

## CENTRIKID 2022 | BEFORE & AFTER CAMP DEVOTIONS

### BEFORE CAMP DEVOTION #1: WHAT A WONDER!

#### MAIN IDEA

Because God is all-powerful, always present, and all-knowing, we respond in wonder.

#### SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Job 42:1-2; Nehemiah 9:6; Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 139:7-10; Isaiah 40:28; Matthew 10:30.

#### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Video clip of "10 most amazing places on earth," or similar video that will amaze kids (If you don't have internet or video access, print color pictures of amazing places.)
- Large tarp or bed sheet
- Copies of the questions and comments pages (one per child)

#### INTRODUCTION

Show a short video clip of the most amazing places on earth. If you don't have internet access, you may pass around the pictures you printed so the children can view amazing places on earth. Listen to the responses children make as they view the video or pictures.

**SAY:** When you say "wow" or you gasp, I can tell you are expressing wonder at these amazing places! Google dictionary says that wonder is "a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or unexplainable." Our theme at CentriKid this summer is "Wonder" because that's the reaction we have when we take a look at who God is!

#### EXPLORATION

**SAY:** The Bible shows us that God is all-powerful, always present, and all-knowing. That is a wonder! How can that be? Let's do some experiments to see how powerful, present and knowledgeable we are.

Guide everyone to sit on a large sheet or tarp. Ask one of the students to lift everyone on the sheet at the same time. Allow the child to try for a few moments. You may allow a different volunteer to try lifting everyone at once if they would like. When it is obvious that their power is not enough, say: We do not have the power to lift the people in this room, but God has the power to do anything He pleases. Listen to what the Bible says about God's power. Read Job 42:1-2 and Nehemiah 9:6.

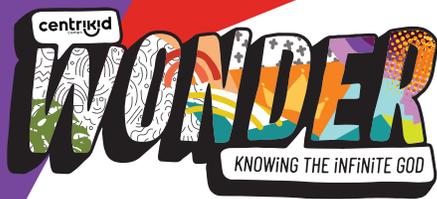
"Then Job replied to the Lord: I know that you can do anything and no plan of yours can be thwarted." Job 42:1-2

"You, Lord, are the only God.

You created the heavens,  
the highest heavens with all their stars,  
the earth and all that is on it,  
the seas and all that is in them.

You give life to all of them,  
and all the stars of heaven worship you." Nehemiah 9:6

**SAY:** Wow! God did all that! He is so powerful! Let's try another challenge. Let's see how well we can pay attention to everyone all the time. Lead the children to form a circle. Guide one person to stand in the middle of the circle. Distribute the lists of questions and comments to the children forming the circle. Explain that the job of the person in the middle is to listen to everyone in the circle, answer all their questions and remember what they say. On your signal, direct all the children in the circle to begin asking their questions and stating their comments at the same time and continue reading the entire list. After a



few seconds, pause the children and see how much the middle person was able to understand. If time allows, you may give a different child the chance to try in the middle.

**SAY:** It is so hard to be present with everyone at the same time! But God is able to be with each person all the time. He hears every prayer and is everywhere! That's a wonder! Listen to what the Bible says about God's presence. Read, or ask a child to read, Proverbs 15:3 and Psalm 139:7-10.

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere,  
observing the wicked and the good."  
Proverbs 15:3

"Where can I go to escape your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I fly on the wings of the dawn  
and settle down on the western horizon,  
even there your hand will lead me;  
your right hand will hold on to me."  
Psalm 139:7-10

**SAY:** We have one last challenge—to see how much we know! I will ask a question and if you know the answer, jump up and wave your hands in the air. Ask a series of questions until you get to one that no one knows the answer to. Questions may include:

- How many legs do spiders have?
- How many species of animals exist on the earth?
- What is the chemical reaction that produces energy on the sun?
- How many hairs are on your head right now?
- How big is the oldest star?
- What book did Abraham Lincoln read first?

**SAY:** There will always be things we don't know, but God knows everything! Check out what the Bible says about God's knowledge. Read Isaiah 40:28 and Matthew 10:30.

