



2025 Faith Work Camp Devotion Guide

East Bank, WV
July 5-13, 2025



Sunday Youth group Devotions

“Equipped”

STORIES FROM TODAY

This has been a crazy day. We arrived at camp, moved into our home for the week, met our crews, and learned what projects we'll be completing. What has been your favorite part of the day? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

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

Are you worried or nervous about anything? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Who wants to open in prayer? *(Take time to pray together.)*

FOCUS:

The theme for today is **EQUIPPED**.

During the program, we heard about the acronym EQUIP.

EQUIP

Evaluate

Question

Understand

Improve

Proclaim

*Write down what comes to mind
when you read this acronym.*

At tonight's program, our MC shared the start of their story. A story about encountering some type of conflict or decision. Then you reflected on where you are in your life and what experiences you've had.

Take a few minutes to write about what's happening in your life now or about a big decision or conflict you previously experienced. Either works fine. *(Allow about 3 minutes for writing.)*

Write about what's happening in your life now. Are you navigating a difficult decision or conflict? Or write about an experience where you struggled to work through a decision or problem.

Throughout the week, I'll be encouraging you to share during our devotions. Please share only if you feel comfortable. My hope is that by week's end, we'll all feel like we can share at least a bit of our stories. Would anyone like to share what they wrote down this evening? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

This week we'll explore the process of EQUIP through the eyes of Saul. What do you know about Saul? *(Allow time for sharing.)*



Saul was an angry man who hated Christians and wanted to stop the spread of Jesus' ministry. He even went as far as killing people who were spreading Jesus' teachings.

Acts 8:3 says:

But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Clearly Saul wasn't a nice guy. This week we'll study his transformation from a man filled with hate and violence to a faithful and influential disciple of Jesus.

Activity

Tonight, we'll write letters to ourselves. Turn to your mission handbook.

You'll have about 5 minutes to write a short letter to yourself. Write about how you're feeling, your first impressions of your crew, anything you're nervous or excited about, and anything you hope to gain from this week. *(Allow about 5 minutes for writing.)*

Please keep your Mission Handbook on you always. You'll need it for morning programs, crew devotions, and then our evening youth group devotions.



If you haven't done so already, write your name on the inside cover of your Mission Handbook.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for bringing us here safely. Thank you for all the joyful and fun moments in our lives but also for the challenging ones. Please fill our toolbox so we can approach each challenge with faith and patience long past this week. Give us open hearts and minds to experience you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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 God's own image, and God 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.
- Have a good night!



Monday Youth Group Devotions

“Evaluate”

STORIES FROM TODAY

Today was our very first day at our sites! I’m so excited to hear about it! How was your day today? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

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

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

FOCUS:

Our theme for today is **EVALUATE**. We’ve been talking about our immediate reactions to difficult or challenging moments.

This morning, we learned about our first tool of the week: Breathing. It feels very simple to use, but learning to control our breathing helps us gain clarity on our situation and prevents us from having a negative initial reaction.

In the morning program, we practiced a breathing exercise that required us to slow down and recenter on Jesus. How did this exercise go for you? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Did anyone find it to be challenging to sit still and focus on your breathing? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

If you thought the exercise was challenging, why? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Taking time to slow down and refocus when we face a challenge can prevent us from saying or doing something we don't mean. It can help us reflect on the best decision.

During tonight's structure-building challenge, were your moments of pause helpful? challenging? both? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Yesterday, you wrote down the beginning of a conflict or problem you're either facing now or faced in the past. This evening, take a few minutes to reflect on when this situation occurred and what your immediate reaction was.

Evaluate

When the challenge you wrote about yesterday first appeared in your life, what was your immediate reaction?





James 1:19-20 says:

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Activity

Tonight, we'll pause to evaluate our current situations.

During the next few minutes, I'll give you various things to Evaluate. Please close your eyes and focus on how you're feeling physically, what you're experiencing emotionally, and where you are spiritually.

