Use these devotional ideas with small groups of campers.

**Age-level coding**
Each devotion is recommended for use with specific age levels. To find out which activities are best suited to your group, look for the letter corresponding to the age level of your group. Feel free to adapt an activity for use with your group. The Bible study writer for each age level has contributed two devotions for each daily theme to use in small groups. The coding letter in bold type indicates the source of the devotion.

- **L** = Lower elementary
- **U** = Upper elementary
- **J** = Junior high
- **S** = Senior high
- **A** = Adult
- **I** = Intergenerational

---

**Day 1: Bible**

**Bible basis**
Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch)

**Wood to word**

**U J S A I**

Materials: Bibles, small stick for each camper

Give a stick to each camper and ask them to tell what a stick and a book have in common. *(Sticks come from trees, which are used to make the paper for books.)*

Have them closely examine their Bibles: feeling them; looking at the type size and style; noting if there are photos, drawings, maps, and so on. What’s the cover made of? How is it bound together?

Explain how books are made: wood pulp is made into paper that goes through a printing machine where words and images are imprinted. The pages are glued or stitched together inside a book cover.

Read Psalm 119:15-16. Reading the Bible is one way we meditate on God’s ways. The Bible is the history of people of faith, the story of Jesus as both human and divine, and stories about followers of Jesus.

Thousands of people have worked over centuries to make pass on Bibles to us. Before people knew how to print books they carefully made new copies of the Bible by hand. It could take up to a year to make one Bible! They did this so that we, like the Ethiopian, can learn more about God’s love.

Have campers hold their sticks as you pray: “Dear God, thank you for people who make paper and print books. Thank you for the people who wrote the Bible for us. Help us understand what we read in it. Amen.”
Take a tour

Materials: Bibles

Ask campers to stack their Bibles a few yards (meters) away from where you sit in a circle. Ask them what they study in school. (Science, math, language arts, history, geography, music, art, and so on.) Ask them why they think adults send children to school. Read Proverbs 22:6. One way adults carry out this proverb is by providing schools and teachers. Ask if their school has a library. Tell them you’re going to visit a library. Have everyone stand up and start to walk away from the stack of Bibles. Stop suddenly, point to the stack of Bibles, and announce that the library is over there.

Have campers open Bibles to the page that lists books of the Bible. One at a time, call out these or other topics and ask them to name any Bible books that fit the category.
- Poetry and music: Psalms
- History: Genesis, Judges, Kings
- Geography: Acts
- Biography: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Math: Genesis (instructions for building the ark)

Read Proverbs 22:6 again.

Close with a prayer: "Dear God, thank you for libraries and teachers. Thank you for the 66 books in the Bible to read. Amen.”

Where’s…?

Find a place where it is easy for a camper to hide in the environment and still be within viewing distance from the group. Ask campers if they are familiar with the Where’s Waldo? books. Invite a volunteer to explain how the books work (Waldo is hidden in the scene on each page and the task is to find him).
- Is it hard to find Waldo?
- What helps you find Waldo?

Inform campers that they are going to play a real-life version of the book. Ask a volunteer to conceal him- or herself in the surrounding area without being totally hidden from view. The rest of the campers close their eyes while the volunteer hides within viewing distance of the group. Once the volunteer is hidden, challenge the rest of the campers to look around (without wandering around) until they find the hidden camper.

Like Waldo, God is on every page of our lives and is with us all the time. Sometimes it is hard to see God. It is helpful to have things that point us to God. Sometimes that is faithful people in our lives who care for us. We can also hear God’s many promises, including to be with us in the gift of the Bible. Read Joshua 1:9. Close in prayer.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a way of reading the Bible. It is Latin for “divine reading.” Encourage campers to use this as a way to quietly read a piece of the Bible.
1. Read: Select a piece of the Bible: a verse, chapter or story to read and reread.
2. Meditate: Sit with the text for a bit. What does it say to you? Is there a theme, word, or something that jumps out at you?
3. Pray: What do you want to tell or ask God after reading about this?
4. Contemplate: Consider how all of this makes a difference in your life.

