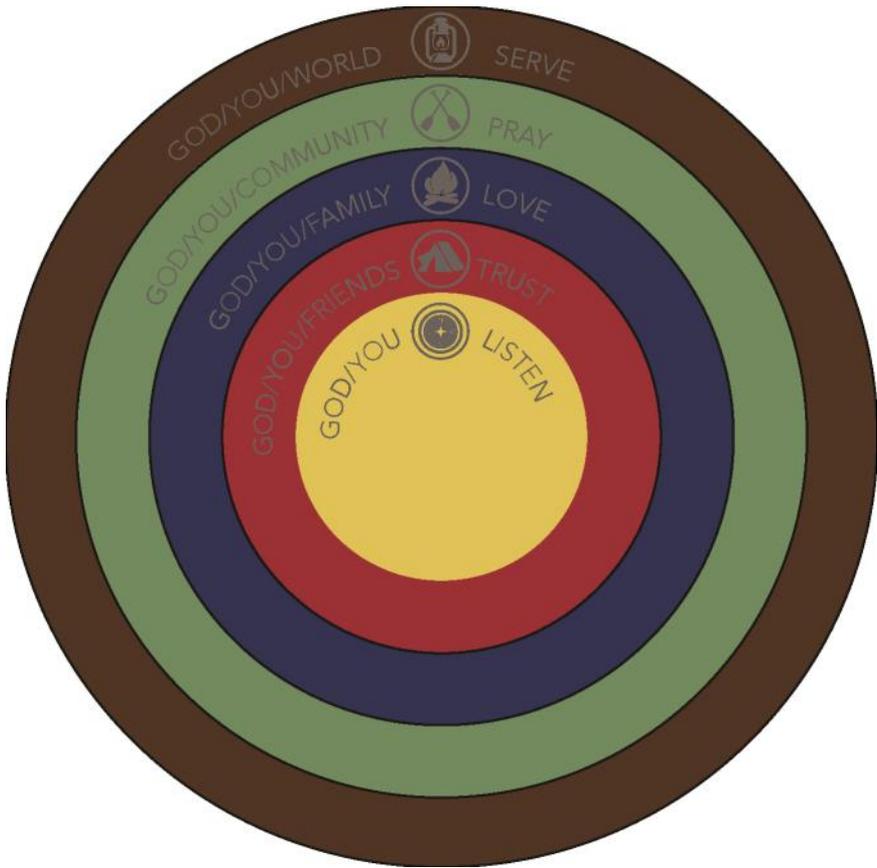




2014
Day Camp Trail Talk
Master Lesson Book

Name:



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SUMMER 2014: Breathe Deep, Aim True

Why “Breathe Deep, Aim True”?

God has a great big story. We are all apart of this story and so is our family, friends, community, and our world. With this retro-inspired theme, campers will be able to breathe deep, listen, trust, love, pray, and serve so they may aim true in their lives. Aim true to where God is leading them.

What is Trail Talk?

This is the time of the day where the theme and lessons are described in a more closed setting. Instead of the upbeat, high energy of opening and skits, this is a time for personal connection. A time where kids can reflect on the lessons. It should be established that when the campers come to trail talk they come to get deep. This may seem to some kids as boring, but God has a wonderful way of working during all of these different times. Just think, when do they get to be in a place of nature, a place surrounded by God's creation? When are they free to ask questions and wonder over such great distances in their minds and hearts?

- Trail Talk Tips -

Location

- Avoid distractions (other groups, the lake, etc.)
- Consider temperature (shade or sun)
- Find comfortable seating (avoid crab grass, debris, etc.)
- Leave backpacks at the entrance to the Trail Talk Spot
- Have them go inside the spot one at a time. (Use a counselor as a “gatekeeper,” asking campers if their hearts are ready to peacefully enter the Trail Talk spot).

