



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

CHURCH GROUP DEVOTIONS

“BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU.”

MATTHEW 6:33



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



CHURCH GROUP DEVOTIONS

Overall guidelines

Church group devotions are meant to be a time when you, as a church group, can wrap up the day, celebrate any decisions and prepare for the next day at Caswell. While of course, you need to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, these are not intended to be very long sessions. Most are designed to last between 20-30 minutes, although usually, the wrap-up session on Thursday night tends to be longer. The goal of this time is to help with group building as you review the day, to focus on how the lessons that day affect your group, and to help the group build upon those lessons the next day.

While the evening devotions and the pre-trip meeting follow the general format that we have used the past few years, each one is a new devotion when you get past the initial reflection questions/statements/instructions. Even those are tweaked as necessary. Those instructions are included each night for a couple of reasons. One is to remind you of things to cover and celebrate as you wrap up each day and prepare for the next. The second reason is that some churches choose to have different people lead devotions each night. Each session is written to build on previous devotions and sessions/services of the day/week so that it is also teachable with just the material written for that particular session.

Materials needed

Groups will receive student workbooks on Monday. Please provide all other listed items for your group. Don't forget to bring printed lyrics or PowerPoint lyric slides and a projector if you plan to sing worship songs during your church group devotion time.

Monday: Bibles, Workbooks, Pens/Pencils

Tuesday: Bibles, Workbooks, Pens/Pencils, Index Cards

Wednesday: Bibles, Workbooks, Pens/Pencils

Thursday: Bibles, Workbooks, Pens/Pencils, ServeNC Information (Optional)

Materials for pre-camp devotion

- Bible
- Camp forms*
- Caswell Guest/Counselor Registration Form (Sent by Caswell)
- Pre-Camp instructional video available on the website (optional)
- Parent Connection piece
- Behavior contract (optional; sample included)
- Materials needed for your preparation activity (optional)



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



- If you use the testimony option, you will need to line up the person in advance
- If you use the prayer partner option, you will need advance preparation

**These items can be found in the Summer Youth Weeks camp materials on the camp webpage at BeDoTell.com. For more information on obtaining these materials, please contact the Student Ministries Office at (800) 395-5102 ext. 5566 or Youth.Disciplemaking@ncbaptist.org.*



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



QUIET TIME SUGGESTIONS

You will find quiet times for each morning in the student workbooks. This is a very important part of the day for students as well as adult chaperones. As some groups struggle with the timing of the morning quiet times, here are a few suggestions to help your group get the most from their quiet times:

- Take your entire group to one spot, say some introductory words, and then have students scatter to do their quiet times individually. When they finish, have them come back together and discuss the quiet time as a group.
- If your church has assigned each chaperone to pray for six or eight youth, use these groups to ensure that quiet times are being done. Have each chaperone take their individual group to a specific place and have students do their quiet times.
- Timing your quiet times can be a challenge if your group is staying in a cabin and cooking your own meals. To ensure that your group does the quiet time each day, set a specific time for breakfast, which will allow plenty of time before or after breakfast for quiet times.
- Please encourage your group to leave the barracks, cabin or wherever you are staying to do their quiet times. This will prevent them from going back to bed instead of doing their quiet times.
- Adults, please set a good example for your youth. Quiet times are also for adults.
- Your group will be going home on Saturday, and it is still important for everyone to have their quiet time that day. Each leader should find the method that makes this possible for his/her group. Perhaps you can gather your group before you leave and have your quiet time together.

Studies show it takes a person 21 days of repeating a task to develop a habit, and we want to encourage students and adults to make a habit of spending time with the Lord each day. We provide 30 daily devotions in the student workbook and issue a 30-day challenge to spend time – alone time, quiet time – with God for 30 consecutive days. Please encourage students and adults to continue their daily devotions when they return from Caswell and to email Merrie Johnson at youth.disciplemaking@ncbaptist.org to let her know when they have completed the challenge.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



PRE-CAMP MEETING/DEVOTION FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS

This devotion will take place at the meeting you have for youth and parents to review the rules and details of the trip. Encourage parents to participate in this devotion so they will get a better idea of what will be discussed at camp. This will help parents know how to pray for their teenager while he/she is away.

Before the Meeting

- Be sure to personally review all of the camp guidelines before this meeting.
- Remember that two notarized copies of the participant's forms are required for each person attending camp (chaperones included). It can be helpful for you to secure notaries to be at the meeting to ensure you have forms properly prepared and turned in before they leave the meeting. If possible, you may want to mail out copies of the forms to parents, along with all of the camp guidelines and dress code, a few weeks beforehand so they can fill it out. (Be sure to have extra copies available for those who cannot make the meeting.)
- Providing the dress code early can help them shop for proper bathing suits, etc. You will still need to cover the dress code and guidelines at this meeting.
- It may help to have access to a copier for copies to be made of insurance cards to be attached to the forms.

