



Influencer

Sunday Youth group Devotions

“Patterns”

STORIES FROM TODAY

This has been a busy day. It's hard to believe how much happened. What has been your favorite part of the day?

(Allow time for sharing.)

At this point, you have settled in, met your crews, and learned about your project. That is a lot to take in for just a few hours.

What is going through your mind about tomorrow? What are you excited about? (Allow time for sharing.)

Is there anything you are worried or nervous about? (Allow time for sharing.)

Who would like to open us in prayer? (Take time to pray together.)

The theme for today is Patterns.

During the program, we were challenged to think about what things we give our time and energy to every day. Things that we prioritize in our daily routine.

Spend 5 minutes answering these questions. Go ahead and write.

MY DAILY ROUTINE

Take a moment to list out your daily routine.

Every morning when I wake up, I

Before I leave home I

Every day I

When I get home I

Every night I



At tonight's program, we talked about the importance of our daily routines. Specifically, we learned that when our routines begin to keep us from being present with one another and with Jesus, we may need to re-evaluate our priorities.

What things do you currently prioritize in your normal day-to-day routine? (Allow time for sharing.)

This week our normal day-to-day routine is going to look completely different! We saw this afternoon what our schedule will look like each day, but what we prioritize during our time at camp this week is up to us.

Does anyone have any goals for their new routine this week?

(Allow time for sharing.)

Jumping into a new routine can be difficult. We are in a new environment, with new people, doing hard work, and talking about important things. Take time this week to be present in the journey.

At the adult meeting today, leaders received this Devo Kit.

We will be using the items in the kit throughout the week at evening devotions.

Nametags

This week we'll learn about the greatest influencer of all time, Jesus. We'll also learn about several people Jesus influenced and how they ended up influencing the world around them as well.

We all have an influence—or an impact—on the world around us. How we define ourselves and carry ourselves contributes to what our impact will be.

Each night, when we gather for youth group devotions, we will look at a different way to define ourselves. Sometimes we will look at ourselves from our own perspective, and other times we will consider how we think the world might see us.

Tonight, I want you to define yourself based on whatever it is you wrote down in your Mission Handbook as your number-one priority. For example, you might have written “Friends” as your highest priority. Or maybe you wrote “Grades,” or “Sports,” or “Music.”

Take a moment to think of what word expresses that priority for you. (Pass out “Hello my name is” stickers as they are reflecting.)

Now, please write that word or phrase on your new nametag and then turn to page 37 in your mission handbook. You will see a spot marked for Sunday. Go ahead and stick your nametag there. Every night we will add a new nametag to your Mission Handbook.

At the end of the week, we will be able to look back on how we define ourselves, how others define us, and how Jesus defines us. Perhaps we will look back and find that maybe our perspective has changed.

Be sure to keep your Mission Handbook with you. Bring it to morning programs, crew devotions, evening programs, and youth group devotions every day.

Prayer

Let’s pray.

Lord, thank you for bringing us all here safely. Thank you for all the things that make us who we are. Thank you for this opportunity to step outside our normal routine and gain new perspectives. I pray

that this week we have open hearts and minds to experience you. Amen.

Here is some important information you need to know for tomorrow:

Your Emotional Safety Matters!

What you're about to read is important. Really important. Not just because it's the way things are or because the world is full of weirdos. It's important because your emotional safety reflects God's love and concern for you. God made you in his own image, and he wants others to treat you with that reality in mind. So now...read on.

Safety isn't just physical safety while working. Equally important is your emotional safety at camp.

Please don't ever leave the work site without an adult—for any reason. If you do need to leave the site, you must be accompanied by a camp adult.

Be alert and aware of your surroundings. It's best not to walk off by yourself or be separated from your crew. Know where the rest of your crew is at all times.

If anything ever makes you feel uncomfortable or is inappropriate, please let the adult on your crew, your youth leader, or a member of the Red Shirt staff know immediately. We'll address the situation right away!

We want everyone to have a great week, and that can happen only if we understand and live out those words. If anything or anyone makes you uncomfortable this week, please talk to an adult right away.

