



CREATED  
to  
*Connect*

Impact Mission Camps | 2022 Devotions

Now you are the  
body of Christ, and  
each one of you is a  
part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

# Welcome!

We are thrilled to embark on this journey of preparation for your mission trip at Impact! Thank you so much for your willingness to respond to God's call and your willingness to serve with us.

We hope that resources such as this devotion guide will be helpful to you as you prepare for your experience. Our goal is that your time at Impact will be more than a short-term experience – that it will be a new chapter in a life of mission. We have developed the devotions around our theme – Created to Connect. The challenges of the last few years have left us hungry for relationship, which is exactly how God has created us. We will explore how God invites us into relationships and works through them to enrich our lives and those of the people around us.

**Before** - We will reflect on how relationship is how God is revealed to us and how God created us to carry out God's Mission.

**During** - We will reflect on how what we are doing during our mission experience helps us understand how God is calling us to connect to those God brings into our lives.

**After** - We will consider how we need to see the world and our place in it to continue to serve God through relationships.

Each devotion includes a passage to read, devotional thoughts, a reflection question, and a prayer prompt. You will also find a space for writing your thoughts at the end of each section (before, during, after).

We pray God's peace to you as you prepare to take on a new challenge as part of God's worldwide mission.

## Daily Schedule:

6:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Morning Gathering
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Work on Job Site (lunch around 12:00 p.m.)
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Free Time/Shower Time
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Worship
8:00-8:30 p.m.	Church Group Devotions/Quiet time
8:30-11:00 p.m.	Free Time
11:00 p.m.	Lights Out

**DAY 1 | MISSION | GENESIS 2:18-24 (NIV)**

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

*"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."*

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

As you prepare for your week of Impact, you come to the experience with many relationships. You relate to family, friends, and countless other people you meet throughout your life. We are largely the product of our relationships. This is how God created us. The story of creation begins with God saying that it is not good for Adam to be alone. When God creates a "helper that is perfect for him," God creates that helper from Adam's side, making them equals. The kind of relationship God created for us is one of equality and mutual respect. If we are looking exclusively down on someone or solely up to them, we are not in true relationship with them. **As you prepare to serve at camp, you will meet people – some you will serve and some who will serve you.** The kind of relationship God calls you to invites you to see them as equals in God's eyes. You have a lot to offer one another. And God is inviting you to do so.

**Reflect**

What relationships in your life have taught you the most about faith?

**Pray**

God, help me to see the opportunities for relationship that you bring to me each day. Thank you for the people you have brought into my life. Prepare me to see you in the people I meet.

## DAY 2 | MISSION | EXODUS 3:4-6 (NIV)

*4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"*

*And Moses said, "Here I am."*

*5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.*

In today's passage, we see Moses' first encounter with God. God's revelation to Moses begins with an introduction. "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." God is defined to Moses in terms of relationships – to Moses, **God is first and foremost a God defined by relationships**. We are largely defined by our relationships as well. Our identity as a daughter or son, as a friend, as a student, and many other relationships shapes how we see ourselves and how others see us. How we relate to others also determines how people see us. As you prepare to serve at Impact, another key relationship - your relationship to Christ – will be one that largely defines you to the community you serve. You will have the opportunity to form new relationships, and you will shape your current relationships as well. God chose to be understood first in terms of relationship. We are created for relationships, and those relationships help us to understand ourselves and God's mission for our lives.

### Reflect

What have your relationships taught you about faith? What would they teach someone else about you?

### Pray

God, thank you for creating me for relationship. Help me to relate to others in a way that teaches others about your love.

## DAY 3 | MISSION | LUKE 10:16-23 (NIV)

16 *“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”*

17 *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”*

18 *He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

21 *At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.*

22 *“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”*

23 *Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.*

In today’s passage, we see Jesus sending the seventy two out to proclaim him to towns he was going to. The way those towns responded to his followers indicated how they felt about him. When they accepted his followers, they were accepting him; and when they rejected them, they were rejecting him. **Our most important relationships reflect our relationship to God.** And when we go out into the world, our relationship to God defines our relationship to the people we meet. More than that, how we relate to people in the world shapes how they understand Christ. We introduce people to Christ and shape their understanding of who Christ is. If we offer kindness and acceptance to them, then they learn that Christ offers that to them as well. As you prepare to serve at Impact, remember that you represent Christ and how you relate to those you meet may shape how they understand who God is.

### Reflect

What does it mean to you to represent Christ to the people you meet? What do you think people learn about Christ from you?

### Pray

God, thank you for entrusting me with your name. Let others learn about the love you offer through how I treat them.