Another option is to have parents and students sign an additional form that spells out behavior expectations for the week and expected consequences. This helps you clarify expectations, especially to any parents who may later ask why their student got into trouble for failing to meet guidelines. This does not have to be long. Some use a one-page covenant agreement with guidelines and consequences outlined. It can even be humorous, as long as it is clear. **An example is attached.**

Consider ways that your youth group could record and retell their Caswell experience. You could keep parents connected with the group while they are at camp. Share that they can go to [facebook.com/bedotell](https://www.facebook.com/bedotell) to watch evening worship services Tuesday and Thursday night. Other ways include creating a Facebook page, Instagram account, etc., specifically for your Caswell trip. Posting pictures keeps others in the church connected. (It may help to designate someone to take pictures). Some groups will design a bulletin board, and others will plan a worship service with pictures. Helping them plan how they will share the story of what happened at Caswell with your church before they go can help that story be told more effectively. You may even wish to put together a leadership team of students to work on that task.

If your group has personalized items to use at Caswell, be sure to have those items at this



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



meeting. This may include but is not limited to: phone/electronics bags (we suggest taking up their phones during worship in Hatch, small groups and church group devotions to prevent distractions), water bottles, offering containers, etc.

Materials Needed

- Bible
- Caswell guest/counselor registration form (sent by Caswell)
- Pre-camp instructional video available on the website (optional)
- Parent Connection piece
- Pre-Camp Prayer Guide
- All other camp forms
- Behavior contract (optional)
- Caswell items to personalize (optional)
- Testimony (optional)



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



MEETING

Begin and end the meeting on time!

There is much to cover. Be respectful of the participants' time so that you can keep them connected while relaying all of the important information they need and the forms and information you need to collect. It is your choice whether or not to cover the guidelines and information before or after the devotion.

Prayer: Pray early and often for this week at camp. Set the tone for this special time.

Important items that need to be covered in the meeting:

- Instructions for the week.
- Caswell guidelines, including dress code and camp rules.
- Remind them of the food packaging for Haiti. Each church will be assigned a time during the week to package meals for Haiti.
- Make sure all campers have the participant's forms signed and notarized (adults included) by the student's parents.
- Make sure all chaperones have completed background checks.
- Make sure parents have emergency contact numbers.

NOTE: In order to attend Caswell, all participants must turn in the required paperwork. All paperwork needs to be completed before you arrive at camp, so please use this meeting to complete all required documents.

Give an overview of the 2024 Youth Weeks Missions Offering.

The offering for 2024 will be to provide meals for children in Haiti through the House of Abraham and the organization Servants With a Heart. Everyone at camp will have an opportunity to pack food bags during the week and to give to the offering to provide this food. The offering will be taken on Wednesday evening during fort worship. Your group can decide to either build a container to collect an offering during the week or have each youth give individually during the offering time.

Be sure to share what your expectations are as group leader for the week.

Camp Item Preparation (optional)

As students and parents arrive, have them prepare any item that your group may personalize to use at Caswell. This may include (but is not limited to) phone bags*, water bottles, offering containers, etc.

**Some groups collect participants' phones so they can be less distracted on the trip. A phone bag is a personalized baggie to keep phones with leaders until returned. If use is permitted throughout the week, personalized bags allow for easier distribution and let you know whose phones may not have been turned back in when requested.*



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



PRE-CAMP DEVOTION

Say: Before last year's Caswell even started, planning for this year's Caswell began. We are about to experience what God has been putting together, following over a year of prayer, study and work from the Caswell team to give people an opportunity to encounter Jesus and have their lives changed eternally.

Caswell fills up quickly each year because people know just how special of a place it can be. If you have been to Caswell before, you know exactly what I am talking about. If this is your first time, you are in for a treat!

Ask: What do you need in your life right now? A relationship with Jesus changes everything and meets your greatest need. It is our prayer that, after your Caswell experience, you will be closer to Jesus than you ever have been before. We also pray that it strengthens the relationships students have with those who do not get to go to Caswell, so that they too benefit because their student attended.

Say: For years, God has been changing lives for the better at Caswell, and we expect the same this summer. When you go away to a place like this, you have the opportunity to escape from the everyday routine and look at things with a fresh perspective. We hope that this will cause you to see where Jesus wants to work in your life and truly change you.

The goal of Caswell is not for you to have a week of fun, great worship services and amazing times with your friends. We hope these things happen, but they aren't the reason Caswell retreats exist. The goal is for your encounter with Jesus to make you a disciple — a follower of Jesus on a deep level. Caswell is meant to be a starting point for great growth in your relationship with Jesus.

Testimony option: *This may be a good place to have someone share how their life was changed by an encounter with Jesus at Caswell. It could be a youth, but it could also be a godly college student or adult through whom God is still working. Students know Caswell is a place where they can have one of the most enjoyable weeks of their lives. It's important to help the students realize that Caswell is also a place where their lives can be eternally changed for the better.*

INTRODUCE THE THEME AND THEME VERSE

Say: The 2024 camp theme is "The Good Life," based on Matthew 5–7. In Jesus' longest recorded sermon, He took everything and turned it upside down to show us how to live the good life. This week, we will be leading students to learn how to align their hearts with God as they encounter their Savior, deepen their trust in Him, and become empowered to be salt and light to the world.

