

**PEACE  
FULL**

**FAITH  
FULL**

**HOPE  
FULL**

**HOPE  
FULL**

**POWER  
FULL**

**JOY  
FULL**

**WAPO 2020 PARENT DEVO**

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## A Daily Camp Devotional for Families at Home

Hi families! It's possible you just left your camper, maybe in the high spirits that often accompany the excitement of a new adventure, or perhaps with a tear or two because sleep-away camp can be a big deal for lots of families. Either way, your child is at camp, and you're someplace else, and that is that. At camp, Sundays often include big feels; we recognize that may be true for the grownups who go home alone today as well. Are you bereft? Relieved? Giddy? Whatever you're feeling is just fine. Take a deep breath, and enjoy a moment just for yourself.

These daily home devotions are intended to connect you with a bit of the spirit we're enjoying at camp this week, and offer a peek into what we are exploring together in Bible study. Each day, we'll share the day's story and theme, suggest a few questions to think on, invite you to pray, and close with a blessing. Use this resource as it suits your schedule and your family, knowing that your camper will be learning, playing, praying, and blessing along with you this week.<sup>2</sup>

The theme for our summer at camp this year comes from this verse from the book of **Romans (15:13)**:

***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

We're using these words every day to bless our campers and center our days in the promises of God, who is utterly generous with love. This is our hope and prayer for you as well.

See you Friday!

# SUNDAY



## Read the Story: Acts 16:24-26

Even though they were in prison, Paul and Silas chose to sing. God's gifts can't be crushed, even in the deepest, darkest moments.

Maybe you've met someone who refuses to give up hope. These are precious people. Some hopes are infused with worry and anxiety; others are filled with a peace that defies understanding. The first Christians had plenty to worry about, ostracized and harassed as they often were by the dominant cultures of the Roman Empire. The heroes of faith whose stories they cherished and shared were held by a hope and a trust that overflowed in all kinds of life-giving ways. Though their work and witness to God's power, people were healed, captives set free, and sins were forgiven.

## HopeFull

Today, your camper's group will get a chance to explore the gift of hope. Here are some questions about hope for you:

- What gives you hope these days?
- What are some ways you offer and encourage hope in the people you love?
- Are there some places in your life that you could use some help with hope?
- What hopes do you have for your camper's time at camp?

## Prayer

*God, thank you for gathering a community at camp this summer. You are good, God, to give us hope in so many different ways. Please be with our children this week, while they laugh, while they play, and while they learn.*

*Amen.*

## Blessing

*May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

# MONDAY



## Read the Story: Luke 1:39-45

When Elizabeth realized that God's promise was going to come true through her younger cousin, her own baby kicked, leaped and exclaimed joy from inside of her.

It can be a challenge, in some days (or years) to find the high notes of joy among the seemingly endless and heavy loads of weariness, worry, and regret. But even in the driest times - little bits of joy can be unveiled: seeds of hope that take root and grow into trees that steady and shelter and sustain the whole world.

## JoyFULL

Today, your camper's group will get a chance to explore the gift of Joy. Here are some questions about joy for you:

- What can you name as your top three sources of joy these days?
- What's the difference between joy and happiness? Can someone be joyful even if their life is difficult?
- How do you celebrate joy? What are some ways you share your joy with others?
- Are there some places or people in your life that could use a shot or two of pure joy?

## Prayer

*Gracious God, it has been a hard season in our world. Help us to see the joy where it can be found. Point us toward joy that transcends our circumstances. (Here, take a minute to name the times you have seen joy in recent days, weeks and months, thanking God for each moment of Joy). Help our children to be filled with your joy this week. Amen.*

## Blessing

*May the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

# TUESDAY

# PEACE FULL

## Read the Story: Mark 4:35-41

Jesus decides the time to nap is in the middle of a wild storm. The disciples in the boat with him are scared for their lives, but they're also mad at Jesus because he won't wake up! Jesus finally rouses and shuts down the storm with a word, bringing peace to the wind and the sea.

We often use the word to describe the end of conflicts or other calamities (like storms), but peace is more than a welcome absence of the bad stuff. Your camper's group will explore together what becomes present with the FULLness of peace. The Hebrew term for peace is shalom. A greeting and a blessing in itself, this is the word the Bible's authors used to describe the feel and functions of the world and its creatures as they live and work as God intends.

## PeaceFULL

Today, your camper's group will get a chance to explore the presence of peace. Here are some questions about peace for you:

- Imagine a peaceful day. What's going on? Who are you with?
- What do you see as the sources of peace in our world? How do they work?
- What are some ways you embody or enact or encourage peace in your life?
- Where (or who) is in need of peace today? How can you help offer it?

