



AFTER-CAMP QUIET TIMES 2010



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ABOUT THE WRITER



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DAY 1: NOW WHAT?

You're home from what was hopefully a fun and encouraging week at camp. Now what? **What were some of your most memorable experiences at camp?**

Take a moment to write down the most important things that the Lord taught you:

At camp you spent time in Bible Study talking about love, obedience, sacrifice, integrity, and commitment. These are among the elements that make up your character. Your character tells the story of who you really are in the innermost parts. It shares motives and heart. Your character ultimately decides what you say and what you do. It's who you are in the moments that you feel the most joy. It's who you are in the moments when you feel the angriest. Character is genuine and real. Character displays your true relationship with God.

Now that you're back from camp, you'll have to decide what to do with the life truths the Lord has taught you. If you have really learned, then you will be different. Growth brings change. Growth brings fruit. If an apple tree did not produce apples, you would stop calling it an apple tree. A true Christ-follower bears spiritual fruit. (See Galatians 5:22-23.) He or she will have a character that reflects Christ.

READ JOHN 15:1-17.

According to these verses, how does a Christ-follower bear fruit?

Why can't you bear fruit apart from God?

According to these verses, why did Jesus tell us these words?

At camp you heard amazing truths about God. Maybe you even had a chance to speak about these truths at your church this past Sunday. However, you will not know that you have truly begun learning these truths until you bear fruit. The Scriptures say that those who remain in Jesus will bear much fruit.

Are you remaining in Him? What are the distractions that will make it difficult to remain in Him?

What are some actions that you will take to be sure that you are remaining in Him?

Who will help hold you accountable to bearing fruit for the glory of God?

PRAYER TIME

Spend time saying thank you to God for the week that you just had at camp. Thank Him for what you have learned. Ask Him to help you live in a way that shows growth. Invite Him to continue showing you areas where you can become more like Him. Ask Him to bring godly people into your life to hold you accountable.

Paul prayed that the Philippians would know this:

“That your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you can determine what really matters and can be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that [comes] through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:9-11).



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DAY 2: LOVING WELL: CONSIDER OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT

Love is an important element of your character. Where you give your time, money, attention, and thoughts shows what you love.

READ JOHN 13:34-35.

How will the world know that you are a disciple of Christ?

Does the world know right now that you are a disciple of Christ by the way you live? If not, what needs to change?

To love well shows spiritual maturity. Not loving well shows selfishness. The difference is the focus on others rather than self.

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11.

In Philippians the apostle Paul says that you should have the attitude of Jesus.

What does the attitude of Jesus look like?

What three words would describe your attitude most days?

In verse 3 Paul says that you should, “do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.” The world teaches you to focus on yourself. God’s Word teaches that you should focus on others. You are not to be selfish. You are to serve others. It is when you are truly giving love to others that you get a glimpse of the love that you were given by Christ. It is when you consider others as more important than yourself that you are seeking after the correct thing—to know the love of Christ!

Think of two people whom you could encourage today and write their names here:

Now, plan to write them a note, give them a call, or go spend some quality time with them today.

The attitude of Christ was completely focused on bringing glory to God the Father. Paul encourages you as a Christ-follower to have the attitude of Christ. One way you can do that is by putting others first. When you truly die to self, you realize the more important things in life.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for loving you well. Pray that your life would be a true response to His love.

Paul prayed this:

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. [I pray] that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, and that the Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. [I pray that] you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth [of God’s love], and to know the Messiah’s love that surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think —according to the power that works in you— to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:14-21).

Pray that God will help you to know how to love people well.

Pray that you would know the love of God and its ultimate power.

Pray that each of the two people you thought of earlier would know the same.

Pray that God would put someone in your day to love in a way that surprises you.

Pray that in response to God, you would love well.



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DAY 3: SHINE AS STARS

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18.