Ask: How do you define "the Good Life?" Is that life based on things or relationships that are temporary and can be taken away with a change of fortunes?



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



Say: Life can be hard. As we have seen in the past several years, so many things seem to be in constant change. We can try to find fulfillment through possessions, prestige, power and popularity, but they will all fail or become unfulfilling eventually. We can try to find security with a certain group or movement, but if it isn't the movement of God in our lives through our relationship with Jesus, it will come up short.

What is the answer? Our theme verse is Matthew 6:33. It tells us: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you."

People are trying so many things to allow them to live a "Good Life." Jesus gives us the best life, which is good on every level!

Say: I know some of you will be waiting until the last minute to pack the things you need for the week and make preparations to be gone. Some of you have already started this preparation. I want to encourage all of you to begin to prepare now, if you haven't already, for God to work in your life while you are at Caswell. Pray and ask God to remove obstacles that prevent you from hearing what He has to say to you. Ask God to use you to help others have a great experience this week. Ask God to reveal to you the changes you need to make in your life and the courage to live out those changes.

Ask: Finally, will you start praying today for our group experience at Caswell? Will you pray for Jesus to work in a way that this week and so that when we return we can be used by God to change our church and our community? I also encourage you to personally enlist other Christ followers, especially older members of our church to pray for you and our group and for the work God will do in and through our Caswell experience.

Prayer partner option: *Intergenerational ministry is one of the characteristics of a strong church. When those of all ages interact and worship together, the body of believers is strengthened. Caswell can be a starting point, or if you already practice this type of ministry, use this to strengthen your intergenerational ministry. In advance, enlist from your adults, especially godly senior adults, those who would be willing to be a prayer partner of a youth (or maybe your adults as well) going to Caswell. You could pair them up as you wish, but bottom line they need to agree to take a student's name and commit to pray for them before, during and after Caswell. There is an attached template for a guide to give the prayer partners as you enlist them so that they know what is requested of them. If you choose to use the prayer partner option, this would be a good place in your meeting to introduce or highlight it.*

WRAP UP

Say: Sure, we need you to quickly get all of your forms in and to be sure you know to bring all that you need to have a great week. But that is only part of it. We want you to get your heart



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



and mind ready to have God work in you. Most of the time, our attitudes play a major role in what we get out of life's opportunities. I pray that you come to Caswell expecting God to do something great in your life. I pray that the change will not be limited to you, but that your family, our church and the world are changed as God continues to work through you.

FINAL WORD TO PARENTS AS PART OF THE TEACHING SESSION/ MEETING

Say to PARENTS: We share this week with parents because we believe it is of utmost importance. We want this week to be truly life-changing for your kids. We ask that you pray over them and our trip before, during and after this week of Caswell. We know that sometimes you will have conflicts before you leave. Students may leave chores undone and messes (physical and emotional/spiritual) when they leave. If at all possible, try to address these before they leave so there isn't a battle soon after they arrive home.

Many of you whose students have attended Caswell in the past know that they often come home tired and maybe even a little grumpy because of fatigue. Please don't let this hurt the incredible work that God is going to do this week. Address issues as you need to, but be sure to add in a little grace and time so that the growth that starts at Caswell can continue.

PRAY! Close in prayer for the youth and their families. Ask God to do things even greater than we can imagine this week at Caswell. *(It may even be of benefit to enlist a godly, youth ministry-supporting Senior Adult, your pastor or someone else not going on the trip to lead in this prayer. This could help extend the prayer support for the week beyond those going on the trip. If you are doing the Prayer Partner option, this would be another way to highlight this.)*



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

MONDAY DEVOTION



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



MONDAY DEVOTION: THE GOOD LIFE

Each night at church group devotions, have the youth bring their Bibles, student workbooks and pens/pencils.

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 10:10

Materials needed

- Bibles
- Student workbooks
- Pens/pencils

Reminders & announcements

Along with announcements that you may have for your group, remind students of the following information each evening. With this being the first night and setting the stage for the week, you may want to encourage them to get some rest and to respect others who may be tired. If you can help set strong expectations on the first night, it can help the rest of the week go more smoothly.

One of the most important instructions you can give should be directed to your “new to Caswell” students. Let them know you are here for them. Encourage them to ask questions if they don’t know the “routine” of Caswell and expectations for your group.

- Give any specific instructions that relate to your group.
- Review camp program times and food packing times.
- Remind the youth of their mission offering.
- Give the students their T-shirts to be worn Tuesday evening. (Remind them not to wear them until then.)

