



Seeking
God's Dream

DAY CAMP FAMILY JOURNAL

Summer 2023

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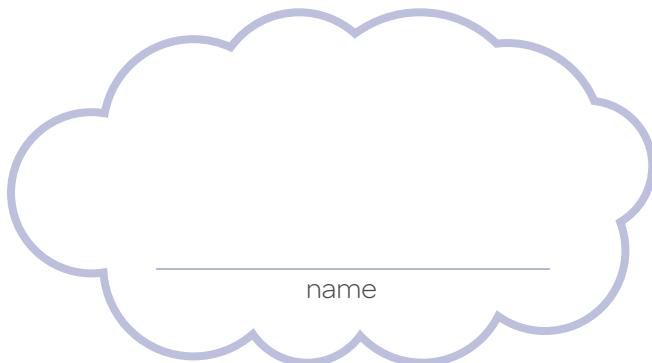
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Day Camp Schedule

7:45-8:00 AM	Check-In at Urban Air
8:15-9:00 AM	Bus Ride to Camp LaCygne
Morning	Morning Water Activity
	Change into dry clothes
	11:30 AM-12:15 PM
	Midday Prayer & Lunch
Afternoon	The Gathering (worship & storytelling)
	Small Group Experience
	Afternoon Station #1
	Afternoon Station #2
	Cool Down & End-of-Day Gathering
3:45-4:30 PM	Bus Ride back to Urban Air
4:30-4:45 PM	Check-Out at Urban Air

This Camper Journal belongs to:



NOTE TO PARENTS

Youthfront considers it a joy to partner with you in your child's faith journey. This companion journal is designed to help you connect with your child and God following the natural rhythms of the day. For each day of camp, there is a parent page and a child page. The parent's page offers ideas for engagement with your child and a summary of the camp content for the day. The children's page will have a short activity to recap the day's lesson and a puzzle clue to build anticipation for the following day.

The theme for Day Camp is "God's Dream." Campers will learn that God's Dream is the surprising and wonderful story of God's Kingdom.

God's Kingdom offers an alternative way of being in the world than what the world offers. God's Kingdom means we belong to God and to each other.

Note for return campers: If you have a child attending more than one week of camp, check out the "Dig Deeper" on the parent pages.

DROP OFF BLESSING:

(Name of child), May you experience God's Dream for you today as you meet new friends, play in creation, and rest in God's peace.

"A blessing acknowledges that this person, thing or moment belongs to God, and recognizes God's presence and purposes upon it. A blessing pronounces what's true: God loves and claims this whole world, and pauses to receive that truth right now, upon this person, thing or moment."

—Rev. Kara K. Root

AFTER CAMPER DROP OFF:**A Surprising Seed**

The Parable of The Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-32

Today the campers will be learning about God's Dream (God's Kingdom) through the Parable of the Mustard Seed. God has a plan for how the world can be and how we can live. The story of the mustard seed reminds us that God is at work and doing amazing things every day. The campers are encouraged to look for "surprises" of God at work today.

Get Curious: What kind of things does God use to remind you of His love? How has God surprised you recently? A beautiful sunset? A call from a friend?

DRIVE HOME:

Play a game as you drive home.

Say: Let's try to spot everything that is "blue" as we travel. What was the most surprising blue item you saw? I wonder what God might surprise us with as we pay attention to Him this week?

