

# KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

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Don't Let Camp Be the Peak



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Pastor Ryan Ransom

A Devo10 Devotional Series | Evangel Youth

# KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

*Don't Let Camp Be the Peak*

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4 Weeks | 28 Days

A Devo10 Devotional Series

*Evangel Youth*

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# Welcome

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Something happened at camp. You felt it. Maybe it was at the altar. Maybe it was during worship when a song hit you so hard you couldn't stop crying. Maybe it was a late-night conversation in the cabin that cracked something open inside you. Whatever it was, it was real. And God did it on purpose.

But now you're home. The music has stopped. The speakers have gone back to their normal lives. Your cabin mates are scattered. And the world you left behind is exactly the way you left it - your room, your phone, your routine, your friends who have no idea what happened to you. It can feel like camp was a dream.

This devotional exists because we refuse to let what God did at camp fade into a memory. Over the next four weeks, we're going to fight for that fire. Week by week, day by day, you're going to learn how to take what happened in that moment and turn it into a lifestyle.

Week 1 is about anchoring what happened - reminding you that the experience was real and it wasn't just emotions. Week 2 is about building the daily habits that keep the fire burning. Week 3 gets honest about the resistance you're going to face when old habits, old friends, and old doubts come knocking. And Week 4 sends you out with purpose, turning a camp moment into a life direction.

Here's what we need you to do: show up every day. Ten minutes. Read the Scripture. Read the devotional. Pray the prayer. Sit with the reflection prompts. Write something down. That's it. But do it every day. The fire doesn't maintain itself. You have to feed it.

You came home from camp different. Let's make sure you stay that way.

# WEEK 1

## What Just Happened

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*Your Camp Experience Was Real - Now Own It*

**DAY 1****It Wasn't Just the Music**

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**Scripture**

*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

- Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)

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**Devotional**

Let's be honest for a second. You've probably already had someone, maybe even yourself, try to explain away what happened at camp. "It was just the atmosphere." "The band was really good." "Everyone was emotional because they were tired and far from home." And sure, the music was probably great. The atmosphere was probably electric. But here's the thing you need to understand right now before another day passes: what happened to you was not manufactured by a sound system.

Look at what happened at Pentecost. A hundred and twenty people were gathered together in one place. They were praying. They were expectant. And when the Holy Spirit showed up, He didn't tiptoe in. There was a sound like a rushing wind. There were tongues of fire. People started speaking in languages they had never learned. It was dramatic. It was overwhelming. And if someone had been standing outside that room, they might have said, "Those people are just caught up in the moment." In fact, that's exactly what some people said. Acts 2:13 tells us that mockers accused them of being drunk.

Some things never change. When God moves powerfully, there will always be people who try to explain it away. But Peter stood up and said, "These people are not drunk. This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel." He called it what it was. And that's what you need to do right now.

At camp, God gathered His people together, just like Pentecost. You were in one place with other believers. Worship was happening. Prayer was rising. And the Holy Spirit did what He does. He showed up. He convicted. He comforted. He filled. He spoke. That weight you felt on your chest during worship? That wasn't the bass guitar. That was the presence of God. Those tears that came out of nowhere? That wasn't exhaustion. That was the Spirit breaking through something that needed to break.

The enemy's first strategy when you get home from camp is to get you to doubt what happened. If he can convince you it was just emotions, just music, just hype, then he can keep you from building on it. He wants you to shrug it off and go back to the way things were. Don't let him.

Was there emotion involved? Of course. God created your emotions. He designed you to feel things deeply. But emotion is not the opposite of authenticity. David danced before the Lord with all his might. The early church worshiped so passionately that outsiders thought they were out of their minds. Emotion is often the natural

response when a real God touches a real person.

So here's what you need to settle today: what happened at camp was the Holy Spirit. Period. Not just the music. Not just the moment. The same Spirit that filled that upper room in Jerusalem filled that chapel, that tabernacle, that outdoor worship space where you stood. And He's the same Spirit that is with you right now, in your room, reading this. He didn't stay at camp. He came home with you.

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## Prayer

*God, thank You for what You did at camp. I know it was real. I know it was You. I refuse to let anyone, including my own doubts, talk me out of what I experienced. Holy Spirit, You showed up and You touched my life. Help me to remember that it was not just the music or the moment. It was Your presence. Strengthen my faith today and remind me that You are just as real here in my everyday life as You were at that altar. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What was the most powerful moment you experienced at camp, and what made it stand out to you?
- Have you already caught yourself downplaying what happened? What did that sound like in your head?
- How does knowing that the Holy Spirit was behind your camp experience change the way you see it now?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Describe one specific moment at camp where you knew, deep down, that God was doing something real in you. Write it in as much detail as you can so you never forget it.)*

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## DAY 2

## God Spoke - Did You Hear Him?

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### Scripture

*And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."*

- 1 Samuel 3:8-10 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Samuel was just a kid. He was lying in the temple, probably half asleep, and he kept hearing his name. He ran to Eli, the priest, three times thinking it was the old man calling him. But it wasn't Eli. It was God. And here's what's wild: Samuel didn't recognize God's voice at first. Verse 7 says, "Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him." He was literally living in the house of God, serving in the temple, and he still had to learn how to recognize when God was speaking.

So if you're sitting here wondering whether that moment at camp was really God talking to you, take some comfort in the fact that you're in good company. Even Samuel needed help figuring it out. But eventually, Eli told him what to do: "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" Samuel obeyed. And God spoke.

Now think about camp. Maybe it wasn't an audible voice. Maybe it was that moment during worship when a lyric hit you so hard it felt like someone had written it about your life. Maybe it was something the speaker said that felt like it was aimed directly at you. Maybe it was a conversation in the cabin late at night where a friend or a leader said something that pierced through every wall you had up. Maybe it was a quiet moment by yourself where a thought dropped into your spirit that you know didn't come from you.

That was God speaking.

Here's where it gets tricky. At camp, everything was set up to help you hear. The distractions were removed. Your phone was probably on limited use. You were away from your normal routine, your friend drama, your social media scroll. It was like God had you in a quiet room so He could finally get a word in. But now you're home, and the volume on everything else has been cranked back up. Notifications are buzzing. Group chats are popping. Netflix is calling. And that still, small voice? It's easy to miss when you're not listening for it.

But God hasn't stopped speaking. He's the same God today as He was at camp. The question isn't whether He's still talking. The question is whether you're still listening.

What did He say to you? Was it a call to get serious about your faith? A nudge to forgive someone? A challenge to stop doing something you know isn't right? A whisper that He loves you and has a plan for your life? Whatever it was, don't let the noise of being home drown it out.



Samuel's response is the model. "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." Not "Speak, Lord, when it's convenient." Not "Speak, Lord, but only at camp." Just, "I'm listening. I'm ready. Talk to me." That's the posture you need to carry from camp into every single day. Because God is still speaking. The only question is whether you'll keep your ears open.

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## Prayer

*Lord, I believe You spoke to me at camp. I heard Your voice in the worship, in the messages, in the quiet moments. Forgive me for the times I've already started to second-guess it. I want to be like Samuel. I want to say, "Speak, for your servant hears." Teach me to recognize Your voice in my everyday life, not just in the big moments. Help me to quiet the noise and stay tuned in to what You're saying. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What is one specific thing you believe God said to you or impressed on your heart at camp?
  - What are the biggest distractions that make it hard for you to hear God's voice now that you're home?
  - What would it look like for you to create space to listen to God every day this week?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write down what you believe God spoke to you at camp. Be as specific as possible. If He convicted you of something, called you to something, or promised you something, put it in writing right now.)*

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## DAY 3

## The Tears Were Real

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### Scripture

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

- Psalm 51:17 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Maybe you cried at camp. Maybe you ugly-cried. Maybe you cried so hard you couldn't breathe, and you didn't even fully understand why. And now, a few days later, part of you feels embarrassed about it. You're thinking about who saw you. You're wondering if people think you're soft. You're replaying it in your head and cringing a little because that level of vulnerability feels uncomfortable in the light of normal life.

Let me tell you something important: those tears were sacred.

Psalm 51 was written by David after one of the worst failures of his life. He had sinned with Bathsheba. He had arranged the murder of her husband. A prophet had confronted him, and David was absolutely wrecked. And in the middle of that brokenness, he wrote these words: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." David learned something that most people spend their whole lives running from. God doesn't reject your brokenness. He welcomes it.

You know what most teenagers are really good at? Building walls. You build walls to protect yourself from being hurt. You build walls so people can't see the real you. You build walls because vulnerability feels dangerous, especially at school, especially online, especially in a world that rewards looking like you have it all together. And over time, those walls don't just keep people out. They keep God out too.

But at camp, something happened. The walls came down. Maybe it was the worship that softened you. Maybe it was being away from the pressure to perform. Maybe it was hearing a message that hit a wound you've been hiding. Whatever it was, God broke through. And the tears were the evidence that something real was happening beneath the surface.

Crying doesn't mean you're weak. It means something matters enough to move you. It means your heart is still soft enough to respond to God. And honestly, that's a gift. There are people twice your age who would give anything to feel what you felt at that altar. Their hearts have gotten so hard, so calloused, so protected by years of walls that they can't even remember the last time they were moved by God's presence. But you? You felt it. You responded. That's not weakness. That's courage.

Don't let the enemy twist your vulnerability into shame. He wants you to feel foolish for crying. He wants you to build those walls back up as fast as possible. He wants you to decide that you'll never let yourself be that open again. But that's a trap. A hard heart isn't a protected heart. It's a disconnected heart.

God says a broken and contrite heart He will not despise. He doesn't look at your tears and roll His eyes. He doesn't see your brokenness as a burden. He sees it as an offering. It's the most honest thing you can give Him. So don't apologize for it. Don't minimize it. And definitely don't let anyone make you feel stupid for it. What broke in you at camp needed to break. And what God is rebuilding in its place will be stronger, deeper, and more real than anything you had before.

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## Prayer

*Father, thank You for breaking through my walls. Thank You for the tears, even the ones I don't fully understand. I know that You don't despise a broken heart. You welcome it. Help me to stay soft and open before You. Don't let me rebuild the walls that You brought down at camp. Give me the courage to stay vulnerable and honest with You, even when it feels uncomfortable. I trust You with the broken pieces. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What walls do you tend to build up to protect yourself, and how did camp break through them?
  - Have you felt any embarrassment or shame about how emotional you were at camp? Where is that feeling coming from?
  - What does it mean to you that God doesn't despise a broken heart but actually welcomes it?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write honestly about what you were feeling when you cried at camp. What broke? What were you carrying that finally came to the surface?)*

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## DAY 4

## Home Feels Different Now

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### Scripture

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

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### Devotional

You walked back into your house and everything looked exactly the same. Same room. Same bed. Same pile of laundry in the corner. Same dishes in the sink. Same sibling being annoying. Same parents asking the same questions. Nothing about your environment changed while you were gone. But something about you changed. And now there's this weird disconnect where the outside world looks familiar but the inside world feels different. That's disorienting. And it's completely normal.

