abide

ONE THING I ASK FROM THE LORD, THIS ONLY DO I SEEK: THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO GAZE ON THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD AND TO SEEK HIM IN HIS TEMPLE.
PSALMS 27:4

2026 CAMP DEVOTIONAL

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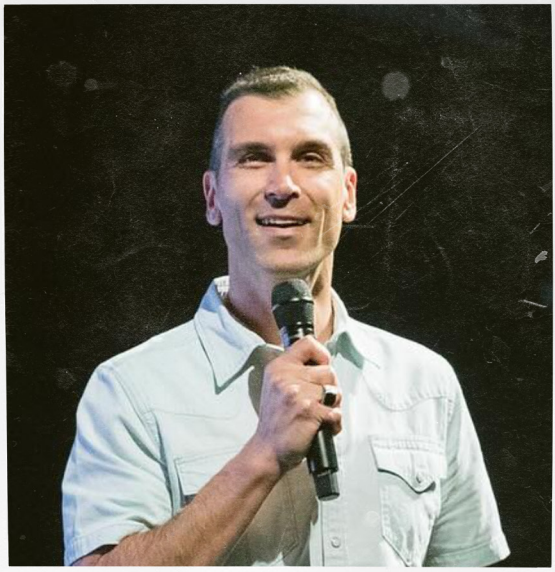
DEAR STUDENT,

WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLE WEEK! WE ARE SO THANKFUL YOU CAME TO CAMP THIS YEAR. FOR MONTHS, OUR TEAM HAS BEEN PRAYING FOR YOU, HOPING THAT THESE PAST FEW DAYS WOULD BE SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE OF YOUR LIFE. BEYOND THE HYPE, THE GAMES, AND THE CHAOS, OUR ULTIMATE PRAYER IS THAT YOU MET GOD IN A REAL WAY. WHETHER CHURCH IS A SECOND HOME TO YOU OR YOU'RE PROCESSING THE LOVE OF JESUS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, WE WANT YOU TO WALK AWAY WITH SOMETHING THAT LASTS MUCH LONGER THAN CAMP MEMORIES.

THAT'S WHY WE PUT THIS DEVOTIONAL TOGETHER. IT'S A TOOL TO HELP YOU GUARD WHAT HAPPENED HERE AND KEEP BUILDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. OVER THE NEXT TWELVE DAYS, YOU'LL BREAK DOWN THE SPEAKER MESSAGES FROM THIS WEEK, GRAB A PEN, OPEN YOUR BIBLE, AND REALLY CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO GO DEEPER. GET QUIET, LISTEN TO HIS VOICE, AND LET HIM WRITE HIS TRUTH ON YOUR HEART. HE LOVES YOU IMMENSELY AND HAS AN INCREDIBLE PURPOSE FOR YOU IN 2026 AND BEYOND.

THE MOMENTS YOU HAD WITH GOD AT CAMP DON'T HAVE TO END JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HEADING HOME. IT WAS REAL, AND HE HAS SO MUCH MORE IN STORE FOR YOU.

WE LOVE YOU AND ARE ALWAYS IN YOUR CORNER!
- PASTOR RAYMOND & SADI MARSHALL



Steve Svoboda

STEVE SVOBODA SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR CALLED FOR THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD.

STEVE AND HIS WIFE BENNETT HAVE 3 CHILDREN: CAL, PARKER & HUDSON. HIS PASSIONS INVOLVE SPENDING TIME AND BUILDING MEMORIES WITH HIS FAMILY, RUNNING & BICYCLING, CHEERING ON ALL WISCONSIN SPORTS TEAMS AND OF COURSE BUILDING THE CHURCH.

FOLLOW STEVE ON IG @STEVESVOBODA

Part I: The Time is Now (From Message I)
Day I: Chosen in the Crowd

SCRIPTURE:
JOHN 5:1-6

DEVOTIONAL:
Imagine standing in a massive crowd at a concert or a sports game. It is so easy to feel completely invisible, like just another face in the bleachers. In John 5, we find a man who felt exactly like that. He had been paralyzed for 38 years, sitting by a pool filled with sick people, hoping for a miracle. He was surrounded by a crowd, but he was entirely alone. Then Jesus walked in. Out of everyone there, Jesus saw him. You might have gone to camp feeling lost in the crowd, or maybe you feel that way now that you're back at school or home. But the same Jesus who picked that one man out of a crowded porch has His eyes locked on you. He doesn't just see the "camp version" of you; He sees the real you, right where you are.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
In what areas of your life do you feel the most invisible or overlooked?

How does it change your perspective to know that Jesus notices you specifically, even when you feel lost in the crowd?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Thank God for seeing you personally. Ask Him to help you feel His presence today, especially in places where you feel lonely or invisible.

