



2026 Before & After Camp Devotions

Before Camp Devotions

Session 1: Choose Your Own Story

Scripture Focus: Romans 11:33-36

Main Idea: While “choosing their own story,” kids will see that God is the One writing our life story, and it’s far greater than we could ever dream.

Brainstorm: You will need to select two options for kids to choose from for each of the following three categories: Games, Crafts, and Snacks. You do not have to use the suggestions below; these are just to get your creativity flowing. You know what your group will love most! Both options for each category should be equally exciting. You can create a little riddle to allude to what they will do for each choice, or have them choose blindly.

Suggested Games: Gym Games (Dodgeball, Kickball, etc), Minute to Win It Tournament, Water/Messy Games

Suggested Crafts: Tie-dye items for OMC, Create CentriKid Door Signs, Slime

Suggested Snacks: Fruit Pizzas, Popcorn Bar, Candy Salad, Nacho Bar

Supplies:

- 6 Cards + Envelopes
- The rest of the supplies will depend on the options you choose for each category. You can make this as low effort or as elaborate as you'd like - the fun is in the presentation of the choices!

Set Up:

- Write one "Choose Your Own Story" option on each card and put them in their respective envelopes. Label the envelopes to make sure you are giving kids the right choices at the right times.
- Consider writing a riddle on each envelope for kids to read and choose which option sounds the most fun. (*Riddle Example for Fruit Pizzas: This normally has cheese and some type of meat, but today let's switch it up and make it extra sweet.*)
- Have all the options you're offering as prepped and ready to go as possible. Plan some small games/activities to fill time as you set up the chosen activities. Enlist a team of volunteers (adults & teens who are going to CentriKid would be great for this!) to make the setup quick and easy.

PLAY

Say: *Today, you get to choose your own story as we prepare for CentriKid! For each activity we do, I will hold up two options and let you choose as a group what you want to do! But there's a twist! You won't fully know what you're getting yourself into until you make the choice! Let's hope you choose wisely! It's time for Choice #1!*

Display the Craft Envelopes. Allow kids to vote on which envelope to open, or designate one kid to choose. Lead the kids in doing the craft that was chosen. Spend a few minutes cleaning up and transition to Activity #2.

Say: *I think you chose pretty well for our first activity! Let's see where our story goes with Activity #2!*

Display the Snack Envelopes. Allow kids to vote on which envelope to open, or designate one kid to choose. Distribute the snack or allow kids to "build their own snack". Spend a few minutes cleaning up and transition to Activity #3.

Say: So far, you're 2-for-2 on your choices! Let's complete our story and make the last choice!

Display the Game Envelopes. Allow kids to vote on which envelope to open, or designate one kid to choose. Play the game. Gather kids for a debrief.

LEARN

Say: I think we wrote a pretty great story today! When we go to CentriKid this year, we will be learning about the Storyteller, the One who is the Author of All Things! Does anyone have a guess for who that might be? (God!)

Yes! God is the Storyteller - He has written the greatest story that has ever been written, and He has invited each of us to be a part of His story.

Let's read **Romans 11:33-36** to learn more about who He is. What questions you hear in these verses?

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. He deserves all the glory forever! I can't wait to learn more about the Storyteller with you at camp.

PRAY

Pray and ask God to show campers who He is at camp this summer. Pray for their eyes and hearts to be opened to see His glory and be changed by Him forever

Session 2: Create Your Own Chronicles

Scripture Focus: Psalm 33:4-15

Main Idea: As kids create their own stories, they will learn that the Storyteller created and oversees the greatest story ever told.

PLAY

Choose one or all of these activities to play with the group.

Solve the Story Scavenger Hunt

Supplies:

- Multicolor printer paper or cardstock (1 color per team)

Set Up:

- Write a 5-sentence story, then jumble up the order of the words in each story, print them out on multiple colors of paper or cardstock (1 color per team).
- Cut each paper into 5 strips (1 sentence per strip).
- Hide the pieces of paper throughout the area where you play the game.

Form groups of about 4-5 kids and assign each team a color. Consider placing kids together who will be roommates at CentriKid to help create connections. Explain to the groups that they will be working with their team to find 5 pieces of paper in their team's color. On each piece of paper, they will find one jumbled-up sentence. They must work together to put the words in the correct order. When they have found all 5 of their team's sentences and unscrambled the words, they must put the sentences together to make a story that makes sense. The first team to do this wins!

Act It Out

Supplies:

- Random and funny objects (3 per group)

Set Up:

- Set out the random items in a big pile in the center of the room.

Keep kids in their groups from the scavenger hunt, or form new groups of about 4-5 kids. Explain to kids that each group will be allowed to choose 3 items from your “Very Random and Incredibly Astonishing Object Pile.” Using those 3 items, groups must create and act out a story. Allow them to be as creative as possible and give them about 15 minutes to create and practice. Then, allow them to act out the story for the rest of the groups.

