



**2009 CENTRI-KID/
CROSSPOINT
CHURCH GROUP
DEVOTIONS**



Crosspoint/Centri-Kid 2009 Church Group Devotion Guide

Each day of these devotions contains several elements to guide your time with your church group. At the beginning of each one is a recap of the day's theme as well as the main point and Scripture reference used in Bible study that day.

- **Connection Questions:** These questions are designed to be conversation starters between you and your campers. Use these to connect with the campers, catch up on their day, and help them process their experiences.
- **Sharing Time:** Use this time to share about specific life-changing decisions and spiritual growth experiences.
- **Group Dynamics:** This area focuses on your group's growth and progress throughout the week, specifically in the form of goals.
- **Fun Idea:** A different idea is suggested for each night to help strengthen your group as you have fun together.
- **The Details (Monday only):** You will need to spend some time the first night going over the schedule for the week as well as other important information.
- **Prayer Time:** Make sure to include a time of group prayer.
- **Gear Up for Tomorrow:** This is a brief way to get your campers thinking about the next day's theme.

JESUS: BORN IN A MANGER

MONDAY

TODAY'S TOP STORY: God's Son Born in a Stable

MAIN POINT: God came to earth as Jesus and changed everything forever.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:1-20

The first day of camp is always a whirlwind of activities and adjustments. Trying to keep your eyes on everything and everybody can make your head feel like it's doing a 360. Everyone is full of excitement and some may be nervous. Remind campers that it will be a great week as they report the truths they learn about Jesus and the way He lived His life. Today campers experienced Christmas in summer as they examined the events of Jesus' birth.

Since this is the first night, campers might have lots of questions and you likely have several details you need to cover with them. But before you jump into the housekeeping details, take some time to connect with your kids.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

- **What are you most looking forward to about camp this week?**
- **Who are some of the cool new people you have met?**
- **How can I pray for you this week?**

SHARING TIME

- **ONE-WORD ANSWERS.** Ask each camper to share one word that describes the way he or she feels about camp. As each camper shares, write down his or her name and the describing word he or she used. Save the list. You will use it Thursday night.

GROUP DYNAMICS

This week you and your group will experience a great deal together at camp. The first church group devotion is a great time to set the tone for the week. Ask campers to help you identify three or four group goals. (Some examples include memorizing the Key Verse, praying together each day, getting to know at least one new person outside your group, and setting an amount for the missions offering.)

FUN IDEA

Encourage kids to think of something they were told they did when they were a baby or small child. For example, a parent might have told a camper that when he was a baby he slept with a certain toy, or that when she was a small child she called her mother "Bubba." Ask them to whisper the fact to you. Write facts beside the names

you listed in the “Sharing Time” activity. After your list of facts is complete, read each in random order, asking kids to guess who did what as a baby or small child.

Option: If you have prepared in advance, ask parents to give you labeled baby pictures of campers. As you hold up each picture, ask kids to match their friends to the pictures.

THE DETAILS

- **SCHEDULE.** Make sure your kids understand the weekly schedule and know what is happening the next day. Make sure that each kid has access to a watch so they can be on time to each activity.
- **SAFETY.** Discuss any safety information. Let them know where your group meeting spot is located. Call it “The Spot.” Explain your expectations for checking in with you when they go places during free time. It is a good idea to implement the buddy system while at camp.
- **TRACK TIMES.** Share with the kids what Track Times they will be attending throughout the week. Instruct kids to write them down in their Camper Devotional Guide as a reminder.
- **OTHER QUESTIONS.** Take a few moments to answer any questions campers might have.

PRAYER TIME

Ask kids to close their eyes and bow their heads. Thank God for sending Jesus as a baby to the world. Ask God to help campers learn more about Jesus and what He did for them.

GEAR UP FOR TOMORROW

Share that tomorrow’s theme is JESUS: MIRACLE WORKER. Tell kids to open their eyes wide. Then tell them to cup their hands behind their ears as if they are listening to something. Challenge campers to keep their eyes and ears open tomorrow as they go through the day, looking and listening for miracles.