QUIET TIME INSTRUCTIONS (optional lead-in to use each night)

Note to leaders: Each night, consider spending a few minutes reflecting on the day with a “daily review.” If a reflection starts to be something embarrassing to someone, be sure to move on quickly. If someone shares a decision they made for Christ that they did not make publicly in the worship service, please be sure to share it with the BeDoTell staff before the week’s end so the student can receive follow-up materials. You can use the decision card forms in their book and turn them into one of the staff. Celebrate every decision!

Say: Each night we want to take a moment to review the day. Be positive during this time. It is meant to be a time of fun and celebration, so do not share anything that could cause embarrassment or hurt. With those guidelines in mind, think about the following questions:



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



- How has Caswell started off for you?
- Is there something you have already heard that has helped you notice that God wants to do great things this week?
- Is anyone confused about anything? If you want to ask me privately later, that is OK. We want you to get the most out of this week and want to help you.
- Has anyone already experienced a “God moment” that you would like to quickly share? (A “God moment” is where you have witnessed God working in the midst of a situation or in a person’s life.) We are expecting many God moments this week and want to share those moments as a time of encouragement for all of us.

DEVOTION

Say: Each night as we begin our devotion time, I am going to read a scripture from our theme passage, Matthew 5-7.

Theme Verse: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.” Matthew 6:33

Say: We’re going to start by hopefully growing a little closer as a group. I’m going to ask you to pair up with someone you do not know very well.

Leader’s note: *It may be worthwhile in advance to ask some of your leadership kids to pair up with kids who may not have others wanting to pair up with them when this time comes. Adults can also help fill in gaps if there is an uneven number of students, but student-to-student is best. Also, as we begin the following exercise, remind them to be encouraging and uplifting.*

Say: Each of you will be sharing three things with your partner.

- What is one thing you would like to get out of this week at Caswell?
- What is one goal you have for your life? (This could be long-term, like a career or to be a good parent, or short-term, like making a team in the fall or doing well in a subject that you normally struggle with. This is totally up to them.)
- What is something you pray about often that you can also ask your partner to pray with you about? (Tell them it is OK if they do not want to share something deeply personal or go into great detail with this question, they can keep it general like “my family.”)

Pray: Begin this part of the devotion time with a prayer for everyone to be able to focus on what they have heard and experienced today and how this can shape our lives to be the servants of God that He designed us to be.

Say: It is my hope and prayer that we get to know each other a little bit better and grow closer



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



as a group this week. The questions we asked you to answer for your partner were designed to help with this. I hope that you do pray for one another and encourage each other to help fulfill positive goals for this week at Caswell and in their lives.

WRAP UP

Say: By now you should realize that the theme for the week is The Good Life.

Ask: How would you define “The Good Life?” (Get several answers from the group.)

Leader’s note: Some may define the “good” life in terms of behavior. While we know behavior has a definite bearing on the quality of life, that is not what we are focusing on this week. We are focusing on living a high-quality or “good” life that God has for us to experience. This will be fleshed out more in the next few paragraphs.

Say: How we define the Good Life helps determine whether or not we believe that our lives are or can be good. The definitions of society that tell us what makes life “good” are usually based on the accumulation of wealth, friends and status, which are hard to hold on to. When we define the Good Life as being one where we follow God’s leading for our lives, we live this life in God’s power and experience the best life.

Explain: The word “seek” is often defined as an attempt to find (something), or to attempt or desire to obtain or achieve (something). It could even be defined as “going after something.” When we seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we are going after the things of God. And if we do that first, He will add on the other things that we need.

Say: In fact, Jesus tells us: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10b). Jesus not only desires that we have a full life — He promises it to those who follow Him. This does not necessarily mean that we will be wealthy by the world’s standards. Instead, it means that we will have all that we need to live a “Good Life” in Christ. A rich and full life that makes a difference to others. A life empowered by the same power that created the universe and raised Jesus from the dead. As a bonus, our riches won’t be things here on earth but instead will be eternal.

Ask: What are you pursuing in your life to make it “good?” Consider going after God’s kingdom and a kingdom lifestyle first and see how God blesses that. This week, tonight even, would be a great time to commit to that and begin that journey right now.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



OPTIONAL REFLECTION

At the end of each church group devotion, you might want to take a moment to let students silently reflect on the day and Scripture. You may even want to give them some questions to help direct that time. Turn in your Student Workbook to "TODAY'S REFLECTION." (There will be a page for each day.) Take a moment in silence to recap the day or write down any other thoughts.

Pray: After giving your students any other information they need, close in prayer. If you do the optional reflection time, be sure to give students enough time to complete those reflections, but it is best not to prolong it for those taking a long time to finish. Encourage those who didn't have a chance to finish to complete the reflections on their own after the session.

STUDENT BOOK MATERIAL

TODAY'S REFLECTION

Take a moment in silence to recap the day or write down any other thoughts.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

TUESDAY DEVOTION



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



TUESDAY DEVOTION: THE HEART OF OUR GROUP

Each night at church group devotions, have the youth bring their Bibles, student workbooks and pens/pencils.