## DAY 4 | MISSION | 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9 (NIV)

*1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,*

*2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:*

*3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### *Thanksgiving*

*4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Sometimes we need to have hard conversations. We have to confront people about things they have done to us, or things they should be doing and aren't. **In a healthy relationship, we can confront someone with truth, in love, and the relationship is strong enough to survive and even grow from that encounter.** If our relationship is not healthy – is not built on trust and respect – then it can feel easier to avoid that conflict and just hope things get better. In today's passage, Paul is writing to confront the church in Corinth about things they need to improve. It's a hard conversation, but he knows it needs to happen. So he begins by reminding them of his love and care for them and that he is thankful for them.

Conflict is going to arise as part of any relationship. God has called us to be a light to the world even when we are in conflict. If we remember God's call to love and care for one another, then even when we disagree, we can be an example to the world.

### Reflect

When is a time you have had a relationship that was strengthened by a conflict? When have you avoided conflict because you were worried about how it would affect a relationship?

### Pray

God, thank you for creating us to connect to others. Help me to connect to people so that even when we disagree, we can stay in loving community.

## DAY 5 | MISSION | MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NIV)

*19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

It’s one of the first Bible verses you memorize as a kid – the Great Commission. Jesus tells his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel. You may have learned that the passage could also be understood to say, “As you go, preach the gospel.” The emphasis isn’t so much on where or how you go, but how you live as you go. We aren’t called to preach the gospel simply when we go (to church, on a mission trip, to any faraway place). **We are called to preach the gospel EVERYWHERE we go – through our words, our actions, and our relationships.** The Great Commission is a command to establish relationships everywhere that point people to Christ. As you go to camp, live in such a way that you point people to Christ. As you go home from camp, live in such a way that you point people to Christ. As you go, point people to Christ.

### Reflect

When is a time you have had a relationship that was strengthened by a conflict? When have you avoided conflict because you were worried about how it would affect a relationship?

### Pray

God, thank you for creating us to connect to others. Help me to connect to people so that even when we disagree, we can stay in loving community.



# During Camp

## DAY 1 | CALL | GENESIS 12:1-3 (NIV)

*1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

*2 "I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.*

*3 I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you."*

"All the families of the earth will be blessed through you." That's a huge promise, and it started with Abram and Sarai leaving their home and going to another place. Through them, the blessing of God's covenant and the possibility of a relationship with God through Christ came to all the world. They were willing to go, and they were willing to let God work through them. God often connects to us by calling us.

This week, you have gone somewhere outside your normal sphere. Even people serving in their hometown are not likely serving in a neighborhood they are familiar with. **You are called to be a blessing to others – to allow God to work through you to bless others this week.** And the great thing is that even as you bless others, God will bless you through them as well. Be open this week to how God is working – both in you and through you, and be mindful of where God may be calling you.

### Reflect

What is one way you hope to bless others this week? What is one way you hope to be blessed?

### Pray

God, help me this week to see where you are working, and where you are calling me to work alongside you.

## DAY 2 | CALL | EXODUS 3:1-10 (NIV)

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father,[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

The call of Moses has always stood out to us for a lot of reasons. The burning bush is a beloved image, Moses learning the name "I AM" as the name Israel was to use for God, the rod turning into a serpent, and the plagues of Egypt that came from the encounter are all unusual and notable occurrences. One lesson the story seems to teach us is that God often connects to us by calling us to a task. There's something about doing a task in God's name that makes us more aware of God's call for us. **God doesn't just call us TO a task, God also calls us to deeper relationship through the work God invites us to do.** When we serve God by serving others, we're naturally more aware of God speaking to us. This week is an opportunity for you to truly listen to what God has in store for you. While you're serving this week, consider how God may use this week to show you where else God is calling you.

### Reflect

What do you think God speaking to you would feel like? What thoughts and feelings are you experiencing this week that you need to listen to more?

### Pray

God, use me this week. Show me where you want me to go and give me the courage to go there.

## DAY 3 | CALL | ESTHER 4:10-17 (NIV)

*10 Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, 11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."*

*12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

*15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."*

*17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.*

The call of Esther stands out in several ways. Because women were relegated to a very limited role in the various cultures in biblical stories, it stands out as a story where a woman was responsible for rescuing Israel. And she was able to do so in another culture where her options were very limited. It also stands out as a story where God's name never actually appears. But even though God's name doesn't appear, the story seems to want us to understand that God is at work in the story – influencing events so Israel can be saved – through Esther, if she takes advantage of the situation.