Paul says that if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come. That's not just a nice verse to put on a coffee mug. That's a spiritual reality. When you encountered God at camp, something shifted inside of you. The Holy Spirit did a work. Maybe old things were confessed and released. Maybe new commitments were made. Maybe you received a fresh filling of the Spirit that you'd never experienced before. Whatever happened, you are not the same person who left for camp.

But here's the tension: you came home to the same life. The same school is waiting. The same friend group is texting. The same temptations are sitting right where you left them. And part of you might be wondering, "If I really changed, why does everything else feel the same? Why is my brother still getting on my nerves? Why do I still want to scroll for three hours? Why does my old playlist still sound appealing?"

Because transformation is a process, not just a moment. The moment at camp was real. The encounter was genuine. But sanctification, which is just a big word for "God making you more like Jesus over time," that happens day by day. You were changed in an instant, and you are being changed over a lifetime. Both are true at the same time.

Think about it like this. If you went to camp and broke your leg, you'd come home with a cast. Everyone would see it. Everyone would know something happened to you. But spiritual change is invisible to the eye. Nobody can see that your heart is different. They can only see it over time, through your choices, your words, your attitude, your priorities. And that can be frustrating, because you feel different but the world is treating you the same.

Here's what you need to hear today: the disorientation is proof that something real happened. If nothing had changed in you, coming home would have felt seamless. The fact that it feels off, the fact that your old habits feel less comfortable, the fact that you're looking at your life through new eyes, that's evidence that 2 Corinthians 5:17 is active in your life right now.

Don't panic because it feels weird. Don't assume you lost something because the goosebumps faded. The feeling of camp will pass. The work of God in you will not. You are a new creation. Your bedroom just hasn't gotten the memo yet. But as you live out this new life, day after day, everything around you will start to reflect what God has already done inside you. Be patient with the process. You're not going backward. You're just learning how to walk in something new.

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## Prayer

*Jesus, everything looks the same but I know I'm not the same. Thank You for making me new. Help me to not get discouraged when my surroundings don't match what I feel inside. I know that the change in me is real even when no one else can see it yet. Give me patience with the process and strength to live differently even in familiar places. I trust that You are finishing what You started in me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What feels most different about you since coming home from camp?
  - What part of your "normal life" feels the most uncomfortable or out of place now that you've changed?
  - How can you start living out your inner transformation in practical ways this week?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write about the disconnect you're feeling between who you were before camp and who you are now. What specific things feel different on the inside even though everything looks the same on the outside?)*

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## DAY 5

## Don't Let Anyone Talk You Out of It

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### Scripture

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

- 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

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### Devotional

It might have already started. Maybe it was a friend who wasn't at camp, smirking and saying, "So you're all holy now?" Maybe it was a sibling who heard you playing worship music and said, "That won't last." Maybe it was a little voice in your own head whispering, "You always do this. You get fired up and then it fades. Why would this time be any different?"

Welcome to one of the oldest tricks in the enemy's playbook. He can't undo what God did in you, so instead he tries to get you to undo it yourself. And his favorite weapon? Doubt. Not doubt about whether God exists, but doubt about whether what happened to you was real, whether it matters, and whether it will stick.

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 15:58 to a church that was surrounded by people questioning the faith. People were casting doubt on the resurrection. People were whispering that maybe this whole Jesus thing wasn't what they thought it was. And Paul's response was firm and direct: be steadfast. Be immovable. Keep going. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

That word "steadfast" means planted, firm, not easily shaken. And "immovable" means exactly what it sounds like. Don't budge. Don't flinch. Don't let the opinions, the jokes, the skepticism, or even your own insecurities push you off the foundation that God laid in you at camp.

Here's the reality. Some people will try to minimize your experience because it makes them uncomfortable. When you come back on fire for God, it holds up a mirror to people who are lukewarm. And instead of dealing with their own spiritual temperature, it's easier for them to cool you down. If they can convince you that camp was just a phase, they don't have to confront the fact that they're not pursuing God the way they should be.

And then there's your own brain. You know yourself. You know your track record. You know that you've made commitments before and not kept them. And so your mind starts building a case against your own transformation. "You said you'd read your Bible every day last year and made it two weeks." "You promised you'd stop that habit and went right back." "This is just another emotional high that will wear off."

Stop. Just stop. Yes, you've stumbled before. Yes, you've had moments of spiritual momentum that faded. But that doesn't disqualify what God did at camp. Every single person in the Bible who was used by God had a history of failure. Peter denied Jesus three times and then preached the sermon at Pentecost. David committed adultery and murder and was still called a man after God's own heart. Your past inconsistency doesn't cancel out God's present work.

So today, draw a line. Decide that you will not be talked out of what God did. Not by friends. Not by family. Not by your own fears. Be steadfast. Be immovable. And know that when you stand firm in what God has done, your labor, your faith, your commitment, it is not in vain. Not now. Not ever.

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## Prayer

*Lord, I refuse to be talked out of what You did in my life. I know the enemy wants to plant doubt. I know people might not understand. I know my own mind sometimes works against me. But I choose to be steadfast and immovable. I plant my feet on what You did at camp and I will not be shaken. Give me the courage to stand firm when people question my faith and when my own doubts try to creep in. My labor in You is not in vain. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Has anyone already tried to minimize or question your camp experience? How did you respond?
  - What doubts have surfaced in your own mind since coming home, and where do you think they're coming from?
  - What does it practically look like for you to be "steadfast and immovable" this week?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write a declaration to yourself. Start with "I will not be talked out of..." and finish it with the specific things God did in you at camp that you refuse to let go of.)*

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## DAY 6

## Write It Down Before You Forget

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### Scripture

*When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.*

- Joshua 4:6-7 (ESV)

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### Devotional

God knows something about humans that we don't like to admit: we forget. We forget fast. We can have the most powerful, life-altering encounter with God and within a few weeks, the details start getting fuzzy. The specific things He spoke to us start to blur. The intensity of what we felt begins to soften. It's not because we're bad people. It's because we're human, and life has a way of burying even the most sacred moments under a pile of homework, practice schedules, and group chat notifications.

That's why God told the Israelites to stack rocks.

In Joshua 4, the Israelites had just crossed the Jordan River on dry ground. God had literally stopped a river so His people could walk through. It was miraculous. It was unforgettable. Except God knew they would forget. So He told Joshua to have twelve men, one from each tribe, pick up a stone from the middle of the riverbed and carry it to the other side. They piled them up as a memorial. Why? "So that when your children ask, 'What do those stones mean?' you can tell them what God did here."

God didn't tell them to build the memorial because the moment wasn't powerful enough to remember. He told them to build it because life would eventually try to bury it. And He was right. The Israelites had a long history of forgetting what God had done. They crossed the Red Sea and then complained about food. They saw manna fall from heaven and then wished they were back in Egypt. Every generation had to be reminded of what the previous generation had experienced.

You're in the same spot right now. Camp was your Jordan River moment. God showed up powerfully. He moved. He spoke. He changed things. But if you don't mark it, if you don't write it down, if you don't create some kind of memorial, the details will fade. Not the fact that it happened, but the weight of it. The specifics. The things God whispered to your heart. The commitments you made. The clarity you felt.

So here's your assignment today, and I mean this literally: write it down. Grab a journal, open your notes app, find a sticky note, whatever. But get it out of your head and onto something permanent. Write down what God did. Write down what He said. Write down what you prayed. Write down the moment that broke you, the song that wrecked you, the message that hit home. Write down the commitment you made. Be specific. Be detailed. Be honest.



And then put it somewhere you'll see it. Tape it to your mirror. Set it as your phone wallpaper. Pin it in your notes. Because there will come a day, maybe sooner than you think, when you're going to need to go back and read it. There will be a day when the fire feels low and you'll need to remember what it was like when it was blazing. That's what memorials are for. They don't create the moment. They preserve it.

The Israelites' stones didn't stop the Jordan River. But every time someone walked past that pile of rocks and asked, "What do those mean?" the story came alive again. Your written record will do the same thing. Years from now, you might flip open that journal and read what you wrote about the night God met you at camp. And it will anchor you. It will remind you that this God you serve is faithful, powerful, and real. So don't trust your memory. Write it down.

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### Prayer

*God, I don't want to forget what You did. I know that life moves fast and memories fade, but what happened at camp is too important to lose. Help me to be intentional about recording what You spoke to me and what You did in my heart. Like the Israelites stacked stones to remember Your faithfulness, I want to create markers in my life that point back to Your goodness. Thank You for crossing me over into something new. I will remember. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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### Reflection Prompts

- What details from camp are already starting to fade, and what do you need to write down before they're gone?
  - Why do you think God placed such a high value on memorials and remembering throughout the Bible?
  - What is one way you can create a lasting reminder of what God did in your life at camp?
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### Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(This is your memorial moment. Write down everything - the specific night, the specific song, the specific word, the specific prayer. Record it like you're writing it for your future self who will need to read it someday.)*

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## DAY 7

## This Is Just the Beginning

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### Scripture

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

- Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

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### Devotional

If you've been reading this week's devotionals and you're still here, still engaged, still holding on to what God did at camp, then I want you to hear this clearly: you are not at the end of something. You are at the beginning.

There's a temptation after a powerful spiritual experience to treat it like the peak. Like camp was the mountaintop and now everything is downhill from here. Like you'll spend the rest of the year trying to get back to what you felt in that moment. But that's not how God works. Camp wasn't the summit. It was the starting line.

Philippians 1:6 says, "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Notice the language. He began a work. That means what happened at camp was the beginning, not the end. God started something in you, and He fully intends to finish it. But finishing it is going to take time, obedience, growth, and a whole lot of showing up day after day.

Think about it like a rocket launch. The launch is dramatic. There's fire, smoke, noise, shaking, and energy. Everyone watches the launch. But the launch is not the mission. The mission is what happens after the rocket clears the atmosphere. The launch just gets it off the ground. Camp was your launch. It was powerful and loud and emotional and real. But the mission, the actual life that God is calling you into, that's what happens next. And honestly? The mission is where it gets exciting.

God didn't save you at camp just so you could have a good memory. He didn't fill you with His Spirit just so you could feel warm for a week. He did it because He has plans for you. Real plans. Plans that involve your school, your family, your friend group, your future. He wants to use you right where you are, not someday when you're older or more qualified, but right now, as a teenager who is on fire for Him.

But here's the part nobody tells you at camp: the fire has to be tended. A bonfire doesn't keep burning because the initial match was strong. It keeps burning because someone keeps adding wood. Your spiritual fire works the same way. You have to feed it. You have to protect it. You have to be intentional about it every single day. That's what this devotional series is about. That's why we're here.