Hearing and wondering: Deuteronomy

Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Invite campers to note questions and thoughts in their journals, on a piece of paper, or in the margins of their Bibles.

After a couple of minutes, ask the campers to share some of their questions and thoughts.

Choose one question for the group to discuss briefly or comment on.
Living in a Christian community, like learning a task, is taught by those who know how. When we hang out with Christians, we learn practices that are a part of being a person of faith.

- Can you name some of the practices we learn? (Helping others, praying, worshiping, reading scripture.)

Philip taught the Ethiopian eunuch how to read and interpret scripture. Because of Philip’s example, the eunuch became a person of faith.

Pray: “Gracious God, thank you for the people in our lives who taught us how to practice the faith. Help us become guides to others that they might come to know you too. Amen.”

All are welcome

- Invite someone to read Acts 8:36-38. Eunuchs were neutered male humans. Since they were not able to have children, they were not able to be part of a family. As such, they could not be full members of God’s people (see Deuteronomy 23:1).
- How did Philip treat the Ethiopian eunuch? What prompted him to treat the eunuch this way?
- When the eunuch asks to be baptized, what is Philip’s response?
- What does this say about barriers that keep people from God?

Eunuchs were not included because the Bible said they should not be, yet now God is giving a new direction.

- Who are the people that you don’t think are worthy of God? Why?
- What is this story saying to you? What is this story saying to them?
- How does this story change your point of view?

Pray: “Loving God, you have shown us that in Jesus, all are welcome. Change our hearts to reach out to all, like Philip reached out to the eunuch, that all might come within your saving embrace. Amen.”

Who will guide me?

- Invite someone to read Acts 8:29-31. Ask:
  - Who here learned a task by observing and being taught by someone?
  - What did you learn to do? Who taught you?
  - Do you think you could have learned the task just as well by reading a book? Why or why not?
Day 2: Worship

Bible basis
Mathew 26:17-30 (The Last Supper)

Sanctuary
Materials: Bibles
Gather in an open worship area outside or in the camp chapel. Ask campers to describe the inside of any church they’ve been in. Look around your meeting area. What do they see that’s similar to a church? (Maybe benches, one or more crosses, an altar, etc.)

Ask campers if they know what the word sanctuary means when it doesn’t refer to a church. (A safe place; sometimes a place where people can hide.) Ask campers if they can think of reasons the worship space might be called a sanctuary. Have them turn to Isaiah 12:2. Read it once and ask for two volunteers to each read it again. People gather in sanctuaries to be reminded that God protects us. Sanctuaries are where people come sometimes when they need hope and help.

Close with a prayer: “Dear God, thank you for people who design and care for our churches. Thank you for worship leaders. Amen.”

Starry night
Materials: Bibles, flashlights, large blanket or tarp
This is an evening devotion on a night campers can see the stars. Gather on a large blanket or tarp. Invite campers to lie on their backs so they see the stars. Read Psalm 8:1-3. Invite them to imagine being out in the country watching over flocks of sheep. Their job requires them to stay out under the stars all night. Ask them to name any constellations they recognize. Imagine that they have no television or any other electronic means of entertainment. The stars are their only nighttime entertainment.

Ask them to concentrate on the sky. Encourage them to call out one word that describes what they’re seeing or experiencing. Quietly reread Psalm 8:1-3 again.

Close with a prayer: “Thank you, God, for the beauty of the night sky. Thank you for how the stars have inspired and guided people through the ages. Thank you for your creation. Amen.”

Sacred space
Materials: Bibles
As a cabin group, create a small sacred space where you can gather throughout the week to be reminded of Jesus’ presence. It may become the place where you will share in evening devotions, have an affirmation ceremony, or pray. What your “sacred space” will look like will depend on your groups’ personality, resources, and setting. This space can vary from rocks gathered in the shape of a cross at a campsite to a small altar within a cabin.