Camp is in many ways the opposite of the Esther story, in that we hear much more about God and how God is working than we do in regular life. Regular life is much more like the Esther story. People don't automatically discuss how God is involved in daily events; we're left to figure that out for ourselves. **Our call is to be ready to respond to situations as if we were placed in them "for such a time as this."** Camp is a great place to restore our energy so we will be ready to respond when the time comes – a great place to figure out where God may be calling us. But most of the opportunities to respond will come during regular life. This week is about getting ready to go back there – with just a few days left, start thinking about where your faith journey will take you next. God connects to us by creating opportunities that we can respond to.

### Reflect

What are you energized for here at camp? What about regular life makes it harder to feel clear about God's call there than it is here?

### Pray

God, I thank you for your call in my life. I ask you to give me clarity about where you're leading me, so I will be ready when opportunities come.

## DAY 4 | CALL | RUTH 1:16-22 (NIV)

*16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.*

*19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"*

*20 "Don't call me Naomi,[a]" she told them. "Call me Mara,[b] because the Almighty[c] has made my life very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted[d] me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."*

*22 So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.*

The story of Ruth gives us some insight into the challenges women faced in biblical times. With their husbands dead, Ruth and Naomi had few options. The story also stands out because of when it was likely written down. When Judah returned from the exile in Babylon, one of the reforms they enacted was to send away their "foreign wives" and their children. At a time when the people of Judah had sent their wives and children away, the story of Ruth came as a reminder that God often calls the most unlikely of people. The story constantly refers to Ruth as "Ruth the Moabite," and yet this "foreigner" is held up as a model of loyalty and God's love. And in the end, she is revealed to be the great grandmother of none other than King David.

We may not fully understand or appreciate the political, social, and theological issues at work in the story and how it fits into the Bible overall, but we can definitely understand that God calls unexpected people sometimes. **God has a habit of connecting to the people we'd least expect.** In fact, to most people, what you are doing this week is unexpected. People will be surprised to hear that you're even doing the kind of work you're doing. They'll be more surprised to hear that you pay to do so. You are responding to a call that many won't understand. And you can surprise people with how you respond back at home as well.

### Reflect

What is an unexpected way you have seen God work in your life? What kind of call have you responded to that might surprise others?

### Pray

God, thank you for calling me. Thank you for the way you call people that might surprise everyone else. Help me to respond to that call and to be open to anyone else you may call as well.

## DAY 5 | CALL | JONAH 1:1-17 (NIV)

*1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."*

*3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.*

To this point, the stories of people responding to God's call have all involved people who were willing to go – even if they were a bit reluctant. In Jonah, we see something different – we see a person who ran in the exact opposite direction. God's call came to Jonah to go to Nineveh – Jonah went in the exact opposite direction. Jonah's story teaches us a lot about when God calls us to something we're not sure we want to do. It teaches us that we're in good company if we're...less than enthusiastic. It also teaches us that God pursues us. We're not likely to experience a storm, or a big fish that swallows us and gets us back on track, but God often calls us and keeps calling until we respond. God connects to us is by constantly seeking a relationship with us.

In the passage, Jonah was aware of the foolishness of running away from God; he went on the sea, and yet he knew that the God who called him was the one who created the sea. Sometimes our efforts to run away from God can be just as likely to work. **The great news is that God loves us, cares for us, and wants to work through us to touch the world.** Even if we miss the call sometimes, God is constantly working to draw us toward that call.

### Reflect

What is a time you've felt God's call but run away? How did your understanding of that call develop?

### Pray

God, I thank you for calling me – even when my first instinct is to run away. Help me to have the courage to respond, and thank you for bearing with me when I struggle to respond.

**DAY 1 | WORLDVIEW | ACTS 1:6-9 (NIV)**

*6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

*7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

This passage shows us Jesus' last words to his disciples. He was ready to ascend to heaven, and they were focused on when he would return. His encouragement to them was that they would receive power, and his call to them was to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. In other words, everywhere they went, they would represent him.

That's a much easier call at camp than it is now that you're back home. It's easier to think of yourself as witnesses for Christ when everyone around you is there for the same thing. **There's strength in numbers and in unity.** But in regular life, we feel a lot more isolated. The last promise Jesus made to his disciples (and that promise is for us as well) is that we would receive what we needed in order to be his witnesses. Everywhere we go, we go in his name.

**Reflect**

What is different about being Jesus' witness at camp versus at home?

**Pray**

God, thank you for the privilege of representing you everywhere I go. Help me see where you are leading me and to have the courage to go there.