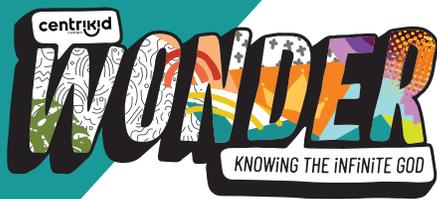
"Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the whole earth.  
He never becomes faint or weary;  
there is no limit to his understanding."  
Isaiah 40:28

"But even the hairs of your head have all been counted."  
Matthew 10:30

**SAY:** When we see how powerful, present and knowing God is, we step back in wonder!

## CONCLUSION

**SAY:** I am so excited to experience the wonder of knowing God better as we head to CentriKid this summer! Let's thank God for being so amazing. Close your time with prayer, thanking God for who He is.



## QUESTIONS & COMMENTS (for the Presence Challenge)

### LIST #1

- What time will the sun rise tomorrow?
- What should I eat for lunch?
- If we go on vacation this year, will it rain?
- What is 427 divided by 16?
- Do you know how long I have been waiting for you to answer my last question?
- What is the scariest thing you've ever seen?
- How much does bread cost in China right now?
- Some frogs are poisonous.
- Too much calcium in your diet can be harmful.
- People a long time ago did not have cell phones.

### LIST #2

- When does winter begin?
- Should I eat strawberries or apples at my next meal?
- What kind of weather does Kansas have in the winter?
- What is 1230 divided by 25?
- When will Disneyland be open?
- What is the silliest thing you've ever said?
- How much does milk cost in Boston right now?
- Turtles lay eggs.
- Trees can grow very tall.
- Wonder is the theme for CentriKid.

### LIST #3

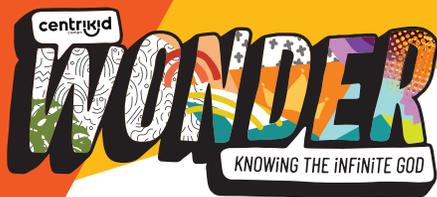
- CentriKid is a really fun camp!
- How long does it take to get to camp?
- Will Build-It be a track time this year?
- How many people can fly in an airplane at one time?
- What is 450 times 32?
- Where do groundhogs live?
- I am still waiting for your answer.
- What is your middle name?
- February has fewer days than the other months.
- Where do you find diamonds?

### LIST #4

- We get to play OMC at CentriKid!
- How many track times are there this year?
- What should I bring to camp?
- Do astronauts really eat ice cream in space?
- What is half of 5,322?
- Which is healthier for you—hamburgers or chicken?
- Will you answer my questions in the order I ask them?
- What book has a character named Matilda?
- Dogs take naps.
- Where can I buy a new water bottle?

### LIST #5

- I wonder who will win OMC this summer.
- Are you on the green team?
- It's a good idea to take your Bible to CentriKid.
- Sometimes it snows in December.
- The ocean is big.
- What is your favorite breakfast food?
- How often do butterflies flap their wings?
- Do penguins take naps?
- What is a good name for a soccer team?
- What is the theme for CentriKid this year?



## BEFORE CAMP DEVOTION #2: WHAT DO YOU WONDER ABOUT?

### MAIN IDEA

When we wonder, God gives us His Word and other people to help us.

### SCRIPTURE FOCUS

James 1:5; Ephesians 3:20-21

### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Butcher paper
- Markers
- 3 Paper bags
- Picture of your adult leaders or slips of paper with their names on them
- Something with the CentriKid logo on it (i.e. water bottle, sticker, etc.)
- Tape

Ahead of time, place the Bible in one paper bag, the picture or name papers in another, and the CentriKid item in the third bag. Secure the opening of each bag with tape so children cannot see what is inside.

### INTRODUCTION

Before children arrive, post large sheets of butcher paper around the room. Write one of the following questions at the top of each page:

- What do you wonder about...what to pack for CentriKid?
- What do you wonder about...Bible Study at camp?
- What do you wonder about...our camp location?
- What do you wonder about...God?

As children arrive, guide them to write or draw on the butcher paper what they wonder about in each category. Say: Another meaning for “wonder” is to be curious about something or even to feel doubt about something. Going to camp is really exciting, but we may still have questions or worries as we think about getting ready for CentriKid. Let’s discover what to do when we wonder about things!

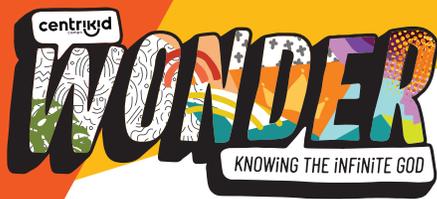
### EXPLORATION

**SAY:** You have written some interesting things on the posters around the room. Some of your questions may be answered before camp and we may discover others when we get there! When we wonder, what can we do? I wonder if these packages might help us! Direct the children’s attention to the paper bags. Invite a child to open the first bag with the Bible and show everyone what it contains.