So as you close out this first week, don't look backward. Don't spend your energy wishing you were back at camp. Look forward. Ask God what He wants to do next. Ask Him who He wants you to talk to. Ask Him what He wants to change in your daily rhythms. Ask Him how He wants to use you in your youth group, in your school, in your home. Because the God who began this work is not going to abandon it halfway through.

You are not chasing a moment. You are building a life. And the God who showed up at camp, the same God who sent fire at Pentecost, who stopped rivers and raised the dead, that God is walking with you into tomorrow. And the day after that. And the day after that. This is just the beginning. The best is still ahead.

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## Prayer

*God, thank You that camp was not the peak but the launchpad. Thank You that what You started in me, You fully intend to finish. I don't want to live looking backward, trying to recreate a moment. I want to move forward into everything You have for me. Show me what's next. Show me how to tend the fire. Show me how to live this out every single day. I believe the best is still ahead because You are the one leading me there. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Have you been treating camp like the peak of your spiritual life or like the beginning of something new?
  - What is one area of your life where you sense God wants to do a new work starting now?
  - What daily habits or rhythms do you need to put in place to keep the fire burning?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write a letter to yourself three months from now. Tell future-you what God did at camp, what you're feeling right now, and what you're committing to moving forward. Be specific about the habits and changes you want to see.)*

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# WEEK 2

## Feed the Flame

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*The Fire Won't Keep Itself Burning*

## DAY 1

## Fire Needs Fuel

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### Scripture

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

- Psalm 119:105, 9-11 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Here's something nobody tells you after camp: the fire you felt there doesn't run on feelings. It runs on fuel. And the fuel is the Word of God.

Think about an actual campfire for a second. You sat around one at camp, right? Maybe during worship, maybe late at night with your cabin. That fire didn't just keep burning on its own. Somebody had to keep throwing wood on it. The moment they stopped, the fire started dying. It didn't matter how big the flames were an hour ago. No fuel means no fire. Every single time.

Your spiritual life works the exact same way. The Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-filled, on-fire version of you that showed up at the altar during camp was real. That was genuinely you encountering the living God. But that Christ-centered version of you needs to be fed. And the primary way God has chosen to feed your spirit is through His Word.

The psalmist called it a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. Think about what that means practically. Without a lamp, you're stumbling in the dark. You're guessing which direction to go. You're tripping over stuff you never saw coming. But with the Word lighting your way, you can see clearly. You can make wise decisions. You can spot the traps before you fall into them.

Then he asks this incredible question: "How can a young man keep his way pure?" That's literally written for you. This is God, through the psalmist, speaking directly to young people and saying, "You want to know how to stay on track? Guard your life according to my Word." Not according to your feelings. Not according to what your friends are doing. Not according to what TikTok says is normal. According to the Word.

And then verse 11 takes it even deeper. "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." This isn't just reading the Bible to check a box. This is hiding it inside you. Memorizing it. Letting it sink so deep into your thinking that it becomes part of how you see the world. When temptation comes, and it will come, the Word that's stored in your heart becomes your defense. The Holy Spirit brings it back to your mind right when you need it most.

So here's the real talk. Are you reading your Bible? Not just at youth group. Not just when someone hands you a devotional. On your own, in your room, with your Bible open, are you letting God speak to you through His Word? If the answer is no, that's why the fire feels like it's fading. It's not because God left. It's because the fuel

ran out.

You don't have to start with an hour-long study. Start with five minutes. Open the Gospel of John and read one chapter a day. But do it consistently. Do it with an open heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you as you read. He will. Jesus promised that the Spirit would guide us into all truth. But you have to open the book.

The fire at camp was real. Now feed it.

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## Prayer

*God, I don't want the fire to go out. I know that Your Word is the fuel my spirit needs, and I confess that I haven't always been faithful to read it. Help me build the habit of opening my Bible every single day. Holy Spirit, be my teacher. When I read, open my eyes to see what You want to show me. Give me hunger for Scripture that goes deeper than just checking a box. Let Your Word become a lamp that lights every step I take. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- When was the last time you read your Bible on your own, not because someone told you to?
  - What is one thing that usually keeps you from spending time in God's Word daily?
  - If the Word of God is fuel for your fire, how full is your tank right now, honestly?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write out Psalm 119:11 from memory, or as close as you can get. Then write one sentence about what it would look like for you to 'store up' God's Word in your heart this week.)*

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## DAY 2

## Talk to Him Like He's Right There (Because He Is)

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### Scripture

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Can I be honest with you about something? A lot of us treat prayer like it's some kind of formal speech we give to a king who's barely listening. We bow our heads, close our eyes, use big "church words," and hope we're doing it right. And then we wonder why prayer feels dead.

But here's the thing. Prayer was never supposed to feel like a performance. It's a conversation. And the Person you're talking to isn't far away on some distant throne. He's right there. Right now. In the room with you. The Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Let that sink in. God is not distant. He's not distracted. He's not too busy for you. He is literally present with you at this very moment.

Paul tells the Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing." Now, that doesn't mean you walk around with your eyes closed all day mumbling prayers. It means you develop a lifestyle of constant conversation with God. You talk to Him when you wake up. You talk to Him on the way to school. You talk to Him when you're stressed about a test, when you're frustrated with your parents, when you're happy, when you're bored, when you don't know what to say. You just keep the line open.

Think about how you text your best friend. You don't schedule a formal meeting once a week to catch up. You just text them throughout the day. Random thoughts, funny moments, serious stuff, whatever. That's the kind of relationship God wants with you. He wants to hear from you all the time, not because He needs it, but because you need it. You were designed to be in constant connection with your Creator.

At camp, prayer probably felt easy. The atmosphere was set up for it. Worship music was playing, everyone around you was praying, and you could feel the presence of God thick in the room. But now you're home. It's just you and your ceiling fan. And prayer feels harder.

Here's what you need to know: the same God who met you at that altar is meeting you in your bedroom right now. The Holy Spirit didn't stay at the campground. He came home with you. And He's waiting to hear from you. Not a perfect prayer. Not a long prayer. Just a real one.

"Rejoice always." That means choose joy, even when things aren't perfect. "Pray without ceasing." That means keep talking to God, even when you don't feel anything. "Give thanks in all circumstances." That means gratitude isn't based on your situation. It's based on who God is.



So start today. Before you put your phone down, talk to God. Not a fancy prayer. Just be real. Tell Him what's on your mind. Thank Him for something specific. Ask Him for help with something you're facing. And then do it again tomorrow. And the next day. And the next.

Prayer isn't a religious ritual. It's the most powerful connection you have. Use it.

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## Prayer

*Lord, thank You for never being far away. Forgive me for the times I've treated prayer like a chore instead of a conversation with someone who loves me. I want to talk to You more. Not just when things are hard, but all the time. Help me develop the habit of praying throughout my day, about everything, big and small. Holy Spirit, remind me that You're always with me. Teach me what it looks like to pray without ceasing. I want to know You more. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Do you talk to God more like a distant authority figure or like someone who is genuinely close to you?
  - What is one moment in your average day where you could start having a quick conversation with God?
  - What would change in your life if you really believed God was right there with you at all times?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write a short, honest prayer to God right now. No church words, no performance. Just talk to Him like He's sitting next to you, because He is.)*

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### DAY 3

## Worship Isn't Just for Sunday

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### Scripture

*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

- John 4:23-24 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Remember that moment at camp? The one where the worship team was playing and everything else just disappeared? Maybe your hands were raised. Maybe tears were rolling down your face. Maybe for the first time in a long time, you felt like you were standing right in front of God and nothing else mattered. That was real worship.

But here's what I need you to hear: that wasn't just a camp thing. That was a you-and-God thing. And it can happen anywhere.

Jesus said something radical in this conversation with the Samaritan woman. She was asking about where the right place to worship was, which mountain, which temple. And Jesus basically said, "You're asking the wrong question." The location doesn't matter. What matters is that you worship in spirit and in truth. Real worship isn't about the building you're in, the band that's playing, or the people around you. It's about your heart connecting with God's Spirit. And that can happen in a chapel, in a sanctuary, or in your bedroom with your earbuds in at midnight.

Here's what a lot of people don't realize. The reason worship felt so powerful at camp wasn't because the worship team was amazing, although they might have been. It was because you gave God everything in that moment. You weren't distracted. You weren't checking your phone. You weren't worried about who was watching you. You were fully present, fully surrendered, and the Holy Spirit met you there. That's what "in spirit and in truth" means. Your spirit, fully engaged, connecting with the Spirit of God in honesty and openness.

You can do that right now. Put on a worship song. Close your eyes. Forget about what you look like. Forget about who might hear you. And just worship. Sing to God like He's the only one in the room, because spiritually speaking, He is the only audience that matters.

The Father is "seeking" worshipers. Did you catch that? God is actively looking for people who will worship Him with their whole heart. Not just on Sunday morning. Not just at camp. Every day. He's looking for teenagers who will put on worship music in their car and sing at the top of their lungs. He's looking for students who will close their bedroom door, put their hands up, and pour out their hearts. He's looking for you.

Don't let worship become something that only happens when everything is set up perfectly for it. Worship is a weapon. It shifts the atmosphere. It breaks chains. It invites the presence of God into your everyday life. When you're anxious, worship. When you're lonely, worship. When you're fired up, worship. When you feel nothing at all, worship anyway. That's when it matters most.

The Holy Spirit is ready to meet you in worship right now. Not at the next camp. Not at the next youth conference. Right now, wherever you are. All you have to do is start.

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## Prayer

*Father, You are seeking true worshipers, and I want to be one of them. Teach me to worship You beyond Sunday mornings and camp services. I want to worship You in spirit and in truth every single day. Help me push past the awkwardness and the distractions and just focus on You. Holy Spirit, fill my worship. Meet me in my room, in my car, wherever I am. I give You my whole heart, not just when the music is perfect, but always. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What made worship at camp feel different from worship at home or church?
  - When was the last time you worshiped God completely on your own, not at a church service or event?
  - What usually stops you from going all-in during worship, and how can you push past it?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write about a specific moment in worship when you really felt God's presence. What made that moment different? How could you create space for moments like that in your everyday life?)*

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## DAY 4

## Don't Skip Church

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### Scripture

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

- Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

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### Devotional

It's summer. Your schedule is weird. You were up late last night. Your bed is comfortable. And church starts way too early. I get it. Every part of you wants to roll over, pull the covers up, and say, "I'll go next week."

But let me paint a picture for you. Imagine a campfire with a bunch of logs burning together. The flames are high, the heat is intense, everything is alive. Now imagine pulling one log out and setting it off to the side by itself. What happens? It stops burning. It cools down. It turns into a cold, gray piece of charcoal. Not because there was something wrong with the log, but because it was never meant to burn alone.

