QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

DAY ONE

God's First Task for Humans (Genesis 1:28-30)

TODAY'S PASSAGE: Psalm 19:1-4 (NIV)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

REFLECT ON THIS:

Look Outside: Most Christian camps in Australia are in amazing places. A long time ago, people picked the best spots because nature makes camp special. When you get here, find a quiet moment to stop and look around. Use your eyes, ears, hands, nose, and even taste to enjoy the world around you. Be still and listen–maybe God wants to show you something!

DEVOTIONAL:

A scientist visited one of our camps to see how we care for nature. They were surprised that Christians care so much about the earth! They thought Christians didn't need to because they believe in going to heaven, leaving the earth behind. But the Bible teaches something very different.

In Genesis 1:28, God told people to take care of the earth. Paul also wrote that creation is waiting for God's people to do their part (Romans 8:20-21). That means we should help look after the world. The Bible also says God shows Himself through nature. The Bible says that creation is "excellent in every way" (Genesis 1:30). When people see the beauty of forests, oceans, and stars, they often realise there must be a Creator.

Even in the middle of war, people found beauty in words. A chaplain named G.A. Studdert Kennedy wrote a book of poems about what he saw and felt during World War One. He called it An Unutterable Beauty.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

I and my rose (abridged) by G.A. Studdert Kennedy:

There is a world of wonder in this rose;
God made it, and His whole creation grows
To a point of perfect beauty
In this garden plot.
This rose as I behold it;
For all things gave it to me,
The stars have helped to mould it,
The air, soft moonshine, and the rain,
The meekness of old mother earth,
The many-billowed sea.
And all the pain
Of ages, brought it to its birth
And gave it to me.

As camp begins, stop for a moment and look at the beauty around you. Remember that God made it and do your best to take care of it.

QUESTIONS:

1. When was the last time you stopped to find God in the quiet and beauty of nature? (Psalm 62:1,5)
2. If God's world is waiting for us to care for it, what can we do to help protect and look after it? (Romans 8:18-25)

CHALLENGES:

1. Think of some easy ways to take care of the earth after camp, like picking up rubbish, using less water, or being gentle with nature.
2. Spend five minutes each day sitting quietly outside, looking, listening, and thinking about God.

PRAYER:

Dear God, You made everything. Help me hear You in the silence...

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

DAY TWO

Jesus' Rule for Life (Matthew 22:34-40)

TODAY'S PASSAGE: Romans 12:9-15 (JB Phillips - abridged)

Let us have no imitation Christian love. Let us have real warm affection for one another. Give freely to fellow-Christians in want, never grudging a meal or a bed to those who need them. Share the happiness of those who are happy, the sorrow of those who are sad.

REFLECT ON THIS:

Look Around: Day Two is your first full day with your camp group, and it's a great chance to slow down and enjoy time together. Take time to talk to people, make new friends, and find ways to help. Before the day begins, spend five minutes thinking about how you can be kind and helpful to someone today.

DEVOTIONAL:

The writer of James was probably Jesus' younger brother, so he knew Him well. That's why it's important when he says, "faith without the right actions is dead and useless." The Bible teaches that real faith means helping others.

Psalm 146:7 says God helps people who are treated unfairly and gives food to those who are hungry. And the Bible also reminds us to "love each other" and "welcome strangers" (Hebrews 13:1-2). Jesus often ate with people to show love and teach them. Some people even made fun of Him for it (Matthew 11:9). But welcoming others has always been important to God.

Paul says that love is the most important thing. He warns that "if I speak well but have no love, I am just a noisy gong" (1 Corinthians 13:1). Faith isn't just about believing–it's about loving and helping others.

Loving others isn't about doing one big thing–it's about lots of small acts of kindness. Look around, see who needs help, and find little ways to serve.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

Patience (abridged):

Sometimes I wish that I might do
Just one grand deed and die,
And by that one grand deed reach up
To meet God in the sky.
But such is not Your way, O God,
Not such is Your decree,
But deed by deed, and tear by tear,
Our souls must climb to Thee.
So grant us, Lord, the patient heart,
To climb the upward way,
Until we stand upon the height,
And see the perfect day.