Everyone needs to know about these four important camp locations:

- The cafeteria
- The tool room
- The main entrance and check-in table area
- The emergency meeting place (usually out front or in the largest parking lot)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Make sure everyone knows how to get their tools, supplies, and lunches in the morning
- Lights out tonight is at 11 p.m. Tomorrow is a big day!
- In your rooms tonight, an adult should point out the fire exits.
- Before you leave, be sure to turn in your Code of Conduct sheet to your leader.
- Have a good night!



Monday Youth Group Devotions

“Conformed”

STORIES FROM TODAY

We made it through our first day at our work sites. I’m sure you have stories to share. Let’s hear about your day. (Allow time for sharing.)

Let’s pray, giving thanks for today and asking God to give us open hearts and minds as we face challenges this week.

(Ask for a volunteer to open with a brief prayer)

This morning, we all wrote about a time when we said something or did something we didn’t actually believe in because we were worried about fitting in.

We all have moments when we’re scared to be our genuine selves. Moments when we are afraid those around us won’t accept us for who we are. Who is willing to share what you wrote about in your First Focus this morning? (Allow time for sharing.)



How does it feel knowing that we’ve all been afraid we won’t be accepted? (Allow time for sharing.) In this world, there are a lot of people telling us what to do, what to like, and what to believe in. Jesus tells us not to conform to what everyone else is doing just to fit in. Jesus calls us instead to follow him and stand up for what is right. He calls us to be loving and compassionate – to love others the way he loves us.

What are ways we can practice being our selves this week?
(Allow time for sharing.)

You are made in God's image. However, this does not mean that any one of us is perfect. We are human, after all. But this does mean that God made you with intention, and it brings God joy to see you using your gifts to show God's love to the world around you.

Your influence on the world is unique because you are unique. By being true to who God made you to be and standing up for what is right, you show Jesus' love to those around you.

Next time you are tempted to do or say something you don't believe in just to fit in, remember that who you are is more than enough. You are specifically and unconditionally loved by God.

You do not need to be somebody you are not to be loved by him.

Galatians 1:10 says this:

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Not conforming does not mean you should intentionally try to go against the status quo. However, when the world is influencing you to do something or be somebody that you know is not pleasing to God, that is when God urges us not to conform to society's expectations.

Tonight, we will define ourselves for the second time this week.

Take a moment to reflect on what makes you unique.

MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

What makes you unique? Are you fearless? empathetic? a good listener? Are you a talented artist? musician? athlete?

Take a moment to reflect on your unique strengths and then write down a few below.

(Hand out nametags as the campers journal.)

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on your unique strengths. Would anyone like to share what they wrote down? (Allow time for sharing.)

Let's pick one of our unique strengths to define ourselves this evening. Whichever strength you wrote in your Mission Handbook that you feel most drawn to, write it on your nametag.

Let's all turn to page 47 and stick this evening's nametag under the Monday section.

Let's end our time together in prayer. We will start with 30 seconds of silent, individual prayer. Use this time to talk with God about your unique strengths.

PRAYER

Let's pray. (Allow 30 seconds of silent prayer.)

God, thank you for making us in your image. Thank you for all the things that make us uniquely ourselves. I pray that as we continue to move through this week together, we can be confident in who we are while also continuing to learn more about who you created us to be. Lord, please use our unique strengths to positively influence those around us. Help us to know our strengths and know your purpose for our lives.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Variety show audition forms must be signed by an adult in your group who has seen and approved the act. Forms are available in the camp office and are due back there by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. Auditions are tomorrow night.

Additional announcements specific to our group.

Lights out is at 11:00 p.m.

Have a great night!



Tuesday Youth Group Devotions

“Transformed”

STORIES FROM THE DAY

Another day of work is behind us. How did things go at your work site today? Let's share our joys and struggles. What were your best and toughest moments of the day? (Go around the circle and share.)

Our theme today is Transformed.

How do you define transformation? (Allow time for sharing.)

Transformation is a thorough alteration in form or appearance. The thing about transformation is that it can be a slow process. We are not transformed overnight. However, the little decisions we make each day all play a role in our transformation to become more like Jesus.