JESUS: MIRACLE WORKER—

TUESDAY

TODAY'S TOP STORIES: Jesus Stops Wind & Makes Blind Man See

MAIN POINT: Because Jesus is God, He has power over nature and people.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Mark 4:35-41; John 9:1-7

Today campers discovered how Jesus used the power of God. They examined Scriptures in which Jesus controlled nature by calming the wind and gave a man his sight. The Bible is full of stories of miracles. The New Testament records many of Jesus' miraculous works. John reminds us that if all of Jesus' miracles were written down, there would not be enough books in the world to contain them (See John 21:25).

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

- **How would you explain a miracle to someone who doesn't understand?**
- **If you could make one miracle happen in the world, what would it be?**
- **What have you done today to help someone?**

SHARING TIME

- **SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY.** Ask one of your church sponsors to share how he or she became a Christian. Or, if you prefer, share how you became a Christian. Shorten your testimony so that it is less than five minutes.
- **ALLOW QUESTIONS.** When you have finished sharing, ask kids if they have any questions for you about your testimony.
- **LET THE KIDS SHARE.** Ask campers who have accepted Christ as their Savior if they would like to share how they began their personal relationship with Jesus. Affirm campers for sharing.
- **BE AVAILABLE.** Tell campers that they can come to you or another church leader if they have questions about becoming a Christian.

GROUP DYNAMICS

Ask campers how they are doing with the goals you set last night. Encourage a few kids to share specifics, and then affirm them for their efforts.

FUN IDEA

Hold your hands in front of you as if you are holding a basketball. Tell kids that you are holding a miracle ball and that they will have to use their miracle eyes to see the miracle ball. Look at another camper. Make eye contact with him or her and then pass the miracle ball to him or her just like you were passing a basketball. Pass the miracle ball around the group until everyone has caught and passed it to someone else. The group pass will be complete when the miracle ball is passed back to you. Repeat, changing the size of the miracle ball to a miracle tennis ball, and then a miracle bowl-

ing ball. Make sure kids toss or throw the ball so that it matches the size and weight of the new miracle ball.

PRAYER TIME

Ask a volunteer to pray, thanking God for Jesus' incredible power to perform miracles and to help others. Conclude the prayer by thanking God for the wonderful truths recorded in the Bible about Jesus.

GEAR UP FOR TOMORROW

Tell campers that tomorrow's theme is JESUS: GOD WITH US. Ask campers to think of what they enjoy most about being with friends. Ask kids to help describe what a friend is by using the letters F-R-I-E-N-D-S. Say each letter, asking kids to share a word or sentence beginning with that letter to describe a friend. (For example: F-fun to be with; R-really good listener; I-interested in the things I like to do; E-everywhere we go we have a good time; N-never talks bad about me to others; D-doesn't care if I make a mistake; S-stays friends with me no matter what happens.)

JESUS: GOD WITH US—

WEDNESDAY

TODAY'S TOP STORY: Jesus' Friend Brought Back from the Dead

MAIN POINT: Because Jesus is human, He has the same emotions we do, yet He never sinned.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 11:17-44

Today campers learned about some of Jesus' special friends—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—and how Jesus deeply cared for them. Jesus is fully God and fully human. When Jesus was on the earth He loved with the love of God and felt the same joy and pain that every man, woman, boy, and girl has ever felt and will ever feel.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

- What makes you really angry?
- When do you remember being the happiest?
- What makes you feel better, things or people?

SHARING TIME

- **STAFF HOST TESTIMONY.** Arrange for your camp staff host to share a brief testimony about how Jesus has been a friend to him or her. At the end of the testimony ask your host to use three or four words to describe his or her friendship with Jesus.
- **QUESTIONS.** Allow campers time to ask the staffer questions about his or her experiences and relationship with Jesus.

GROUP DYNAMICS

Check up on the group's progress with the goals you set the first night of camp. If your group chose as a goal to memorize the Key Verse, allow campers to practice saying it to a partner. Talk about this week's missions offering. Remind campers that the offering will be presented tomorrow night in worship.

FUN IDEA

Tell campers that you are going to lead them in playing a game about our friends and the way we feel about them. Begin by walking up to a camper and saying, "Friend, if you like me then smile." The camper will probably smile. Then tell campers that the object of the game is not to smile but to respond by saying, "Friend, I like you, but I just can't smile." If the camper responds without smiling, move to another camper and try again. If the camper smiles, he or she becomes "it" and must approach a different camper and say, "Friend, if you like me smile," to which the camper must respond, "Friend, I like you, but I just can't smile." If the camper smiles he or she is it. If he or she does not respond, the camper must approach another friend. Continue until all campers have been approached.