Day 2: Dropping the Excuses

SCRIPTURE:
JOHN 5:7-9

DEVOTIONAL:
When Jesus asks the paralyzed man if he wants to get well, the man doesn't say, "Yes!" Instead, he immediately gives an excuse: "I have no one to help me into the pool." He was so focused on his past failures and his lack of help that he almost missed the Savior standing right in front of him. It's easy to make excuses for why we can't grow closer to God. "I'm too busy." "My friends will think I'm weird." "I've messed up too many times." Jesus challenged this man's excuses, and He challenges ours too. He doesn't want a list of reasons why you can't move; He wants your willingness to let Him change you. The time to stop making excuses and start walking is right now.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
What is the number one excuse you make when it comes to reading your Bible, praying, or living out your faith?
What step of obedience is Jesus asking you to take today that you've been putting off?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Confess the excuses you've been leaning on. Ask Jesus for the courage to drop them and trust His voice instead.

Day 3: Future Over Past

SCRIPTURE:
JOHN 5:10-15

DEVOTIONAL:
The paralyzed man didn't just get a temporary fix; he got a completely new life. Jesus told him to pick up his mat and walk. That mat used to be a symbol of his limitation and his past. Now, it was a trophy of God's power.

Jesus doesn't just want to patch up your past like a torn pair of jeans. He isn't interested in just making you a "slightly better" version of yourself. He wants to radically transform your future! Your past mistakes, your family background, or your old labels do not define where you are going. God's power is infinitely greater than your limitations. Step into the future He has rewritten for you.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
What is a limitation or a mistake from your past that you tend to let define you?

What does a "transformed future" look like for you in your everyday life?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Give God your past and your limitations. Declare that your future belongs to Him and ask for the strength to walk in total transformation.

Part 2: This Can't Stay Hidden (From Message 2)
Day 4: Light Over Humiliation

SCRIPTURE:
MATTHEW 5:13-14

DEVOTIONAL:
Hiding things is exhausting. Whether it's a bad habit, a secret sin, or a hurt we don't want anyone to know about, we spend a lot of energy keeping our baggage in the dark. We worry that if people—or God—see the real stuff, we'll be humiliated. But God operates differently. He doesn't pull your baggage into the light to humiliate you; He pulls your baggage into the light to confiscate it! When you bring your secrets to Jesus, He doesn't point a finger of shame at you. He takes those heavy bags right out of your hands. He wants to free you from the weight of what you've been hiding.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
Why is it so scary to bring our hidden struggles into the light?
What is a "bag" you are holding onto right now that you need to hand over to Jesus?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Be honest with God about something you've been trying to hide. Ask Him to confiscate it and replace it with His peace.

Day 5: Hiding vs. Healing

SCRIPTURE:
MATTHEW 5:15

DEVOTIONAL:
Nobody lights a lamp just to hide it under a bowl. That would defeat the whole purpose of having light! Yet, we do this with our lives all the time. The parts of our lives that we are busiest hiding and concealing are often the exact areas where God wants to bring restoration and healing.

If you keep a wound covered up and never let a doctor look at it, it will never heal properly. It's the same with our hearts. True healing starts when we stop pretending we have it all together. When we allow God's light to shine into our brokenness, the healing process finally begins

.REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
What is an area of your life (anger, anxiety, insecurity, purity) where you need God's healing right now?

Who is a trusted Christian leader, parent, or friend you can talk to so you don't have to carry this in the dark?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Invite the Holy Spirit into the broken, messy parts of your heart. Ask Him to begin a deep work of restoration today.

Day 6: Restored to Recruit

SCRIPTURE:
MATTHEW 5:16

DEVOTIONAL:
God's work in your life is never just about you. When He heals your broken heart, cleanses your past, and gives you freedom, He does it so that He can work through you in someone else's life!

Your story of freedom is meant to be a map for someone else who is still trapped in the dark. When your friends at school see the change in you, they see the reality of God. You aren't just a survivor of your past; you are a living testimonial of God's goodness. Don't hide your story. Let your light shine so others can find their way to Jesus, too.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
How can your past struggles or current victories be used to help someone else who is going through the same thing?

Who in your life right now needs to see the light of Jesus through your actions and attitude?

PRAYER PROMPT:
IAsk God to give you opportunities to share His love and your story with someone who is struggling.

Part 3: From the Sanctuary to the Streets (From Message 3)
Day 7: Packing up the Presence

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 1:4, ACTS 2:1-4

DEVOTIONAL:
Camp altars are amazing. The lights are low, the worship is loud, and God's presence feels so close you can almost touch it. But camp eventually ends, the buses get loaded, and you have to go back to reality.