## Prayer

The campers are learning the World Peace Prayer today. Some version of the following lines are prayed every day by people of many faiths all around the world. Join us.

***God of all creation,***

***Lead us from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth;  
lead us from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust;  
lead us from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
our world, our universe.***

***Amen***

## **Blessing**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and PEACE in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

# Wednesday



## Read the Story: Luke 5:17-26

Until the very end, the paralyzed man is completely helpless in this story. It is the people who love him who carry him to Jesus, ripping off ceilings and performing feats of engineering because they believe he will be healed if he can only get close enough to Jesus.

We all have mat carriers in our life. These are the people who carry us to Jesus when we are hurting, alone, sick, frustrated, grieving, depressed, anxious, stressed. These are the people who throw parties for us when things are great and hold us through the night when the tears are falling. These are the people who persist on our behalf, trusting God's promises and believing in God's grace even when we're stuck or frozen or don't have the strength to do these things on our own.

The point is, faith is not something we have to, need to, or are even designed to do on our own. Faith is best lived out when we have each other's backs.

## FaithFULL

Today, your camper's group will get a chance to explore the gift and power of faith. Here are some questions about faith for you:

- What does it mean to you to have faith?
- Who are the people who have prayed for you? Loved you? Helped you to have faith in God?
- What could you tell someone who was worried that their prayer for healing or forgiveness or peace wasn't answered?
- Have you carried anyone's mat?

## Prayer

*God, sometimes it is hard to be filled up with faith, especially when we are running on empty. Thank you for people who walk with us on our faith journey. Today, we are especially thankful for (name some people who have been a big part of your faith journey). Help our kids to be surrounded with people of faith who will always have their backs.*

*Amen*

## **Blessing**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in BELIEVING, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

# THURSDAY

# POWER FULL

## Read the Story: Luke 1:46-55

Jesus' signature move was to flip the world upside down, finding hope in hopeless moments and giving power to the most powerless people. Today's story, a praise song belted out by a pregnant teenager named Mary, sets the stage for Jesus's upside-down flipping work.

Back in the days of the New Testament, power was hoarded, wielded, and often misused by the Roman Empire and its elites: politicians, religious officials, military leaders, and wealthy families (Not much has changed since then, hey?). Imagine how powerless a girl like Mary might have felt in this moment: unmarried, pregnant, and unsure of what will happen to her and the life she carries. Rather than freaking out or shutting down or something worse, Mary sings. And her song is incredibly PowerFULL.

## PowerFULL

Today, your camper's group will get a chance to explore the upside-down power of God. Here are some questions about power for you:

- What is the most powerful thing you've ever seen?
- When has power been good to you? Has power ever hurt you?
- What is your most effective power? When do you use it most?
- Who is powerless in the world today?
- Who do you see using their power for good these days?

## Prayer

*God, fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit today. Help me to go where you point me, and to recognize the power you have to work through me. Send your Holy Spirit to be with our kids at camp and help them to know you are filling them up with the Holy Spirit's power.*

*Amen.*

## Blessing

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.*

# FRIDAY



## Read the Story: Luke 24:1-11

Each of the gospels announces the resurrection. Luke's version of Easter morning highlights the faith of Jesus' female followers - the first bearers of the good news, and features the angelic message that is at the heart of Christian faith: "He is not here (in the grave), but has risen."

Jesus' resurrection from the dead includes and involves each of our lives - and means that our own inevitable deaths and endings are not the final word. Resurrection news means death and despair (and the fear of these realities) don't win; these forces lose to God's love. The blessing we've been using at the end of each day's gathering, and our theme verse for the whole summer's undertakings, connects trust in this amazing and unprecedented news to the daily and ongoing gift of joy and peace, and identifies it as the source of abundant and enduring hope for the whole world.

## HopeFULL

Today, your camper's group will wrap up a week of Bible study, following our theme verse back to where it began: the God of Hope. Here are some questions about hope (and faith and joy and peace and power) for you:

- Who in your life is a messenger of hope? How do they do it?
- What kind of power does hope come with? How has this shown up in your life?
- When have you been completely surprised by good news? How did you trust it was true?
- What hopes do you have for your child's experience at camp? Do any include joy or faith or peace? What will you ask your camper about first?

## Prayer

*God of Love,*

*Thank you for the kindness of camp, and for the people who make it happen week after week and year after year. Thank you for the hope and joy my child brings to our life together. Fill us with hope for the future and faith in your death-defying promises, and help us to be powerful bringers of peace and hope in the world.*

*Amen*

## **Blessing**

*May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit.*