This week we are helping this community go through a



transformation. Each work site is being thoroughly altered into something else, but, just like the process in our own lives, it takes time. What steps did your crew take today toward that transformation? Are you starting to see the transformation take shape at your work site? (Allow time to share.)

Our work sites will certainly be transformed by the end of the week.

But we also have the opportunity to be transformed or to continue to work on our own transformations through Jesus.

Who wants to share what Jesus is working to transform in them? (Allow time to share.)

During program, we transformed a piece of paper into a paper airplane. If we were to try and flatten out the airplane, it would never go back to the way it used to be. However, it could be transformed again into countless other things, like a boat or a fan!

The same is true for us. Once we begin to transform and become more like Jesus, we can't go back to who we were before. We keep moving forward.

When we accept Jesus into our hearts, we become new. We are forever transformed by his word. Although we will make mistakes along the way, God continues to transform us to be more Christlike—more loving, more forgiving, more patient, more kind. And that is a beautiful thing.

NAMETAGS

Transformation takes us from one place to another. Where are you right now? And where are you hoping to get to? Take 2 minutes to answer these questions...

Transformation

Where are you now, and where do you hope to get to? Fill in the blanks. *Example: Currently I am STRESSED, but I hope to transform into PEACE.*

Currently I am _____ , but I hope to transform into _____.

On tonight's nametag, we are going to use the word you wrote in the second blank of your Mission Handbook.

Go ahead and fill out your nametag. Then turn to page 55 and place the sticker under the Tuesday section. (Allow time.)

When it comes to transformation, where are you today?

Just beginning to see an area in your life that you want to transform?

Well on your way—able to recognize changes?

Struggling—change is hard!

Almost there—starting to feel a sense of relief?

Wherever you are, stay patient and lean into Jesus. He will always be with you.

PRAYER

Let's pray.

God, thank you for always helping us become more like you. Sometimes the process can be difficult and take a long time. I pray that as we continue through this week, we find new ways to listen to you and to find you. Help us be patient and persistent in our transformations. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Review tomorrow's free-time plans. Remember, you'll need be to back for the program at 7:30. It starts with the Variety Show. If someone in your group is in the Variety Show, make sure you're back by 7 p.m., or earlier.
- Keep writing Care Cards! The Care Card rack will come down at midnight on Friday night.
- Share announcements related specifically to your group.

Wednesday Youth Group Devotions “Renewed”

STORIES FROM TODAY

How’s everybody doing tonight? It was great having a half-day to do something together. Do you feel energized for tomorrow? Are you feeling motivated?



Today's theme is Renewed.

What is renewal? (Allow time for answers.)

Yesterday we talked about transformation. What is the difference between being transformed and being renewed? (Allow time for answers.)

By definition: Transformation is a thorough change in form or appearance.

Renewal is starting again.

Being transformed usually takes a good amount of time as God actively works in you. Being renewed is an opportunity that usually accompanies a change in your life. When things change, either in big or small ways, you have the chance to re-establish yourself, or start over.

Zacchaeus had a change of heart when he met Jesus, and that change created an opportunity for him to be renewed.

Zacchaeus chose to start again. He chose to become a new person.

Tonight we were reminded that we all have gone through a number of changes throughout our lives. Some changes were choices we made, while others were out of our control.

How have you been renewed after a big change in your life? (Allow time for answers.)

When Zacchaeus was renewed, he faced the challenge of having to show those around him that he was a changed person. Sometimes starting over when people already know you one way can be very daunting.

We worry that people question our decision, not believe the changes we say we've made, or not accept the new version of us. We worry that the world won't support us as we change.

NAMETAGS

Let's brainstorm a few ways we can support one another through changes.

Take 2 minutes to brainstorm a few ideas of how we can support one another through times of change, and then we will share out loud. (Pass out nametags while campers are journaling.)

Alright, that was 2 minutes. Let's share our thoughts. What ideas did you write down? (Allow time for answers.)

Now find a partner or two. Pick someone you are close to or have become close with this week. (You can also assign partners, if that is better for your youth group. Allow time to pair up.)