When Jesus said, "Love your neighbour as yourself," someone asked, "Who is my neighbour?" So Jesus told a story about a Good Samaritan. Samaritans and Jews didn't like each other, but in the story, it was the Samaritan who showed kindness.

Jesus was saying, "If he can show love, so can you." Loving others–including those who are different from us–isn't just a good idea. It's something God wants us to do.

QUESTIONS:

1. Do I love and trust God in everything?
2. Is there someone I find hard to be kind to? What would Jesus want me to do?
3. Who can I help and encourage today?

CHALLENGES:

1. Try to make someone's day better today and keep doing this every day after camp.
2. Write down ways you can be kind and helpful in your street so that people would miss you if you moved away.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for the people around me. You made each of them special. Help me to see the good in them and show me how I can help and be kind today.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

DAY THREE

God's Great Adventure (Matthew 28:18-20)

TODAY'S PASSAGE: Matthew 28:18-20 (JB Phillips)

All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. You, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you and, remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

REFLECT ON THIS:

Look Up: Day Three is usually the last day of camp, and you might already be thinking about going home. Some say camp is like a "mountaintop experience" and going home is coming back down–but we don't think so.

We hope camp has refreshed and encouraged you so you can go home excited to make a difference. Before you leave, take a quiet moment to pray and ask God how you can bless others when you get home.

DEVOTIONAL:

Many Christians have heard of the Great Commission, but do we know what it really means? Jesus told His followers to make disciples–helping others follow Him and learn what He taught. This takes time, patience, and friendship.

Hebrews 12:2 says we should look to Jesus–He shows us how to believe and follow God. Being a disciple means following Jesus, letting Him change us, and helping others do the same. We should have helpers who help us grow. Jesus came to show us the way. God sent Jesus, not to punish the world, but to save it.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

Faith (abridged):

How do I know that God is good?
I don't. I give my life
To one side in life's great war.
I must, I can't stand out.
I must take sides.
I plunge
Head first. I bet my life on Beauty, Truth,
And Love, not abstract but incarnate Truth,
I give my life to Christ – Christ Crucified.

After Jesus gave the Great Commission, Paul told the early church that we should talk about Jesus so that everyone can learn and grow to be more like Him. (Colossians 1:28).

Growing in faith takes time and effort–it doesn't happen instantly. Learning to follow Jesus and helping others do the same can feel like a big job, but we're not alone. Jesus promises to be with us always, and He has all power in heaven and on earth.

Being a disciple is a special journey. Isaiah 52:7 says, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Camp doesn't have to be just a fun memory–it can keep inspiring you as you live for Jesus.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who helps you follow Jesus and encourages you to do what is right?
2. Who can you help and encourage to be more like Jesus?

CHALLENGES:

1. Write a thank-you note to someone who has helped you follow Jesus.
2. Make a list of people you can help grow in their faith, and think of simple ways to encourage them, like praying with them or sharing Bible stories.

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for letting me be part of Your great adventure. As I go home, help me find good mentors, be a mentor to others, and share Your love with the world.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

AFTER CAMP

The Sweet Spot (Romans 12:1-2)

TODAY'S PASSAGE: Romans 12:1-2 (JB Phillips)

With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

REFLECT ON THIS:

Finding Your Sweet Spot: At camp, we learned about three big things God asks us to do: care for the earth, love and help others, and follow Jesus while encouraging others to do the same. If we don't think about what we've learned, we might forget it. James 1:22 says, "Don't just listen to God's word–do what it says!"

Find a quiet moment and write down (or draw) the changes you want to make in your life after camp. Keep them somewhere safe and try to live them out every day!

DEVOTIONAL:

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans and told them to let God change the way they think and not let the world "squeeze you into its own mould", like a jelly.

The Bible gives us three big jobs:

1. Look after God's Creation - take care of the earth.
2. Love and help others - even people we don't get along with (Matthew 5:44).
3. Follow Jesus and help others follow Him - share God's love with the world.