PostSecret
Materials: Bibles
Ask campers if they are familiar with PostSecret. People put secrets on a postcard and send them anonymously to PostSecret. PostSecret posts online the secrets they receive weekly for other people to view. We, too, have our own secrets or things that we try and hide from others, things about which we are ashamed or embarrassed. Sometimes we think of sins as something to try to hide but we can’t hide anything from God. Ask campers to think about something that they try to keep secret or hide. Read Psalm 51:10. Reassure campers that God knows everything about us and continues to love us and forgives us.

Hearing and wondering:
Exodus
Materials: Bibles, flashlights, large blanket or tarp
Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts...
it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud Exodus 20:8-11.

- Invite campers to note questions and thoughts in their journals, on a piece of paper, or in the margins of their Bibles.
- After a couple of minutes, ask the campers to share some of their questions and thoughts.
- Choose one question for the group to discuss briefly or comment on.
- Invite the campers to join in prayer—conversation with God—about their questions and thoughts. Tell them that you will start the prayer and then leave it open for them to speak their prayers aloud or silently. At a time that seems appropriate, end the prayer by saying, “God, thanks for being present and hearing our prayers both spoken and silent. Amen.”

**Hearing and wondering: Isaiah**

- Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud Isaiah 58:13-14.
- Invite campers to note questions and thoughts in their journals, on a piece of paper, or in the margins of their Bibles.
- After a couple of minutes, ask the campers to share some of their questions and thoughts.
- Choose one question for the group to discuss briefly or comment on.
- Invite the campers to join in prayer—conversation with God—about their questions and thoughts. Tell them that you will start the prayer and then leave it open for them to speak their prayers aloud or silently. At a time that seems appropriate, end the prayer by saying, “God, thanks for being present and hearing our prayers both spoken and silent. Amen.”

**ACTS**

ACTS is an acronym for a worship form popular about 40 years ago. The letters stand for Adoration (praising), Confession (admitting wrongdoing), Thanksgiving (expressing thanks), Supplication (to humbly ask for something). Divide the campers into small groups of two to three persons, reflecting Jesus’ assertion that “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20). Assign each group one of the four segments of ACTS worship: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication. Using Psalm 122 as a basis, invite each group to create a portion of a worship experience that reflects its segment of ACTS worship. Tell them to be creative, using music, drama, art, and nature in their creative activity.

Give each group 15 minutes to work. Then bring the groups back together and worship together, fusing the separate elements into one unified group devotion.

**Testimony**

In this session, the spiritual practices of worship and Sabbath-keeping figured prominently. Two other spiritual practices were introduced and will be fleshed out more fully later in the week: hospitality and service. One other spiritual practice is appropriate for this session: testimony. Testimony is the practice of sharing the working of God in one’s life, which is affirmed by the community of faith. Jesus gave testimony to God’s work in his life and the life of the world when he instituted the Lord’s Supper “for the forgiveness of sins.”

Gather around the campfire, if possible. Invite someone to read today’s focus text, Matthew 26:17-30. When done, the campers sit in silence. If one feels moved, one may stand and share an experience or activity from the day in which the individual particularly felt the presence of God in his or her life. When each speaker is done speaking, the community responds with applause. When all are done giving testimony, stand, hold hands, and pray the Lord’s Prayer.
Day 3: Prayer

Bible basis
Luke 11:1-13 (The Lord’s Prayer)

Bent into shape

Materials: Bibles, chenille craft stems

Give each camper several chenille craft stems and have them open their Bibles to Psalm 38:15. Ask for a volunteer to read the passage. Invite campers to twist the craft stems into something that reminds them to wait for the Lord as they pray. (Shapes could include a cross, angel, dove, or a stick figure in a praying position.) Give campers a few minutes to bend the craft stems into whatever shapes they’ve chosen.