On your nametag, write down something positive about how you see your partner. (Allow time.)

Okay, go ahead and trade nametags. Place the sticker your partner wrote for you in your program guide.

PRAYER

Let's pray.

God, thank you for not defining us by our past alone and for the opportunity to start again. I pray that we can do the same for ourselves and those around us. That we can be brave enough to embrace the changes in our lives and humble enough to support our friends and families in their changes. God, we pray for discernment and trust when you lead us to new changes. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- You have only two more days to write Care Cards!
- In tonight's program, we heard from the summer staff crew that runs this camp. If you're interested in being a summer staffer for Group Mission Trips, attend tonight's informal Q & A session. (The time and place should have been announced at the program.) To apply for the summer of 2025, you must be at least one year out of high school. In other words, you'll need to have graduated this past spring.
- If any adult wants more information about serving at a Workcamp or Week of Hope as a volunteer, worship leader, director, or MC, stop by the camp office any time this week for more information.
- Share any announcements related to our group.

Thursday Youth Group Devotions

“Tested”

STORIES FROM TODAY

You all know the routine by now. Let’s share some stories from our day. We want to hear about your joys—and support you in your struggles. Who wants to go first? (Allow time for sharing, celebration, and support.)

Today’s theme is Tested. We heard several stories throughout the day today:

the sick woman who was cured,

the blind man who was healed,

the child who was generous,

and the thief who was saved.

The sick woman, the blind man, the child, and the thief all have something in common. Their names are never mentioned in the Bible. The Bible does not tell us who they are. However, the Bible does tell us about their courageous faith and how Jesus’ influence changed their lives.

Jesus’ influence can change our lives as well. Jesus knows you, sees you, hears you, and loves you. Sometimes it can be scary to let Jesus into our lives because we know that things will begin to change.

How has Jesus influenced you so far this week? (Allow time for sharing)

This morning, we wrote about a situation where we felt unseen or unheard. Who wants to share what they wrote about? (Allow time for sharing.)

At the end of the program, you were invited to write your name on a nametag and stick it up on the cross.

We brought our names up to the cross because we are known by Jesus. We are each called on by name. Jesus sees you, even in the moments like the ones you wrote about this evening. And he sees you now.

Even if the rest of the world does not know you, Jesus does. And just like the sick woman, the blind man, the young kid, and the thief, God intentionally created you to be part of his love and ministry.



Does anyone know what it's called when you have confirmed your identity on social media? (Allow time to share.)

Verified. Being verified means that you are who you say you are.

On many social media platforms, when you are verified, you receive some type of symbol to show your followers that you are who you claim to be. On some platforms, you can become verified only once you have reached a certain level of fame.

What do you think it means to be verified in Christ? (Allow time for sharing.)

We are all already verified in Christ because Jesus already knows us. We do not need to prove anything to him. It doesn't matter how many followers you have, how famous you are, or whether you have a special symbol next to your name. You are already verified in Jesus.

Earlier this week, we talked about different ways we can support one another while we are being transformed or renewed. Tonight, let's think about how we can help one another feel heard and seen.

What can we do to help each other feel known? Let's brainstorm specific actions we can take to help us connect with God and with each other when it feels like we are invisible to the rest of the world. I'll write down all of the ideas, so we have a record of what we talk about tonight.
(Allow time for sharing and record the ideas your group's ideas.)

NAMETAGS

Tonight, we wrote our own names on our nametags and left them on the cross.

What did it feel like to leave your name on the cross? What were you thinking?

(Allow time to respond.)

We then spoke about what I see in you. I gave you each a new nametag. Written on your new nametag is something about you that stands out. Something special about you.

I would like to do a little activity tonight.

We'll go around the circle and, if you are comfortable, share what was written on your new nametag.

When it is your turn, please read your nametag aloud and then you can stick your nametag into your Mission Handbook on page 72. If you do not wish to share, simply say pass and then place your nametag into your Mission Handbook.

I will then hand you an additional sticker to add to your nametag. (Hold up sticker.) This is our version of a verified symbol. Let this be a reminder to you that you are verified in Christ.