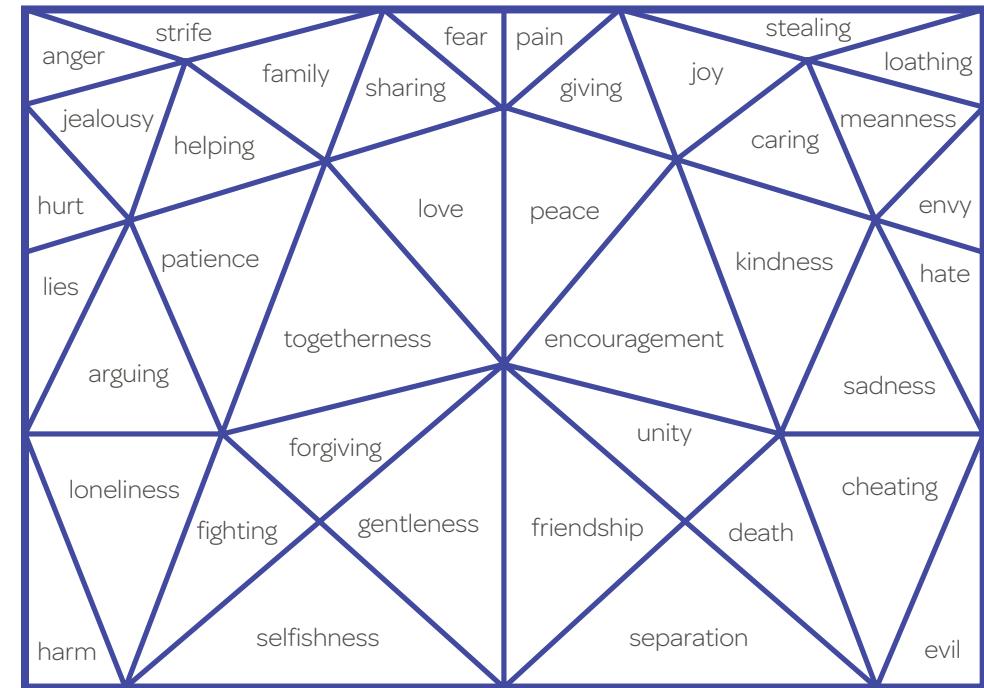
Dig Deeper: Being a part of God's Dream doesn't depend on anything we do because Jesus did the work for us- that's called grace. We get to practice watching for and joining in God's Dream! How can we be a part of living out God's dream in our everyday lives? How can we share in the belonging of God with others? (Ex. Call a friend, get to know a neighbor, etc)

END OF THE DAY PRAYER:

Jesus, you taught us that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that grows into a large plant. You have a dream for us that is bigger than we can even imagine! Help us to have eyes to see your love at work around us today and to be surprised at your beauty. We are grateful for your good gifts. Amen.

GOD'S DREAM IS ALL AROUND US!

Color in all of the triangles that describe God's Dream to reveal a picture.

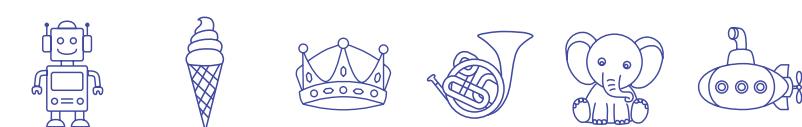


What shape do you see?

Which words in the picture did you experience today? Draw a star beside those words.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW AT CAMP?

Fill in the blanks with the first letter of the pictures below to reveal your clue.



DROP OFF BLESSING:

(Name of child), may you be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share with others as you experience & live out God's Dream with your friends, family and neighbors.

AFTER CAMPER DROP OFF:

A Greedy Neighbor

The Parable of the Rich Fool- Luke 12:13-21

Today campers hear a story about a rich man who keeps his riches for himself. Instead of trusting God to provide and help his neighbors, the rich man spends his time building bigger storehouses to keep his riches for himself.

Get Curious: Take a couple of minutes to think about the “riches” God has given you (gifts, talents, treasures). Given your gifts, what is a tangible way to care for a neighbor? What are the ways you have been blessed because of someone else’s thoughtfulness and generosity?

ON THE DRIVE HOME:

Consider having a conversation around some of these questions:

- What is one of the most valuable things you have?
- What would be the hardest thing to give away?
- When is it difficult for you to share? Why?

Dig Deeper:

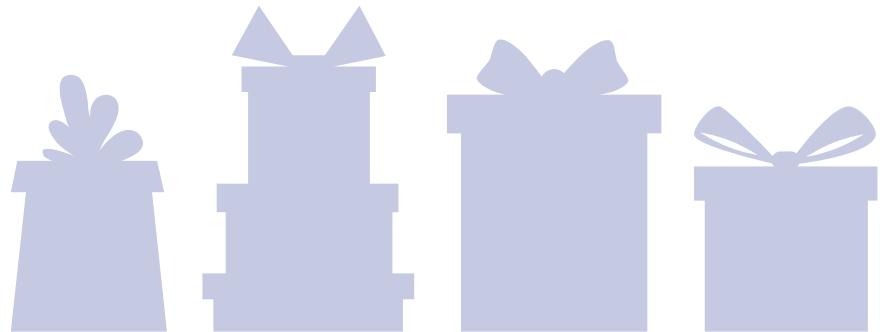
- Where do you see a need around you?
- What do you think God's Dream would be for that need?
- How can we join God in His work?

END OF THE DAY PRAYER:

God, who is the source of all good gifts. Help us to show love and welcome to all people. Give us eyes to see our neighbors in need and help us to be generous with the gifts you have freely offered us. Amen.