Circle Seating

- Allows everyone to see each other and participate
- Easy to observe and deal with a problem between campers
- Place volunteer counselors in strategic spots

Participation

- Use the think-pair-share method, have campers think about a question silently to themselves, share their answers in partners, and then have the opportunity to share with the group
- Use an object (ball, stuffed animal, pinecone) that campers must be holding in order to speak
- Give campers a limited number of small objects (rocks, pennies, etc.) that they must give up in order to speak
- Use wondering questions. “I wonder what you think about...”
- Direct specific questions to each camper (don’t leave anyone out)
- Be sensitive to campers who wish not to speak. Assure them it is okay not to share
- Have each camper answer the same question. Be cautious of singling campers out
- Affirm them and the contributions they make

Teaching/Godly Play

- Godly Play is the given title to this version of trail talk. It creates a calm, sacred environment for each camper to meet one on one with God
- Godly Play is not only the storytelling aspect, but the entirety of the trail talk from entrance to questions to journaling
- Avoid clichés and “Christianese”
- Use of language: 1st-2nd will need much simpler wording than 5th-6th graders
- Have a good balance between teaching and questions
- Personal stories really get the kids going, it shows you care
- Make sure you are speaking to your campers and not just reading right out of your trail talk manual. Kids can tell when you are being genuine and it makes a huge difference when you use your trail talk book as a *guide* rather than reading directly from it.
- Memorizing the story before hand helps tremendously.

Prayer

- Pray with/for your campers
- Ask your campers if they would like to pray

- Trail Talk Progression-

A Sacred Place to Be with God

- As you walk to your trail talk spot be aware your group is traveling to a place that is meant to be sacred to them. This walk is transitional. It is helping them move from a point of high energy to low energy.
- As you go, walk more slowly. Ask your campers a question to get their minds and hearts prepared for God. "I wonder what God is going to tell you today. Quietly in your head think about a time when you felt close to God."
- Some campers' energy will be high and they may not calm down as quickly as others. Try your best to help them settle down so they can get the most out of the trail talk time.

Calming Entrance

- Outside of the entrance have campers leave all belongings outside of the trail talk spot.
- Have the campers sit down before they go in. Have them breathe deeply a few times.
- Tell them they are getting ready to have time with God.
- Place a volunteer counselor at the entrance to the spot while you go in to situate yourself in the circle. Have the counselor ask each camper, genuinely, if their heart is ready to hear God. If they answer yes, send them in. If they answer no, have them sit back down and breathe until they are ready.
- Have the campers sit in a circle so they can see you and the trail talk box.

Story Telling

- Trail Talk stories, with the exception of Monday, will be new stories of the day, meaning they will not be told in the skit or at Base Camp.
- Each story is told using the figures in the trail talk boxes and the script provided.

Wondering Time

- Wondering time is a great way for the kids to express their thoughts through drawing, pictures, letters and asking questions.

Some kids may want to retell the story using the trail talk figures to themselves quietly. Others may just want to stare into the trees and think. Allow room for creativity.

- This is the time when you pass out their journals.
- During Wondering Time you and a volunteer counselor can make your way around the circle of campers and ask them , “How is your work going?” Then ask them if they would be willing to share with the group.

Talking to Each Other

- After the campers are mostly finished, allow ones who are still working to work, bring the group back together for a discussion.
- Ask willing campers to share and ask wondering questions appropriate to their answers. This will involve listening intently to what each child has said.

Verses

- This is further reading to discuss the concepts of the story. It will enhance the understanding by giving different perspectives.
- Have the kids read the verses with you or ask for a volunteer to read it out loud.

Peaceful Exit

- Pray with the campers.
 - *Prayer clusters*: Break the campers into small groups and have them pray for each other.
 - *One-Word Prayers*: Go around the circle having each camper share one thing from the story, lesson, or day for which they are thankful.
 - *Echo Prayers*: As you pray, let the campers respond by echoing back what you say.
 - *Pray for the person next to you*: Have the campers share prayer requests and then pray for the person on their right. CAUTION: make sure they know right from left.
 - *Pray a scripture*: Read through a psalm or scripture as you close your time together.
 - *Popcorn Prayer*: Have someone open and close and others pray in between.
 - *Squeeze Prayer*: Have the kids hold hands to pray. The child next to you should start. When they are done praying, they will squeeze the hand of the person next to them. The next person then prays. If a child does not want to pray out loud, they can pray silently and then squeeze the hand next to them when they are done. Close the time when your hand is squeezed.