(Go around the circle until each person has shared their nametag and received their verification.)

PRAYER

Who would like to close us in prayer? (Allow time for a volunteer to pray.)

Have a wonderful night and get some sleep!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Because tomorrow is the last day at our work sites, remember to return any borrowed tools to the tool room or to the person who loaned them to you.
- Quartermasters need to return borrowed ladders to the tool room or talk to your site coach about picking them up from your site.

- Remember to pick up your group's ladders from the tool room tomorrow night.
- Organizers must turn in your first-aid kit tomorrow when you return from working.



Friday Youth Group Devotions

“Approved”

STORIES FROM TODAY

Today we finished our projects (or got as close as we could to completion) and said goodbye to our crews and our residents.

What’s next? There is a lot to do!

Many of us are still writing our Care Cards.

We want to hang out with the new friends we met here at camp.

Plus, it’s a great idea to pack some things in the vehicles tonight, like our tools.

Before we get wrapped up in the wrapping up, let’s unpack what happened here this week.

Would anyone like to share a favorite memory from today or from this week? (Allow time for sharing.)

This week’s theme was Influencer. This week we learned a lot about ourselves and about how to support others. We talked about remaining true to ourselves even when it may be easier to conform. We learned about the slow process of transformation and the difficult nature of change. We acknowledged that sometimes we feel like the world doesn’t know us, but Jesus always does. And today we discussed what it means to be an influence every day.

How have you been influenced by this week? (Allow time to share.)

How have you been an influencer this week? (Allow time to share.)

On Sunday, we were asked to think about our daily routines. The things we normally put a great deal of time or energy into. Then we were immediately thrown into a whole new routine and challenged to find new ways to reprioritize things in our life.

As we head home and jump back into our day-to-day routines, how do you hope to change yours? What will you do differently? (Allow time to share.)

What do you hope your influence will be back home? (Allow time to share.)

NAMETAGS

Tonight, you will receive your last nametag of the week. I want you to think back to our program this evening. We spent some time being affirmed and affirming our crews.

Think about what your crewmates said your influence was on them this week. Did you bring joy to your crew? Or encouragement? Were you enthusiastic? Or make people feel comfortable?

Take a moment to fill out this prompt. (Allow 2 minutes for journaling. Pass out nametags.)

What words did your crew use to describe you and your influence on them this week?

On your final nametag of the week, I want you to select one of the words you wrote down in your Mission Handbook. Pick the one that you are most determined to continue as you head back home. The one that describes what you want your influence to be.

Go ahead and write that down on your nametag and place it in your mission handbook on p. 80.

Let's take 30 seconds to silently review our nametags from this week. Flip through your Mission Handbook and reread each definition of yourself. I will then close in prayer.

PRAYER

God, thank you for walking with us throughout this journey.

Help us remain true to the people you created us to be.

Be with us in our transformations. Help us welcome change and accept your renewal.

Thank you for always knowing us, loving us, seeing us, hearing us. Even when we do not feel known by the world around us.

Thank you for verifying us in your name.

Thank you for giving us the greatest influencer of all time—Jesus.

And help us be positive influences, spreading your love to everyone we encounter.

Amen.

Tonight during program, the MC mentioned that you are going to get a verification pin when we leave Saturday morning. Where will you keep your verification pin? (Allow time and share ideas.)

If somebody back home asks you what the pin represents, what will you say?

Let's go through our announcements about tonight and tomorrow. We have a lot to discuss!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Make sure everybody knows the procedure for loading and checking out tomorrow. If you haven't notified the camp office about your checkout time, be sure to do so before going to bed. In the morning, a staff member must check you out before you hit the road.
- Before leaving, you can pre-register for next summer's mission experience with Group Mission Trips! No deposits are required until the end of October. Check with the camp office if you need a copy of the 2025 catalog.
- The Group Mission Trips team is dedicated to bringing you the best mission trip experience possible. If you'd like to provide feedback about this week, you can fill out a camp survey at this link gmt.camp/feedback. We want to hear about everyone's experience—youth and adults!
- Share announcements related to your group.
- Thank everyone for an amazing week!