TRUST GOD WITH YOUR RICHES

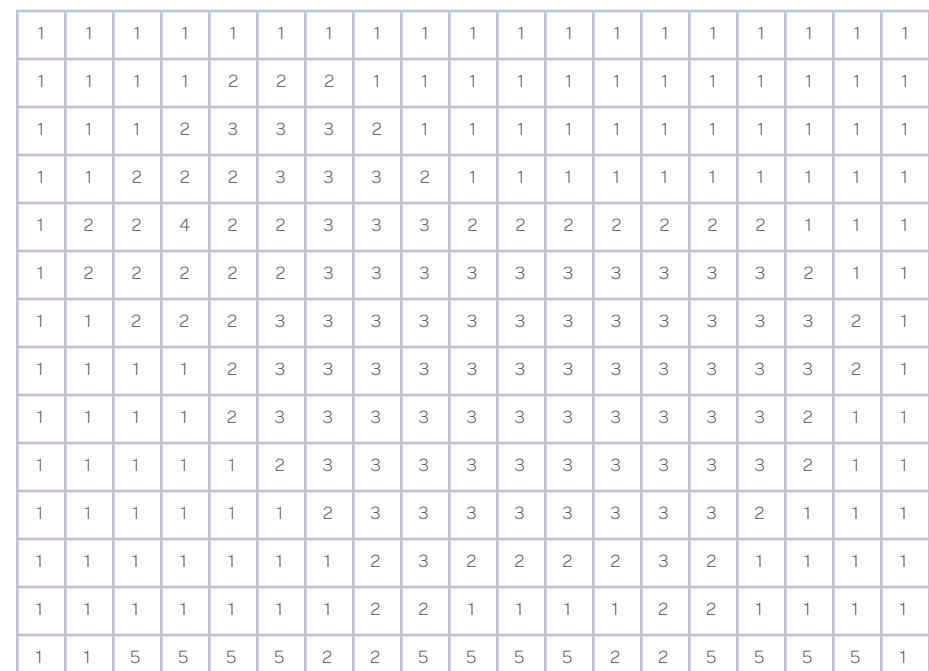
What are some gifts God has given you? Draw or write a gift in each shape.



Circle the gift you are most excited about sharing with a friend. Try to find a time to share it with your friend this week.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW AT CAMP?

Color in the pixel boxes below to reveal the clue.



DROP OFF BLESSING:

(Name of child), the Lord sees you as God's beloved treasure. May you delight in being a gift to God as you eat your food, play with friends, and rest your head today.

AFTER CAMPER DROP OFF:

A Prized Possession

The Parable of the Lost Sheep- Luke 15

Through the parable of the lost sheep, campers will learn that God loves and values them greatly. God's Dream is for all to be a part of God's family and God will go to unimaginable lengths for all to be found. The Bible says that there is great rejoicing when even one is found!

Get Curious: Where do you need God to find you today? Take time to ask the Lord to join you in that place, experience, or emotion where you feel most "hidden" from God. Imagine God looking at you and saying, "I can see you, I value you, I am with you."

ON THE DRIVE HOME:

Take time discussing your child's favorite toy together.

Ask: What's one of your favorite toys? Why is it your favorite? How would you feel if you lost it?

Say: God values us even more than we value our favorite toy! God's Dream is for all of us to trust and know that we are a part of God's family.

Dig Deeper: When is it hard to believe that God loves you? Why? What is a promise from God that will remind you that God loves you? (Scripture example of God's promises: Eph 3:16-18, 1 John 4:9-10, Psalm 107:8-9, Romans 8:38-39)

END OF THE DAY PRAYER:

Jesus, we can easily forget that we are valued and have a purpose. You created us down to our inmost being and you celebrate us. Help us to live each moment of the day with the reminder that you see us and love us. Help us remember that you created our neighbor and enemy too. You value everyone. We all belong to you. Give us the eyes to see everyone in your image. Amen.

ALL ABOUT ME



(Draw a picture of yourself in this frame)

God's Dream is for YOU to be a part of God's family!
He loves you completely and will go to great lengths for you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW AT CAMP?

Fill in the blanks to spell the answer to this riddle.

What tool has a head and can't think, but drives?

DROP OFF BLESSING:

(Name of child), may the Lord direct you away from comparison and guide you toward compassion. As Jesus gives so freely and generously to us, may we do the same for all people.