Let campers explain what they’ve made. Ask them to close their eyes and get into a position that seems most appropriate to them to pray. Ask them to stay in that position as you read Psalm 38:15 again and close with a prayer: “Dear God, thank you for teaching us to pray and for always being there to listen to us. Help us to also listen and wait for you. Amen.”

Prayer stations

Materials and Preparation: Bible, papers, markers, rocks. Use large letters to write each of these words on sheet of paper: “Adoration,” “Thanksgiving,” “Confession,” “Help,” “Intercession,” “Conversation.”

Gather the campers in a large open area. Have them sit as you either read or retell the story from Luke 18:9-14.

Ask for volunteers to place the papers in a large circle, putting rocks on them to keep them from blowing away. Explain that everyone will have a chance to move around these prayer stations. Each paper names one kind of prayer. Invite campers to start anywhere and move to each station, offering their own appropriate prayer for each place. When they’ve finished, return to your gathering area and quietly wait for others to finish. Explain the prayer types:

- Adoration: Praising God for creating, loving, caring, and so on.
- Thanksgiving: Thanking God for anything that comes to mind.
- Confession: Telling God about things we wish we had done differently or hadn’t done at all.
- Help: Asking God to help us with some situation or problem.
- Intercession: Praying for others, for God to bless them or help them.
- Conversation: Talking to God the way we might talk with our friends.

When everyone is finished, read Luke 18:9-14 again. Remind campers that prayer is a two-way conversation with God. Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

Prayer pit stops

Take a hike around camp and stop at particular points of interest or places where lots of activity happens. Brainstorm with campers what you could pray about in these places for the camp community and at large. Then share in prayer there together as a group. For example: If you have a waterfront area you might walk there and give thanks for lifeguards, pray for the safety of swimmers, thank God for the gift of baptism, or pray that people across the world would have clean water to drink. After lifting these prayers up, move to another location. If mobility is a challenge at your site, draw a map of camp and highlight specific areas or have campers draw a map of their own city/home town and as a group give them a prayer “roadmap” with “prayer pit stops.”

Be still and know

It is sometimes easier to become aware of God’s presence when we quiet our minds and bodies. No matter what the response to our prayer requests, we can trust that God is with us in all of the situations of our lives and world. This activity might help
campers wind down after a full camp day and help them focus on God’s presence with them. Invite campers to close their eyes as you slowly read Psalm 46:10. Read the verse again slowly, this time dropping the last word so the verse reads, “Be still and know that I am…” Continue to reread the verse, each time dropping a word off of the last phrase. Pause between each reading of the verse. If you follow this pattern, the phrase you will conclude this devotion with “Be.”

**Hearing and wondering:**

**Matthew**

- Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud Matthew 6:5-13.
- Invite campers to note questions and thoughts in their journals, on a piece of paper, or in the margins of their Bibles.
- After a couple of minutes, ask the campers to share some of their questions and thoughts.
- Choose one question for the group to discuss briefly or comment on.
- Invite the campers to join in prayer—conversation with God—about their questions and thoughts. Tell them that you will start the prayer and then leave it open for them to speak their prayers aloud or silently, or use their prayer beads (see Prayer Beads on page 208 in the “Crafts” section of this curriculum). At a time that seems appropriate, end the prayer by saying, “God, thanks for being present and hearing our prayers both spoken and silent. Amen.”

**Scatter the darkness**

- Light a single candle and place it on a small table. Ask everyone to sit in a circle around the table at least 5’ (1.5m) away from the candle. One by one, invite each camper to name something that distresses her or him, either a world event or something going on personally. (To protect privacy, remind them not to become too detailed if they name a personal item.) After they have spoken, ask them to try to blow the candle out from where they sit. (With enough space, the flame should flicker, but not go out.) When all are done, remind them that the flame represents the light of God that shines even in the midst of our darkest moments. Like the candle, God’s presence will not go out, but will always be there in good and bad times.