It's easier to shine like stars at camp because you have built-in time to study God's Word, to worship corporately, and to worship privately if you so choose. All activities at camp point toward spiritual growth and disciplines; it's easy for things to be different when you return home. Of course the location is different and the people are different, but that doesn't mean that the power of God is different. In fact, it is the same. You can experience the power of God in a strong way even when you are at home, school, or wherever you find yourself. The apostle Paul says that we are to "shine like stars." Stars are obvious light. They are powerful light. They shine with purpose. They can be seen from many miles away. They radiate. People are affected.

READ MATTHEW 5:14-16.

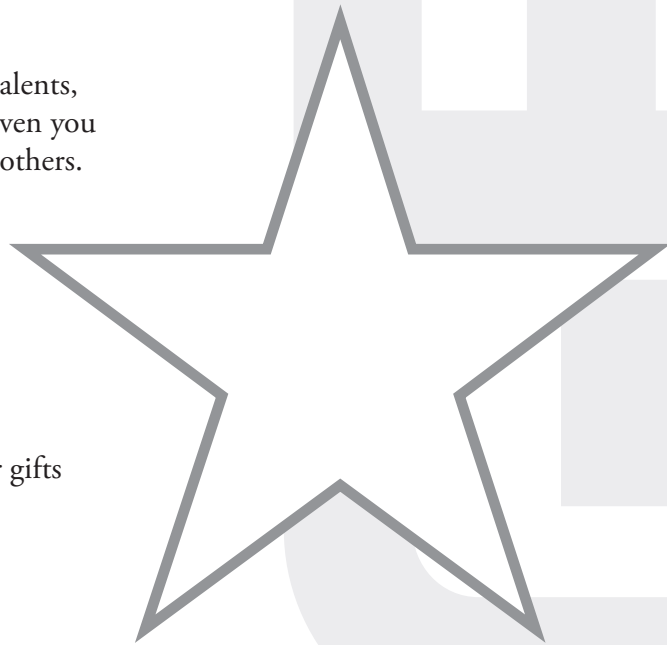
You are the light of the world. If you are the light of the world, then how bright does that make the world?

According to this passage, why should you let your light shine before men?

Godly character shines like stars because it reflects Christ. One of the biggest obstacles to sharing your faith is your character. As a Christian you know when you are living in a way that is not obedient to Christ. You know when you have not spent time in His Word. Our character becomes tainted during those times and we do not share in the way that Christ intends. When you are spending time in His Word and you are bearing fruit, you cannot help but share what Christ has done for you.

The world is a dark place. Shame on us for leaving it that way!

On the star diagram below, write talents, gifts and strengths that God has given you to use to share His light and serve others.



List specific ways you can use your gifts to be God's light to:

Others in your youth group

Family and friends

Church family

Neighbors and people in your community

People around the world

PRAYER TIME

"Lord, Your Word says that I am the light of the world. It tells me that I am to shine like the stars. My prayer is that I would rid myself of the things that take away my shine and that I would fill myself with the things of God. I want my light to be obvious light! My hope is that others will see this light and come to know You! May darkness cease to exist! Amen."



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DAY 4: FORGET WHAT IS BEHIND AND PRESS ON

Begin your time today by walking backward around the space that you're in for about 30 seconds. Be sure your head is pointed so that you cannot see where you are going. Did you run into anything at all? If you didn't, is it because you looked? It's very hard to walk backward without any help at all. It's also very difficult for us to walk forward without looking behind us. You might have heard it said a million times, "watch where you are going." Even in the most simple of moments, you have probably gotten so caught up in looking behind that you ended up running into the things that were in front of you. This creates an unnecessary mess, all because you were looking in the wrong direction.

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14.

Everyone has a story, and yours did not begin today. Your story starts long before you can even remember. Some of our stories are easier to share than others; however, we all have a story. In this passage Paul says that he forgets what is behind and presses on toward the prize. The prize is becoming more like Christ. Many people choose to allow their past to define them by dwelling on what was, rather than embracing the people they are becoming. Paul knew that looking back does not allow you to go forward and it does not signify that you have learned from the past. Change and growth come both now and in the future. To look back paralyzes and brings defeat. Where you choose to look is just that, a choice.