- Have the campers exit as quietly as they came. Try to keep the energy low until completely out of the trail talk area in case some campers are still thinking over their time with God.

Well, that's the basics of your Trail Talk Manual. Your on-sites will be praying for you and are always available as a resource. We're called "support staff" for a reason - we want to support you in the ministry you'll be doing this summer.

Monday: God & You ***Breathe Deep and Listen***

Jesus in the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4)

Central Idea: Our aim is to learn how God connects with us personally. The central focus will be on our relationship with God and learning how to listen to God.

Campers Will:

- Understand God has something important for all of us to do, we just have to listen.
- Understand God loves them and wants to have a personal relationship with each and every one of them.

Introduction:

Close your eyes. Listen to the things around you. Think, but don't speak, what you hear. [Wait a few moments to let them listen]. Open your eyes. God's story is huge. It's bigger than you. It's bigger than me. It's bigger than the trees, the buildings, and the whole sky. And guess what? You fit into that big story. There was someone else who fit in too. His name was Jesus. The story we will hear today is about Jesus' relationship with God.

Verses:

- Psalm 46:10— "Be still and know that I am God."
- John 10:27— "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me."
- Psalm 25: 4-5— "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

Storytelling:

Dialogue

This is the wilderness. It's a wild, ever-changing place that is far away from people.

After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, he went into the wilderness to have some quiet time. He tried to distance himself from the rest of the world, because he wanted to talk and listen to God before he started his ministry.

While Jesus was in the wilderness, he didn't eat anything for 40 days. Jesus was alone.

I wonder what it was like to be alone in the desert for such a long time.

Jesus was tempted by many things while he was out in the wilderness. The Bible tells us that he resisted those temptations.

I wonder where Jesus got his strength.

Action

Spread out the large tan felt circle. Place twigs, leaves, and rocks around to make it look "Wildernessy"

Lay out the blue felt on the edge of the brown felt and have a John figure baptize the Jesus figure.

Walk Jesus around the "wilderness" and have him stand in the center.

After 40 days Jesus left the wilderness. He went back to the people of the world and began teaching them about God.

Show Jesus walking out of the wilderness and back to civilization.

I wonder how Jesus' time in the wilderness made him ready to teach and heal.

Wondering Time:

Many times after a story like this, each of us needs time to think and process the story ourselves. For some of you that may be drawing a picture, or writing your feelings, or telling the story to yourself. These responses are what we call God's work. It's the work God would have us do to learn from his story. I wonder what work he would like to do today. I will come around during this wondering time to each of you and see how your work is going.

While passing out journals, say...

- I wonder what you think is the most important part of this story?
- Jesus was alone, but he was talking to God. Do you ever feel alone? What do you do when you feel lonely?
- I wonder what the picture would look like if you drew what you think Jesus' time in the wilderness looked like. Then draw a time in your life when you listened to God.
- I wonder what this story tells you about God's relationship with you?

Staff Ideas and Notes

Tuesday: God & Family ***Breathe Deep and Trust***

Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37: 3-4, 18, 23-24, 26-27. Genesis 45: 4-5, 7-8)

Central Idea: Trust. We must learn to trust God and trust our family. A healthy foundation is built on the idea of trust.

Campers Will:

- Understand families are not perfect, but there are ways they can trust one other.
- Understand being a family means working together even if they must overcome obstacles.
- Know they are a part of God's family.
- Learn they can trust God no matter what. God will always be there for them.

Introduction:

The story of God's people began long, long ago in a dry land to the east. There are many stories God uses to teach us about his love for us. The one we will learn about today is about a boy named Joseph. Before we begin look up at the trees, listen to the birds chirping and the sound of the leaves rustling. Take a deep breath. Let it out. Now, let us quiet our hearts so we may listen.

Verses

- Psalm 9:10—"Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you."
- Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight."

Storytelling:

Dialogue

Action

Jacob lived in a land called Canaan.

Lay out the large tan circle.

Jacob had many sons.

