



ABOVE — JOURNEY BEYOND CAMP

A 7-Day Devotional for Campers

THE GOSPEL — THE HEART OF THE MISSION

ABOVE — Exploring the Greatest Treasure

"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

— Colossians 2:3

For centuries, explorers have crossed oceans, climbed mountains, and searched the stars looking for hidden treasures. Some search for adventure. Others search for answers. Many spend their entire lives looking for something that will truly satisfy.

The Bible tells us that the greatest treasure in the universe is not hidden on a distant planet or buried beneath the earth. The greatest treasure is Jesus Christ Himself. In Him we find wisdom, truth, purpose, forgiveness, hope, and eternal life.

After summer camp at Lake Geneva Youth Camp, we invite you to keep the adventure going. Together we'll discover that no treasure compares to knowing Christ. Camp may only last a week, but the journey of exploring the greatest treasure lasts a lifetime.

DAY 1 — LIFT OFF

Mission Objective: Set your sights on what is Above.

Mission Briefing — Colossians 3:2 "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Have you ever watched a rocket launch?

As the countdown reaches zero, the engines ignite and the rocket begins to rise. Our hearts face a similar challenge. The world constantly pulls our attention toward popularity, possessions, success, and what others think about us. If we're not careful, these things can become the focus of our lives.

But God gives us a different mission: "Set your minds on things above."

Instead of focusing only on what is temporary, God calls us to focus on Jesus and what lasts forever. When we keep our eyes on Christ, we begin to see life from His perspective and discover what truly matters.

Mission Debrief:

- What earthly things that often capture your attention?
- Why do you think God tells us to focus on things above?
- What can do this week to keep your focus on Jesus?

Mission Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for making me new. I surrender my heart and direction to You. Amen.

DAY 2 — CHART THE COURSE

Mission Objective: Follow God's Word as your guide.

Mission Briefing: Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Imagine being the pilot of a spacecraft headed toward a distant destination. Without navigation systems, it would be easy to drift off course.

Following Jesus is similar. Every day we face decisions, challenges, and distractions that can pull us away from God's plan. That's why He has given us His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of stories. When we spend time in God's Word, He helps us stay on course and keep our minds focused on things above.

Mission Debrief:

1. What keeps you from spending time in God's Word?
2. When is the best time for you to read the Bible each day?
3. What is one step God may be asking you to take right now?

Mission Prayer: Lord, thank You for giving me Your Word. Help me listen to Your voice, follow Your direction, and trust You with each step of the journey. Amen.

DAY 3 — MISSION CONTROL

Mission Objective: Stay connected to God through prayer.

Mission Briefing: Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Every space mission depends on communication. Astronauts stay connected to Mission Control for guidance, encouragement, and help when challenges arise.

As followers of Jesus, prayer is how we stay connected to God. He wants us to bring Him our worries, questions, victories, and struggles.

Prayer doesn't just change our circumstances—it changes us. When we talk with God, He reminds us that He is in control and gives us peace for the journey ahead.

Mission Debrief:

- What is something you need to talk to God about today?
- When do you find it easiest to pray?
- How have you seen God answer prayer in your life?

Mission Prayer: Lord, thank You that I can talk to You anytime. Help me trust You with every part of my life and give me Your peace as I follow You. Amen.

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DAY 4 — BEYOND THE HORIZON

Mission Objective: Trust God when you can't see what's ahead.

Mission Briefing: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Space explorers often travel toward places they have never seen before. They trust their mission plan and the people guiding them. Life can feel the same way. Sometimes we don't know what comes next. We face decisions, challenges, and situations that seem uncertain.

God sees what we cannot. Even when the path ahead is unclear, we can trust that He knows where He is leading us. Our job is not to know everything—our job is to follow Him faithfully.

Mission Debrief:

1. What is something in your life that feels uncertain right now?
2. Why can you trust God even when you don't understand His plan?
3. What is one area where you need to trust Him more?

Mission Prayer: Lord, help me trust You when I cannot see what lies ahead. Remind me that You know the way and will guide me as I follow You. Amen.

DAY 5 — ESCAPE VELOCITY

Mission Objective: Break free from worldly thinking.

Mission Briefing: Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Before a rocket can reach space, it must overcome Earth's gravity. If it doesn't reach escape velocity, it will be pulled back down.

The world has its own kind of gravity. It pulls us toward selfishness, popularity, pride, and living for ourselves instead of God.

Jesus calls us to something higher. As we spend time with Him, He changes the way we think and helps us focus on what truly matters. The more our minds are set on things above, the less power the world's pull has over us.

Mission Debrief

1. What pressures do you face from the world around you?
2. How can spending time with Jesus change the way you think?
3. What is one worldly distraction you need to give to God?

Mission Prayer: Lord, help me resist the pull of the world and keep my focus on You. Transform my mind and teach me to live for what matters most. Amen.

DAY 6 — SPACEWALK

Mission Objective: Live your faith where others can see it.

Mission Briefing: Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

One of the most amazing moments of a space mission is a spacewalk. Astronauts leave the safety of the spacecraft and step into a place where everyone can see them.

As followers of Jesus, we aren’t called to keep our faith hidden. God wants His love to be seen through the way we live, serve, and care for others. When we choose kindness, show forgiveness, and stand for what is right, we shine like lights in a dark world and point others toward Jesus.

Mission Debrief

1. How can you show God’s love to someone this week?
2. What makes it difficult to live out your faith around others?
3. Who in your life needs to see the light of Christ?

Mission Prayer: Lord, help me shine for You wherever I go. Use my words and actions to point others to Jesus and bring glory to Your name. Amen.

DAY 7 — MISSION CONTINUES

Mission Objective: Keep following Jesus after camp.

Mission Briefing: Colossians 3:2 “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

When a space mission ends, the astronauts don’t forget everything they learned. They take what they discovered and use it for the missions ahead.

The same is true for your walk with Christ. Camp may be over, but your mission is not. God wants you to continue growing, serving, praying, and following Him wherever you go.

Each day is an opportunity to set your mind on things above and live for what matters most. Keep your eyes on Jesus—the adventure is just beginning.

Mission Debrief

1. What is one thing God taught you at camp?
2. What habit will help you keep growing in your faith?
3. How can you keep your mind focused on things above this year?

Mission Prayer: Lord, make me steadfast and useful to You. Keep my heart guarded and my hands ready. Amen.

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AFTER CAMP RESOURCES:

Memory Verse of the Week

Colossians 3:2 "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

The Mission Continues

Camp may be over, but your mission is just beginning. Throughout this week you've learned what it means to set your mind on things above and follow Jesus in everyday life. The same God who met you at camp will continue to guide you at home, at school, and wherever your journey takes you. Use these tools to help keep your focus on Christ and continue growing in your faith.

Daily Checks & Controls

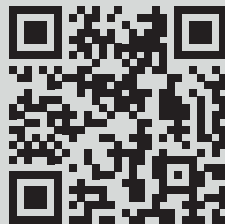
- **Mission Control:** Talk to God every day through prayer.
- **Navigation System:** Read a portion of Scripture each day and ask, "What is God teaching me?"
- **Crew Connection:** Stay connected to a Christian friend, mentor, youth leader, or church.
- **Course Corrections:** When you sin, confess it quickly and return to God's path.
- **Mission Service:** Look for opportunities to serve others in Jesus' name.

Mission Challenge

Before next Sunday:

- Read your Bible 5 days
- Pray every day
- Attend church
- Encourage one person
- Share something you learned at camp

CONTINUE THE MISSION



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