That's you when you skip church. You're not a bad Christian for missing a Sunday. But you are pulling yourself away from the fire. And the longer you stay away, the colder you get. It happens slowly, so slowly that you don't even notice at first. But one skipped Sunday turns into two, and then three, and then suddenly you realize the fire you felt at camp is barely a flicker.

The writer of Hebrews knew this would happen. That's why he said, "Don't neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some." It was a problem back then too. People were drifting. They were finding excuses. They were telling themselves they could do the faith thing on their own. And the writer is saying, "No. You need each other. Stop pulling away."

But notice what he says the purpose of gathering is. It's not just to sit in a pew and listen. It's to "stir up one another to love and good works" and to encourage each other. Church isn't supposed to be a spectator sport. It's supposed to be a community where you're challenged, encouraged, and held accountable. When you show up on Sunday or Wednesday, you're not just receiving something. You're giving something too. Your presence matters. Your worship matters. Your encouragement to the person sitting next to you matters.

And here's the thing about youth group specifically. That room is full of people who are fighting the same battles you are. Trying to keep the fire burning after camp. Trying to live for Jesus in a world that doesn't make it easy. Trying to figure out what it looks like to follow God as a teenager. You need those people. And they need you.

So set an alarm. Get up. Get dressed. Show up. Even when you don't feel like it. Especially when you don't feel like it. Because the fire stays hot when the logs stay together. And God has something for you in that room, something you won't get scrolling on your phone in bed.

Don't let comfort steal your calling. Get to church.

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### Prayer

*God, forgive me for the times I've let comfort and laziness keep me from being in Your house. I know I need to be around other believers. I know that my fire grows cold when I pull away from the community You've placed me in. Help me to prioritize church and youth group, even when I don't feel like it. Give me a heart that wants to be there, not out of obligation, but because I know that's where You meet with Your people. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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### Reflection Prompts

- How many Sundays or youth group nights have you missed recently, and what was the real reason?
  - Have you ever noticed a connection between pulling away from church and feeling spiritually cold?
  - How could you be someone who 'stirs up' and encourages others when you show up?
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### Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Be honest: what is the number one thing that keeps you from showing up to church or youth group consistently? Write it down, and then write one practical step you can take to overcome it.)*

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## DAY 5

## Find Your People

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### Scripture

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him - a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Let me ask you something. When you got home from camp, who did you call first? Who did you text? Who did you tell about what God did in your life that week?

Your answer to that question matters more than you think. Because the people in your inner circle will either fan your flame or smother it. There's really no in-between.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wrote these words in Ecclesiastes. And he wasn't just giving general life advice. He was telling you something about the way God designed you. You were not made to do this alone. Two are better than one. When you fall, and you will have moments where you stumble, you need someone who will lift you up. When you feel cold and distant from God, you need someone who will bring warmth back into your faith. And when the enemy comes after you, because he will, you need people standing with you. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

Here's the thing about camp friendships. They feel amazing in the moment. You connect with people at a deep level because you're all experiencing God together. But when you go home, some of those friendships fade. Not because they weren't real, but because distance makes it hard. That's why you need to also have people in your everyday life, at your school, in your youth group, in your neighborhood, who are going to push you toward Jesus.

And I need to be real with you about something. Not every friend is the right friend for this season. Some of your friends are great people, but they're not walking with God right now. That doesn't mean you cut them off or treat them badly. But it does mean you can't rely on them to keep your fire burning. You need at least one or two friends who will pray with you, who will ask you the hard questions, who will tell you the truth when you're drifting, and who will celebrate with you when God does something amazing.

If you don't have those people yet, start looking. Talk to your youth pastor. Look around your youth group. Find someone who seems like they're actually serious about following Jesus and start building that friendship. It might feel awkward at first. That's okay. Depth always starts with a first step.

And here's a challenge: don't just find people who fan your flame. Be someone who fans theirs. Check on your friends from camp. Send that text. Make that call. Ask, "How's your walk with God going?" Be the kind of

friend you wish you had.

The enemy wants you isolated. He knows that a lone coal goes cold. He knows that if he can separate you from community, he can slowly snuff out your fire. Don't let him. Find your people. Lock arms with them. And burn together.

A threefold cord is not quickly broken. God plus you plus the right people? That's an unstoppable combination.

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## Prayer

*Lord, I don't want to walk this road alone. You designed me for community, and I need people who will push me closer to You. Help me find the right friends, people who love You, who will be honest with me, and who will fan my flame instead of putting it out. And help me be that kind of friend to someone else. Give me the courage to be vulnerable, to ask for accountability, and to invest in relationships that honor You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Who are the two or three people in your life right now who are actively pushing you closer to God?
  - Is there anyone in your circle who consistently pulls you away from your faith, and how do you handle that relationship?
  - What would it look like for you to be the kind of friend who 'fans the flame' for someone else?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write down the names of one or two people you want to build a deeper, faith-centered friendship with. What's one step you can take this week to start that?)*

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DAY 6

## Get Off Autopilot

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### Scripture

*And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men."*

- Isaiah 29:13 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Can I tell you something that might sting a little? It's possible to do all the right spiritual things and still miss God completely.

You can read your Bible every day and never actually hear His voice. You can pray every morning and never really talk to Him. You can show up to church every Sunday and never engage with what the Holy Spirit is doing. You can go through all the motions and still have a heart that's a million miles away.

God called this out through the prophet Isaiah, and He was not gentle about it. "This people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me." In other words, they were saying the right words but their hearts weren't in it. They had the routine, but they'd lost the relationship. They were on autopilot.

And autopilot is dangerous because it feels like you're doing fine. You're checking the boxes. Bible, check. Prayer, check. Church, check. From the outside, everything looks great. But on the inside, something is hollow. You're going through the motions without any real connection to the God you're supposed to be pursuing.

Here's how you know you're on autopilot. You read a passage of Scripture and can't remember a single thing it said five minutes later. You pray but it's the same generic prayer every time, nothing specific, nothing personal. You worship at church but you're really just waiting for the sermon. You show up but you're not really present.

If that's you right now, don't beat yourself up about it. But don't stay there either.

God doesn't want your routine. He wants your heart. He's not impressed by religious habits that have no passion behind them. He's not looking for perfect church attendance. He's looking for people who actually want to know Him. People who open their Bible and say, "God, speak to me." People who pray with honesty and desperation. People who worship like they mean it.

So how do you get off autopilot? You slow down. Instead of rushing through your Bible reading, sit with one verse and ask God what He's saying to you through it. Instead of rattling off a quick prayer, pause and actually listen. Instead of just singing the words on the screen during worship, think about what you're saying and who you're saying it to.

It takes intentionality. Autopilot is easy. Engagement takes effort. But the difference is everything. When you bring your whole heart to your time with God, He meets you there in a way that routine can never produce. The



Holy Spirit responds to hunger, not habit. He responds to desperation, not discipline alone.

You didn't come home from camp to become a religious robot. You came home to live a life on fire. So get off autopilot. Bring your heart back to the table. God is waiting for the real you, not the going-through-the-motions version.

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## Prayer

*Father, I don't want to be someone who honors You with my lips while my heart is far from You. Forgive me for the times I've gone through the motions, checking boxes without actually connecting with You. Wake me up. Shake me out of autopilot. I want real relationship with You, not just religious routine. Holy Spirit, help me to be fully present when I read, when I pray, and when I worship. I bring my whole heart to You right now. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- In what area of your spiritual life are you most likely to go on autopilot?
  - What is the difference between spiritual discipline and spiritual autopilot?
  - When was the last time you felt truly engaged and present in your time with God?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Pick one spiritual habit, Bible reading, prayer, or worship, and write down what it looks like when you're on autopilot vs. when you're fully engaged. What needs to change?)*

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## DAY 7

# Small Fires Become Big Ones

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### Scripture

*For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.*

- Zechariah 4:10a; Luke 16:10 (ESV)

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### Devotional

You might be reading this thinking, "Okay, but my quiet time this morning was like five minutes. I read a few verses and said a quick prayer. That can't really matter, right?"

Wrong. It matters more than you know.

God has a word for the person who thinks small things don't count. Through the prophet Zechariah, He said, "Do not despise the day of small things." And Jesus Himself said, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much." God isn't waiting for you to become a spiritual giant before He starts using you. He's watching to see if you'll be faithful with what you have right now, even if what you have feels small.

That five-minute prayer? It matters. That one chapter of John you read before school? It matters. That worship song you played in your car on the way to work or practice? It matters. Every small act of faithfulness is a seed. And seeds grow.

Here's what most people don't understand about fire. Every massive bonfire started as a tiny spark. A single match. A small flame catching on a piece of kindling. Nobody looks at a roaring fire and says, "That doesn't count because it used to be small." But for some reason, we do that with our spiritual lives. We look at our small, imperfect efforts and think they don't matter. We compare ourselves to people who seem like spiritual giants, pastors who pray for hours, missionaries who gave up everything, that kid at camp who seemed to have it all together, and we feel like our little flame is worthless.

Stop that. Your small flame is exactly what God is looking for.

He's not asking you to pray for three hours tomorrow. He's asking you to be faithful with three minutes today. He's not asking you to memorize the whole book of Romans this week. He's asking you to hide one verse in your heart. He's not asking you to lead a revival. He's asking you to show up to youth group and worship with everything you've got.

Faithfulness in the small things is what builds a life that burns bright for decades, not just for one week at camp. The people you look up to spiritually, your youth pastor, that camp speaker, that worship leader, they didn't start where they are now. They started with small, daily, unglamorous faithfulness. And over time, God turned those small flames into a fire that others could see and feel.

That's what He wants to do with you. But it starts with today. It starts with the small thing right in front of you.

So don't quit because your efforts feel insignificant. Don't give up because you missed a day or had a bad week. Get back up. Open your Bible again. Pray again. Worship again. Be faithful in the little, and watch God turn it into something big.

This is how fires grow. Not in one dramatic explosion, but in steady, faithful, daily obedience. One log at a time. One prayer at a time. One verse at a time. Keep going.

The fire you started feeding this week? Don't let it die. Keep feeding it. Small fires become big ones. And God is just getting started with you.

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### Prayer

*God, help me not to despise the small things. I confess that sometimes I feel like my efforts aren't enough, like my five-minute prayer or my one chapter of reading doesn't really matter. But Your Word says that faithfulness in little leads to faithfulness in much. So I choose to be faithful today, with what I have, where I am. Take my small flame and grow it into something that burns for Your glory. I trust You with the process. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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### Reflection Prompts

- What 'small thing' in your spiritual life have you been tempted to think doesn't really matter?
  - Who is someone you admire spiritually, and what small daily habits do you think they practice?
  - What would your spiritual life look like one year from now if you were faithful in the small things every day starting today?
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### Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write down three small, specific, daily spiritual habits you're committing to for the rest of this series. Keep them realistic. Then write a one-sentence prayer asking God to grow them into something bigger than you can imagine.)*

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# WEEK 3

## When the Wind Blows

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*The Fire Gets Tested - Don't Quit Now*

## DAY 1

# The Feeling Is Fading - Now What?

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### Scripture

*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Be honest with yourself for a second. That feeling you had at camp, the one where you felt like you could take on the world, where worship hit different and everything felt clear and close and real, it's starting to fade. Maybe it already has.