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 10:24-25

Materials needed

- Bibles
- Student workbooks
- Pens/pencils
- Index Cards

Reminders & announcements

- Give any specific instructions relevant to your group.
- Review camp program times and food packing times.
- Remind the youth of their mission offering.

DAILY REVIEW (optional Lead-in)

Say: Each night we want to take a moment to review the day. Be positive during this time. It is meant to be a time of fun and celebration, so do not share anything that could cause embarrassment or hurt. With those guidelines in mind, think about the following questions:

- What was something funny that you experienced today?
- What was something that you witnessed today that made you feel good?
- Were there some decisions made today that we can celebrate?

Leader's note: *If a reflection starts to be something embarrassing to someone, be sure to move on quickly. If someone shares a decision they made for Christ that they did not make publicly in the worship service, please be sure to share it with the BeDoTell staff before the week's end so the student can receive follow-up materials. You can use the decision card forms in their book and turn it in to one of the staff. Celebrate every decision!*

DEVOTION

Say: Each night as we begin our devotion time, I am going to read a Scripture from our theme passage, Matthew 5-7. This verse/these verses are worth committing to memory.

Theme verse: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



will be provided for you.” Matthew 6:33

Say: For many years, companies and even churches have put a ton of emphasis on developing and publishing “Value, Purpose, Mission and Vision Statements”. These statements aren’t supposed to be pretty words to share what they think matters. The words of these “statements” are intended to define why an organization exists, what is important to it, and what it desires to accomplish. In some ways, these are an attempt to define the “Heart” of a group. Such statements could also be a way of sharing what the group is known for or to show what they want to be known for if that is different.

Ask: With this in mind, how would you define the “Heart” of our youth group? It could be figured out by asking yourself: What is important to us? Why do we exist? What are we known for?

Leader’s note: Pass out the note cards.

Say: To understand what you think is the “Heart” of our group in the purest way, I would like for each person to take a note card and write down your description of the “Heart” of our group and pass it in. Please do not discuss your answer.

Leader’s note: Collect the cards and pass them to other adults to read. Have each adult share 1-2 cards with the group. We would encourage you to quickly read each card to yourself before reading it out loud in case something is shared that may take the discussion in a direction you do not wish to go.)

On this next step, you may wish to prepare ahead of time what you believe/desire to be the “Heart” of your group. If not, or in conjunction with that, here are some things that may be desirable to become the “Heart” of your group.

WRAP UP (*Defining the HEART of our group.*)

Read: Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

Say: Each group, ours included, has been uniquely gifted and placed by God to do the works He has prepared for us to do. We have a unique community to reach and have opportunities to do so that others do not.

The “Heart” of our group should be that we are a group of encouragers who help each other love and do the work God has given us. That we are a group that meets together to do this encouraging face-to-face. Our “Heart” should be one that seeks the righteousness (purity) of a Christian lifestyle lived in love to those who follow Jesus, as well as to those who have



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



not started a relationship with Him. The bottom line: Our “Heart” should be to fulfill Jesus’ command to make disciples.

Key point: First and foremost, God wants us to have a relationship with Him. We can do many good things, but we can never do all that God intends, nor spend eternity with Him unless we have a relationship with Him by giving our life to Him. This makes us “right” with Him. It is not something we can earn, but it is accomplished by us accepting the gift He gave through His sacrifice on the cross for our salvation.

Leader’s note: If you have students who have yet to give their lives to Jesus, this would be a good place to review how to make this most important decision. Line up an adult or student before tonight’s devotion to share with the group a difference that following Jesus has made in their life.

Say: The “Heart” of a youth group is a compilation of the “Hearts” of the members of the group.

Ask: What about your heart? Have you given it to Jesus? Does your heart reflect the “Heart” goals we have for our group? Are you willing to develop that heart now?

Reflection: Turn in your Student Workbook to “TODAY’S REFLECTION.” (There will be a page for each day.) Take a moment in silence to recap the day or write down any other thoughts.

We mentioned that our “Heart” should be one that seeks the righteousness (purity) of a Christian lifestyle lived in love to those who follow Jesus, as well as to those who have not started a relationship with Him. What in your life would not allow others to believe that you follow Jesus? Maybe it’s your language, worry, attitude, lack of being in the Word, etc.

Pray: After giving your students any other information they need, close in prayer. If you do the optional reflection time, be sure to give students enough time to complete those reflections, but it is best not to prolong it for those taking a long time to finish. Encourage those who didn’t have a chance to finish on their own after the session.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



STUDENT BOOK MATERIAL

TODAY'S REFLECTION

Take a moment in silence to recap the day or write down any other thoughts.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

WEDNESDAY DEVOTION



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



WEDNESDAY DEVOTION: A HEART FOR EACH OTHER

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Galatians 6:2, 10

Materials needed

- Bibles
- Student workbooks
- Pens/Pencils

Reminders & announcements

- Give any specific instructions that relate to your group.
- Review camp program times and your food packing time.