PRAYER TIME

Number off in pairs and then direct kids to spend 30 seconds finding out how each can pray for the other. After 30 seconds call time and check that everyone has shared a prayer request with his or her partner. If not, help pairs to do so. Direct campers to pray for their partners and then lead everyone in prayer thanking God for friends—especially for Jesus, the Best Friend of all.

GEAR UP FOR TOMORROW

Share with the campers that tomorrow's theme is JESUS: BRIDGE TO GOD. Tell them that it will be a very special day as they discover the best thing that our best friend Jesus did for each of us. Challenge campers to listen tomorrow for ways that Jesus is like a bridge. Tell them to be sure to get a good night of sleep because tomorrow will be their biggest news assignment!

JESUS: BRIDGE TO GOD—

THURSDAY

TODAY'S TOP STORY: Jesus Died but Now Lives Forever!

MAIN POINT: Jesus died willingly, but God raised Him from the dead. If you believe in Jesus, you will live with Him forever.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: John 19:17–18; 20:1–18

Although campers have been hearing about God's love and how they can have a personal relationship with Jesus, today's lesson was directly targeted at helping campers understand how Jesus' death created a bridge to God. Today campers were confronted with the truth that Jesus' death and resurrection is what makes it possible for each of them to enjoy the full benefits of a personal relationship with Jesus. Your time in church group devotion is a good time—actually, it is the best time—for you to help your kids better understand what they have heard and examine where they are in their relationships with God.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

- What is one thing you learned about Jesus this week that surprised you?
- Which lesson has been most meaningful to you this week: JESUS: BORN IN A MANGER, JESUS: MIRACLE WORKER, JESUS: GOD WITH US, or JESUS: BRIDGE TO GOD?
- When you get home, what news about Jesus will you report to your family and friends?

SHARING TIME

- **DECISIONS.** Allow campers time to share about decisions they have made this week. Affirm and encourage campers in making their decisions. Pause after each camper shares and pray specifically for him or her by name.
- **ONE-WORD ANSWERS.** Pull out the list of words that kids used to describe camp on the first night and read them aloud. Ask if anyone would like to update their one-word answer and encourage them to tell you why they want to change it.

GROUP DYNAMICS

Do a final check-up on the progress your campers have made with the goals they set. Recite the Key Verse together. Thank campers for their participation in the missions offering this week. Share with them about the difference the missions offering will make in the lives of others. Affirm them for making an impact for God through their giving.

FUN IDEA

All week campers have been researching and reporting about just a few of the many significant, life-changing events in the life of Jesus. Now it's time for your own broadcast.

Provide a prop to serve as a microphone. Begin by speaking into the microphone and saying: **“Welcome to this special evening edition of ‘Jesus 360,’ an investigative report on the life of Jesus. Tonight we have several guest reporters who will be interviewing several people whose lives have been changed by Jesus.”** Begin by asking those who shared early to tell again about their decisions. Lead campers to applaud after each kid shares. Then call on another camper to serve as a reporter. The reporter may either stand and use the microphone to report what he or she has learned or interview another camper about what he or she has experienced during the week. Allow as many kids as possible to serve as reporters, making sure that reports focus on what they learned about Jesus and not just the fun things that have happened. Then enjoy a snack together as you celebrate the life of Jesus and the decisions of group members.

GEAR UP FOR TOMORROW

Tell the campers what they need to know about packing up and cleaning their rooms. Share with them what time you will be loading the van or when they need to have their luggage ready. Answer any questions they might have about packing and leaving.

PRAYER TIME

Ask campers to stand with you in a circle and join hands. Look at each of them in the eyes and tell them how glad you are that they came to camp. Share that God knew they were coming before they did and that He had great plans for them. Share that the greatest of God's plans is for each of us to get to know Jesus. Close in prayer thanking God for the special week to spend time learning about Jesus who was born in a stable, made miracles happen, is the best friend ever, and is our bridge to God.