AFTER CAMPER DROP OFF:

An Unfair Boss

The Parable of the Day Laborers- Matthew 20:1-16

Today campers learn about the parable of the day laborers (we will use the word workers at camp) and realize that God is generous to everyone. God sees the world with compassion and wants everyone to experience his unconditional love and grace.

Get Curious: When is it difficult to believe in God's generosity? What is one way you could be generous and grace-filled toward yourself today?

ON THE DRIVE HOME:

Discuss: Can you remember a time when you felt like something was unfair? What happened? How did it make you feel? Why?

Dig Deeper: If you put yourself in the story of the day workers? How would you feel if you were the worker who started at the beginning of the day? How would you feel if you were the worker who only worked for a little bit of the day? Aren't you glad that God treats us all the same!

END OF THE DAY PRAYER:

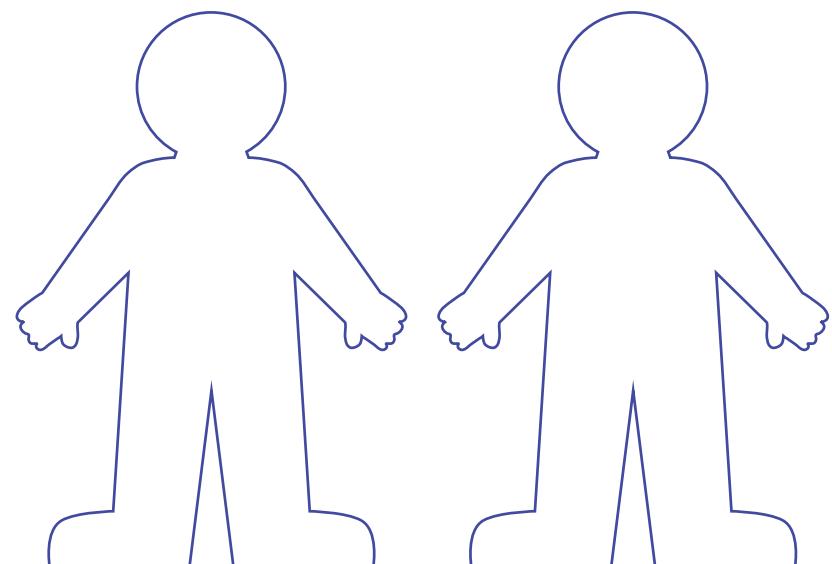
God, you created us with different physical features, different abilities, and different interests. You delight in our uniqueness. Help us to see ourselves with love and compassion just as you do. Help us to see others with love and compassion just as you do. Thank you for generously welcoming ALL of us into Your Kingdom.

GOD'S DREAM IS TO INCLUDE EVERYONE!

Write words or draw pictures that make you special and unique inside the shape representing you. Then write words or draw pictures that make your friend special and unique inside the shape representing your friend.

My name:

My friend's name:



We can celebrate the unique talents and gifts of everyone because God's Dream is big enough for everyone! We need everyone to be whole!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW AT CAMP?

Solve the math problems and use the key to decode the clue.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

DROP OFF BLESSING:

(Name of child), May you have confidence that God is always at work and always keeps God's Promises. May the good work God starts in you grow until the day when Jesus returns.

AFTER CAMPER DROP OFF:**A Hidden Ingredient**

The Parable of the Yeast- Matthew 13:33

Today campers learn that sometimes we can see God's Dream at work in the world very clearly and other times it's hard to see God at work because it is hidden or works slowly. Campers are encouraged to keep their eyes open and to keep spending time with Jesus even when it's difficult to see God at work.

Get Curious: Take a few minutes to close your eyes and sit in silence with Jesus. Picture your family. As you think and imagine, what do you see God doing in your family? God is at work in your family. Is there anything God is asking you to help with?

ON THE DRIVE HOME:

Say: Let's challenge ourselves to list 5 ways we can see God at work around us as we drive. Can we get to 10 ways we can see God at work? How about 20?

Dig Deeper: When it's hard to believe God's Dream is still at work, what are some ways we can remind ourselves?

END OF THE DAY PRAYER:

Jesus, give us eyes to see and ears to hear what you are doing in the world each day. When we are having trouble seeing or believing in you, give us faith to keep following you. Help us to believe that you are still at work even when we don't see it. We look forward to the day when we get to experience the full reality of Your Dream. Amen.

Be sure to ask your camper about the craft they made today! Then help them find a special place to display their craft from Day Camp as a reminder of God's Dream!

GOD'S DREAM IN ACTION

One way we can share God's Dream is by showing we care. Circle one of the pictures to represent one way you can care for a neighbor or friend next week.