DAILY REVIEW (optional Lead-in)

Say: Each night we want to take a moment to review the day. Be positive during this time. It is meant to be a time of fun and celebration, so do not share anything that could cause embarrassment or hurt. With those guidelines in mind, think about the following questions:

- What was something funny that you experienced today?
- What was something that you witnessed today that made you feel good?
- Were there some decisions made today that we can celebrate?

Note to leaders: *If a reflection starts to be something embarrassing to someone, be sure to move on quickly. If someone shares a decision they made for Christ that they did not make publicly in the worship service, please be sure to share it with the BeDoTell staff before the week's end so the student can receive follow-up materials. You can use the decision card forms in their book and turn it in to one of the staff. Celebrate every decision!*

DEVOTION

Say: Each night as we begin our devotion time, I am going to read a Scripture from our theme passage, Matthew 5-7. This verse/these verses are worth committing to memory.

Theme verse: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." Matthew 6:33

Leader: Have your students split into smaller groups with an adult leader with each group. Then have each leader go through the following questions. Allow groups time to discuss each question.

Ask: Do any of you ever struggle with feelings of worry? Do you feel like you are facing all of the "what ifs" of life alone? Who do you go to when/if these feelings seem to hit you hard?



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



How do you handle your worry and not dwell on it?

Say: This morning, we studied how Jesus can be trusted when we are hit with worry. We were reminded that not only does Jesus tell us not to worry, but He tells us why. He reminds us that He cares for us. Jesus cares for us much more deeply than we can ever realize. His love for us took Him willingly to the cross to die for us. He's got us!

Ask: How many of you have heard this before, but still find yourself slipping into unbelief about it and not trusting Jesus that He has you in everything you face?

Say: One way we can build this trust and strengthen our faith is to surround ourselves with people who can encourage us and help us walk through tough days when we find our faith wavering and trust slipping. Galatians 6:1-10 is a great passage encouraging us to look out for each other as a church/group, but verses 2 and 10 speak directly about bearing each other's burdens and giving care to our spiritual family.

Read: Galatians 6:2, 10

"Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

WRAP UP

Ask: How do we bear one another's burdens?

Say: Last night we discussed the Heart of our group. It is my prayer that part of that Heart is a Heart for each other. That we truly care about one another. That we walk life together encouraging those who are struggling with hope and those who are doing well to continue fighting the good fight. We need each other. God uses us to show His love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to be faithful to allow Him to show off this love through us.

Ask/Discuss: What do we do when someone who has been active in our group stops coming? What do you do if you hear a member of our group is struggling with something? How should we reach out to them? How well do we pray for each other? Do you pray often for others in our group?

Say: Imagine the growth that would occur in our group if we were known consistently as a group that did a great job of loving each other!

Say: In closing of worship tonight, we asked for you to pray for one another. How do you think that would change your group and you if you continued to pray for each other when



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



you are home?

Leader’s note: Pass out note cards to your students.

Say: Use the notecards to write down how the group can be praying for the things that cause you to be anxious.

Leader’s note: After the students have had time to write down the things they would like prayer for, take up the cards and use these cards throughout the year to pray for your students.

Reflection: At the end of each church group devotion, take a moment to let students silently reflect on the day and Scripture. You may even want to give them some questions to help direct that time. Turn in your Student Workbook to “TODAY’S REFLECTION.” (There will be a page for each day.) Take a moment in silence to recap the day or write down any other thoughts.

Pray: After giving your students any other information they need, close in prayer. If you do the optional reflection time, be sure to give students enough time to complete those reflections, but it is best not to prolong it for those taking a long time to finish. Encourage those who didn’t have a chance to finish on their own after the session.

STUDENT BOOK MATERIAL

TODAY’S REFLECTION

Take a moment in silence to recap the day or write down any other thoughts.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

THURSDAY DEVOTION



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



THURSDAY DEVOTION: COMMISSIONED HEARTS

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 10:10

Materials needed

- Bibles
- Student workbooks
- Pens/pencils
- Paper and Envelopes

Reminders & announcements

- Give any specific instructions that relate to your group.
- Review any of the program times and your food packing times.

DAILY REVIEW (optional Lead-in)

Say: Each night we want to take a moment to review the day. Be positive during this time. It is meant to be a time of fun and celebration, so do not share anything that could cause embarrassment or hurt. With those guidelines in mind, think about the following questions:

- What was something funny that you experienced today?
- What was something that you witnessed today that made you feel good?
- Were there some decisions made today that we can celebrate?

Note to leader: *If a reflection starts to be something embarrassing to someone, be sure to move on quickly. If someone shares a decision they made for Christ that they did not make publicly in the worship service, please be sure to share it with the BeDoTell staff before the week's end so the student can receive follow-up materials. You can use the decision card forms in their book and turn it in to one of the staff. Celebrate every decision!*

Say: As we wrap up each day with our church group devotion, I want to encourage you to really listen so that you can hear what God is telling you. (Pray that God would help everyone listen to His message.)

DEVOTION

Say: Each night as we begin our devotion time, I am going to read a Scripture from our theme passage, Matthew 5-7.