Story Shuffle**Supplies:**

- Notecards (10 per kid)
- Pencils (1 per kid)
- Clipboard to write on (1 per kid) (*optional*)

Set Up:

- Create stacks of 10 notecards (enough for 1 stack per kid)

Guide kids to sit in a circle and give each kid a stack of 10 notecards. Give them 2 minutes to write a one-sentence story. The story can be silly or serious - whatever they want it to be! (Give guidelines as needed to ensure everyone is writing appropriate stories.) Explain that kids cannot look at anyone else’s cards.

When 2 minutes are up, kids must pass their entire stack of notecards to the person on their left. Kids will read the story on their new card, then place it at the bottom of the stack. Now, kids must draw a picture of the story that they just read. Give them 1 minute to draw the picture.

When 1 minute has passed, guide kids to pass the entire stack of cards to the person on their left. Now, kids must take a few seconds to only look at the drawing (not the original story), place that card on the bottom of the stack, and then write a 1-sentence story to describe that picture.

Continue this pattern until all of the cards have been used. Guide kids to set the cards out in order from the first story. Allow kids to walk around and look at everyone's stories and drawings.

LEARN

Say: *Today has been so fun as we've written our stories in some pretty crazy ways! At CentriKid this summer, we will learn about the Storyteller - the One who wrote the greatest story that has ever been told. All of our best stories on this earth don't even begin to compare to His. We made up some pretty cool stories today, but there's one big difference between our stories and God's - His is totally and absolutely true.*

Let's see what Psalm 33 says about God's storytelling.

Read: Psalm 33:4-15. As I read, listen for things God does.

Say: *What did you hear in those verses about God's storytelling? What did you hear that was something God did?*

God, the Storyteller, just spoke and our world was created. He breathed the stars into existence, and He formed our very hearts. He has written the story of all of creation, and He has invited us to join. I can't wait to know Him better with you when we go to camp!

PRAY

Pray that God would reveal Himself to each camper at CentriKid. Pray that campers would see just how great the Storyteller is and would accept His invitation to jump into His story.

After Camp Devotions

Session 1: Meet the Storyteller

Scripture Focus: Romans 11:33-36

Main Idea: Kids will continue to encounter who the Storyteller is in a hands-on way.

Supplies & Set Up:

Station #1: Author of Salvation

- Strips of white fabric (1 per kid)
- Water Erasable Fabric Markers (5-10)
- Shallow bins of water (5)
- Towels

Fill up bins of water. Set out supplies. Print 5 copies of the Station #1 prompt found in the ENCOUNTER section below. Place each copy by a bin of water. Have a leader ready to help as needed and have towels ready to dry hands and wipe up any spills.

Station #2: Author of Truth

- Flat rocks
- Acrylic paint pens
- Bibles
- Hand wipes

Print 5-10 copies of the Station #2 prompt found in the ENCOUNTER section below. Spread the copies out among Bibles, rocks, and pens. Have a leader ready to help as needed and have hand wipes ready to wipe hands.

Station #3: Author of Joy

- Small bins (5-10)
- Rice (white rice + 1 grain of colored rice in each bin)

Print 5-10 copies of the Station #3 prompt found in the ENCOUNTER section below. Place each copy by a bin of rice. Have a leader ready to help as needed.

Station #4: Author of the Future

- Kid-friendly puzzles (These can be small enough for kids to complete on their own in 5-10 minutes or could be big puzzles that several kids work on at the same time. It's up to you!)

Set out puzzle pieces & the puzzle box(es). If you are setting out multiple puzzles, make sure you keep them spaced out enough that the pieces from multiple puzzles don't get mixed together. Print 5-10 copies of the Station #4 prompt found in the ENCOUNTER section below. Spread the copies out among the puzzles. Have a leader ready to help as needed.

ENCOUNTER

Guide kids to spend time at each station where they will encounter the Storyteller. Encourage them to follow the prompts and place an adult or teen leader at each station to help explain instructions as needed.

Say: *Today, we are going to spend some time learning more about how God is the Author of Salvation, Truth, Joy, and the Future. You will get to walk around the room to the different stations to encounter the Storyteller in different ways. As you go to the different stations, try not to distract others or let yourself be distracted by others. Leaders will be at each station to help you if needed!*

Prompts for each station are on the next two pages. Print several out and place them at their stations.

Station #1: Author of Salvation

Read the Scripture below or find Ephesians 2:1-10 in your own Bible.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift – not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

Ephesians 2:1-10

We were all once dead in our sins, but when we trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are made new! God is the author of our salvation, and it has been His plan all along to send His Son, Jesus, to make a way for us to be forgiven and spend forever with Him.

Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior? What is something that keeps you from following Him? What is a sin that you need to confess to Him?

Write your sin on a piece of fabric using the fabric marker. Watch that sin wash away as you dip it in the water. Pray and ask God to forgive you, thanking Him for the salvation He offers.