And now you're wondering: did I make the whole thing up? Was it just emotions? Was it just the atmosphere, the music, the late nights?

Here's the truth, and I need you to hear this clearly. What happened at camp was real. The presence of God you felt was real. The tears, the surrender, the moment you said yes to Him, all of it was real. But here's what nobody told you: feelings are not the foundation of your faith. They never were.

Think about it this way. When you first start dating someone, the butterflies are insane. Everything is exciting. But ask any married couple and they'll tell you, love isn't the butterflies. Love is the choice you make when the butterflies aren't there. It's the same with God. The fire you felt at camp was the spark, but the daily Christ-following life, that's the flame you have to tend.

Paul said it plainly in 2 Corinthians 5:7. We walk by faith, not by sight. Not by feeling. Not by goosebumps. Not by how worship made you cry last Tuesday. Faith. That means trusting what God said even when you don't feel it in your chest anymore.

Here's what most people miss. Feelings follow obedience, not the other way around. You don't wait until you feel like reading your Bible to open it. You open it, and then something shifts. You don't wait until you feel like praying to talk to God. You start talking, and suddenly you realize He's been right there the whole time. You don't wait until worship feels electric to lift your hands. You lift them anyway, and the Holy Spirit meets you in your sacrifice of praise.

This is actually where real faith begins. Not on the mountaintop at camp, but in the valley of the ordinary. Monday morning. Wednesday afternoon when you're tired. Friday night when everyone else is doing something you said you were done with. That's where faith gets forged.

The feeling fading doesn't mean God left. It means He's inviting you deeper. He's saying, "Are you going to follow Me only when it feels amazing, or are you going to walk with Me when the road gets quiet?" The Holy Spirit doesn't leave when the feelings do. He's still in you, still with you, still guiding you.

So stop measuring your relationship with God by your emotional temperature. Start measuring it by your obedience. Are you still in the Word? Are you still praying? Are you still choosing Him over the easy road? If so, you're not losing the fire. You're learning how to carry it without the camp speakers and the worship band backing you up.

That's growth. And it's exactly where God wants you right now.

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## Prayer

*God, I'll be honest. I miss how close You felt at camp. The feeling is fading and I'm scared that means something is wrong. But I choose to trust You right now, not my emotions. Teach me to walk by faith and not by what I feel. Help me to be obedient even when I don't feel the fire. I believe You're still here, still working, still moving in my life. Holy Spirit, strengthen me today. I'm not giving up. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- When was the last time you did something for God even though you didn't feel like it? What happened?
  - How have you been measuring your relationship with God - by feelings or by faithfulness?
  - What is one act of obedience you can commit to this week, regardless of how you feel?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write about a time when your feelings didn't match reality. How does that apply to your faith right now?)*

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## DAY 2

# The Enemy Has a Plan Too

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### Scripture

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

- 1 Peter 5:8-9 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Let me paint a picture for you. You went to camp. God moved. You surrendered things, felt His presence like never before, maybe spoke in tongues for the first time, maybe got baptized in the Holy Spirit, maybe just finally said, "I'm all in." Heaven was celebrating. Angels were rejoicing.

But someone else was watching too.

The enemy saw everything that happened at camp. He saw the tears. He saw the altar call. He saw you raise your hands and mean it. And he's not going to just let that slide. He has a plan too, and his plan is to steal, kill, and destroy everything God planted in your heart that week.

Peter didn't mince words. He said, "Be sober-minded; be watchful." That's not a suggestion. That's a command from someone who learned the hard way. Peter himself was blindsided by the enemy. Jesus told him, "Satan has demanded to sift you like wheat." Peter thought he was strong enough. He wasn't ready. And he denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

Don't be Peter before the rooster. Be Peter after Pentecost.

Here's what you need to understand about spiritual warfare, because that's exactly what this is. The enemy doesn't usually show up with horns and a pitchfork. He shows up as a thought. A distraction. A compromise that seems small. He shows up as the old group chat blowing up. He shows up as that song, that account, that habit you said you were done with. He whispers, "It wasn't that serious. You're being dramatic. Nobody else is living like this."

He's a liar. He's always been a liar. Jesus called him the father of lies in John 8:44. And his strategy hasn't changed since the garden of Eden. He takes what God said and twists it just enough to make you second-guess.

So what do you do? Peter tells us. Resist him, firm in your faith. Not firm in your feelings. Not firm in your willpower. Firm in your faith. That means you stand on what you know to be true, not on what the enemy is trying to make you feel. You know God met you at camp. You know the Holy Spirit is real. You know you were changed. Stand on that.

And here's the part that should encourage you. Peter says that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. You're not alone in this. Every Christ-follower who has ever had a



real encounter with God has faced this same pushback. The enemy fights hardest against the people who are the biggest threat to his kingdom. If he's coming after you, it's because what happened at camp actually matters.

So don't be surprised by the resistance. Be ready for it. Stay alert. Stay prayed up. Stay in the Word. The lion is loud, but he's already defeated. Jesus made sure of that at the cross. You don't fight for victory. You fight from victory. The war is already won. Now act like it.

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## Prayer

*Lord, open my eyes to the enemy's tactics. I know he wants to steal what You did in my life at camp, but I refuse to let him. I resist the devil right now in the name of Jesus. Give me discernment to recognize his lies and the strength to stand firm. I am not fighting alone. Your Holy Spirit is with me, and the victory already belongs to You. Keep me alert, keep me watchful, and keep me anchored in truth. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Have you noticed any pushback or resistance since camp? What has it looked like?
- What is one lie the enemy has whispered to you recently, and what does God's Word say instead?
- How can you practically 'stay watchful' in your everyday life this week?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write down three specific lies the enemy has tried to use against you since camp. Next to each one, write the truth from Scripture that defeats it.)*

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## DAY 3

## Old Habits Die Hard

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### Scripture

*So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

- Romans 6:11-14 (ESV)

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### Devotional

You said you were done. At camp, at that altar, with tears on your face, you told God, "I'm done with it." Maybe it was pornography. Maybe it was the way you talk to your parents. Maybe it was lying, or gossip, or that relationship you know isn't right, or the stuff you do when nobody's watching. You meant it when you said it. You really did.

But now it's knocking on the door again. And if you're being honest, you're already wondering if you have the strength to say no.

First, breathe. You're not a failure for being tempted. Jesus himself was tempted in every way that we are, and He never sinned. Temptation is not sin. The knock at the door is not the same as opening it. So stop beating yourself up for hearing the knock.

But here's what you need to know. Old habits don't die easy, and they don't die on their own. You can't just white-knuckle your way to holiness. That's called religion, and it'll exhaust you. Paul gives us something so much better in Romans 6.

He says to consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God. That's not a suggestion to try harder. It's a declaration of identity. You are not the person you were before camp. You've been brought from death to life. The old you, the one that craved that sin, that was wired for that habit, that person died with Christ. The person reading this right now is new. Alive. Free.

So when the old habit comes calling, you don't fight it in your own strength. You fight it from your new identity. You say, "That's not who I am anymore. I am dead to that. I am alive to God." And then you do something Paul says next, something most people skip over. He says to present your members to God as instruments for righteousness. In other words, replace the old with something new.

You can't just stop doing the wrong thing. You have to start doing the right thing. If your hands used to scroll through things they shouldn't, now they open the Bible app. If your mouth used to tear people down, now it speaks life. If your Friday nights used to be about compromise, now they're about community. You don't just remove the sin. You replace it with purpose.

And here's the grace in all of this. Paul finishes by saying that sin will have no dominion over you because you're not under law but under grace. You're not earning your freedom by being perfect. Jesus already purchased it. Grace doesn't give you permission to sin. It gives you the power to overcome it. The Holy Spirit living inside you is stronger than any habit, any craving, any pattern that used to own you.

So when the old habit knocks, don't answer the door. But also don't just stand there staring at it. Walk into another room. Walk toward God. Walk toward worship. Walk toward your Bible. Walk toward a trusted friend who will hold you accountable. That's how old habits finally die, not by willpower, but by the power of the Spirit and the truth of who you are in Christ.

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## Prayer

*Father, You know the habits that keep trying to pull me back. I'm tired of fighting the same battles. But today I declare that I am dead to sin and alive to You. I refuse to let old patterns define me. I present my mind, my hands, my eyes, my heart to You as instruments of righteousness. Fill the empty spaces with Your Spirit. Give me the strength to walk away and the wisdom to walk toward You. I am free, not because I'm strong, but because You are. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What is the one habit or pattern that has been hardest to let go of since camp?
- What does it practically look like to 'present yourself to God' instead of to sin?
- Who is one person you could trust to hold you accountable this week?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write a letter to your old habit. Tell it why it no longer has power over you and who you are now in Christ.)*

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## DAY 4

## When Your Friends Don't Get It

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### Scripture

*Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

- Matthew 10:37-39 (ESV)

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### Devotional

You came back from camp on fire. You walked into school or into the group chat or back to your friend group and you were different. You could feel it. But here's the part that stings, they don't get it.

Maybe they made fun of you. Maybe they just got quiet. Maybe they changed the subject every time you brought up God. Maybe they didn't say anything at all, which almost feels worse. You're standing there with this brand-new fire in your chest and the people closest to you are looking at you like you joined a cult.

This is one of the hardest parts of following Jesus as a teenager. Not the quiet time, not the worship, not even the temptation. It's the loneliness of being different in a world that rewards sameness.

Jesus knew this was coming. That's why He said what He said in Matthew 10. And honestly, it's one of the most intense things He ever taught. He said that if you love anyone, even your own family, more than you love Him, you're not worthy of Him. That's not Jesus being harsh. That's Jesus being honest about what following Him costs.

Here's the reality. Not everyone is going to celebrate your transformation. Some people liked the old you better because the old you made them comfortable. The old you didn't challenge their lifestyle. The old you laughed at the same jokes, went to the same parties, and never made anyone feel convicted just by being in the room. But the new you, the Spirit-filled you, makes people uncomfortable. And that's not your problem.

You don't need permission from your friend group to follow God. You don't need their approval, their understanding, or their applause. You need Jesus. And if following Him means sitting alone at lunch for a season, it's worth it. If it means being the weird one in the group chat, it's worth it. If it means losing a friendship that was pulling you backward, it's still worth it.