**ASK:** How might this help us when we are wondering about things at CentriKid? Allow campers to share their ideas. Say: Whenever you need help or want to know more about God, the Bible is the best place to start! Just listen to this verse from James 1:5. Open the Bible and read James 1:5.

“Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him.” James 1:5

**SAY:** Wow! The Bible says that if we need wisdom, we should ask God! Let’s see what else may help us. Invite a different child to open the second bag with the pictures or names of your adult leaders going to camp with you. Display the picture or read the names aloud. Ask: How might these people help us when we are wondering about things at CentriKid? Allow campers to share their ideas.



**SAY:** God has given us wonderful adults who love and care about you! Our adult leaders are ready to help you know what to do and where to go at camp. You can always check with these leaders if you need help.

Invite a different child to open the third bag with the CentriKid item. Show the item to everyone, making mention of the CentriKid logo. Ask: How might this help us when we are wondering about things at CentriKid? Allow campers to share their ideas.

**SAY:** The staff at CentriKid have been preparing for a long time for us to come to camp! They know all about the schedule and what will happen while we are there. When we get to CentriKid, remember that your leaders in Bible Study, Rec and Track Time can help you, too!

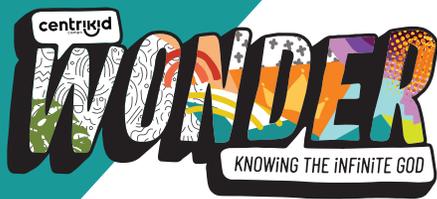
### **CONCLUSION**

**SAY:** Let's visit our wonder posters and see if any of these things help us right now. Lead the children to each of the posters and highlight one or two of the things children wrote at each one. For each item, take time to either pray, look up an answer in God's word or ask an adult leader.

**AFTER VISITING THE LAST POSTER, SAY:** One of the amazing things about God is that there is always something to wonder about Him! We can be encouraged that even when we don't know, God does. He is able to do and be more than we can even imagine! Close your devotion time by reading Ephesians 3:20-21.

"Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21



## AFTER CAMP DEVOTION #1: WORSHIP OUR WORTHY GOD

### MAIN IDEA

Worship is our appropriate response to God when he reveals himself to us.

### SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Psalm 72:18; Psalm 86:8-10

### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Worship team musicians, or recorded worship music
- Butcher paper
- Crayons or markers

Ahead of time, remove the chairs in your meeting area. Spread large strips of butcher paper on the floor. Distribute crayons or markers along the paper so they can be easily reached by the children sitting on the floor.

### INTRODUCTION

Gather the children outside the meeting area and say: We learned at CentriKid that our big God is worthy of our praise. Because God is the one true God, the Creator of the universe and the one who loved us first, we respond to him in worship! Worship is our appropriate response to God when He reveals Himself to us. Sometimes our response might be to jump up and down and shout "hooray, God!" Other times our worship may look like us being quiet and kneeling down. Sometimes our worship may be that we begin to treat others with kindness. When God shows Himself to us, we can worship Him by turning all our attention to Him to show He is worth it! We are going to practice worshipping God right now. As we enter, please begin quietly asking God to help you focus on Him.

### EXPLORATION

Lead the children through the following guided worship time, reminding them to turn their attention to God and focus on Him. If you have musicians who can play instruments or sing while you are doing this, ask them to begin the music now. If live music is not an option, start the recorded worship songs and allow them to play in the background as you direct the children through the worship time.

**SAY:** First, take a seat on the floor near the edge of the paper. Remember that worshipping God means we are turning our attention to Him, so don't worry about what the people next to you are doing. Just think about God.

Once everyone is settled, read Psalm 86:8-10. "Lord, there is no one like you among the gods, and there are no works like yours. All the nations you have made will come and bow down before you, Lord, and will honor your name. For you are great and perform wonders; you alone are God."

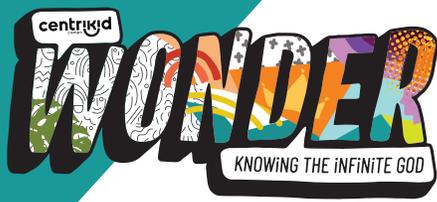
**SAY:** On the paper in front of you, list three things God has done to help you. Allow a minute or two for kids to write.

