

DEVOTIONALS BEFORE CAMP

“As you sent me
into the world,
I have sent them
into the world.”



One God/One Mission



IMPACT
MISSION CAMPS



Introduction

We are so excited for you to begin this journey of preparation for your mission trip with Impact Mission Camps! Thank you for your willingness to respond to God's call of service. We hope that resources such as this devotional guide will be helpful as you prepare for your experience.

Our devotional guide is built around our theme for the year – One God/One Mission. Our Scripture verse for the week is John 17:18: "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." We believe in one God who created us, loves us, and wants to be in relationship with us. As Christians, our goal is to reflect God in all aspects of our lives, but what does that look like?

1. **Before** – Who is God?
2. **During** – What is God's mission?
3. **After** – Where is God sending me?

Each devotion includes a passage to read, devotional thoughts, and reflection activities. We pray for God's guidance as you prepare to take on a new challenge as part of God's mission!

Before Camp: GOD IS...

DAY 1: GOD IS CREATOR

Scripture: John 1:1-5

John 1:15

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Reflection

As you begin your journey with Impact, let's start from the beginning of everything! We read in our passage that God is the Creator of all things. God is life, and God is light. As the passage says, "without him nothing was made that has been made." In other words, we give the glory to God, not us! It's so hard to not center ourselves in what God is doing in the world, but it's important for us to remember that our service at camp isn't about us. Our time at camp is to join in with what God is ALREADY creating and doing in the world. Our Creator, God, gives us talents, gifts, and dreams to bring light in the darkness, but we must remember the source of those things.

What are the gifts that God has given you? How might you use those gifts to give God glory?

Pray

God, thank you for bringing life to the world. Help me to keep you at the center of all that I do.

Live It Out

Go for a walk today. While walking, take a picture of three things you see that God has created. Spend time in prayer asking God to make you more aware of the ways that God is working in your community.

Notes

DAY 2: GOD IS LOVE

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12

1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Reflection

While we are getting ready for camp, we focus a lot on what to bring for our week away. What clothes am I wearing on the job site? Do I have my Bible and sunscreen? One thing that we need to remember to take with us is... love!

Camp is a week of action. We are physically working on a home to keep a neighbor safe, warm, and dry. We are also loving others "because God is love." Love is the reason why we serve. God loves us so much, that he sent Jesus. That love should be a part of who we are as Christians and influence others at camp, school, home, and our community.

Spend time thinking about ways to serve with love while at camp.

Pray

God, You are perfect love. Thank you for loving me and sending Jesus to our imperfect world. Help me to love those around me, even when it's not easy.

Live It Out

Reach out to a friend or neighbor today who needs to be reminded of God's love. Send a text, write a letter, or do something nice for someone without expecting any recognition or thanks for it.

Notes

DAY 3: GOD IS BIG

Scripture: Psalm 24:1-2

Psalm 24:1-2

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Reflection

It's easy to focus on your own context. After all, your neighborhood, school, friends, and youth group are where you spend the majority of your time. As you seek to be a person who is missional, remember that God isn't just God of your town or your family. Our Scripture passage states that the whole "earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

God cares for "the world, and all who live in it"—that's a BIG God! As you drive to Impact Mission Camp on Sunday, pay attention to all that you pass. You'll see big houses and small houses. You'll drive by churches and schools. You'll see people that you've never met going about their business, completely unaware of where you're going. There might be a bird flying by or a squirrel darting in and out of the road. All of this is important to God.

Sometimes we can forget how amazing our world is. Don't be so consumed with self that you fail to look around. Take time to learn from others and experience the world outside of your context.

Pray

God, I know that you are a mighty and powerful God. Help me to step outside of my comfort zone and experience the world around me. Help me to remember that from the largest mountain to the smallest ant hill, you are a big God who cares.

Live It Out

Go outside tonight and look up at the stars. If you aren't able to do that, look up pictures of Hubble telescope images. Take a moment to reflect on just how big God is. Spend five minutes in silence enjoying and marveling at what God has created.

Notes

DAY 4: GOD IS JUST

Scripture: Micah 6:8

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Reflection

As Christians, our values should line up with God's values. What is it that God wants us to value? This passage tells us that God is a God of justice and mercy. God is a God who is fair and wants to set things right for those who are oppressed and on the edges of society. As a result, God has tasked us to also be just, merciful, and humbly walk in relationship with God.

Our last devotional reminded us that God cares about the whole world. We, too, must want to set things right in the world for people who are in need. We also need to show mercy and grace in our divided and hurting world.

Impact Mission Camp is a way to show love for your neighbor, but let's not make Impact an exception to your life. Let this experience be a catalyst for getting in line with what God values so that you can continue to work with your youth group to create waves of mercy and justice in your community.

Pray

God, There is so much hurt and division in our world. Help me see where your love and justice are needed in my community. Help my values to be in line with yours and give me strength to take action when action is needed.

Live It Out

Think about what you're seeing in the world and in your community. What causes or situations break your heart? Where do you see a need for justice or mercy? Write down your answers in the margins on this page and continue to think about this through your time at Impact.

Notes

DAY 5: GOD IS HERE

Scripture: Matthew 28:18–20

Matthew 28:18–20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Reflection

This passage in Scripture is called The Great Commission. Jesus had been resurrected, and he’s telling his disciples that they have work to do. This is a reminder for us as Jesus followers that God is pulling us toward something bigger. At the end of this passage, Jesus gives a powerful reminder that he is not leaving his followers alone in the world with vague instructions. He says, “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This week, we’ve thought about God’s love and power to create and bring about justice in the world. God is full of might, and at the same time, God cares deeply for us. God cares so much that Jesus was born on this earth so that we could more fully grasp our Father’s love. Yes, God is big, but our Heavenly Father has not left us alone in this world. God is present with us, always.

As you head to Impact Mission Camp, look for God’s presence. God will be there on work sites and in worship. God will be present in conversations and around the table. God is with us. Always.

Pray

God, I know that you love me and are with me always. Help me to be more aware of your presence at camp.

Live It Out

Every day at camp, write down one way that God was present and share it with your church group.

Notes