Now, does this mean you cut everyone off and become some isolated religious loner? No. Jesus had dinner with sinners. He was at parties. He was in the mess of real life. But He never compromised who He was to make other people comfortable. There's a difference between being in the world and being shaped by it.

Here's what I want you to hold onto. The right people will come. When you start walking with God for real, He brings you people who are walking the same direction. Maybe it's someone at your youth group you never really talked to. Maybe it's a mentor or a small group leader. Maybe it's a friend who went to a different camp

and came back changed too. God is not going to leave you alone. But He might thin the crowd to show you who's really with you.

Jesus said whoever loses their life for His sake will find it. That includes your social life. Let go of the need to be understood by everyone. Chase the One who understands you completely. The rest will follow.

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## Prayer

*Jesus, it's hard being different. Some of my closest friends don't understand what happened to me, and it makes me want to just go back to the way things were. But I know I can't go backward. Give me the courage to follow You even when it costs me friendships. Bring the right people into my life, people who sharpen me, challenge me, and walk toward You with me. I choose You over fitting in. I choose Your approval over theirs. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Has anyone made you feel weird or different since camp? How did that affect you?
  - Is there a friendship in your life right now that is pulling you away from God instead of toward Him?
  - What would it look like to love your friends well without compromising your faith?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write about the kind of friendships you want to have one year from now. What would it look like to be surrounded by people who push you closer to God?)*

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## DAY 5

# Doubt Is Not the Opposite of Faith

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### Scripture

*And Jesus said to him, "If you can't! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"*

- Mark 9:23-24 (ESV)

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### Devotional

You're starting to wonder if any of it was real.

Did God actually speak to you at camp? Was that really the Holy Spirit, or was it just hype? Are you really changed, or will you be right back where you started in a month?

These questions feel dangerous. They feel like failure. Like you're losing your faith before it even had a chance to grow. So you stuff them down, smile on Sunday, and pretend everything is fine because good Christians don't doubt. Right?

Wrong.

Some of the greatest people in the Bible doubted. Thomas doubted the resurrection until he touched Jesus' scars. David wrote psalms asking God why He felt so far away. John the Baptist, the guy who literally baptized Jesus, sent a message from prison asking, "Are you the one, or should we expect someone else?" If John the Baptist can have questions, so can you.

Look at this father in Mark chapter 9. His son was suffering, and he came to Jesus desperate. Jesus said all things are possible for the one who believes. And this dad gave one of the most honest prayers in the entire Bible. "I believe; help my unbelief!" He didn't pretend he had it all together. He didn't fake confidence. He brought his faith and his doubt to Jesus at the same time. And Jesus didn't turn him away.

That's the thing about doubt. It's not the opposite of faith. Unbelief is the opposite of faith. Doubt is what happens when faith is growing. It's the growing pain. It's your mind trying to catch up with what your spirit already knows. And God is not threatened by your questions.

The danger isn't having doubts. The danger is where you take them. If you take your doubts to the internet, to random voices on social media, to people who don't know God, they'll confirm every fear you have. But if you take your doubts to God, to His Word, to trusted believers who have walked through the same valley, your doubts become doorways to deeper faith.

Think about it. The student who never asks questions in class never really learns anything. They just memorize. But the student who raises their hand, who wrestles with the material, who says, "I don't understand this yet," that's the one who actually gets it eventually. Your faith works the same way.

God would rather you come to Him with honest doubt than with fake certainty. He can handle your questions. He's not insecure. He's not going to be offended if you say, "God, I'm struggling to believe right now." In fact, that kind of honesty is exactly what opens the door for Him to reveal Himself in deeper ways.

So stop punishing yourself for having questions. Stop pretending you have it all figured out. You're a teenager. You're supposed to be figuring things out. The fact that you're wrestling with your faith means it matters to you. Apathy doesn't wrestle. Indifference doesn't ask questions. The very fact that you're doubting proves that you care deeply about what's true.

Bring your doubts to God. All of them. He's big enough to handle every single one. And on the other side of every honest question is a faith that nobody can shake, because it's yours. Not your parents' faith, not your youth pastor's faith, not camp faith. Your faith. Tested, tried, and real.

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## Prayer

*God, I have questions and I'm done pretending I don't. Some days I believe with everything in me, and other days I'm not sure about anything. But I'm bringing all of it to You right now, my faith and my doubt, my confidence and my confusion. I believe. Help my unbelief. Don't let me run from You when I have questions. Draw me closer instead. I want a faith that's real, not one that's just borrowed from someone else. Meet me in my honesty. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What is one question or doubt you've been afraid to say out loud?
- Where have you been taking your doubts - to God, or to sources that feed your fear?
- How does it change things to know that doubt can actually be a sign of growing faith?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write your honest questions to God. Don't filter them. Just put them on paper and then ask Him to meet you in them.)*

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## DAY 6

## You're in a War - Act Like It

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### Scripture

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

- Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Let me ask you something. If someone told you that there was an actual enemy, a real one, who had a specific strategy to destroy your life, steal your purpose, and keep you from everything God has planned for you, would you just sit on your couch and scroll TikTok? Would you go about your day like nothing was happening?

Because that's exactly what most Christians do. And it's exactly what the enemy is counting on.

Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus and basically said, "Wake up. You're in a war." Not a metaphor. Not a cute spiritual analogy. An actual war with real enemies, real weapons, and real consequences. He said we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. Your battle isn't with your parents who don't understand you. It's not with the kid at school who mocks your faith. It's not even with yourself when you fail. Behind all of it, there are spiritual forces, rulers and authorities in dark places, that are working against you.

This isn't meant to scare you. It's meant to wake you up. Because a soldier who doesn't know they're in a war is the easiest target on the battlefield.

Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God. Not half of it. Not just the parts that feel comfortable. The whole thing. Belt of truth, because lies are the enemy's primary weapon and you need to be grounded in what's real. Breastplate of righteousness, because your identity in Christ protects your heart from condemnation and shame. Shoes of the gospel of peace, because you carry good news everywhere you walk. Shield of faith, because the enemy throws fiery darts of doubt, fear, and accusation, and faith is what extinguishes them. Helmet of salvation, because your mind is the biggest battleground and you need to know that you are saved, sealed, and secure. Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, because it's the only offensive weapon on the list and it's what Jesus used when the devil came for Him in the wilderness.

Here's what this looks like practically. You're not just a kid trying to be good. You're a Spirit-filled, Word-armed, prayer-powered warrior of the Most High God. The same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you right now. You have authority in the name of Jesus to resist the enemy and watch him flee.

But authority you don't use is authority wasted. You've got to get aggressive with your faith. Not aggressive toward people, but aggressive toward the darkness. Pray out loud. Speak Scripture over your life. Worship when



you don't feel like it. Fast when the Spirit leads you. Get in community with other believers who are fighting the same fight.

Stop being passive. Stop treating your faith like a hobby or an extracurricular. You are in the army of the living God, and this is not a game. The enemy plays for keeps. But so does your God, and He has never lost a battle.

Paul finishes with this: "having done all, to stand firm." Some days, standing is the victory. Some days, just not quitting is the win. You don't have to be perfect. You just have to still be standing at the end of the day. Armor on. Sword in hand. Eyes on Jesus.

That's a soldier. That's who you are.

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## Prayer

*Lord, I'm done being passive about my faith. I recognize that I'm in a real war with a real enemy, and I need Your armor. Clothe me in truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and Your Word. I take authority right now in the name of Jesus over every scheme the enemy has planned against me. I will not be an easy target. I will pray, I will worship, I will stand firm. Holy Spirit, fill me with boldness and power. I'm ready to fight. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Which piece of the armor of God do you feel like you've been missing lately?
- In what area of your life have you been most passive about your faith?
- What does it look like to 'stand firm' in your specific circumstances right now?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write out a battle plan for your week. What spiritual disciplines will you commit to? When will you pray, read the Word, and worship? Write it down and treat it like orders from your Commander.)*

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## DAY 7

# Survive the Week, Build the Life

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### Scripture

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

- Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

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### Devotional

You've made it to the end of Week 3. Can we stop for a second and acknowledge that?

Three weeks ago, you came home from camp. And every single day since then, something has tried to pull you away from what God did. The feelings faded. The enemy pushed back. Old habits knocked on the door. Friends didn't understand. Doubt crept in. You realized you were in an actual spiritual war.

And you're still here. Still reading. Still fighting. Still choosing God.

That matters more than you know.

Paul wrote to the Galatians and gave them one of the simplest and most powerful commands in the entire New Testament. Don't grow weary of doing good. Don't give up. Keep going. Because there is a harvest coming, but it only comes if you don't quit.

Here's what I need you to understand about the Christian life. It's not built in a single moment. Camp was incredible. That altar call was life-changing. But the life God is building in you, it's built one day at a time. One prayer at a time. One choice at a time. One obedient step at a time.

You don't have to have everything figured out today. You don't need to have a five-year spiritual plan. You don't need to be the most on-fire person in your youth group. You just need to not quit today. That's it. Survive today. Choose God today. Read one chapter today. Pray one honest prayer today. Resist one temptation today. Show up today.

And then do it again tomorrow.

That's how wars are won. Not by one epic battle. By showing up every single day and refusing to surrender. The soldiers who win aren't always the strongest or the fastest. They're the ones who keep going when everyone else drops out.

Here's the promise that should light a fire in your bones. Paul says in due season, we will reap. Due season. That means there's a timing to this. God is doing something in you right now that you can't see yet. The seeds you're planting with every prayer, every act of obedience, every time you choose Him over the world, those seeds are taking root. And one day, maybe soon, maybe later, you're going to look up and see a harvest you never imagined.

But the harvest has a condition. If we do not give up. That's the key. The only thing that can disqualify you from the harvest is quitting. Not failing, because God's grace covers failure. Not stumbling, because He picks you up every time. Quitting. Walking away. Deciding it's not worth it.

I'm telling you right now, it's worth it. Every hard day is worth it. Every awkward moment when your friends don't get it is worth it. Every battle with old habits is worth it. Every question and doubt you bring to God is worth it. Because on the other side of all of this is a life so full of the Holy Spirit, so anchored in purpose, so marked by God's presence that you won't even recognize the person you used to be.

You don't need to be perfect. You don't need to be extraordinary. You just need to keep showing up. One more day. One more prayer. One more yes to God.

Don't grow weary. The harvest is coming. And it's going to be worth every single thing it cost you to stay in the fight.