**READ** Psalm 104:24-25. "How countless are your works, Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, vast and wide, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small."

**SAY:** Draw a picture about something amazing God has created. Allow a minute or two for children to draw.

**NEXT, SAY:** Trace around your hand, and consider all the things God knows about you.

**READ** Psalm 139:1-6.



"Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away. You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, Lord. You have encircled me; you have placed your hand on me. This wondrous knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it."

**SAY:** Color in the outline of your hand as you thank God for knowing all the details about you and loving you still. Lead the children to sing "You're a Good, Good Father," or a similar song to celebrate God's love.

**SAY:** As I read the following verses, listen for things about God. When you hear something good about God, jump up and shout "Yes!"

**READ** Psalm 145: 8-21, pausing for children to shout "yes."

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and great in faithful love.  
The Lord is good to everyone;  
his compassion rests on all he has made.  
All you have made will thank you, Lord;  
the faithful will bless you.  
They will speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and will declare your might,  
informing all people of your mighty acts  
and of the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule is for all generations.  
The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and gracious in all his actions.

The Lord helps all who fall;  
he raises up all who are oppressed.

All eyes look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.  
You open your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and faithful in all his acts.

The Lord is near all who call out to him,  
all who call out to him with integrity.  
He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;  
he hears their cry for help and saves them.  
The Lord guards all those who love him,  
but he destroys all the wicked.  
My mouth will declare the Lord's praise;  
let every living thing  
bless his holy name forever and ever."

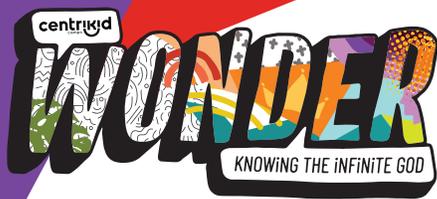
## CONCLUSION

Lead all the children to stand together. Guide them to repeat Psalm 72:18 with you three times. Explain that you will say the first line (Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel) and the children will respond by saying the second line (who alone does wonders). You may want to start quiet and get louder each time you say it.

**LEADER:** Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,

**CHILDREN:** who alone does wonders.

Thank the children for worshiping God with you today.



## AFTER CAMP DEVOTION #2: SHOW HE IS WORTHY

### MAIN IDEA

The way we live our lives to please God shows He is worthy.

### SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 12:1

### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Pencils
- Materials for the actions children choose, if necessary
- Paper
- Markers

### INTRODUCTION

**SAY:** We learned at CentriKid that we can express God’s worth through our words and actions. That includes how we care for those around us. We can worship God by how we live. Listen to what the Bible says in Romans 12:1—“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.”

**SAY:** Today we will discover how we can worship God by serving others.

### EXPLORATION

Distribute paper and pencils to the children. Lead the children to brainstorm how they can help people they know using the 3-step process outlined below.

#### STEP #1—WHO?

Guide the children to think of one person they know who might need to experience God’s love today. It could be a specific person (like their teacher) or a group of people (like their baseball team). Lead the children to write the name of the person or group they are thinking of on their paper, or record their answers on a white board for everyone to see as they say them aloud.

#### STEP #2—WHAT?

Guide the children to consider what is one thing they could do to show God’s love to that person. To help them think creatively, ask the children these questions:

- What does the person like to do? What might allow them to do this more?
- Where does this person spend a lot of time? Is there something that would brighten their area?
- What is something this person is working on? Is there something you could help them with?
- What is something that makes this person happy? Is it something you could provide?

Lead the children to choose one thing they would like to do to help or bless this person. Listen to their ideas and help steer them to realistic options.

#### STEP #3—HOW?

Guide the children to think through a plan for how they will do the action they chose. Help the children create a supply list and a to-do list so they know what it will take to accomplish this. For example, if they want to make a poster to decorate their neighbor’s door, they will need a poster board and markers. Then they will need to decorate the poster and deliver it to a neighbor. They may also need an adult to go with them.

If the children have chosen actions that can be prepared with materials you have on hand, guide them to help one another begin their actions. You may need to plan another time to meet if some of them need additional help or materials to carry out their action. Or, you may want to encourage them to complete the action on their own before your next gathering.

### CONCLUSION

**Say:** The way we serve others shows how much we love and honor God. Because God is a loving God, we can show His love by the way we love others. God is pleased when we live our lives to worship Him! Lead the campers to pray for those they will serve this week.