(Read the following section slowly, allowing time for reflection.)

Today was your first day at your site. How do you feel about your project? Did you meet your resident today? Are you getting along with your crew so far? Are you nervous about anything?

Yesterday we arrived at camp. Were you excited to be here? Were you anxious? Have any of those anxieties settled?

Earlier this week, we left home to come here. What did you leave behind? Was anything causing you stress at home? What will be waiting for you when you return?

Four whole days are ahead of us here at camp. What do you want to get out of this experience? What do you want to learn? How will you be different by Saturday?

Take 2 minutes to reflect and brainstorm.

Evaluate

How are you feeling after your first full day of camp? Are you nervous about anything? What are you looking forward to? What do you hope to gain from this week?

Reflect on your current emotions. Write down any goals you have for this week.

Goals:

Thank you for reflecting on your goals for this week. Is anyone willing to share theirs? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Thank you for sharing and for using this time to pause and evaluate your current situation. I hope this sets you up for a successful, joyful, and life-changing week.

Prayer

Let's end our time together in prayer. We'll start with 30 seconds of silent, individual prayer. Use this time to talk with God about your hopes for this week.

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

God, thank you for meeting us where we are. Thank you for inviting us to pause, to wait, in your presence. Help us lean on you throughout the week. In any moment of frustration or fear, help us pause and turn to you before reacting. This week, help each of us grow closer to you. 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.
- Continue adding to the camp's community gift.
- Add any announcements specific to your group.
- Lights out is at 11:00 p.m.
- Have a great night!

Tuesday Youth Group Devotions

“Question”

STORIES FROM TODAY

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 today?

(Go around the circle and share.)

FOCUS:

Our theme today is **QUESTION**.

In our process, the questioning step is when we allow ourselves to feel emotions that a tough situation causes. It's a very vulnerable step, because it requires us to be honest with ourselves about how we're feeling and honest with God and our community.

This week, we're serving the community of East Bank while also creating our own little community at the school. Between our youth group, your crew, your new friends, and Red Shirts, so many people here care about you. How can we lean on and support our community this week? *(Allow time for sharing.)*



How does it make you feel when your friends ask you for help? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Most of us don't think twice when someone we love asks for our help. Still, we hesitate when we're the ones in need. Why is it so difficult to ask for help? (*Allow time for sharing.*)

It's important to understand that we aren't meant to tackle challenges alone. You're not a burden to others when you ask for help. I encourage each of you to practice asking for help when you need it this week.

Activity

Now, what about being honest with Jesus? This can be a challenge, too, because we don't want to complain or "fight" with Jesus.

Tonight, we heard how both Saul and the father of the sick boy questioned Jesus. Neither of them understood what was happening to them or why. Jesus answered both.

Jesus wants to have a relationship with you. And that means hearing the good stuff *and* the bad stuff. Just as you'd talk to a friend, Jesus wants you to talk to him about your real emotions, frustrations, and questions.

Take a few minutes to reflect on how you're feeling right now. Are you exhausted? excited? nervous? joyful? In the space provided, write a short note to Jesus about how you're currently feeling.

My Current Emotions

How are you feeling right now? Practice communicating with Jesus by writing him a short note about your emotions.

Take a couple of minutes to write any questions you have for Jesus. These can be big, like “What’s the meaning of life?” or smaller, like “Why’d we get a flat tire while driving to camp?”

(When everyone is finished writing, close in prayer.)

Let’s pray.

God, thank you for always letting us bring our questions, frustrations, and real emotions to you. Thank you for seeing all the questions we wrote tonight—and even the ones we still quietly carry in our hearts. Thank you for caring about how we’re doing and for wanting a personal relationship with us. I pray that we can be more open with ourselves, with our community, and with you. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Wednesday Youth Group Devotions

“Understand”

STORIES FROM TODAY

How’s everybody doing tonight? It was great having a half-day to do something together. Are you eager to get back to your work site tomorrow? *(Allow time for sharing, celebration, and support.)*

FOCUS:

Today’s theme is **Understand**. This step in our process challenges us to absorb what we can and then trust Jesus with what we still can’t make sense of.