Place several wooden figures on the mat.

But out of all of his sons, Joseph was his favorite.

Pull Joseph from the crowd, move to left.

Jacob even gave Joseph a special coat. This made Joseph's brothers jealous.

Place the coat on Joseph.

I wonder what it would feel like to be Joseph...or his brothers.

Joseph's brothers were so jealous they came up with a plan to get rid of Joseph.

One day slave traders came through the land.

Joseph's brothers sold Joseph to the traders for money.

Set the buttons—money—in front of the brothers.

The slave traders took Joseph on a long journey.

Take the coat off of Joseph. Carry Joseph away from his brothers, farther to the left.

It was many miles away from Joseph's family.

Place the blue felt between the brothers and Joseph.

They went to a land called Egypt.

Place Pyramid in lower left corner of the felt.

Joseph worked for many years as a slave. He was even put in jail for a while.

After many more years, Joseph was brought before the king of Egypt.

Place Joseph next to another figure.

God told Joseph that the land Egypt would have a several years of abundant crops, after that there would be several years when the crops would not grow.

I wonder what Joseph was thinking when he learned about God's plan.

Joseph told the king this information.

The king trusted Joseph and put him in charge of the entire country.

So, during the seven years when the crops grew well, Joseph went around Egypt helping cities store up food to prepare for the time of no food. There was so much food they stopped counting it. They knew they had enough for the years to come.

Place the bag next to Joseph.

What God told Joseph came true. All the lands around Egypt suffered when the crops wouldn't grow. But, Egypt had enough food because they were prepared.

Meanwhile Joseph's brothers came to Egypt because their home land did not have food.

They came to Joseph to buy grain, but they did not recognize him.

Joseph *did* recognize his brothers.

He told them, "It is me, Joseph. Your brother."

Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery.

I wonder how Joseph could forgive his brothers so easily.

Joseph told his brothers to go back home and tell their father he was alive.

When their father found out, he wanted to see Joseph in Egypt.

Walk the brother figures across the water to Egypt.

Move Joseph closer to his brothers, as though he is speaking to them.

So he went there and was reunited with his son.

Walk one or two of the figures across the water and return them with a Jacob figure.

I wonder how Jacob felt when he saw Joseph again.

Place Joseph and Jacob figures next to one another.

Wondering Time:

Many times after a story like this, each of us needs time to think and process the story ourselves. For some of you that may be drawing a picture, or writing your feelings, or telling the story to yourself. These responses are what we call God's work. It's the work God would have us do to learn from his story. I wonder what work he would like to do today. I will come around during this wondering time to each of you and see how your work is going.

While passing out journals, say...

- Close your eyes for a few moments. Imagine the story in your head. What part of the story stands out to you the most?
- I wonder if there was a time that you ever had to forgive someone in your family. I wonder how we know when we need to ask for forgiveness?
- I wonder which character you relate with most. I wonder what your drawing of them would look like. After you draw them, write out questions you have for that character.
- I wonder what God has taught you through this story about trusting.

Staff Ideas and Notes

Wednesday: God & Friends ***Breathe Deep and Love***

David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:1, 4, 12-13, 17, 31, 35-41)

Central Idea: Friendships are an important part of our lives, we will dig into how God cares about our friendships and uses them to care for us.

Campers Will:

- Understand the importance of friendships in our lives
- Understand the relationship between David and Jonathan and how God blessed that relationship
- Be able to find practical ways of loving and caring for their friends
- Be able to identify and understand the importance of encouraging, Godly friendships

Introduction:

Close your eyes and think of your best friend. Picture them being silly or smiling. Do you have fun with them? Are they someone you can tell everything to? God's story doesn't just involve you or family, but also includes our friends. God wants us to have friends and be happy. Friends bring us joy. He uses friends to show us His love for us. Today we will learn about two friends in the Bible.

Verses:

1 John 4:19— "We love each other because he loved us first."

Storytelling:

Dialogue

David and Jonathan were best friends. They made a promise to one another to always be best friends.

But Jonathan's father, King Saul, hated David. He was jealous of David and how much people loved him. King Saul wanted everyone to love him more than they loved David.