These three work together, just like God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. If we forget one, our faith can feel unbalanced–like a wobbly bike wheel.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

Jesus tells us not to worry about food or clothes because God will take care of us. Instead, He says, "Put God's kingdom first, and everything else will fall into place" (Matthew 6:33). When we focus on God first, and try to do each of these three big jobs, we find real joy.

Work - by A Studdert-Kennedy (abridged):

Close by the careless worker's side
Still patient stands
The Carpenter of Nazareth,
With pierced hands
Outstretched to plead unceasingly,
His Love's demands.

Because this is my Work, O Lord,
It must be Yours,
Because it is a human task
It is divine.
Take me, and brand me with Your Cross,
Your slave's proud sign.

Paul told the Romans that worship is more than singing or praying–it's about giving our whole lives to God. He said we should see God's kindness and give ourselves to Him–living for Him in a way that makes Him happy. When we do this, we show God's plan is good and helps us grow stronger in our faith. Let's choose to live this way every day!

QUESTIONS:

1. Am I really trying to live out the three big jobs God has given us–to care for the earth, love and help others, and share His message? What do I need to change to do this better?
2. What gifts has God given me to help His world and His people?

CHALLENGES:

1. Put the "Three Big Jobs" picture somewhere you can see it every day. It will remind you of your sweet spot–where your talents, interests, and God's plan come together.
2. Make a list of the things you love to do. In the second column, write down how each one can help others.

PRAYER:

Giver of life, thank You for everything You have given me. I want to give myself to You, ready to serve You and share Your love with others. Show me how to use my gifts and talents to help the world and the people around me.

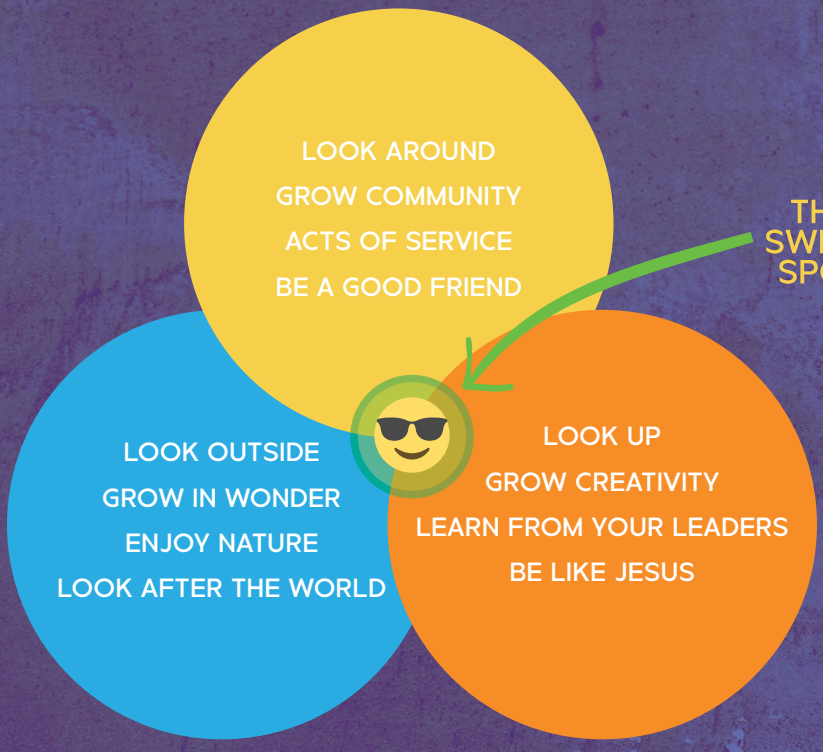
QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

THE THREE BIG JOBS:

LOOK OUTSIDE
GROW IN WONDER
ENJOY NATURE
LOOK AFTER THE WORLD

LOOK AROUND
GROW COMMUNITY
ACTS OF SERVICE
BE A GOOD FRIEND

LOOK UP
GROW CREATIVITY
LEARN FROM YOUR LEADERS
BE LIKE JESUS

THE SWEET SPOT: