

Long
Live

staff
devos

summer
2006

the
king

Camp Ray BIRD

Behold He Comes

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are says of great trials
Of Famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Behold He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes

These are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of your servant David
Rebuilding the temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers in your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord

Staff Training:Day 1 Behold He Comes

The Days of Elijah...

Background: The days of Elijah were wicked in Israel. He was surrounded by evil and called to combat it in both word and deed. Elijah appeared on the scene to combat the rampant worship of Baal and to draw the Israelites back into worship of the One True God. His name means "The Lord is my God". You can read in 1 Kings 16: 29-33 how Ahab became King of Israel, married the wicked Jezebel, and made Baal worship pervasive in the land. In chapter 17 of 1 Kings, Elijah pronounced a draught in the land to move Ahab to repentance. It did not work. Today we will drop in 3 years later, the draught is still going on and Elijah arrives to set some things straight.

Read 1 Kings 18:16-46

Explain some of thoughts you have as you read...

How many prophets stood to oppose Elijah?

As you think about your summer here, what do you see standing in opposition to you?

In what way today are the people around you screaming out to other gods to hear them?

Do you believe God can cause you to stand firm in faith this summer?

As Elijah earnestly looked and waited for the answer to his prayer for rain until he saw it coming, what are you earnestly praying for this summer?
For yourself?

For the campers? (whether counseling staff or not :)

For the staff?

Read James 5:17-18. Elijah was just like you. Pray earnestly.

Staff Training: Day 2 Preparing the Word of the Lord...

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8

As God chose Elijah to combat the idolatry of his day, God has chosen you specifically to be here this summer to share with campers and staff around you your message and relationship with the One True God.

If you are a counselor this summer, your preaching of the word will be in direct ministry to those campers that the Lord entrusts to your care. You will prepare lessons, teach small group, lead during round up and walk through the next 5 days side by side with 8 younger souls.

If you are on support staff, your preaching and role may not be quite as direct. Being one step removed from the campers, you may tend to focus on staff relationships and go through the motions of serving in your area. But we would encourage you to seek out relationships with the campers in the group you are paired with, learn their names, listen and ask, hear their story and be ready to give and answer for your hope in Christ. They need more love than 2 counselors could possibly give them and that is why God has you here.

Why do you think that Paul stresses to Timothy that he is giving him the charge to preach in the presence of God and Jesus?

What is involved in preaching the word according to verse 2?

How are we to preach according to verse 2?

In light of verses 3-4, why are we commanded to be careful in our instruction?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Is there any area of sharing the gospel that you feel you need help with? (please share this with the leadership person in your area)

Explain the various commands in vs. 5:

Pray now, that someday you will be able to say as Paul did in vs. 7, that you will be able to finish the race well and have kept the faith.

Staff Training: Day 3 Days of Great Trials...

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

Why does Peter exclaim Praise be to God!, what is he thankful for?

Which of these especially resonate with you?

Assuming by his words that we are not shielded from trials, what does His power shield us from??

Where have you experienced suffering and grief?

What is the purpose for this?

How do you feel about God using trials to refine your faith?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Share a time when you watched someone go through a trial which caused you to give God glory and praise?

Staff Training: Day 4 Prepare the Way of the Lord...

Read Luke 3: 1-20

How does holiness in your life and walk give credence to what you teach/say?

Why is it essential? (what happens without it?)

Pray now that as you are refined this summer, those around you would drop to their knees in praise as they see Christ revealed in you.

What do you like or appreciate about John the Baptist?

What does it mean to have fruit in keeping with repentance? (see also Romans 1:5)

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Read John 3:22-36

Explain John's view of himself as compared to Jesus?

John seems to have a very clear understanding of his role appointed by God. How will a clear understanding of your calling and role help you this summer?

Pray now for the campers that will come your way that are experiencing God's wrath on them, that they will believe and receive the life God wants to give them through you.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Staff Training: Day 5

There is no god like Jehovah...

Read : Exodus 15:11-18

1 Chronicles 17:20-27

2 Chronicles 6:14-21

What are the basic circumstances that prompt each writer to exclaim- there is no one like You!

What are some of the characteristics of God that stand out to you from these passages?

In your own words write out how you see God to be unique and amazing:

We are going to write an acrostic poem (each sentence starts with a certain letter to aid in memory) to praise God for His uniqueness. Begin each sentence with the letter indicated:

N
O

G
O
D

L
I
K
E

Y
O
U

Week 1: Day 1

Sons & Daughters of the King : Who am I? I am Forgiven

Because there is no god like Jehovah, it is amazing to think that we are indeed sons & daughters of the King.

This week we are going to read through most of the book of Ephesians. It is a book rich in doctrine and truth. It is a great book to commit to memory as you seek to soak in all that God says is true of you.

Read Ephesians 1

From vs. 1-14 write out all the things that Paul says is true of you as a believer:

Which have the greatest impact on you right now? Why?

Why is it special that God lavished grace and forgiveness on us with all wisdom and understanding on His part?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

How is our forgiveness sealed by God?

As a result of our forgiveness, what kinds of things does Paul pray for us?

The 'believe' in vs. 19 is a different tense than in vs. 13- it implies a present believing, active believing, continual believing.

What is available to us as a result of our active believing?

Where do you see yourself needing this kind of power this summer?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 1:Day 2

Sons & Daughters of the King: Who am I?

I have a New Life

Read Ephesians 2

What was the state that we were in previous to our salvation (the state in which many of our campers will be...)

How is a person outside of salvation described here?

Why did God save you?

How did God save you?

For what purpose?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

How can you have a spiritual point of view about the campers?

How is our good work further described here?

How have you seen the 'old' leave your life and what 'new' has come?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 1: Day 3
Sons & Daughters of the King: Who am I?
I have a New Family

Read Ephesians 4 and John 17:20-26

Why is there such a focus on unity?

What results from a Godly unity being displayed?

From your experience/observation what destroys unity?

Why are we all gifted differently?

When all of the gifts are working together, what 2 things develop in our lives (vs.13)

Where do you see yourself in these 2 areas right now?

What should characterize our living (vs. 20-32) in community with each other now that we have this new life?

Where do you need work? (please share this with a friend or the leadership person in your area)

Pray for the other members of the body serving here with you.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 1: Day 4

Sons & Daughters of the King: Who am I?

I have a New Attitude

Read Ephesians 5

Overall from the last 2 chapters, what should characterize us in our 'newness'?

Who should we imitate?

How can we do this in a practical way?

Think of someone in your life that you see imitating Jesus, what is it about them that draws your attention?

Explain the radicalness of Paul saying we should have 'not even a hint' of...

How are immorality, impurity and greed all forms of idolatry- who/what are we worshipping in each?

Practically, what does it take to have 'not even a hint'?

How is your attitude in this area- do you work hard here? Or is it not a huge focus?

How does a wife submitting to her husband reflect a new attitude compared with the world?

How do you see the submission thing work?

Pray and ask God to convict you in areas of sin and need to change.

Week 1: Day 5

Sons & Daughters of the King: Who am I? I am a Bride

Read Revelation 19

What is your reaction to the scene described?

Is this how you normally picture Jesus and yourself in relation to Him?

What is hard in this?

What is exciting in this?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

How are you making yourself ready to be wed to your groom?

What are those righteous acts you are lifting up before the Lord? (isn't it exciting to think that they will eventually 'cloth' us)

Pray now and ask the Holy Spirit to help you see yourself as a bride preparing to wed.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 2: Day 1

Satan's Control

Thoughts of kings, queens and kingdoms begs for a dark foe. In books dragons and evil rulers battle for power. Satan battles for the souls of real men, women, boys and girls. Once he loses that battle for the soul he begins to wage battle for our spirits-offering lust, power & stuff. We need to be wary and on guard.

Adam's Fall

Read Genesis 3 & Romans 5:12-21

What did Adam lose through the fall? Think through the many facets of his life: relationship with Eve, sense of value/self worth, work/productivity, relationship with God.....

What did we lose through Adam's sin?

How was Eve deceived? What lies did she believe?

Do you see this happen in you? (are there lies that grab hold of your thoughts?)

Week 2: Day 2 **Satan's Control**

Satan's Nature

Look up and read the following verses and write out what each teaches you about satan's character:

Job 1:6

Matthew 4:1-11

Matthew 13:39

Matthew 25:41

Luke 10:18

Romans 16:20

2 Corinthians 12:7

Today in the world? (what are the lies our there)

What makes you sad in this?

Pray and ask the Lord to ground you in the truths of His word.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

2 Corinthians 11:14

Week 2: Day 3 Satan's Control

Ephesians 6:11

Temptation of Jesus

James 3:15

Read Matthew 4:1-11

What are the 3 areas satan tempts Jesus in and their spiritual equivalents for today?

James 4:7

Then

Now

1 Peter 5:8

1 John 3:8

What authority does satan have here and now?

Write out some of your thoughts:

What was Jesus' attitude going into the temptations?

How does He respond during?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

What encouragement can you take from these verses for your battle?

Week 2: Day 4 Satan's Control

The dilemma of Romans 7

Read Romans 7:7-24

What is Paul's problem?

How can you personally relate to this?

What sort of sinful desires do you see in yourself? (it is good to name them specifically)

Why do you think satan wants us to stay stuck in this endless cycle of sin & defeat?

Why do you think God leaves our sin nature in us once we are saved?

Pray specifically about the sins you listed- confessing and asking for God's healing.
Ask a friend to help keep you accountable.

Are you ready with the word to fight?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 2: Day 5 Satan's Control

Sin

Sin can be such a vague and confusing topic at times. We are going to do a short survey of what the Bible says about sin, our sin, why we sin, how we sin, etc...

Look up the following verses and write out what you learn:

Genesis 4:7

Numbers 32:23

Deuteronomy 24:16

1 Samuel 12:23

2 Chronicles 7:14

Psalms 4:4

Proverbs 17:19

Mark 3:29

Mark 9:43

John 8:34

Romans 6:11

Romans 6:14

1 Corinthians 15:26

2 Corinthians 5:21

Galatians 6:1

1 Timothy 5:20

Hebrews 11:25

Hebrews 12:1

James 1:15

1 John 1:8

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 3: Day 1

An Upside Down Kingdom- The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:1-16

List the characteristics of the 'blessed' with a short description for each:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

Which of these areas of blessing do you feel a need in?

When have you had a opportunity to rejoice in your persecution?

How are we salt and light here?

How, in practical ways, can you let your light shine before men?

What good deeds are you hoping will bring the Father praise?

How are these characteristics opposite of what this world values (give some specific examples)?

Pray and ask the Lord to shine light on areas that need changed in you.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 3: Day 2

An Upside Down Kingdom- The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:17-48

Of the topics Jesus addresses (murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, vengeance, love for enemies)

Explain how each turns the worlds concepts upside down.

Murder:

Adultery:

Divorce:

Oaths:

Vengeance:

Love for enemies:

Can you see yourself in any of these as a lawbreaker?

What have you done to guard against sin in these areas?

Is there any real accountability in your life? What does it look like?
(If you have never been accountable to someone for your spiritual life, talk to the leadership person in your area to learn more :)

What is a 'hard teaching' for you amongst these?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 3: Day 3

An Upside Down Kingdom- The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6: 1-18

What evidence do you find in these verses that Jesus does expect us to
(1) give to the needy,

(2) pray

and (3) fast?

How are we to go about doing these- what should our heart attitude be?

Why do you think forgiveness is so integral (vs. 14-15)

Are there aspects of giving, praying and fasting that you fall short in?

Pray and ask the Lord to help you grow in these areas.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 3: Day 4

An Upside Down Kingdom- The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6:19-34

What is the connection between storing up treasures in heaven and not worrying?

Right now, where/what is your treasure?

Jesus makes a strong statement about your heart being wherever your treasure is- how have you seen this to be true?

How can we keep our focus on heavenly treasure vs. worldly treasure?

What do you worry about?

How long does it take you to catch yourself worrying and give it over to the Lord?
(be honest even if this never happens and you worry all the time)

How does our worry reflect a lack of faith?

What can you give over to the Lord right now to take care of?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 3: Day 5

An Upside Down Kingdom- The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7

Write out the main point of each of these small parables:

- Judging others:
- Ask, Seek, Knock:
- The Gate:
- Trees & Fruit:
- Building:

What is your plank? (often we are annoyed by things in others that are actually sins in ourselves if we take the time to look- ask a friend if you cannot see your plank)

Read verses 7 & 8 over several times- can this be real? Can you believe this?

Are you putting the things that you know/are learning into practice?

What is the warning if you are merely learning and not putting things into practice?

Jesus amazed His listeners with these verses that we have read this week. What has been amazing to you overall?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 4: Day 1

A Battle for Us to Fight

Seeing the Battle

Read 2 Kings 6:8-23

The books of 1 & 2 Kings were written during the exile to help the people understand the cyclical disobedience that had gotten Israel repeatedly into trouble. Elisha is the major prophet on the scene at this time and God works through him in miraculous ways to encourage the people to turn to the Living God and believe in Him.

Describe the scene:

Why is the servant afraid? (what is his spiritual problem?)

How is Elisha able to see things differently?

How does he help his servant see things more clearly?

How does the scene change for the servant when he sees the Lord's presence there?

Does the Lord's presence change the fact that there is a battle at hand?

Week 4: Day 2 A Battle for Us to Fight

What does it change?

His Perspective

Read Judges chapter 7

After Joshua and his contemporaries died, the Israelites began to serve the pagan gods around them. In God's righteous anger He handed them over to raiders (Joshua 2:14) to punish them and draw them back to Himself. He then raised up Judges to rescue them (Joshua 2:16). In chapter 7, Gideon has a huge task ahead of him and God takes the time to teach him a valuable lesson for all of us.

Where is our battle today?

How many men did Gideon start out with?

How many did he end up with for the battle?

Why do you think God does it this way?

Pray and ask the Lord to help you see the battle with spiritual eyes.

What does this teach you about God's character (who He is)?

How does this illustrate that God sees the battle differently than we usually do?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

How does this passage relate to the one in Judges?

List the FACTS about our situation from vs. 8-9

We are: _____ But we are not: _____

From the passage in Judges as well as this one, how is God's power best shown?

What is hard for us about His method?

How does having God's perspective in the battle help you *today*?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 4: Day 3
A Battle for Us to Fight

The Victory of Romans 8

Read Romans 8

List the statements of truth from this chapter (you should have a lot)

How does internalizing these truths help us in our present battles?

As you think about the difference between the struggle in chapter 7 and the victory in chapter 8, what real war was already won for us?

Why is this knowledge important?

Week 4: Day 4 A Battle for Us to Fight

Explain vs. 28:

Explain vs. 29-30:

If we open up our spiritual eyes, the author of Romans 8 explains to us that we are more than conquerors...in what area(s) do you need to see this right now?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Spiritual Armor

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

List the Armor and each parts purposes:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
-------------	----------------

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Why do we need the armor?

Why do you think we need God's power so desperately in this battle?

Which piece of the armor is weakest on you?

Week 4: Day 5 A Battle for Us to Fight

Examples to Follow in the Battle

Read Hebrews 11- 12:13

Who are several characters that stand out to you?

I had friend a while back who would get down on her knees each morning with her 2 small boys and they would pray through applying each part of armor (being boys, I am sure they had some fun motions to go along with each). But it has always stayed with me that I need to consciously apply this armor daily and focus on it's use.

Why?

Pray through each piece of the armor and ask the Lord to fit you today for the battle.

Define faith in your own words:

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

As I read vs. 1-2, I cannot help but be reminded of Elisha's servant who needed to have his spiritual eyes opened by faith to see what God had for him.
What area of your faith do you want to see God stretch this summer?

How does reading about these men and women of faith encourage you?

Do you have others you can think of in your 'cloud of witnesses'? Who & Why?

What do you think is the difference between 'everything that hinders' us & 'the sin that so easily entangles'?

What hinders you today?

What is the 'sin that so easily entangles' you?

How do the commands in 12:2-3 give practical aid in the battle?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 5: Day 1 **Unity is Essential**

Jesus Prays for Us

Read John 17: 20-26

In chapter 17 Jesus prays first for Himself, then for the apostles and finally for all believers (you and I).

What is the main theme of His prayer for us?

Describe or define unity:

Jesus uses Himself and the Father as our example of unity- can you site some examples from the gospels where Jesus demonstrated unity with the Godhead? (you could look up the word 'one' in your concordance)

What, according to these verses, does our unity demonstrate to the world?

Are there areas of disunity that you see amongst the summer staff?
List it out :)

Week 5: Day 2 **Unity is Essential**

A Body Designed for Unity

Read 1 Corinthians 12

Why are we all given different gifts?

Where do you see yourself in the gifts?

Pick 4-5 people you work with daily and write out where you see their gifts:

Name _____ Gift

Pray for these areas and consider sharing them with the leadership staff person in your area.

Who in the body gets the greater honor?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Share a time when you suffered because another part of the body suffered:

As the Lord has assembled all of us here this summer He has created a functioning body here to share His word and bring glory to Him. Next to each of the gifts, write whom you can see with that gift:

Brain:

Eyes:

Tongue:

Face:

Heart:

Hands:

Feet:

Fingers:

Toes:

Intestines: (don't laugh- these are the people who really digest the word!)

Ears:

Mouth:

Arms:

Legs:

Any others you can think of?

This may seem funny to do, but isn't it cool how we are all so different and can work together as none of us could accomplish separately.

Spend some time thanking the Lord for the variety of gifts around you.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 5: Day 3 Unity is Essential

Practical Unity

Read Ephesians chapter 4

What do you think is involved in 'making every effort' to preserve unity?

What might you be called on to do?

What is the basis for our unity- why is it achievable?

Why is it comforting to know that Christ Himself has assigned our gifts?

What is the mark of immaturity? (describe it in real terms)

Verses 25-31 seem to be fertile ground for disunity- how are these things actually essential for unity?

How are you in dealing with your anger? (Is there something you need to work on in this area?)

How are you in the area of vs. 29? (read it over several times and let it sink deep)

What might need to change for you in this?

Are you currently living a life worthy of your calling (vs.1)?

Is there anything you are ashamed of?

Prayerfully share this with the leadership person in your area.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 5: Day 4 Unity is Essential

Unity when the Rubber meets the Road (or the Stones build the Wall :)

Read **Nehemiah chapters 1-4 and 6:15-19** carefully thinking about unity

Lay out the situation as it is handed to Nehemiah:

What are the obstacles to unity in this situation?

Why is unity an essential ingredient of the task?

What does Nehemiah do to encourage unity?

What is notable about 3:5? (I would not want to be remembered this way)

How is Nehemiah shrewd in assigning places for people to work in the rebuilding?

They had an enemy spring up to resist their work just as we have a real enemy trying to thwart our work here. What strategy does Nehemiah use to protect the work?

How can we use this strategy here?

From 4:14, how does the knowledge of who our King is encourage us in the battle?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 5: Day 5 Unity is Essential

When Unity is Broken I Corinthians

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 and 3:1-15

According to 1:10, what was Paul's goal for these believers (and for us)?

What were some of the issues bringing down the church in Corinth?

What are Paul's answers to these issues?

What are the characteristics of a 'worldly' Christian?

How are you personally working toward being able to take solid food?

In the area of unity, how can you build on your foundation with gold, silver & costly stones? (think of some practical ideas)

Spend some time praying right now for the unity of the body here.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 6: Day 1

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

As we look at Jesus' explanation through the Parables of what the Kingdom of Heaven is Like, we will answer similar questions each day. A Parable is meant to be a story with a main point or moral. Don't let yourself get bogged down in the minute details. Look for what Jesus is broadly saying. As we study these next weeks we will see the Parables like the many sides to a diamond- to be examined and enjoyed from different vantage points.

A Man Who Sowed Good Seed?

Read Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

What is the main point of this parable?

What truths does this teach us about God's character?

Does it teach anything about Satan's character?

Does this story illustrate at all the urgency of our mission?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 6: Day 2

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

A Net that was Let Down into a Lake?

Read Matthew 13: 47-52

What is the main point of this parable?

What truths does it teach us about God's character?

Why do you think the net catches 'all kinds' of fish?

How does this remind you of your summer here?

Pray now for those campers that may eventually experience the 'weeping and gnashing of teeth'.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 6: Day 3

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

What do you think about vs. 10-11?

A Place for Children! And Lost Sheep?

Read Matthew 18:1-14

Though this is not technically a parable, it is a beautiful explanation of how Jesus feels about children.

What is Jesus' main point(s)?

What do you think it means to welcome a child?

How are you in this area?

What is the meaning of Jesus' warning?

In general what does this teach about sin and our attitude towards it?

What do you learn about God's character in these verses?

As the week draws to a close, pray that you will have a welcoming Spirit for the children God brings/has brought.

List out some specific children that the Lord has laid on your heart:

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 6: Day 4
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Like a King who wanted to Settle Accounts?

Read Matthew 18: 21-35

What is the main point of this parable?

What does this teach us about God's character?

What does this teach us about our characters?

Who are you struggling to forgive right now?

Has there been anyone in the past that you were able to forgive and can share about?

Why does God care so much about our being able to forgive? (ie. If we are unable to forgive, what does it say about us?)

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 6: Day 5
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Like a Landowner who went out Early in the Morning?

Read Matthew 20:1-16

What is the main point of this parable?

What does it teach us about God's nature?

How does this parable challenge your view of 'fairness'?

Do you see yourself at all in the envious/grumbling workers?

How do you see God up 'early in the morning' here at camp?

How can you develop the spirit of heading out 'early in the morning' to bring in 'workers' for the father?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 7: Day 1
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

A Landowner who rented His Vineyard?

Read Matthew 21: 33-46

What is the main point of this parable?

What does this parable teach you about the Father?

Who is the Kingdom going to be given to?

What do you think vs. 44 means?

What is God looking for His people to do?

How do you see yourself bearing fruit?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 7: Day 2
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Like a King who prepared a Wedding Banquet for His son?

Read Matthew 22:1-14

What is the main point of this parable?

Who do you think were the original guests to the banquet?

What does this teach us about the Father?

Have you ever felt as if you were busy with your 'fields and businesses' and missed out on God's calling? Write out your experience:

Is there anything unsettling to you?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 7: Day 3
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Like Ten Virgins?

Read Matthew 25:1-13

What is the main point of this parable?

Who do the 10 virgins represent?

What is perplexing about this parable?

What does this teach us about God's character?

What can we learn about ourselves?

What is the warning?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 7: Day 4
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Like a Man going on a Journey?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

What is the main point of this parable?

What are your talents entrusted by the Lord?

What does it look like to 'bury' your talents?

How do we, after investing our talents, get to share in the Master's happiness?

What does this parable teach about God's character?

What does it teach about our character?

Is there anything troubling here?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 7: Day 5
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Like a Shepherd separating the Sheep and the Goats?

Read Matthew 25:31-46

What is the main point of this parable?

What lesson(s) do we learn about who God is from these verses?

What was the difference between the sheep and the goats?

Why do you think there is such an emphasis on what we do? (See also James 2:14-26)

As you sit quietly, where does your faith lack actions to accompany it?

Ask the Lord to show you what you need to do.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 8: Day 1
Our Future Hope and Home

A Balm for the Wounded

Read Isaiah 61

What are your thoughts after reading this passage?

List some of the promises the Lord makes here:

Which ones can you most relate to?

This was written to the Israelites. The same people that Elisha and Elijah pleaded with to obey and repent. We are also people who have sinned and walked away from the Lord.

What in your life could be described as “ancient ruins”, “places long devastated”?

How does it feel to know that the Lord has plans to restore and rebuild these areas?

Week 8: Day 2

Our Future Hope and Home

Date and Time Unknown

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

What do we learn about the Lord's returning from these verses:

How is your work now a training for being called "priests of the Lord", "ministers of God"?

Why should it encourage us to know that we will be with the Lord forever?

Pray and ask the Lord to grow righteousness and praise in you.

How can we ensure that this coming will not take us by surprise? (what things do we need to be working on)

Because we belong to the 'day', how should we behave?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

In what area do you need work on self control?

Week 8: Day 3

Our Future Hope and Home

The End of the Age

Read Matthew chapter 24

Write out a loose timeline of events that will occur at the End:

What questions/concerns do you have about heaven?

What things are you looking forward to in heaven?

What is amazing to you in this?

What is confusing?

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Do you think that as believers we will go through any of the tribulation?

Why or why not? (it is good to use scripture as you prepare this answer)

What does it look like for a person to be ready for His return?

What has the Lord put you in charge of that He will expect you to be about when He returns?

Week 8: Day 4

Our Future Hope and Home

The End

Read Revelation 21- 22:7

Describe these events as best you can:

What stands out to you about the Holy City?

When you think about the Lord wiping away your tears and stopping your crying, how do you feel?

Picture yourself in this city, tears being wiped away, standing with some of the campers that you helped to introduce to the King this summer. Spend some time praying for them.

Write out a prayer of thanks for all the Lord has in store for you.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

Week 8: Day 5

In the Light of the Holy City

As we close this summer together surely we have all been changed by the King we love and serve. You are His child, a son or daughter of the King. You will inherit much and hopefully be rewarded for years of faithful service.

In light of all that we have learned and experienced, write out some things you resolve to live differently in light of the glory He has planned for you.

God, I feel like you are saying to me today.....

I wanted to take a minute to say thanks for your willingness to come and serve alongside us this week. If you have come before, you know that you are in for a week of challenging and stretching times with the Lord and your campers (and occasionally your group members and our staff). If this is your first time here, know that you are considered blessed by those of us who spend the whole summer. You bring a breathe of fresh life and enthusiasm we need weekly!

We created this devotional to encourage you to continue to take daily time with the Lord while you are here. He is the source of your strength, energy and love as you serve. Without time with the Lord you will soon become weary and discouraged.

If you need anything, please ask. As you are here this week to serve the campers as well as the summer staff, we want to serve you as well.

Thank You,
Mike

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....

God, I feel like you are saying to
me today.....