I wonder how this made God feel.

Jonathan said he would talk to his father. David and Jonathan came up with a secret signal to let David know what Saul's plan was. Jonathan told David to hide behind some rocks in a field.

I wonder what David was feeling. I wonder if he was scared while he was hiding behind the rocks.

I wonder what was going through Jonathan's mind.

Action

Take out brown felt and smooth it over on the ground. Take out two characters and place them next to each other.

Take out a third character and place it in the middle of David and Jonathan.

Place Jonathan and David character pieces off to the side, away from Saul.

Take out rocks and hide David behind the.

While David was hiding in the field, Jonathan would shoot an arrow into the field. Their secret signal was that if the arrow landed over here [left side of David] then David knew he was safe from Saul. But if the arrow landed over here [right side of David], then David knew Saul was still after David and he would need to leave for safety.

The next day, Saul said to Jonathon, ‘You, my son, will never be king unless David is killed.’ King Saul was so jealous he decided to kill David. Jonathon knew his friend was not safe. Jonathon went to the field to give David the signal. Jonathan fired three arrows over here. David knew this meant he was not safe and he needed to leave. *I wonder what was going through David’s mind at this point.*

Jonathan protected David. They trusted one another. They met up again to say good bye to one another and Jonathan told David to be safe and they would always be best friends.

Show Jonathan and Saul characters conversing while David hides behind rocks.

Slowly place three arrows to right side of David and rocks.

Place rocks, arrows, and Saul back in box. Place Jonathan and David next to each other.

Put David and Jonathan character next to one another.

Wondering Time:

Many times after a story like this, each of us needs time to think and process the story ourselves. For some of you that may be drawing a picture, or writing your feelings, or telling the story to yourself. These responses are what we call God's work. It's the work God would have us do to learn from his story. I wonder what work he would like to do today. I will come around during this wondering time to each of you and see how your work is going.

While passing out journals, say...

- Put yourself in Jonathan's shoes, I wonder what you would have done?
- I wonder what God taught you from this story?
- I wonder if you have a friend like David or Jonathan?

Staff Ideas and Notes

Thursday: God & Community

Breathe Deep and Pray

The Early Church (Acts 4:42-47)

Central Idea: We will discuss how we can use God’s love and story to impact our own communities (i.e, schools, towns, teams, etc.)

Campers Will:

- Understand that our faith is strengthened through community
- Have ideas of communities already established in their life
- Understand the importance of caring and loving the communities in our lives
- Be able to name the characteristics of the early church communities

Introduction:

Lay on your back and put your hands on your stomach. Stare up at the sky and take a deep breath. Now let it out, sit up slowly, and ready your hearts and minds to listen to what God has to tell you today.

Verses:

Acts 4:42-47 —The Fellowship of the Believers

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Storytelling:

Dialogue

The Bible tells us that in Jesus' life, He had many friends and family members who helped him. They helped take care of him, love him, and listened to him. Today's story is about a community of people who loved Jesus and loved each other.

After Jesus had gone up to Heaven to be with God, the Disciples were left with the responsibility of telling others about Jesus' amazing life and ministry.

A group of people who believe in Jesus and meet together to learn about God can sometimes be called church. So the disciples gathered people to learn together about God....

This was the beginning of a church.

I wonder what church looked like back then.

The Bible says that the people in these churches lived loved each other.

Action

Open trail talk box and take out and smooth the round pieces of felt.

Set out pieces of felt: three round pieces set up like target.

Place a group of characters on the round, center felt. Place other characters in outside circles of felt.

Bring characters from center to outside circles and begin slowly bringing outside characters into the center felt.

together, ate together, shared with one another, and took care of one another. They

If one person needed something, they would sell one of their own belongings to provide for the other person! I wonder what it would feel like to be in this community.

It probably would have felt really comforting to know that all our needs were being taken care of. You wouldn't have to worry about not having enough food, not being taken care of when you are sick, and not having enough money. The people in this church took care of each other and shared everything so that no one was left empty handed.

The people in these communities also worshipped God together. I wonder how God felt when he saw this community.