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## Prayer

*Father, I'm tired. But I'm not quitting. I refuse to grow weary of doing good because I trust that You are faithful to bring the harvest. Give me strength for today, just today. I don't need to figure out tomorrow yet. I just need enough grace for right now. Thank You for carrying me through these weeks. I believe that what You started at camp, You will finish. I'm staying in the fight. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What is one specific area where you've grown since camp, even if it feels small?
- What does 'not giving up' look like for you practically this week?
- What harvest are you believing God for in this season of your life?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write a letter to yourself six months from now. Tell future-you what God did at camp, what you've been fighting through, and why you're choosing not to give up.)*

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# WEEK 4

## Carry the Torch

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*From a Moment to a Movement*

## DAY 1

## Stop Looking Back at the Mountain

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### Scripture

*And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" - not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.*

- Luke 9:33-36 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Peter had just seen something incredible. Jesus was standing on a mountaintop, glowing with glory, talking with Moses and Elijah. It was the most breathtaking, supernatural moment of Peter's entire life. And what did he want to do? Stay there forever. Build some tents. Set up camp on the mountain and never come down.

Honestly, can you blame him? If you saw what Peter saw, you'd want to stay too. And that's exactly how you felt at camp. The worship was electric. The presence of God was thick. The altar was holy ground. You felt closer to God than you'd ever been, and part of you wished you could just stay in that moment permanently.

But here's what's interesting. Jesus didn't let them stay. He brought them back down the mountain. Why? Because the mountain was never meant to be their home. It was meant to be their fuel.

See, when they came down from that mountain, there was a boy waiting at the bottom who was tormented by a demon. There were people who needed healing. There was work to do in the valley. The glory on the mountain was real, but it wasn't the destination. It was the preparation.

That's exactly what camp was for you. Camp was your mountaintop. It was real. What you felt was real. What God did in your heart was real. But camp was never supposed to be the place where your faith lives permanently. It was supposed to be the place that launched you into something greater.

Here's what a lot of people miss. The valley is not a downgrade from the mountain. The valley is where the mission happens. The mountain gives you the vision, but the valley gives you the purpose. You can't reach hurting people from a mountaintop. You reach them in the hallways, the locker rooms, the lunch tables, and the group chats.

So stop looking back at camp like it was the peak of your faith. It wasn't the peak. It was the launchpad. God didn't bring you up the mountain just so you could wish you were still there. He brought you up so you could see what He sees, and then carry that vision into everyday life.

Peter eventually figured this out. The same guy who wanted to build tents on the mountain became the guy who preached at Pentecost and saw three thousand people come to faith in one day. The mountain didn't make Peter great. What made Peter great was what he did when he came down.

You've been on the mountain. Now look around you. There are people in your life who are hurting, lost, confused, and searching. They need someone who has been with God. They need someone who carries the fire. They need you, not on a mountain, but right here, right now, in the valley where life actually happens.

Stop building tents at camp. Start building something that lasts.

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## Prayer

*God, thank You for the mountain. Thank You for camp and for every moment where I felt Your presence in a powerful way. But I don't want to live in the past. I want to carry what You gave me into the life You've called me to live right now. Help me to see the valley not as a step down but as my mission field. Give me eyes to see the people around me who need what I've found in You. I'm coming down the mountain, and I'm bringing Your fire with me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What moment from camp are you most tempted to hold onto instead of moving forward from?
  - Who is someone in your daily life right now who needs the kind of encounter with God that you had at camp?
  - What's the difference between being grateful for the mountain and being stuck on the mountain?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write about what it looks like to bring the 'mountaintop' into your Monday. What does faith look like in your normal, everyday routine?)*

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## DAY 2

# Your Story Is a Weapon

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### Scripture

*And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

- Revelation 12:11 (ESV)

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### Devotional

There's something the enemy absolutely does not want you to do. He doesn't want you to open your mouth and tell people what God did in your life at camp. Why? Because your testimony is a weapon. Not a metaphorical weapon. Not a cute little saying on a T-shirt. An actual, spiritual, enemy-defeating weapon.

Revelation 12:11 says the saints overcame the enemy by two things: the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. The blood of Jesus is the foundation of everything. That's what gives your story power. But the second part is on you. The word of your testimony. Your story. Your experience. Your voice.

Think about that. God has designed it so that your personal story of what He did in your life is one of the most powerful tools in the spiritual arsenal. Not a pastor's sermon. Not a worship album. Not a devotional book. Your words. Your experience. Your truth.

So let me ask you something. Have you shared your camp testimony with anyone yet? And I don't mean posting a photo with a Jesus emoji. I mean actually sitting down with a friend, a classmate, a teammate, or a family member and saying, "Let me tell you what happened to me."

Maybe you haven't because you think your story isn't dramatic enough. You didn't see a vision. You didn't get healed of something physical. You just cried at the altar and felt the weight of your sin lift off your shoulders. Let me tell you something: that's one of the most dramatic things that can happen to a human being. The God of the universe met you in the middle of your mess and set you free. That's a story worth telling.

Or maybe you haven't shared because you're afraid people will think you're weird. Here's the truth: some of them might. But some of them are going to hear your story and something inside them is going to wake up. Something they've been ignoring, something the Holy Spirit has been stirring in them, is going to come to the surface because you were brave enough to speak.

Your testimony doesn't have to be polished. It doesn't need three points and a poem. It just needs to be honest. "I was struggling with this. God met me at camp. I'm not the same." That's it. That's a weapon.

The enemy wants you to think your story doesn't matter. He wants you to stay quiet, to blend in, to act like nothing happened. Because he knows that if you start talking, other people are going to start believing. Your story is proof that God is alive and active and still changing lives. Every time you share it, the enemy loses ground.



You have a story. You have a testimony. You have a weapon. Use it. Open your mouth this week and tell somebody what God has done. You never know whose chains are going to break because you refused to stay silent.

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### Prayer

*Lord, give me the courage to share my story. I know that what You did in my life is real, and I know that my testimony has power. Help me not to shrink back or stay quiet when You give me an opportunity to speak. I don't need perfect words. I just need honesty and boldness. Let my story be a weapon that breaks chains and opens doors for others to encounter You. I will not be silent about what You've done. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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### Reflection Prompts

- If you had to summarize what God did in your life at camp in three sentences, what would you say?
  - What fear or hesitation keeps you from sharing your testimony with others?
  - Who is one specific person you could share your story with this week?
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### Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write out your camp testimony as if you were telling it to a friend who doesn't go to church. Keep it real, keep it honest, and keep it personal.)*

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### DAY 3

## Be the Friend You Needed

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### Scripture

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

- Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Think back to the person who first invited you to church. Or the friend who told you about camp. Or the youth leader who saw something in you and refused to give up on you. Think about the person who was your bridge to God. Now here's the question: who are you being that for someone else?

Jesus said you are the light of the world. Not you might be. Not you could be if you get it all together first. You are. Right now, as a teenager, with all your imperfections, struggles, and questions, you are the light of the world. And light has one job: shine.

But here's what light doesn't do. Light doesn't judge the darkness. Light doesn't criticize the darkness. Light doesn't sit in a corner and wait for the darkness to come find it. Light just shines, and everywhere it goes, the darkness has to leave. That's your role.

Somewhere in your school, your neighborhood, your team, or your friend group, there is someone who is exactly where you were before camp. They're hurting. They're searching. They're pretending everything is fine, but inside they're falling apart. They need someone to reach out. They need someone to say, "Hey, come to youth group with me." They need someone who will sit with them at lunch when nobody else does. They need someone who prays for them even when they don't know it.

They need the friend you needed. And now that's you.

This isn't about being preachy. It's not about quoting Bible verses at people who didn't ask. It's about being genuinely present. It's about being kind without an agenda and loving people without conditions. It's about reflecting what Jesus looks like in real life, in real time, to real people.

Here's what I've learned. Most people don't reject Jesus. They reject the version of Jesus they've seen in judgmental, hypocritical, self-righteous people. But when they see someone who is real, who admits their own struggles, who loves without strings attached, and who carries an unexplainable peace and joy, that gets their attention. That's the kind of light that makes people ask questions.

You don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to be the perfect Christian. You just have to be available. You have to be willing to step outside your comfort zone and reach out to someone who might never set foot in

a church unless you invite them.

The fire God put in you at camp was never meant to just keep you warm. It was meant to spread. Every candle that's ever been lit was lit by another flame. You got your fire from somewhere, maybe a speaker, a worship leader, a friend, a cabin leader. Now it's your turn to pass it on.

Be the friend you needed. Be the light that somebody in your life is desperately searching for. Let them see Jesus in you, not on a stage, but at a lunch table. Not in a sermon, but in a conversation. That's how the fire spreads.

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## Prayer

*Jesus, You said I am the light of the world, so help me to live like it. Open my eyes to the people around me who are hurting, lonely, and searching for something real. Give me the courage to reach out, to invite, to include, and to love without conditions. I don't want to keep this fire to myself. I want to be the kind of friend who leads others to You. Show me who needs me this week, and help me to be faithful with that opportunity. In Your name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- Who was the person who first invited you to church or helped you take a step toward God?
- Is there someone in your life right now who seems lonely, disconnected, or searching for something more?
- What's one practical step you could take this week to be a light to someone who doesn't know Jesus?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write the name of one person you feel God is putting on your heart to reach out to. What would it look like to be the friend they need right now?)*

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## DAY 4

## The Holy Spirit Didn't Stay at Camp

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### Scripture

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

- Acts 1:8 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Can we clear something up right now? The Holy Spirit did not stay at camp. He didn't stay in the chapel. He didn't stay at the altar. He didn't stay in the sound system or the worship band or the atmosphere of that place. The Holy Spirit came home with you.

The same Spirit who moved through that room when you felt the hair on your arms stand up, the same Spirit who whispered to your heart during worship, the same Spirit who broke through every wall you had built up, that Spirit lives inside you. Not just when you're at a conference. Not just when the music is playing. Right now. In your bedroom. In your car. In your classroom. He is with you.

This is one of the most important things you can understand as a Spirit-filled believer. The Holy Spirit is not an event. He is not a feeling. He is not a location. He is a Person, the third Person of the Trinity, and He has taken up residence in your life. You are His temple. You carry His presence everywhere you go.

Acts 1:8 was Jesus' final instruction to His followers before He ascended to heaven. And notice what He said. He didn't say, "You will receive power when you're at the right conference." He didn't say, "You will receive power when the worship leader hits the right note." He said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." The power is tied to the Person, not the place.

So why does it feel different at home than it did at camp? Honestly, because the environment changed. At camp, everything was set up to help you focus on God. No distractions. No homework. No drama. Just you and God, surrounded by other people pursuing Him. That environment made it easier to sense what was already true.

But just because it's harder to feel at home doesn't mean it's less real. The Holy Spirit didn't turn down the volume when you left camp. You just got surrounded by more noise. And that's why the disciplines you've been building over the past few weeks matter so much. Prayer, Scripture, worship, community. Those aren't just habits. They're how you tune into what the Spirit is already doing.

Here's the exciting part. The Holy Spirit isn't just with you to make you feel good. He's with you to empower you. Acts 1:8 says you will receive power. Power to be a witness. Power to resist temptation. Power to speak boldly. Power to love people you couldn't love on your own. Power to do things you never thought you were capable of.