Pray: “O God, thank you that you are with us even in the shadows of our lives. Teach us to trust your presence and to be persistent in prayer always. Amen.”
Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Invite the campers to sit in a circle. Designate someone to be the “petitioner.” That person speaks the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer as presented in Luke. After each petition, individuals are invited to pray the petition back using words that reflect their understanding of the petition. So, for example, when the petitioner says, “Father, hallowed be your name,” someone might respond with, “Holy God” or “Father, may I respect your name.” The petitions are as follows:

- Father, hallowed be your name.
- Your kingdom come.
- Give us each day our daily bread.
- And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
- And do not bring us to the time or trial.

When all of the petitions are done, all respond, “Amen.”
Day 4: Hospitality

Bible basis
Luke 14:7-14 (Jesus teaches about hospitality)

Not what you might expect
LU

Materials and Preparation: Bible, tennis ball, tape, length of string about 10’ (3m) long. Put the ball, tape, and string in your pocket or backpack.

Lead campers to a place where there’s a tree branch, basketball hoop, or volleyball net. Show the ball and ask if the campers think you can throw it up in the air so it won’t fall back to the ground. They will probably say this is impossible.

Securely tape one end of the string to the ball. Hold the free end of the string and toss the ball over the branch, hoop, or net. The ball will dangle in midair.

Discuss what happened. First impressions aren’t always accurate. It’s like that with people too. Sometimes we decide we don’t like someone before knowing him or her. After we get to know the person, we change our mind about him or her. Invite campers to share how they met one of their friends.


Invitation invasion
UJSAI

Read Luke 14:7-14. Have campers think about to whom in the camp community they could show radical hospitality. Have them invite that person to a cabin event and honor that individual as a special guest. Maybe he or she is invited to share in an evening devotion, pontoon ride, or a party where everyone makes mustaches out of chenille craft stems! It really doesn’t matter what the person is invited to, but how she or he is welcomed and honored. Encourage campers to think of people who might not always receive a lot of praise. (Kitchen staff, maintenance staff, pastors or other camp guests, and so on.) Create an invitation to hand to your special guest or create another way of inviting him or her, such as writing an invitation in the form of a jingle.

Blessed are they...
LJS

Materials: Bibles (different translations), paper, pencils or pens

Read Matthew 5:1-11. Jesus preached these words to a crowd of people and this set of verses is often referred to as the Beatitudes. Read the passage again, this time choosing a different translation such as The Message. Ask campers to write their own beatitudes, continuing the phrase “Blessed are they…” After campers have had some time to think and write, invite them to share their beatitudes with the group.

Hearing and wondering:
Hebrews
JSA

Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud Hebrews 13:1-3.

Materials: Bibles (different translations), paper, pencils or pens

Read Matthew 5:1-11. Jesus preached these words to a crowd of people and this set of verses is often referred to as the Beatitudes. Read the passage again, this time choosing a different translation such as The Message. Ask campers to write their own beatitudes, continuing the phrase “Blessed are they…” After campers have had some time to think and write, invite them to share their beatitudes with the group.

- Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud Hebrews 13:1-3.
- Invite campers to note questions and thoughts in their journals, on a piece of paper, or in the margins of their Bibles.
- After a couple of minutes, ask the campers to share some of their questions and thoughts.
- Choose one question for the group to discuss briefly or comment on.
- Invite the campers to join in prayer—conversation with God—about their questions and thoughts. Tell them that you will start the prayer and then
Hearing and wondering:  
1 Peter

- Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud 1 Peter 4:8-11.
- Invite campers to note questions and thoughts in their journals, on a piece of paper, or in the margins of their Bibles.
- After a couple of minutes, ask the campers to share some of their questions and thoughts.
- Choose one question for the group to discuss briefly or comment on.
- Invite the campers to join in prayer—conversation with God—about their questions and thoughts. Tell them that you will start the prayer and then leave it open for them to speak their prayers aloud or silently, or use their prayer beads (see Prayer Beads on page 208 in the “Crafts” section of this curriculum). At a time that seems appropriate, end the prayer by saying, “God, thanks for being present and hearing our prayers both spoken and silent. Amen.”