## DAY 2 | WORLDVIEW | MATTHEW 13:53-58 (NIV)

*53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at him.*

*But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home."*

*58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

The first place Jesus told his disciples they would be his witnesses was in Jerusalem. On the surface that probably seems like the easiest place because they could view that as "home." But as we know, probably from our own experience and also from the life of Christ, it's sometimes hard to go home. When Jesus went home after he had begun his ministry, the people wouldn't listen to him. They took offense at him – maybe because they remembered him as a child, maybe because they couldn't see him in a role different than the one they had known him in before, maybe just because they didn't like change.

The same thing can happen to us. If our families, our friends, and even the people in our church see a change that God has made in us, they might have trouble accepting it. They want us to fill the old role that we've outgrown or moved beyond, and it can be hard to be taken seriously. **Take comfort in knowing that Jesus experienced that too, and continue to do what you know God is calling you to do.**

### Reflect

What roles would you like to take in family, among friends, and at church that might be difficult for people to accept you in?

### Pray

God, I thank you for helping me to learn and grow. Help me to persevere even when it's hard for others to see what you see in me.

## DAY 3 | WORLDVIEW | ACTS 10:44-48 (NIV)

*44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues[a] and praising God.*

*Then Peter said, 47 “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.*

In this passage (read all of Acts 10 for the full story), we see Peter surprised that God is working through Gentiles as well as Jews. He has been focused on one particular part of his mission – to share with the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah – and has missed that there is a much larger mission at work. He gains new allies that he had believed he wasn’t even allowed to associate with.

As we go through our lives, we may find that God is leading us to expand our own circles beyond what we thought was our mission. We find that there are people we didn’t know who are also part of God’s family, and that God sometimes works through surprising people and in surprising places. **We can grow when we are open to God’s work being bigger than what we thought it was.** One great thing about the life of faith is that we never know it all. We can continually learn and grow if we are open to seeing God at work wherever we go and through anyone we meet.

### Reflect

How has your idea of who God is, and who God’s followers are, grown as you have grown? Have you ever been surprised to find out someone you knew was a follower of Christ?

### Pray

God, help me to be willing to see you at work in unexpected places and through unexpected people. Help me to put aside my resistance to working with them, as long as our goal is serving you.



## DAY 4 | WORLDVIEW | LUKE 9:37-50 (NIV)

37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. 38 A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39 A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. 40 I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." 41 "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." 42 Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. 43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, 44 "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men." 45 But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. 46 An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. 47 Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. 48 Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest." 49 "Master," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." 50 "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."

There's a lot going on in this passage, and it seems that while the disciples understood that they held a special position being Jesus' closest followers, that either wasn't enough for them, or they were insecure about their standing. The passage begins with them unable to cure someone, then they debate who is the greatest among them, and then they tried to stop someone else outside their circle from casting out demons in Jesus' name because the person wasn't one of them. Whether they were jealous or insecure, Jesus had to provide reassurance but also remind them that there was room for more than just the 12 in his kingdom.

It's easy for us to want to feel special or to feel threatened when someone else comes along and has successes. The reality is that there's something special about just being called and loved by the creator of the universe. The least in the kingdom is still part of the kingdom. After camp, as some of the excitement fades, it's especially easy to fall into the trap of feeling insecure about our relationship with God. **We have opportunities to serve with a variety of people, and if they are serving in Jesus' name, they are our allies.** In the end, what matters is that God has called us, and we can celebrate that God calls other people to work alongside us.

### Reflect

When is it easiest to feel insecure about our place in God's plan?

### Pray

God, help me to trust that in the times I am at my best and the times I am at my worst, your love for me and your call to me are the same.

## DAY 5 | WORLDVIEW | 1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-27 (NIV)

*21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

*27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

We have come to the end of our Impact journey this year. But this is just one small chapter of your faith journey. We have reflected on how God has created us to connect. You had the opportunity to serve with Christians from other places in a place where God was able to use you to support a family and a community. It is our hope that the camp experience and everything surrounding it doesn't represent the extent of your mission for the year, but rather an opportunity to recharge and get excited about what God can do through you all year. As one final reminder, we look back at this passage from Corinthians, which shows us that we are all part of the body of Christ. There are no parts that are unnecessary, and sometimes the ones that tend to get less honor will actually receive the greater honor. It's important to remember that in this chapter, even while there was discussion of some gifts being more highly valued, the whole chapter culminates in the next chapter by reminding the Corinthian church (and us) that **the greatest of all the gifts is love**. As you go, wherever you go, go in the love of Christ. And show that love to everyone you encounter. Fulfill the role God has called you to, and take pride in knowing God has loved you, called you, and works through you.

### Reflect

What role is the most comfortable for you in the body of Christ? Is there another role you aspire to?

### Pray

God, help me to find comfort in the role you have for me, pride in the fact that you have called me, and love for the people you bring into my life.



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