You are not operating on your own strength. You haven't been operating on your own strength this whole time. Every time you chose to pray instead of scroll, every time you opened your Bible when you didn't feel like it, every time you resisted going back to the old patterns, that was the Holy Spirit working in you.

So stop thinking of the Spirit as something you experienced at camp. Start recognizing Him as someone who is with you right now, empowering you, guiding you, and filling you for the mission ahead. You are not alone. You have never been alone. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is alive in you today.

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## Prayer

*Holy Spirit, thank You for not staying at camp. Thank You for coming home with me, for living inside me, and for empowering me every single day. Forgive me for the times I've acted like You were far away when You were right here. Help me to be more aware of Your presence in my everyday life. I want to be sensitive to Your voice, obedient to Your leading, and bold with the power You've given me. Fill me fresh today. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- When was the last time you sensed the Holy Spirit's presence outside of a church or camp setting?
  - What distractions in your daily life make it harder to be aware of the Holy Spirit's presence?
  - How would your day look different tomorrow if you truly believed the Holy Spirit was with you the entire time?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write about a specific moment in the past four weeks when you knew the Holy Spirit was helping you, guiding you, or giving you strength. How did you recognize it was Him?)*

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## DAY 5

## Make a Plan, Not Just a Promise

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### Scripture

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

- James 1:22-25 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Let's talk about the promises you made at camp. Maybe you stood at an altar and told God you were going to read your Bible every day. Maybe you promised to stop looking at certain things on your phone. Maybe you committed to being more involved at church or to sharing your faith with your friends. Those were real moments, and those promises came from a real place in your heart.

But here's the honest truth. Promises without plans are just wishes.

You can be completely sincere when you make a promise to God and still fail to follow through, not because you didn't mean it, but because you didn't build a structure around it. Emotion gets you to the altar. Discipline keeps you on the path. And discipline requires a plan.

James says it like this: don't just hear the Word, do it. And he compares someone who hears without doing to a person who looks in the mirror, walks away, and immediately forgets what they look like. That's a wild picture, right? But it's exactly what happens when we make spiritual commitments without practical follow-through. We have this powerful encounter with God, we see ourselves clearly for a moment, and then we walk back into our normal routine and forget.

So let's get specific. What did you promise God at camp? Write it down. Not in vague, spiritual language. In concrete, actionable terms. If you said, "I'm going to read my Bible more," that's too vague. Try this instead: "I'm going to read one chapter of the book of John every morning before I check my phone." If you said, "I'm going to stop hanging out with the wrong people," get specific: "I'm going to stop going to that one person's house on weekends and start going to youth group on Wednesday nights instead."

Plans aren't unspiritual. Plans are how you honor what the Spirit started. God gives the vision, but He expects you to walk it out. Noah didn't just promise to build an ark. He measured the wood. He gathered the pitch. He built it plank by plank, day by day. That's what faithfulness looks like.

Here's something else. Build in accountability. Tell someone your plan. Not just God, but a human being who will ask you about it. A youth leader. A friend who's serious about their faith. A parent. Someone who will check in on you and not let you slide. Accountability isn't a sign of weakness. It's a sign of wisdom.

And when you mess up, because you will, don't throw away the whole plan. Adjust it. Get back up. God's grace is not a reason to lower the bar. It's the power that helps you reach it. Every time you stumble and get back up, you're proving that your commitment is more than an emotion. It's a decision.

You're four weeks out from camp now. The emotion has faded. But has the commitment? If it has, today is the day to rebuild it. Not with another tearful promise, but with a real, written, specific, accountable plan. Be a doer, not just a hearer. That's where the blessing is.

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## Prayer

*Lord, I don't want my promises to You to be empty words. Help me to turn my commitments into real, practical plans that I can follow through on. Show me where I've been vague and help me get specific. Give me the humility to ask for accountability and the discipline to stick with it even when it's hard. I want to be a doer of Your Word, not just a hearer. Bless my efforts as I walk out what You started in me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What specific promise did you make to God at camp, and have you followed through on it?
  - What's the difference between a spiritual wish and a spiritual plan? Where do you fall right now?
  - Who in your life could you ask to hold you accountable to your commitments?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write out one specific, measurable plan for a commitment you made at camp. Include what you'll do, when you'll do it, and who will hold you accountable.)*

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## DAY 6

# You're Not Who You Were

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### Scripture

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

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### Devotional

Four weeks ago, you came home from camp. And if you've been engaging with this devotional, if you've been fighting for your fire, wrestling with your faith, choosing prayer over comfort, and leaning into what God started in you, then I need you to hear something today.

You're not the same person you were four weeks ago.

Maybe you don't feel that different. Maybe you still struggle with the same temptations. Maybe you still have bad days. Maybe your prayer life still feels inconsistent and your Bible reading still feels like work sometimes. But look closer. Look at who you were the day you got home from camp versus who you are right now.

Four weeks ago, you might not have been praying at all. Now you're at least trying. Four weeks ago, you might have gone straight back to scrolling. Now you're opening Scripture. Four weeks ago, you might have been drifting. Now you're fighting. That's growth. That's real, Spirit-empowered, beautiful growth. And you need to acknowledge it.

We are so quick to beat ourselves up for how far we still have to go that we forget to look at how far we've already come. God doesn't see you as a failure. Ephesians 2:10 says you are His workmanship. That word in the original Greek is "poiema," and it's where we get the English word "poem." You are God's poem. You are His masterpiece. You are His creative work in progress.

And notice what the verse says. You were created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand. That means the good things you've been doing over the past four weeks were not accidents. They were not random. God set them up for you before you were even born. Every time you chose obedience, you were stepping into something God had already planned.

Give yourself some credit today. Not credit for being perfect, but credit for being faithful. Credit for showing up. Credit for not quitting when it got hard. Credit for choosing God over comfort, over popularity, over the easy road. That takes guts, especially as a teenager when everything in your world is pulling you toward distraction.

But even more than giving yourself credit, give God the glory. Because every bit of growth you've experienced has been fueled by His Spirit. Every time you felt the nudge to pray, that was Him. Every time you had the strength to resist something you used to give in to, that was Him. Every time you chose to keep going when you



wanted to quit, that was Him working in you.

You are His workmanship. You are not an accident. You are not a project that's failing. You are a masterpiece in progress, and the Artist is nowhere close to finished. The fact that you're still here, still reading this, still caring about your walk with God four weeks after camp, that tells me something about you. You're serious. You're real. And God sees it.

So today, I want you to take a moment. Look in the mirror, not with shame, but with gratitude. The person looking back at you has been through a battle these past four weeks and is still standing. That person is a warrior. That person is God's poem. And that person is just getting started.

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## Prayer

*Father, thank You for the work You've been doing in me. I don't always see it, but today I choose to recognize it. Thank You for every step of growth, every moment of obedience, and every day I didn't quit. I give You all the glory for who I'm becoming, because I know I couldn't do this without Your Spirit. Remind me that I am Your workmanship, Your masterpiece, and that You are not finished with me yet. Keep shaping me. I trust Your hands. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What is one specific area of growth you can see in yourself since coming home from camp?
- Why do you think it's so hard for us to acknowledge spiritual progress instead of only focusing on failures?
- What does it mean to you personally that God calls you His 'workmanship' or masterpiece?

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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write a letter to yourself from four weeks ago, the version of you that just got home from camp. Tell that person what the last month has been like and what you've learned about yourself and God.)*

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## DAY 7

# The Fire Doesn't End Here

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### Scripture

*"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

- Isaiah 43:18-19 (ESV)

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### Devotional

This is the last day of this devotional. And I'm not going to pretend that doesn't mean something. For the past four weeks, you've shown up. You've opened these pages. You've read Scripture, prayed prayers, answered hard questions, and fought for the fire that God lit in you at camp. That's not nothing. That's everything.

But I need you to hear this clearly: the fire does not end here.

This devotional was designed to be a bridge, something to carry you from the mountain of camp into the valley of real life. But a bridge is not a destination. You were never supposed to live on this bridge. You were supposed to cross it. And now you're on the other side, standing on your own two feet with the Holy Spirit living inside you, the Word of God in your heart, and a community of believers around you.

Isaiah 43:18-19 is one of the most powerful verses in all of Scripture, and it's the perfect word for this moment. God says, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing." Do you hear what God is saying? He's saying, stop looking behind you. Stop clinging to what was. I'm not done. I'm not just the God of what happened at camp. I am the God of what's coming next.

Behold, I am doing a new thing. Right now. Not someday. Not eventually. Now it springs forth. Can you see it? Can you feel it? God is doing something new in your generation, in your youth group, in your school, and in you. The best is not behind you. The best is in front of you.

I know the enemy is going to try to convince you otherwise. He's going to whisper that this was just a phase, that you'll be back to your old self by next month. He's going to point to your failures and try to make you believe nothing has really changed. But you know the truth now. You've lived it for four weeks. You are different. And the God who started this work in you is faithful to complete it.

So what now? Now you keep going. You keep praying, not because you have to, but because you've tasted what it's like to talk to the God who actually listens. You keep reading the Word, not because someone is telling you to, but because you've seen how it comes alive when you need it most. You keep showing up to church, not out of obligation, but because you know you need your people. You keep worshiping, not just on Sundays, but in your car, in your room, in the quiet moments when nobody is watching.

And you keep burning. You keep carrying the torch. You keep letting your light shine in the dark places. Because this world needs what you carry. Your school needs it. Your family needs it. Your generation needs it.

And you are ready.

You came home from camp with a spark. Over these four weeks, you've been fanning it into a flame. Now go set the world on fire.

Not with perfection. Not with performance. But with a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, grace-covered, Scripture-rooted, relentless, stubborn, beautiful faith that refuses to be extinguished. The fire doesn't end here. It starts here.

This is not the end of your story. This is the beginning. God is doing a new thing. And you, His workmanship, His warrior, His light in the darkness, you are part of it.

Keep the fire burning. The world is waiting.

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## Prayer

*God, thank You. Thank You for camp. Thank You for this devotional. Thank You for every moment over the past four weeks where You showed up and reminded me that You are real and You are with me. I don't know exactly what's ahead, but I know You are already there. I choose to look forward, not backward. I choose to trust that the best is still to come. I will keep burning. I will keep following You. This is not the end. It's just the beginning. Use me, Lord. I'm Yours. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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## Reflection Prompts

- What is the single most important thing you've learned about yourself and your faith over the past four weeks?
  - If you could go back to the first day of this devotional, what would you tell yourself?
  - What does 'keeping the fire burning' look like for you specifically over the next month, the next year, and beyond?
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## Write Your Thoughts & Prayers

*(Write a declaration over your own life. Start with 'I am...' and 'I will...' and speak over yourself the identity and future that God has for you. Make it personal, make it bold, and make it something you can come back to and read when the fire feels low.)*

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