Theme verse: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." Matthew 6:33

Ask: Did Caswell go really fast for you this year? You do not have to share what they are, but did some of you commit to doing things differently when you get home to seek God's kingdom



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



and His “Good Life” for you? (*Ask for those who wouldn't share earlier but maybe would lift a hand here.*)

Say: While some of you may be more than ready to get home, that is the tough part for many others. We have had times in the past at Caswell (or another camp experience) where we wanted things to be different when we got back, but it wasn't long before we got back into old habits and didn't live out the commitments we had made.

Ask: Have you worked on or even thought of a plan to make this time different? If this is your first time at Caswell (or camp) and you want to live that “Good Life” back at home, have you planned *how* to do that?

Say: It isn't going to be easy. We will have battles to fight, maybe even on the way home! Satan is a thief and doesn't want us to experience the “Good” and full life that Jesus came to give us. This is spelled out in the first part of a verse that we referenced Monday night.

Read: John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.”

Say: Sharing the Good Life along with commitment to it and accountability is a solid plan to fight off this robber of our joy. As we share the Good Life, we can see the power and goodness of it. Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples in a passage of Scripture known as the “Great Commission.” It is simply sharing the “Good Life” that Jesus gives in His power and authority.

Read: Matthew 28:18-20

“Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, 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 observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Say: If we are going to have the “Heart” that God wants us to have, we will have a heart for your community by sharing Christ in tangible ways.

Leader: Split your group into 2 groups and give one question to each group.

Ask: In your groups, brainstorm ways that we can be Christ in our local community.

- 3 miles around our church
- 6 miles around our church



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



Say: Now make a list of businesses, neighborhoods, groups, schools, etc. that are around our church. Brainstorm ways that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

ServeNC Option: *One option to help them develop a heart for missions and have experience sharing the Good Life with others is to sign up for our State Convention's mission emphasis this summer, known as ServeNC.*

ServeNC is an opportunity for every NC Baptist church to love its community in Jesus' name through service projects. It is scheduled for August 3-10 of this year. You can find all of the information at the NC Baptist website. Here is the link servenc.com. Go to the website and learn about opportunities for your community.

WRAP UP

Leader: The final prayer time at the end of the final church group devotions at Caswell can be a very special time. You are leaving Caswell and hopefully returning home as a group and individuals who have been changed by an encounter with Christ. Below are some suggestions for making this a very memorable time for all involved.

During this time, share any final reflections you may have for your group. Encourage them that even when they may feel they have drifted from God, you and your church are still there for them. Let them know your love for them doesn't end when you pull out of the front gate of Caswell.

Cover your group in prayer as you prepare to depart from Caswell. If you feel so led, give your other adults and students a chance to help lead this prayer time. A great option for this year is to have this prayer time be a commissioning of all who are willing in your group to be commissioned as missionaries to your home area. Missionaries to their families, church, school, workplace, teams, etc. It could also be commissioning for your upcoming ServeNC project if you choose to do one.

- Start with prayers of celebration for what God has already accomplished this week and what He will do as you return home.
- Pray for the unique opportunities God has given your church to further the kingdom of God in your community.
- Pray for your leadership to be strong examples of those living the Good Life.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



Finally, if you feel so led, spend time praying personally for members of your group. This could include the laying on of hands or a special commemoration for your graduating seniors and/or your student leaders. If your group is mature enough, it may even be a good time to have those who are facing some big challenges at home come forward to be prayed for. (Do this part only at their request — do not embarrass anyone or betray confidence.)

OPTIONAL REFLECTION ON THEIR OWN

Say: Because of the time of prayer we had at the end of tonight’s church group devotion, I want to encourage you to take a moment right now on your own, or later in your room, to silently reflect on the day and today’s scripture. It may be a good time to list things you are praying for in your Student Workbook under “TODAY’S REFLECTION.”

STUDENT BOOK MATERIAL

TODAY’S REFLECTION

Take a moment in silence to recap the day or write down any other thoughts.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

HOME CHURCH SHARING SERVICE



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



HOME CHURCH SHARING SERVICE

This is a sample service through which you can share with your home church how God worked in your group while at Caswell

Pre-Service

Before the service would be a great time to play the Caswell soundtrack* and show on screen pictures from the week.

Opening Prayer **Student**

Scripture Reading: Theme Verse **Student**

Choruses*

Mission Offering Emphasis

Consider including our camp missions offering emphasis in this service through sharing about the food packing and the money given. If the emphasis at Caswell has inspired your church leadership to do a similar project, this would be a good time to encourage the rest of the church to take part in that project.

Theme Song From Camp*

Testimonies/Sharing Time

Allow students and chaperones to share what they learned and how God spoke to them during their time at Caswell. It may be best to select who will speak in advance. One other option is to record video testimonies (maybe even while at Caswell) to play at this time.