This morning, we learned our tool for the day—Scripture. We were challenged to memorize our theme verse for the week, Second Corinthians 9:8. Does anyone have it memorized yet? Is anyone willing to prove it? *(Allow time for responses.)*

I’m sure if we keep it up, we’ll all memorize the verse before we head home Saturday.

At tonight’s program, we learned about Ananias. Jesus asked Ananias to do something that seemed confusing. Ananias even pushed back a bit, reminding Jesus that Saul wasn’t a good man.

Although guidance from Jesus isn’t always as clear as it was for Ananias, Jesus is constantly guiding us too. Sometimes we might be asked or nudged to do something we really don’t want to do. Sometimes we might *know* the right thing to do yet really not want to do it.

Has anyone been in a situation like that? What happened?
(Allow time for answers.)

Ananias obeyed Jesus. Even though he didn't fully understand why Jesus would choose Saul or how helping Saul was a good idea, Ananias still did exactly as Jesus asked.

When we don't fully understand what's happening or why, it can be challenging to stay obedient to Jesus' plan. When our emotions feel overwhelming, it can be difficult to do what we know—or think—is right.

During difficult times, spending time in Scripture and prayer helps us focus on Jesus and process our emotions.

Activity

Tonight, we'll identify some of the more difficult emotions to process. This can differ for everyone. Some people are more affected by fear, while others have a big reaction to feeling confused or misunderstood.

Take 2 minutes to think about the emotions you struggle with the most, especially during challenging times. (Allow time.)

Complicated Emotions

Circle 5 emotions that are toughest for you to process.

*Relaxed, Ecstatic, Cynical, Frustrated, Resentful,
Determined, Worthy, Empathy, Fascinated, Stimulated,
Disappointed, Lonely, Empty, Self-Conscious, Anxious,
Scared, Sensitive, Thankful, Regret, Trusting,
Vulnerable, Overwhelm, Worried*

Alright, that was 2 minutes. Let's talk about this. What emotions did you list? *(Allow time for answers.)*

Now I'll give each of you 5 notecards. On one side of each notecard, write one emotion. Then use your Bible or phone to look up each Scripture. Pick one or two Bible verses to help you feel peace whenever that feeling appears. Write your selected Bible verses on the back of each corresponding emotions notecard. You can start looking up the Bible verses. *(Hand out notecards. Allow time for writing.)*

Complicated Emotions, Faithful Scripture

Look up each Bible verse. Then choose one or two to help you process each emotion you circled.

- *Psalms 37:7a*
- *1 Corinthians 13:13*
- *2 Timothy 1:7*
- *Hebrews 11:1*
- *Philippians 4:13*
- *Jeremiah 17:14*
- *1 Peter 3:8*
- *Proverbs 17:22*
- *John 14:27*
- *Galatians 5:1a*
- *Hebrews 10:35*

Thank you for spending time in Scripture this evening. I hope you can continue using this tool long after we head home. Whenever you feel overwhelmed or face tough emotions, ground yourself in God's Word.

Prayer

God, thank you for asking us to do difficult things. Thank you for knowing that we're capable of spreading your Word and your love. Thank you for understanding that sometimes it can be difficult for us to know what to do or how to process our emotions. You meet us where we are, and we're so thankful for the opportunity to hear your Word through the Bible. Help us create habits of reading Scripture, praying, and refocusing on you when life gets overwhelming. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- You have only two more days to write Care Cards!
- In tonight's program, we heard from the Summer Staff who run 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 summer 2026, 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 your group.

Thursday Youth Group Devotions

“Improve”

STORIES FROM TODAY

By now, you all know the routine. 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.)*

FOCUS:

Today’s theme is **Improve**.