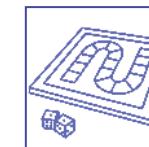
invite them to church



introduce yourself



go for a walk together



play a game with them



invite them over for dinner

Write a prayer for your neighbor or friend by filling in the blanks.

Dear God, thank you for the gift of your Dream!

I pray that _____ would experience
(friend or neighbor's name)
your Dream when I _____
(action circled above)

Thank you for letting me join you in what you are
already doing to grow your Dream. Amen.

WHAT'S NEXT?

God's Dream is worth celebrating! Unscramble the words to see what's next.

uYo rea dintevi ot ijon dGo's mreda!

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ !

You have something wonderful to celebrate... God's Dream!

As you wrap up a fun-filled week of Day Camp, remember that God's Dream is already at work! God is doing great and amazing things all around you and you are invited to join in what God is doing.

Do you have extra time this summer?

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO KEEP YOU ENGAGED WITH GOD'S DREAM THIS SUMMER:

Plant a Seed

Pick a flower seed or vegetable seed you would have fun planting together. Care for it as instructed and watch it grow. Talk about the steps to care for the plant. Wait with anticipation together for something to sprout. You can even make a journal to record what you see and how long it takes for the plant to sprout. Celebrate the growth and the beautiful surprise. God's Dream is full of surprises. You can list the ways you see God surprising you too! You can even share God's Dream with a neighbor or friend and give your plant away.

Who is my neighbor?

Are there neighbors you have never met or don't know their names? Are there new kids at school? Take a step to get to know someone new. You can drop a baked good off at a neighbor's house and introduce yourself or offer to sit by a new kid at the lunch table. A small amount of kindness goes a long way to show God's love. God reminds us in the parable of the lost sheep that God's Dream is for everyone! We all belong to God and we all belong to each other. God wants us to see everyone as valuable and by going out of your way to meet someone new, you are showing them God's love.

What Needs to Be Done?

As a family, talk about needs in the community and neighborhood around you. What needs to be done? How can your family help to care for the needs in your community? How can you practice belonging to each other with your neighbors? Make a list and pick one organization or one activity your family can support. The more involved you are in building relationships, the more meaningful your experience will be.

Tasty Bread

As you enjoy baking bread or eating bread, talk about all of the ingredients inside of the bread. The yeast inside of the bread is what helps the bread grow bigger. What is one thing your family can do together to grow in trusting in God's Dream? (ex. pray at breakfast, read a Bible verse before school/work, go on a walk and thank God for His creation, etc) Pick one idea and challenge your family to keep growing in that way! Everytime you taste bread, remind each other of God's Dream!

Keep Watching and Listening!

Continue to look around and notice the God surprises on your daily drives and in your daily life. You can even make a family playlist of songs that help you love Jesus and remind you of God's Dream as you drive. Let each family member add to the playlist!

Have you enjoyed the connection you've had as a family this week?

Try this simple rhythm as your child begins school this fall.

School Day Rhythm

DROP OFF BLESSING:

(Name of child), May you know that God can do anything and God is full of surprises, more than you can think or imagine! Today, may the Lord's love fill you and bring you joy in order that you might share that same love with others.

AFTER SCHOOL:

Consider sharing "highs," "lows" and "surprises" as a family around the dinner table.

- What was the best part of your day?
- What was the hardest part?
- What was one surprise about your day?

DRIVE TIME:

God's Dream can be recognized every day! How did you see God's love at work today?

END OF THE DAY PRAYER:

Lord we pray that we would have eyes to see you, ears to hear from you, and a heart of obedience to follow You wherever you lead us. Amen.

CHRISTMAS at Camp

DECEMBER 1-2 & 8-9

Games and activities for all ages
Light displays and Candlelit Nativity Walk

Something to Eat™ Family Packing Parties

Serve with your family.
Feed neighbors in need.

FALL & SPRING EVENTS

youthfront.com



WHO'S READY FOR A SLEEPOVER?

If you're going into 2nd grade or higher this fall, then next summer you'll be eligible for an overnight session of Kids Camp or Middle School Camp!

HERE'S WHAT CAMPERS TELL US THEY LIKE MOST

- Sleeping over in cabins with friends
- Daily Hypes, including fan favorite Night Strike
- Hanging out at the Snack Shop
- Afternoon free time - You choose what you want to do!

YOUTHFRONT.COM/GO-TO-CAMP

CAMP LACYGNE MAP

