

GREATER THAN

Ministries

MiMi Patrick > Christian Speaker > Leader > Mother

7-Day Camper Devotional for Tweens/Teens

It was the morning before I sent my 12-year old daughter off to camp for 3 weeks. My friend asked me what devotional or Bible I may be sending with her. I can't believe that thought had not crossed my mind.....yet. I had been so busy with the packing and pre-homesick worries that I forgot about our spiritual life! I quickly searched the internet for a "Camper Devotional" appropriate for Tweens/Teens. I didn't find much at all. God quickly moved me to stop using Google and use Him instead. I don't know why I didn't go there first.

The 7-Day Camper Devotional can start on any day of the week and be repeated for as many days as she is at camp. It has 7 foundational scriptures with a short commentary for each. Note that it can be used anytime, not just for camp. She can write notes/prayers on the pages. It's hers.

Monday

Deuteronomy 3:16

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Your whole life long there will always be things that make you scared a little, like making new friends, going new places, getting up and speaking in front of a group. That's ok, it's normal to feel a little nervous about things. I still get butterflies in my stomach for lots of things. But do those things anyway. Be bold and courageous, try new things, enjoy things, let yourself enjoy things. God is for you, He is not against you. Even though you can't see Him next to you, know and trust that He is. He is our sure foundation. He is like rock solid cement. He cannot be moved. Others around you need to be encouraged also. Share this bible verse with them.:)))

Have a great day. I love you!

Tuesday

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Reading our bible and knowing God's Word is so important. We can't know God unless we know what His Word says. It's our plan for life from Him, and it is the best book ever. Remember it is STILL the best selling book of ALL time. Only God can do cool things like that!

When you grow weary, you get tired. You know I get tired. But it is important to do good in the name of Jesus. This may sound a little scary, but things that are not done in God's name, even good things, are not of much importance to God. The Bible says that when Jesus comes again and when we go to heaven that only the works done in His name will last forever. Everything that is not of him just vanishes. That's why it's so important that we bring other people of any age to know Him. He wants you to help save people for Him. I know I want to see my friends and loved ones in Heaven. It's hard for me sometimes to go to my weekly evening ministry group and teach because I get tired of the driving and I want to be home with my children after school, but this verse says not to get tired. Weary=tired. But I tell you this, when I drive away from teaching and sharing with this group, I feel so good and energized. The devil tries to make me not want to go, but I go and I feel so good when I am finished. Other people need us. Due season means in God's time. We will see the benefits in His time. Lots of times, we want all the benefits now, we want to see His

plan now, not later. And we want our rewards for doing good in His name now. But His time is different from ours. The Bible says that in heaven, we will pass judgement. That means as believers in Jesus Christ, we will not be sent to hell when we meet up with Jesus and God. Basically, He will review with us what we have done in His name while alive on earth. Do not be concerned with the amount you do, but the quality of what you do. Let God use you to minister to people who aren't just like you. Do it for Him, not for yourself. Don't lose heart means not to give up. Everyone has troubles, it doesn't matter how rich or how poor, what kind of car we drive or how big our home is. We all have problems. You will be called in life to help people in many different ways and in many different places. Expect God to call you to a place to help that you never thought He would. THEN SMILE! Because He knows He can use you to help Him.

Have a super great day! I love you!

