://serendipitysoiree.net>.



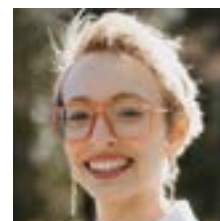
## **Meghan Adrian – Children and Intergenerational Worship**

Meghan Adrian is a Christian Educator and avid knitter who lives in beautiful British Columbia. During her years working alongside children and families, she has enjoyed watching the amazing love of God transform lives and bring hope and healing. When she's not in the church basement, warming up the glue guns, she can be found rambling around the mountainside with her beagle, Lola.



## **Emma Claire Martin – Youth Worship**

Emma-Claire, originally from Philadelphia has a passion for youth ministry and outdoor education. She studied at Princeton Theological Seminary and learned even more from local congregations and the four camps she has called "home" over the years. She has a deep appreciation for the study of Biblical Hebrew, eschatology, and camp crafts. In her free time, Emma Claire likes to play the banjo and try new recipes.



**Paully Adams –  
Biblical and Theological**

Paully Adams is currently fulfilling his call to ministry at St. John's Metropolitan Community Church in Raleigh, NC as an associate pastor of Worship Design and Planning. He also teaches high school math in Nash County, NC and is a member of the City of Wilson Human Relations Commission. Paully has worked with youth and children for over 30 years. His passions include role-playing, Stars Wars, working with teens, and digging into the Biblical Greek of the New Testament, unafraid of channeling their nerdy side.



**Brook Dwyer –  
Biblical and Theological**

Brook is a mother, church leader, and writer. She writes for a variety of denominations, coaches congregations on VBS planning, and does a lot of freelance writing for camps and congregations. What started as a mother writing Advent devotions for her children has led Brook on a journey into ministry that continues to expand. She recently completed her Master of Divinity, started a podcast, and wrote her first novel.



**Sara Gaylon–  
Biblical and Theological**

Sara serves as a Rostered Minister of Word and Service in the ELCA. She earned her Master's in Youth Ministry from Memphis Theological Seminary and believes that youth are capable of big theological insights with the right guidance. In addition to youth ministry Sara has worked in Education, Refugee Resettlement, and writing and editing for the United Methodist Publishing house. She and her fellow Deacon husband live in Decatur AL with their 3 boys, and 3 dogs



**Marlene Urban-Funk - Extras**

Marlene was invited to share a bunk room at camp in third grade. Ever since that moment of hospitality she has been a camp person! After 40 years of camp ministry as a camper, then volunteer, then paid program staff, Marlene still believes in the transformative power of camp. As an ordained Disciples of Christ clergy Marlene has served as a youth pastor, associate pastor and senior minister. She is currently leading a retreat ministry visioning launch process for the UMC of Southern California and the Pacific.



**Rev. Lee Yates – Managing Editor**

Lee juggles the roles of pastor, parent, writer, pastor's spouse, Disney nerd, and sports fan on a daily basis. One of the authors of *Faith Formation with a New Generation*, Lee has become a strong voice for the power of youth to transform the church and the intergenerational community's power to transform us all. You can find more of his work at [www.FaithShaping.com](http://www.FaithShaping.com) or through the various online expressions of Covina Community Church.





**“What's in a Name” is part of camp resources developed for  
*InsideOut Christian Resources for Outdoor Ministries.***

**Themes include:**

- All Things New: Look What God Is Doing!
- Get Real: Finding Your True Self in Jesus
- Power Up! Living in the Spirit
- Fearless Faith: Courage in Community
- Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ
- Beyond Belief! The Universe of God
- Peace Works: Empowering the Next Generation of Peacemakers
- This Is Our Prayer
- Creation Speaks
- What's in a Name
- **FruitFULL Faith**

**Sneak Peek at 2024**

**Linked by Love Overview**

**Narrative Overview**

We know that love comes from God, and sometimes we experience it directly. More often, God's love is manifest in relationships of all kinds that weave in and out of our lives. We see God's love in close friends and family—those we are born into and those we choose along the way. We see God in quiet moments where we are present with each other and in acts of profound grace when we have been far apart. We hear God in life-guiding and life-changing words of truth from those who know and love us. We know that such love links our lives, teaching us about commitment, intimacy, grace, and faith. As we seek to create and strengthen life-giving relationships, we remember that such love flows from God, links us all together, and in response, we give thanks to God.

DAY	THEME	SCRIPTURE
1	Linked in Love	Colossians 3:12–14
2	Linked through Acceptance	Luke 10:38–42
3	Linked and Present	Job 2:11–13
4	Linked by Grace	Luke 15:11–32
5	Linked in Truth	Exodus 18:5–24
6	Linked to Change	Philemon 1:8–17
7	Linked to Love	1 John 4:7–9; 19