Bag boy/Bag girl

Materials: Bible, paper bag for each camper, magazines and newspapers, scissors, glue

Invite someone to read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20. One way to welcome the stranger is to see the stranger as one member of the whole body of Christ. Invite the campers to cut out images from magazines and newspapers that describe how they see themselves on the outside and on the inside. Glue the images and words that describe their outward appearance on the outside of the paper bag. (Note: Outward appearance is not limited to what one looks like, but can be things like “athletic,” “musical,” and “academic.”) Put the descriptors of interior life in the bag.

Ask the campers to find a partner they do not know well. Using the bag, campers describe themselves to the partner, allowing the partner to ask questions. After 10 minutes, switch. Come back together and share your impressions of your partner with them.

Pray: “Lord Jesus, we all are members of your body, the church. Help us learn to appreciate diversity and be open to those who are different from us. Amen.”

Take a risk

Invite someone to read Hebrews 13:1-2. To be hospitable means we must take a risk. Ask:

- What risks do we take in the practice of hospitality?
- According to the writer to the Hebrews, why is the risk worth taking?

Risk taking involves trust that God is present in our practice of hospitality. But trust must be earned as people get to know one another.

Play “Trust Fall.” Invite one camper to be “It.” He or she stands with hands folded across the chest and eyes closed. The rest of the campers surround him or her from behind. At a signal, It falls backward and is caught by the group. Play the game a number of times with different campers volunteering to be It. Ask:

- What did it feel like to fall backward? Did you feel safe and secure? Afraid? Nervous?
- What factor did trust play in your ability to take this risk?
- Would you have taken the risk earlier in the week? Why or why not?

Pray: “God, you call us to extend hospitality to the stranger, but sometimes it’s hard to trust. Give us the courage to take a risk to reach out, knowing that we might be entertaining angels without knowing it. Amen.”

leave it open for them to speak their prayers aloud or silently. At a time that seems appropriate, end the prayer by saying, “God, thanks for being present and hearing our prayers both spoken and silent. Amen.”
Day 5: Service

**Bible basis**
Luke 10:25-37 (The good Samaritan)

**From pool to party**

Materials: Bibles

Gather campers near a pool, pond, lake, or river if you can. Tell them to imagine they are one of the people in a story you're going to tell them:

One summer Jason, Tyron, Sandy, and Maria spent every day at the community pool. They splashed away the hours day after day. One day a new kid appeared. Jaren stayed by herself, looking sad. Jason and his friends talked about her, but no one actually talked to her. One day Jaren was at the snack counter behind Sandy. Sandy said, “Hi. You new here?” Jaren nodded. Sandy asked Jaren to sit with her friends to eat their snacks. They learned that Jaren’s family had to move in with relatives when her dad lost his job in another city. She missed her old neighborhood and her old friends. She dreaded going to a school full of people she didn’t know.

After that day Jaren splashed with the others.

One day Jaren came to the pool with invitations. Her mother was throwing a party for the kids Jaren had met at the pool. Her mother wanted to thank them for helping Jaren adjust to her new home.

Ask campers to open their Bibles to Acts 16:11-15. Tell them to keep the story you just told in mind as you read the passage. Ask if they now consider others in the group their friends. How many met someone in the group for the first time at camp? Sometimes service is as simple as saying “Hi” to someone we don’t know and letting God lead us from there.

Close with a prayer: “God, thank you for friends. Help new students make friends at school quickly. Amen.”

**At your service**

Materials: Bibles

Invite campers to open their Bibles to Luke 4:17-19. Ask a volunteer to read the passage. Talk about how God sent Jesus to serve. In turn, God calls us to serve others. Invite campers to summarize the camp week. Start with things you talked about this week. Let each camper add a memory. Then invite campers to say how they might do some of these things back home.