Wednesday

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

God uses people of ALL ages. He uses young people and old people. We have an opportunity for Him to use us for His good until the day we die. I think sometimes people think that people your age don't know much about God. Just because you are still in school and haven't graduated from college doesn't mean that you don't know anything! You know a lot. Sometimes kids and old people don't get listened to. Kids have a fresh, young perspective on life. Old people have a lot of wisdom because they have raised children and lived many years and have seen many things. Respect the young and the old and the in-between. I know that I love to hear what each girl in our girl's ministry has to say when we read scripture and talk about what it means to us. The Holy Spirit gives us our own personal, individual understanding of God's Word. That's why I like to write in my Bible next to verses what it means to me. Speak out, be bold in what Christ says to you. Your conduct is how you act. Your conduct should match what God's Word says. You may have heard the saying before, "She talks the talk, but does not walk the walk." It means that she does not act in a way that agrees with the things she says. Now we all make mistakes, no one is perfect. But we should strive (try) to act in a way that pleases God. Our parents can teach us, our GEM's Leaders (Girl's Enrichment Ministry) can teach us, our Church can teach us and show us. But, it is your personal, free decision to act the way you want to. You'll only be living with me for 18 years total. It is my job to set a good example for you and lead you with God's Word. That is why I try (strive) to be biblically correct with you. I know life seems like a Bible study with me sometimes, but it is what Mother's are called to do in the Bible. I'll show that scripture in Titus

another time! Also set an example with your love, faith and purity. You love your friends, we also must love our enemies. That doesn't mean we have to hang around with people we don't like. But love them in your heart and pray for them! Your faith—keep growing to know God by asking questions to other Believers and by reading your Bible and listening while you are in church☺)) Purity—our bodies and minds are very important to God. That's why curse words, bad tv shows and movies are not good for us to watch. A little "bad" can creep in very fast and then it seems okay to be a "little" bad. Well, that usually ends up with "more" bad so let's stay away from those things. God needs clean minds and bodies and hearts to do His Work!

Have a great super day! I love you!

Thursday

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

This is probably one of my favorite verses of all time. I wrote next to it in my Bible, "Beginning of my journey!" I was born into a Christian home and went to church and Christian schools my whole life, but truly, we never really spent time READING and STUDYING God's Word. We just kind of knew it, but when I was about 28-29, I knew that some part of it was missing. With another woman's help, I got into a Bible study and went from there. This scripture was one of the first ones we looked up. I still remember it like it was yesterday. I remember smiling all day long when I did the workbook page with this scripture. It is a promise. This verse is God's promise to me and to you. He has a good plan for you. He doesn't break promises. He has good thoughts about me. I don't always have good thoughts, do you? It makes me laugh when you tell me that sometimes you have bad thoughts about me. That's ok, that means I am doing my job. It is very normal to not agree with your mother and to think your way is always right. We were born with rebellion because of what happened in the Garden of Eden. God gave us free will to make our own decisions. God does not have evil thoughts toward us. God loves all of us, He may not be pleased with everything we do, but He never changes in His great love for us. His plan is a GOOD future. So remember that when you are having a not so good day or feel down in the dumps, that's just how the devil wants you to feel so that you lose hope. Turn your thinking around and tell the devil to get out of there because you know Jeremiah 29:11 and what it says. Say back to God the verse. I promise you will feel so much better and you will be smiling all day long. Our hope is in God! Don't place your hope or trust in anything else or you will be disappointed. Humans cannot give us the future and hope that God does. God will make things happen for us through humans on this earth (like jobs and other fun opportunities), but remember God is in charge. You can pray for change, but lots of times you have to

change the way you are thinking about things. God is FOR you, not against you. He knows.

Have a great super day! I love you!

Friday

Psalm 56:3-4

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His Word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

This verse ties in perfectly with yesterdays!!! Where is my trust, my faith, my hope? It's in God! I can't put my trust in how much money Dad makes or what my house looks like or what kind of car I drive! What are you afraid of today? Some girls are afraid or even believe that no one likes them, that they're not pretty enough and all that. Some girls worry that no boy will every like them. Believe me, God has your husband already selected for you and he will find you, don't worry about that. God's Word even tells us NOT to worry about anything. That's hard to do right?!! So when you feel fear, that is not from God. Fear is from the enemy. The devil tries to make us fear so that we do not trust God. Now you will feel a little fear when you jump from a high rock into the river way below. That's normal. A little fear is normal, but if you feel a lot of fear, you should talk to someone about it. But on a normal day when you're not rock climbing you really shouldn't have a lot of fear. God is in control, remember? Pray if you are feeling fearful or bothered by someone. Pray when you feel left out or that you're just not good enough. Let God fill up that empty place where fear seems to be taking over. Ask God for peace when you feel scared or when things just don't seem to be going your way. He loves you, He hears you, He sees you. ALWAYS. He will never leave you.