All week, we’ve been filling our toolbox with ways to help us navigate difficult situations or evaluate which way to go when we face an exciting decision. Now all that’s left to do is execute the plan. We’ve evaluated the situation, asked questions, and accepted what we can and can’t understand. It’s time to make a decision and execute the solution.

Tonight we reflected on our First Focus “Start, Stop, Continue” journal from this morning. Will anyone share what they wrote? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

At the end of tonight’s program, you were invited to write something you either want to start or stop in your life that will draw you closer to Jesus.

Then you either stuck it on the cross or left it at the cross, representing your commitment to what you’re adding or leaving behind. This represents your commitment to living a more Christ-like life.

You then shared that decision with us/me. We've formed a community here at camp, and as we head home, our youth group will continue to be that community.

How can we support one another in our faith journeys?

(Allow time for sharing.)

Let's go around the circle. If you're comfortable, share whether you're choosing to start or stop something. Or maybe you're choosing to do both.

You don't need to share *what* you're starting or stopping.

Simply say "Start," "Stop," "Both," or "Pass." I'll go first.

(Share if you will start or stop something. Don't elaborate with details, so everyone feels comfortable sharing a little.)

Activity

I have some bags of letter beads, one bag for each of you.

Inside are pieces of string and beads that spell out EQUIP.

(Hand out the bags.)

As we head home Saturday, let's remember the tools we've learned here. The next time we're struggling, we'll know what to do.

With your EQUIP beads, create a bracelet, bookmark, keychain, or something to hang on a backpack. I have a card with some ideas, if you'd like to see them. You can look at this keepsake every day. Use it as a reminder to breathe, to be honest with Jesus, to trust in him, and to take the leap of faith.

Take 10 minutes to create your item and be present with one another. After we're done, I'll ask someone to close in prayer. *(Allow time for everyone to create an item.)*

Prayer

Who'd like to close in prayer?

(Select a volunteer to pray.)

Have a wonderful night and get some sleep!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because tomorrow is the last day at our work sites:

- 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.
- Share announcements about packing up tomorrow night. Make a plan, because tomorrow night will be a little crazy!



Friday Youth Group Devotions

“Proclaim”

STORIES FROM TODAY

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

So now what?

Tonight, we'll finish writing our Care Cards.

We'll hang out with the new friends we met here at camp.

We may even start packing some things in the vehicles tonight, like our tools.

Before we start packing up our physical tools, let's review what emotional tools we'll be bringing home with us.

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

FOCUS:

This week's theme was **EQUIPPED**.

After our week together, I hope you're all feeling equipped to handle all sorts of challenges. I hope you feel confident that the next time you face a difficult situation, you'll have the tools you need to get through it.

This week we've learned and practiced several tools. From breathing techniques to gratitude, we now have many tangible ways to help us process situations. Which tool did you find most helpful? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

What tool did you find most challenging? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Today's tool was a Gratitude Journal. What is something from this week you're thankful for? *(Allow time for sharing.)*

Activity

I'm thankful for each of you and for how you all embraced this week, each other, and this community. At the start of the week, we each wrote a letter to ourselves. Since then, so much has happened. We've changed in big and small ways, and we'll head home stronger and wiser.

Tonight, you'll each write a second letter to yourself. Use this letter to remember how you're feeling right now. To remember the joy this week has brought you. The friendships, the challenges, the adventures.

While you're doing this, I will chat with each of you individually. I want to share why I'm thankful for each of you.

You can begin writing your letter on the next page.



(Allow time for journaling. Pull each camper aside and tell them why you're thankful they were here this week.)

My Week

Write a letter to yourself that will remind you of your week at camp. Write about the highs and lows you experienced, the friends you made, and the moments you never want to forget.

Thank you all for a truly incredible week! It was an honor to grow in faith alongside you.

Prayer

Would anyone like to close us in prayer one last time?

(Allow time for a volunteer to pray.)

Let's review announcements about tonight and tomorrow. There's a lot we need 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.
- Share announcements related to your group.
- Thank everyone for an amazing week!



