



Standing Together with God
Family Devotion for Week 1
July 13th, 2020

Purpose: One highlight of camping as a family or a week at camp is the beauty of evening as it turns to nighttime. After dinner or a snack the campers begin to anticipate nightfall. Campers look forward to nighttime activities as a special way to end the day. Youth enjoy night games such as those using glow-sticks, taking a night hike, stargazing on an open field, a late evening scavenger hunt, flashlight tag, etc. These activities offer youth a last opportunity to expend energies before settling in to their sleeping bags for the night. In this time of physical distancing from our VBS or during a week at home after a family camp experience, these activities can call to mind the joy and wonder of the deepening night and the wonder of camp under the stars.

Supplies:

Fire pit, grill, or microwave
Marshmallows, graham crackers, chocolate bar
S'more sticks or other utensils for roasting marshmallow

Read: The scripture for this week's memory verse **Proverbs 3:4-5**.

What is a proverb? *The definition of a proverb is a short saying that is widely used to express an obvious truth.* When we trust God with all our heart and recognize that we can do better when God is with

us and works through us, we are more open to a lasting relationship with God. Many children's story books have proverbs too...Dr. Seuss' books are full of them- and they're fun to read!

Choose a book you think offers a proverb or two for living and bring them to your campfire also.



Play/Listen/ Reflect:

Make your s'mores and have a snack, play a game of flashlight tag and settle back in by the fire. You can even play a game using this week's VBS color, yellow. Roll a die to begin. Highest number goes first. Play by taking turns naming things that are yellow among all those who are at the fire. Use a timer on your smartphone or from a board game (30 seconds max). Those who run out of time have to drop out. Keep going until there's a winner.

Now it's time to reflect on your day. Next to your fire or in a favorite outdoor space, take some time with your child(ren). Take a few minutes to read a story aloud. Talk about the story: What makes it interesting? Who are you in the story? Could the story have a different ending? What would it be?

Now it's time to share in a practice of reflecting on your day. Using something developed by St. Ignatius, pray the [Examen](https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-examen/), a simple process for daily spiritual reflection.

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Together, take a few moments in silence to reflect on-

For what moment today am I most grateful? For what moment today am I least grateful?

OR

What was today's high point? What was today's low point?

Share your thoughts. Then sing a silly camp song or two. Share stories of favorite campfire experiences together. Favorite camp memories. Read the Proverb verses again and close in prayer using the one below or your favorite bedtime prayer!

Pray:

God, your love surrounds us, in our homes, in nature, and yes, at camp too! Surround us with your love tonight as the stars surround our planet. As we prepare for sleep, bring us peace!

Amen