I wonder how we can take care of one another today in our own communities. I wonder how we take care of our families and friends who are not in our church. I also wonder about how our community takes care of you.

Start placing coins in the middle of the group of characters.

Wondering Time:

Many times after a story like this, each of us needs time to think and process the story ourselves. For some of you that may be drawing a picture, or writing your feelings, or telling the story to yourself. These responses are what we call God's work. It's the work God would have us do to learn from his story. I wonder what work he would like to do today. I will come around during this wondering time to each of you and see how your work is going.

While passing out journals, say...

- I wonder how your family/friends/community take care of you?
- I wonder how you take care of your family/friends/community?
- Draw a picture of a way that you can take care of the people in your community.
- Write down a couple names of people in your community who help take care of you and pray for them.

More Verses:

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 —Unity and Diversity in the Body

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.”

Prayer Flags:

Prayer flags will come after journals and discussion are over this way the campers do not rush to get through their wondering time. When they are ready, say to them...

“One way we can take care of one another in our community is praying for each other. We may not have anything to give, but we can always pray for each other. I have strips of cloth here and markers that we can write and draw our prayers on.

“Right now, the prayers we have in our lives may seem big or scary or make us nervous, but as the summer goes on and we pray for one another, God will take care of them. They might not be answered exactly how we want or expect them to be, but God is always watching and staying close to us. God never leaves us and God is taking care of your life and the things happening in it.

“As the summer goes on, the sun, the rain, and the wind will tatter our flags, possibly even completely fading our prayers. We can see this as a sign that God will be answering our prayers and taking our worries away. We can fully trust that God is at work in our lives.

“Later today, we will tie our flags onto a flagpole and look at camper’s flags from past weeks. We will pray for the past campers and next week there will be campers praying for you. Part of being a community is praying for one another. It is always a good habit to actively pray for each other.”

Staff Ideas and Notes

Friday: God & World ***Breathe Deep and Serve***

Modern-Day Example of Letting Your Light Shine

Central Idea: Lastly, we will discover how we can care for God’s world and people, and find our purpose in it.

Campers Will:

- Know that they can make a difference in the world
- Understand that they are not too young, but can do mighty things through Christ.

Introduction:

Take a deep breath. Let it out. Look up at the sky. Look at the trees. Now look around at everyone. Quietly smile at someone. We’ve talked this week about how God’s story involves you, your family, friends, your community. Today we are going to learn how our world fits into God’s big story. Have you ever wanted to serve the people around you? We will learn about two kids today who helped serve people around the world.

Verses:

Matthew 5:14-16— “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

1 Timothy 4:12— “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Matthew 28:19 — “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.”

Storytelling:

Dialogue

Over the past week we have talked about how God is a part of each area of our lives.

On Monday we talked about God & You and how to Breathe Deep and Listen to God...

On Tuesday we talked about God & Family and how to Breathe Deep and Trust...

On Wednesday we talked about God & Friends and how to Breathe Deep and Love... love God and love the people in our lives.

Yesterday we talked about God & our Community and how we can Breathe Deep and Pray for each other.

Today we will learn how to Breathe Deep and Serve as we talk about God & our World.

Action

Open Trail Talk box and take out four circles of felt. Place them on top of one another to make a target .

Place one character in the center.

Place a few characters in the next circle.

Place a few characters in the next circle.

Place a few characters on the next circle.

Place the last characters on the outer most circle.

We may only be one small person, but the Bible tells us to, “never let anyone look down on us because we are young, but to set an example in the things we say, how we act, in love, in faith, and in goodness.” we are one small person, we can still do big things!

Place your hand on center character .

Even though we are one small person, we can still do big things.

I wonder how you can love and care for the people in your world.

I wonder who those people are.

I wonder if they are your family, your friends, your community, your world. I wonder what you can do.

Move your hands from middle character to outer characters.

I have a couple stories I want to share with you of kids who made an impact on their worlds.