What keeps you from choosing to reach forward to what is ahead?

Paul knew that as a human being, perfection is out of the question, but he also knew that Christ-likeness is demanded by God's Word. God's Word brings hope and restoration, and your story needs both hope and restoration. There is an urgency needed to live for Christ, and as a believer your purpose is to bring glory to Him. Being weighed down by the past does not allow you to pursue Him with all that you are. Christ can restore your story through His Word. Tell the story of restoration that Christ has given to you, and allow others to be healed through this. Forget what is behind, and press on toward what is ahead. This is a mark of true spiritual maturity.

What are some things you need to leave in the past so you can experience the freedom that comes from totally pursuing the Lord? List below.

PRAYER TIME

Pray the words of Philippians 3:12-14:

“Not that I have already reached [the goal] or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus.”

“God, I don’t want my life to be all about myself. I want my life to be about your glory. I want to be a part of something much bigger than myself. My prayer is that I would learn from my past and live today looking forward. Help me to do this. Amen”



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DAY 5: REJOICE ALWAYS

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18.

It is your duty as a believer to pursue the will of God. Your actions should be an outpouring of your love for Him and your choice to be obedient to His words and will. However, we oftentimes make it far more difficult than it really is.

According to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, what is God's will for our lives?

Have you considered this to be the will of God in your life? Why or why not?

Many Christians are often quick to think of God's will for their lives as being about a specific vocation or the next mission trip they should take. These things are not absent from God's will, but His will for you is far clearer than you might think. His Word is full of truth that calls you to action each day. His will for your life is that you live in obedience to His Word.

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:4.

The common theme is to rejoice! What keeps you from rejoicing always as you're commanded?

Do you think "joy" means the same thing as "happiness"? Happiness and joy are different words and they have different meanings. Happiness is based on circumstances and obtaining what a person wants to obtain. Joy is based on delighting in the true-ness of something. True joy ultimately comes from delighting in Christ and it can be present in the most unlikely of circumstances when Christ is the center of your life. To rejoice, you must be a joyful person.

Kari Jobe has a song entitled, "Beautiful." The lyrics speak very eloquently of this concept of "delighting" in God.

*Here, before Your altar,
I am letting go of all I've held
of every motive, every burden,
everything that's of myself.
And I just want to wait on You my God
I just want to dwell on who You are.*

*Beautiful, beautiful oh I am lost for more to say
Beautiful, beautiful oh Lord, You're beautiful to me*

Oh beautiful

*Here in Your presence,
I am not afraid of brokenness
To wash Your feet with humble tears
Oh I would be poured out till nothing's left.
And I just want to wait on You my God
I just want to dwell on who You are, who You are*

To delight in God is truly to dwell on who He is.

What are the things on which you dwell?

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9.

Paul is very clear on what a believer should dwell. The world teaches you that your mind has very little control over your actions. However, the opposite is true. Your actions are influenced incredibly by your mind. Paul says that you should think about things that are morally excellent. We are to dwell on the things that are worthy of God. You should dwell on these things, freed to live in away that brings honor to Christ, and your life will be filled with an inexpressible joy. Paul says that God's will for your life is that we rejoice always!

PRAYER TIME

Philippians 4:8-9 is a list of things on which a believer should dwell. **Write the words that are in this list.**

Take a moment to pray that the Lord would rid your mind of anything that is not on this list.

“God, you are the one true God. You are worthy of my worship. When I dwell on other things, I take away from my worship of You. I want to give you all my worship. I want to know your perfect will for my life. I want your words to be hidden in my heart. My prayer is that I would dwell on who you are so much that my life would radiate with an inexpressible joy. Do things in my life that can only be explained as you at work in me. Teach me to be obedient. Amen.”