Have a super great day! I love you!

Saturday

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

God has called you by name precious girl. God's Word says that He knew you before He formed you in my tummy. He knows the plan for your life. He has put it in your heart. There will be times when we follow exactly what He wants us to do and times when we don't. Don't worry. God has the MASTER plan and when we accidentally

step off, He can get us right back on. All the things that we do in life, He will work them together for His complete puzzle. Life does seem like a puzzle sometimes. We are just not sure what all the pieces are and how we will put it all together to make a pretty picture. Sometimes days are really pretty and sometimes days seem really gloomy. That's very normal. But that's why we have to put our trust in God and keep it there that He knows how everything will work out. He will join all the puzzle pieces for us and as we grow in Christ we can look back and say, "I get it now, I see what God was doing!" When we can do that, it grows our faith, it helps grow other people's faith when we tell them about it. It's our testimony. Testimony means to "say it again." When we tell others about God's goodness and what He has done in our own lives, it helps grow the faith of others. A lot of people are Believers, but they lack what I would call "being alive" in Christ. They are just kind of there, not really seeing God in everyday ways. That's why I like to point out what God has done or what He may be doing. I think God's purpose for me is to make Jesus come alive for you girls right off the pages of the Bible. He is real and He is working today. He never stops working, He never gets tired. Wouldn't you like some of that eternal energy? Energy that never stops. When I read God's word, I get energized. When I get energized, I feel better. When you are around the friends you love, don't you get energized and feel good? You laugh and have a good time. God wants to have that with you too!!

Have a super great day! I love you!

Sunday

Genesis 28:15

Behold, I AM with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.

These scriptures are just full of God's promises to His people (you) and we know that He keeps His promises. God must really want you to know that He is with you at camp, in the water, in your cabin, on the bus ride to camp, at carnival, at theme nights, during rest time (hope you're reading this during rest time☺) shower time, brushing your teeth and during all your activities. All throughout the Bible, God has to reassure His people, His leaders, His followers that He is with them because He knows we get a little scared sometimes. It would be really nice if we could see Him right next to us and let Him give us the "step by step" instructions of what to do at every moment. Mom's try to do that sometimes! We feel like we need to always be mentoring you and helping you through every day. That's our job! At some point, though, we have to let go a little and let you do it all by yourself. That's how you grow. Your Christian faith is like that too, it's our job to get you started and to point to Jesus. But then, it's yours. One day, you will also have the chance to point your

family to Jesus. For now, you can point your friends, family, teachers, cabinmates to Jesus. People need to know that God is not going to leave them and that He will stay with you until He is finished what He needs to get done. Don't worry about what needs to get done. God will make that perfectly clear. Even as a mom, I wonder if I am doing what God wants me to do, am I doing enough, am I doing it well? I just can't worry about that. God will never run out of time for me or for you to get done what He needs to get done. Wherever we go He is with us, even though you can't physically see Him, say "Hi God, thanks for coming along today." He loves to hear from His girls. You are a daughter of the King, you are a princess after all. You must know who you are because sadly there will be mean people in our world who want to tell you something else. Know who you are, say it to yourself in the mirror, write it on your mirror (not with permanent marker) when you get home. You are the head and not the tail, you are on top and not at the bottom. God says this in Deuteronomy 28:13. God's focus is on who we are in Him, He is an Encourager, not a discourager. God loves us, He does not hate us. God goes with you, He will never leave you. God won't leave you in the middle of something, He stays with you til the very end. God is a faithful friend. God loves you more than mom and dad ever could. You know how much we love you and isn't it hard to imagine that you can be loved even more than that??!! It's SUPERNATURAL, THAT'S WHAT GOD IS!!

Have a super great day! I love you!!

Mom