Here is the secret: what started in your life in a camp service is meant to transform your life back home. The Holy Spirit didn't stay at the campground. The same Spirit that moved in the sanctuary is the same Spirit walking with you down your school hallways, into your living room, and onto your sports teams. You don't leave the fire behind; you bring it with you.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
What was the biggest spiritual highlight or decision you made at camp?

How can you intentionally keep that "camp focus" alive in your normal daily routine?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Thank God that His presence isn't locked inside a church or camp building. Ask Him to help you carry His fire into your home and school.

Day 8: Filled Afresh

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 1:8

DEVOTIONAL:
Think about your phone. You can't just charge it once and expect it to stay at 100% for the rest of the year. It needs to be plugged in daily. Your spiritual life is the exact same way. You can't live today on the spiritual "charge" you got weeks ago at camp.

We need to pray a powerful prayer every single morning: "**Holy Spirit, fill me afresh today!**" The Holy Spirit wants to do a mighty work in your life regularly. He wants to give you fresh strength, fresh joy, and fresh patience for whatever you are facing today. Don't try to run on empty.

Reflection Questions:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
Do you feel spiritually "charged" or spiritually "drained" right now? Why?

What does it look like practically for you to spend time being filled by the Holy Spirit every day?

PRAYER PROMPT:
"Holy Spirit, fill me afresh, today! I need Your strength and Your presence right now. Fill me to overflowing."

Day 9: Used Again

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 3:1-10

DEVOTIONAL:
In Acts 3, Peter and John were just walking to church on a normal day when they encountered a lame beggar. Because they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they didn't just walk past him. They stopped, spoke to him, and God used them to heal him right there on the street.

Once the Holy Spirit does a work in you, He wants to do a mighty work through you! This leads us to our second powerful prayer: "Holy Spirit, use me again, today!" God wants to use your voice to encourage a lonely classmate, your hands to serve your family, and your prayers to bring peace to a friend. Be on the lookout—the streets are waiting for what happened in the sanctuary.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
Who is someone in your everyday life (at home, school, or practice) who needs God's love right now?

Are you actively looking for opportunities for God to use you, or are you too distracted by your own routine?

PRAYER PROMPT:
"Holy Spirit, use me again, today! Open my eyes to the people around me and give me the boldness to speak or act when You prompt me."

Part 4: What Are You Waiting For? (From Message 4)
Day 10: You Are Chosen

SCRIPTURE:
JOHN 15:16, ACTS 9:1-6

DEVOTIONAL:
Before the Apostle Paul was a giant of the faith, he was Saul—a guy actively trying to destroy the church. He had his own plans, his own agenda, and a lot of anger. But Jesus interrupted him on the road to Damascus. God didn't ruin Saul's plans just to be mean; He did it to rewrite his entire future.

The first thing you need to realize about your life is this: **God has chosen you**. You are not an accident, and your life isn't a random series of events. Jesus looked at you and said, *"I want that one."* He chose you to belong to Him and to bear fruit that will last. Stop waiting for some future date to matter to God. You are chosen right now.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
How does it change your self-worth to know that Jesus explicitly chose you before you ever chose Him?

In what ways do you see God rewriting your personal plans to match His better plans?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Thank Jesus for choosing you. Commit your plans and your future to Him, trusting that His script for your life is better than yours.

Day 11: You Are Empowered

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 9:17-18, ACTS 1:8

DEVOTIONAL:
When Saul was blinded on the road, God sent a man named Ananias to pray for him so he could receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. God didn't call Saul to a massive mission and then leave him to figure it out on his own. He gave him supernatural power.

God has empowered you. Living out your faith in middle school or high school is tough. Standing up for what is right, staying pure, and being kind when others are cruel is impossible on your own strength. But you aren't on your own. You have the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit living inside you. You are fully equipped for every battle ahead.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
Where do you feel the most weak or unequipped in your faith journey right now?
How can you rely more on the Holy Spirit's power rather than just trying harder on your own strength?

PRAYER PROMPT:
Step away from your own strength. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you with boldness, wisdom, and self-control for the specific challenges you are facing.

Day 12: You Are Commissioned

SCRIPTURE:

MATTHEW 28:18-20, ACTS 22:14-16

DEVOTIONAL:

Ananias gave Paul a clear message: "You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for?"

This is the final takeaway from camp, and it's the launchpad for the rest of your life: **God has commissioned you**. A commission is an official assignment. You have been officially assigned by the King of Kings to go make disciples. You don't have to wait until you graduate, become a pastor, or grow up. You are a missionary to your school, an ambassador to your family, and a witness to your friends. What are you waiting for? Get up, move forward, and change your world!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What does it mean to be a "witness" of what you have seen and heard from God?

What is one concrete action step you can take this week to live out your commission at home or school?

PRAYER PROMPT:

Accept the commission God has given you. Pray for an unshakeable boldness to witness to those around you, and step out in faith knowing He is with you always.

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