



CHURCH GROUP DEVOTION

DAY 1: A PURE HEART

BACKGROUND DETAILS

In Bible Study today, campers were introduced to their Bible Study leaders and team members through a variety of games and activities. Campers studied Matthew 5:8 to see that a pure heart is fully devoted to God. By unpacking the Key Verse from 1 Samuel 16:7b, it was clear that God sees and cares about our hearts!

DIVE IN

Say: **“Have you seen or experienced something today that was not what you first expected?”** Share a brief example of something you saw or experienced that was different than you first expected. Then, give campers the opportunity to share their experiences.

Say: **“Sometimes we look first at the outside of something and make a choice just based on what we see. For example, what do you see on the outside of this book?”** Hold up your Bible so that the campers can see the cover. Allow the campers to share their observations of the outside of the book. Say, **“Even if I open this book and you see the words on the page, you are still just seeing the surface. However, if you read the words and allow them to affect your heart and change the way you live—it’s much more than a book! Listen to what this says in Hebrew 4:12.”** Open your Bible to Hebrews 4:12 and read it aloud.

“For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Say: **“This is not just a book with words on pages! It’s an opportunity to know God and understand how to live with Him. It can even show us what’s in our own hearts. What’s beyond the surface is more than we first expect!”**

DIG DEEPER

Say: **“I’m so glad you are already looking beyond the surface. We will have lots of opportunities to get to know God better at camp. You may have questions about God already. Or maybe you have questions about what is happening this week. If you have a question about God or about camp, wave your hand high in the air!”** If you have a large group, this would be a good time to divide into smaller groups with at least one adult leader in each group. Allow campers to voice their questions and answer the ones you have time to discuss. If there are questions about God that you would like to revisit later, make a note about who asked and what question they have. Make a point to connect with those campers throughout camp about their questions.

ZOOM OUT

Gather the group in a circle for a prayer time. Say: **“Let’s ask God to help us as we go beyond the surface at camp.”** Lead the campers to place their hands over their hearts. Remind them that God sees and cares about each heart in this circle. Pray for each camper by name, asking God to guide their hearts to see Him.

DAY 2: A TRUSTING HEART

NOW WHAT? What step do you need to take tonight to trust God more completely?

BACKGROUND DETAILS

In Bible Study today, campers discovered that a trusting heart believes God will take care of us by playing the part of the Israelites receiving manna to eat in the wilderness. They practiced giving their worries to God through prayer and reminding each other of what God says.

DIVE IN

Say: **“Today we have seen that we can trust God because He will take care of us. When we start to worry or feel anxious, it helps to remember all that God has done for us. Let’s share things we are thankful that God has done today.”** Start by sharing something you are thankful for. Then allow the campers to share their gratitude to God.

DIG DEEPER

Say: **“The people Jesus was teaching were often worried about things too. Listen to what Jesus said to them.”** Read or ask a volunteer to read Matthew 6:25-34.

“Therefore I tell you: Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? Consider the birds of the sky: They don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they? Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t he do much more for you—you of little faith? So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. Therefore don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Say: **“The key to letting go of our worry is to seek first the kingdom of God. What does that mean? Let’s listen to a real life story of what it means to seek God first.”** Invite your CentriKid church group host or another staffer to share what it looks like in their own life to “seek first the kingdom of God” and how that helps them not worry. If a staffer is not available, ask one of your adult leaders to share a brief testimony. After the testimony, allow the campers to ask the staffer questions if they have any.

Ask: **“What did you hear about the way seeking God helped this person with worry?”** Encourage campers to verbalize what they heard about God in the testimony.

ZOOM OUT

Say: **“God’s Word tells us to come to God in prayer when we are anxious. Did you know that you may be the answer to someone else’s prayer? Someone might be praying right now for food or clothes, and God could use what you have to help them.”** Remind the campers that one way God takes care of us is through other people’s obedience to him. The mission offering is a great way to meet the needs of people around the world. This is a good time to collect the offering since you will be giving the offering the next night in worship. Take time to pray together for the ways God will take care of others through the gifts you give.

Say: **“You have started a discipline, a practice, a habit of having Time Alone with God each day of camp. Tonight, we want to give you a challenge to continue your practice of having Time Alone with God when you get home from camp.”** (Hand out *Camping in God’s Truth: 4 Weeks of Time Alone with God*). As leaders, come up with a fun way to celebrate campers if they complete their devotions.