Through Christ, we are washed clean! What a Savior!

Station #2: Author of Truth

Grab a Bible and turn to a verse about truth that only comes from the Storyteller.

Draw or write on a rock to remind you of the truth you read in Scripture.

Here are some verses to consider looking up:

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Romans 11:33-36

Psalms 119:160

John 14:6

John 8:32

Romans 1:25

Matthew 5:1-12; 17-20

Psalms 25:5

Revelation 21:5

Philippians 4:8

Psalms 19:7-11

Psalms

86:11

Station #3: Author of Joy

In each bin of rice, you will find one grain of rice that is not the same color as the others. Spend a few minutes searching for it, hiding it, then searching for and finding it again.

As you search, remember the story in Luke 15 where we read of the man who delights in finding his lost sheep. God rejoices every time a sinner turns back to Him. He is the Author of Joy and our repentance (turning away from sin and back to God) brings God joy!

As you search for the rice, spend time thanking God that He is a great big God who rejoices in knowing you, no matter how small you may feel.

Station #4: Author of the Future

Spend a few minutes working on the puzzle in front of you.

Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began. God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is!

Psalm 139:16-17

Do you know what makes a puzzle easier to complete? Having the box with the full picture of what it's supposed to look like in front of you! When you can see the full picture, it makes putting the smaller pieces together easier.

At CentriKid, we learned that God is the Author of the Future. He doesn't just know the full picture of your life, He created it and is holding it all together! Even though we might be worried at times because we don't know what's next, we can have peace because we know who holds our future.

After kids have finished each station, gather them in a central area.

Say: *At CentriKid this year, we learned who God is - He is the Author of Salvation, Truth, Joy, and the Future. He is the Author of All Things!*

Allow kids time to share what impacted them at camp or at the stations they did today.

Read: Romans 11:33-36

God's riches, wisdom, and thoughts are so deep that we can hardly imagine the magnitude of them. The Storyteller spoke and light burst forth from the darkness! He

created the whole world and everything in it, and He holds it all together. And yet, He still longs to know each one of us. He loves us and wants us to be a part of His story.

What do you think it means to be a part of the Storyteller's story? What excites you about being a part of His story? (Allow kids time to answer)

I'm so glad we got to know each other and the Storyteller at camp this summer! Let's join in this adventure together!

PRAY

Ask a camper to pray that all of the kids in your group would continue to know and love God more each day.

Session 2: Epic Movie Day

Scripture Focus: Revelation 21:1-7

Main Idea: Kids will watch a movie with a powerful story and then will learn that God wrote the greatest story ever told.

Supplies:

- Movie of your choice (Make sure you choose an age-appropriate story. Try to choose a story that has an obvious component of good v. evil, like *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*)
- Make sure to be aware of any federal copyright laws before showing a movie
- Movie snacks (optional)
- Pillows, blankets, beanbags, etc.(*optional*)

Set Up:

- Set up a movie area and make it cozy with pillows, blankets, beanbags, stuffed animals, etc. (or encourage kids to bring their own!) Pop some popcorn and have some drinks set out to make it a “movie theatre experience.”

EXPERIENCE

Once kids have arrived and everyone is settled, watch the movie. Feel free to pause for snack & bathroom breaks. Consider doing a Rock Paper Scissors Tournament or your group’s favorite quick game about halfway through to allow kids a chance to release some energy.

LEARN

Say: *I love that movie! It’s such a good story – did you notice there were elements in the movie that pointed to God’s story? What is something you noticed that reminds us of God’s story?*

(Allow time for kids to answer and process.)

Say: *Any good story here on Earth is just a shadow of God's grand narrative that we see throughout Scripture and that plays out in our own lives. The evil we see in fairytales and movies doesn't even compare to the evil in this world. But there's good news because the hero we see in the best superhero movie doesn't even come close to the majesty of Jesus, our King & our Rescuer!*

We saw at CentriKid that, since the beginning of time, God has planned to be with His people. Sin messed everything up and broke our relationship with God, but He didn't let it stop Him from being with His people. He dwelt with them in the tabernacle as they traveled in the wilderness. Jesus came to earth to dwell with His people. Today the Holy Spirit dwells within us if we have trusted Jesus as our Savior. One day, His followers will dwell with Him in the most glorious way. Let's see what the end of the story looks like.

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Read: Revelation 21:1-7 - Listen for what will be NEW and what will be NO MORE!
No more pain. No more tears. We will be His people, and He will be our God. Finally, there will be no more separation between us and the Storyteller. We know how the story ends - it ends with victory for our King! The battle is already won; let's join Him in the adventure. These words are faithful and true, and so is He.

What did you hear that would be NEW? What did you hear that would be NO MORE?

PRAY

Pray and thank God for being the great Storyteller - the One who has made a way for us to know Him, love Him, and join Him in His mission of drawing people to Himself. Pray that the kids in your group would be forever captivated by the Storyteller and His Story.