Austin Gutwein:

Austin Gutwein was just an ordinary kid who liked hanging out with friends and playing basketball. In the spring of 2004, Austin watched a video that showed children who had lost their

parents. After watching the video, Austin felt God telling him to do something to help these orphaned children. I wonder how Austin was able to know it was God speaking to him. Austin loved basketball and decided to make an event called Hoops of Hope to try and raise money for these orphaned kids. On the day of the event, Austin shot 2,057 free throws to represent the 2,057 kids who would be orphaned that day alone. Friends and family sponsored and donated money to Austin for the orphaned children and he was able to raise almost \$3,000. That year, the money was used to provide hope to 8 orphan children. The money he raised went to giving them a safe place to live, food to eat, and school supplies. I wonder how this made the children feel. Now Austin has his own organization called Hoops of Hope. By doing something as simple as shooting free throws, Hoops of Hope helpers have raised more than \$3 million. Austin's message is one of hope. A message that anyone, no matter what their age or skills has a purpose and can make a difference that lasts forever. I wonder if you could do something like that. I wonder if you have ever felt God telling you to help someone in need.

Bethany Hamilton:

Another story is about a girl named Bethany Hamilton. At the age of thirteen, Bethany was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark while surfing off Kauai's North Shore. The attack left Bethany with no left arm. Bethany was on her way to recovery with an unbelievably positive attitude. I wonder how she was able to stay so calm and peaceful in such a scary situation. Lifeguards and doctors believe her strong faith in God helped get her through the scary situation. Bethany is involved in many charity organizations, including her own foundation, Friends of Bethany, which supports other people who were attacked by sharks and serves to inspire others through her life story. With God's help, Bethany was able to turn a horrific experience into a chance to serve others. Bethany's story shows us that if something horrible or scary happens to us, we can even use those times to help others who may have gone through the

same thing. I wonder what things you might have gone through that you can help others through. I wonder what experiences you have in your life that other people can relate to also.

I want to give you some time to think about how we can serve our world. As you journal or draw or retell these stories, think about ways you can serve the people in your world or even people in other countries. Think about why God might call us to serve the world.

Wondering Time:

Many times after a story like this, each of us needs time to think and process the story ourselves. For some of you that may be drawing a picture, or writing your feelings, or telling the story to yourself. These responses are what we call God's work. It's the work God would have us do to learn from his story. I wonder what work he would like to do today. I will come around during this wondering time to each of you and see how your work is going.

While passing out journals, say...

- I wonder what God wants you to do in his story.
- I wonder which young person did you learn about today that you could relate to the most? Why?
- I wonder what you care about deeply?

Staff Ideas and Notes

One on Ones: Quality Conversation Time with your Campers

One on one conversations with campers can have a huge impact on your relationship with the camper and his or her spiritual growth during their week at camp. Below are some places and questions that are ideal for these one on one conversations, but make sure there is at least three to a group.

Places

1. Barn
2. Tree House
3. Canoe
4. Swim Time
5. Trail Talk Journal Time
6. Lunch
7. When walking from activity to activity. Ask a counselor to lead and walk in the back.

Questions to Ask your Camper

1. Do you or your family go to church? *If they say no, ask if they know anyone who does and emphasize the importance of Christian community.*
2. What did you think of yesterday's theme/skit/base camp/trail talk?
3. I know we've been talking about a lot of new things, is there anything you don't understand or something we've talked about in trail talk that you want to discuss?
4. What gifts has God given you that you could use to help others?
5. How can you show love to others?
6. Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins?
7. What are some things that make you afraid? Have you or anyone you know ever been through a hard time? (divorce, death, moving)
8. Where do you think you fit into God's big story?

Prayer

If possible, make time to pray with the camper after your conversation (whether it's asking Jesus for help with a hard time, thanking him for his love and the gifts he's given us, or asking Jesus into their heart). Even a simple thank you prayer can be a huge encouragement. Always offer the camper the option to pray, for younger campers the option to repeat after you can be helpful.

A Reminder

Our ultimate goal at camp is to show the love of Jesus and help our campers to do the same. Even a short conversation or prayer can have a lasting impact! If you are struggling to find time to talk to a camper who needs a little extra love and attention, *please* talk to one of your on-sites and we'll do our best to work with you and your groups' needs!