Call to Commitment

This would be a great time to encourage camp participants to commit again to living out what they learned at Caswell. It would also be a great time to encourage the other church members to commit to pray for and continually disciple these camp participants. This would be a great time to share and celebrate any calling from God, such as a call to vocational ministry or to a specific ministry task, that your students or adults have experienced while at Caswell or during the follow-up time since camp.

Closing Chorus*

Closing Prayer **Pastor**

**Camp music is available online at www.BeDoTell.com.*



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



SAMPLE COPY OF BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

CASWELL YOUTH WEEK (DATE)

- I. FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE TRIP CHAPERONES/CAMP RULES, INCLUDING DRESS CODE, PHONE AND ELECTRONICS RULES.
- *II. DO NOT LEAVE THE SPECIFIED AREAS ON WHICH THE GROUP IS RESIDING, RECREATING WITHOUT BEING ACCOMPANIED BY A CHAPERONE.
- *III. THY BODY SHALT NOT BE IN THE RESIDENCE ROOM OF THE OPPOSITE SEX (CAMP RULES) NOR SHALT THOU ENTER INTO THE BUILDING OF ANOTHER GROUP WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL BY CHAPERONES FROM THAT GROUP.
- IV. DO NOT SMOKE, CHEW TOBACCO, VAPE OR USE ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE-TYPE DEVICE, OR USE A PLANT OF ANY KIND IN THIS MANNER DURING THE TRIP.
- *V. DO NOT CONSUME ANY BEVERAGE OR ANY OTHER CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE THAT MAY ALTER YOUR BEHAVIOR PATTERNS. ANYONE WHO HAS THE NEED TO PARTAKE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MUST HAVE THEIR PARENTS NOTIFY TRIP CHAPERONES BEFORE THE TRIP OF THE TYPE OF DRUG AND SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATION. CHAPERONES WILL HOLD AND ADMINISTER MEDICINES.
- VI. NO FIREWORKS SHOULD BE BROUGHT, BOUGHT OR BURNED..
- *VII. DO NOT STEAL, OR BORROW FROM YOUR NEIGHBOR WITHOUT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PERMISSION.
- VIII. DO NOT TRESPASS ON YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BODY OR SELF-ESTEEM. THIS INCLUDES ANY INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT.
- IX. REPORT ANY INJURY IMMEDIATELY TO A CHAPERONE.
- X. BE ON TIME TO ALL EVENTS.

REWARDS FOR FOLLOWING COVENANT RULES:

1. An enjoyable trip free from hassles from chaperones.
2. An abundant dose of praise and thank yous.
3. The opportunity to take advantage of all the special things planned for you.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS:

- Small violation = A reprimand from a chaperone.
Repeat violation = A call to parents.
Several violations = Youth is sent home

SEVERE CLAUSE:

A severe behavior or a violation of starred rules may result in a youth being sent home on the first offense.



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



I have read, and I understand the above covenant and agree to follow the behavior guidelines listed.

(Youth Signature)

I have read and understand the above covenant and agree to be supportive of the chaperones taking responsibility for the enforcement of these guidelines.

(Parent Signature)



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



PRAYER PARTNER GUIDE

CASWELL YOUTH WEEK

Thank you so much for agreeing to be a prayer partner for our student ministry during our Caswell experience. We believe that for any of us to grow strong in Christ, we need to be in a state of continual prayer and need others to be praying for us. As our students battle the spiritual warfare that is all around them (and us), prayer support is vital.

The theme for Caswell this year is “The Good Life.” It is based on Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus took everything and turned it upside down to show us how to live the good life. This week, we will be leading students to learn how to align their hearts with God as they encounter their Savior, deepen their trust in Him and become empowered to be salt and light to the world. This is why your help is needed.

We ask that you pray for your student as God leads, especially in these ways:

- Ask God to remove obstacles that may prevent them from hearing what HE has to say to them.
- Ask God to use them as HE will help others have a great experience at Caswell.
- Pray for their home to be a place of nurture and growth when they return. If they are not, pray for your student to be used by God to change their family.
- Pray for our group to be eternally changed into a positive force for Christ to change our church and our community.

Pray for them starting as soon as you have their name, throughout the week, and as long as you feel led after they return. If you feel so inclined, you may even ask the student if they have specific things they would like for you to take to God in prayer.

Name of student going to Caswell

Caswell dates

**This guide can be in the form of a sheet of paper or on a large index card. If using a card, explain why this is so important (first three paragraphs) on one side. Then on the other side put the list of what you want them to pray for (the final two paragraphs) and the student’s name. If you want, you could even do a set of these cards for the chaperones.*

It is best to personally enlist the partners and distribute the guide. Some students may even have someone they wish to ask to be their prayer partner. If so, you can give them a card to use to enlist that partner. If necessary you can put the names of those you wish to be prayed for on cards and have the cards placed on the altar table or some other public place to be picked up by individuals. Either way, if at all possible it is best for no prayer partner to have more than one student. It is also encouraged that they don’t pick up a card for a family member, as they should be praying for them anyway. If you end up with multiple prayer partners for each trip participant, that is just an added bonus.