Stand and exchange the Peace of the Lord with one another. Close with a circle prayer, inviting each camper to offer a prayer of thanks for something about camp.

**Secret Samaritan**

Materials: Paper, pencils or pens

Have campers write their name on a slip of scratch paper. Then have each camper draw a name, making sure they don’t receive their own name. Encourage campers to be a “Secret Samaritan” for the camper’s name they drew throughout the remainder of the day. Campers will try to intentionally take care of another camper without their identity being revealed. In doing so, hopefully campers will care for each person in the group. You might plan a time later in the day to reveal identities.

**Sneetches and Samaritans**

Materials: Bible, The Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr. Seuss

Read The Sneetches. Then discuss:
- What are the two groups of Sneetches in the story? (Star-bellied and not.)
- What is the conflict that the Sneetches are having? (Who is better.)
Hearing and wondering: Micah

Find a place in camp to sit that is conducive to reflection and has few distractions. Ask campers to listen closely to the passage from the Bible as it is read, and to notice the questions and thoughts it stirs up within them. Instruct everyone to take a deep breath, exhale, and pause in silence. Read aloud Micah 6:8.

Invite campers to note questions and thoughts in their journals, on a piece of paper, or in the margins of their Bibles.

After a couple of minutes, ask the campers to share some of their questions and thoughts.

Choose one question for the group to discuss briefly or comment on.

Invite the campers to join in prayer—conversation with God—about their questions and thoughts throughout the week and as they prepare to go home. Tell them that you will start the prayer and then leave it open for them to speak their prayers aloud or silently. At a time that seems appropriate, end the prayer by saying, “God, thanks for being present and hearing our prayers both spoken and silent. And all God’s people said, (shout together) Amen!”

As a sending and blessing for campers at the end of the week, offer the following, in these or your words, as a benediction during the last time that you gather as a group: “In 1 Corinthians 16:14-15, Paul encourages us to stand firm in our faith, be courageous, be strong, and let love be our guiding principle. Take these words home with you, along with your questions and discoveries, and go—live—in peace. Let your faith be alive!”

Justice, kindness, humility

Invite someone to read Micah 6:8. This verse can be considered a summary of the dual commandments to love God and love the neighbor, as Jesus described to the lawyer in today’s focus text. What does it look like to “do justice,” “love kindness,” and “walk humbly?”

Invite campers to find a partner and imagine what these actions would actually look like. For each phrase, create an action that symbolizes the intent of the phrase. Use no words or sounds, only actions. Use as much body motion as possible in the action. When all pairs have had time to work, reconvene in the large group. As leader, read the scripture text. Each pair, in turn, should share its actions when the appropriate phrases are spoken.

When each pair has had a chance to share, join hands in a circle and close with the Lord’s Prayer.
**Neighbor rosary**

**JS A**

Using the rosary created in Day 3 (see Anglican Rosary on page 208 of the “Crafts” section of this curriculum), pray the following prayer (based on Matthew 25:31-46):

- **Cross:** In the name of the holy and undivided Trinity, one God. Amen.
- **Invitatory:** Worship God in the beauty of holiness: Come, let us adore him.
- **Cruciform:** Lord, when was it that we served you?
- **The Weeks:** Pray each phrase on a separate bead.
  —I was hungry and you gave me food.
  —I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.
  —I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
  —I was naked and you gave me clothing.
  —I was sick and you took care of me.
  —I was in prison and you visited me.
  —Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.

- **Invitatory:** Worship God in the beauty of holiness: Come, let us adore him.
- **Cross:** Our Father...

(Note: If you did not make a rosary, this prayer can still be prayed contemplatively without a rosary. Get comfortable in a seated position, hands in your lap, eyes closed. Concentrate on your breathing for a time. When calm and relaxed, pray the Cross and Invitatory, then the Cruciform and Weeks in turn four times. End with the Invitatory and The Lord's Prayer. When done, sit quietly.)