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: In Australia, it's rare to find an ugly Christian campsite. Decades ago, the pioneers of Christian camping secured some of the most beautiful parts of God's creation, knowing that the great outdoors is essential to a meaningful camp experience. When you arrive, take a few moments early on to sit in silence and solitude. Use all your senses–sight, smell, touch, taste, and hearing–to fully take in your surroundings. Pause, appreciate the beauty, and see if God speaks to you in that moment.

DEVOTIONAL:

Recently, an environmentalist visited our site to learn about our Creation Care efforts. By the end of their visit, they were surprised to see a Christian organisation so committed to Outdoor Education. They had assumed that Christians believe the world will just be destroyed, so caring for it doesn't matter. This idea, however, doesn't match what the Bible teaches about the environment.

In Genesis 1:28, God's first command to humanity was to care for the earth and live in harmony with nature. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, wrote that all of Creation is waiting for God's children to step into their true role (Romans 8:20). He explains that part of God's plan is for us to help restore Creation from the effects of decay and change (Romans 8:21).

The Bible clearly shows that God reveals Himself through nature and takes delight in it. Passages like Psalm 19, Psalm 146:6, and Colossians 1:15-17 highlight that Creation is "excellent in every way" (Genesis 1:30).

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

This idea, known as General Revelation, helps people recognise the existence of a Creator and can be a key starting point for sharing God's good news (the gospel). Experiencing the beauty of rainforests, oceans, and galaxies often leads people to see evidence of intelligent design. The incredible complexity of the natural world is one of the strongest ways to point people toward God (Romans 1:20).
It might seem surprising, but even the harsh realities of World War One's Western Front inspired powerful poetry, pointed towards God. Army chaplain G.A. Studdert Kennedy captured this in his book An Unutterable Beauty.

I and my rose *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.
I could not see it but for Him
Because He led
Me to the Love of God,
From which all Beauty springs.
I and my rose
Are one.

As you begin your first day of camp, take a moment to recognise God in the beauty around you and commit to caring for and nurturing it.

QUESTIONS:

1. When was the last time you intentionally sought God in the silence and beauty of the natural world He has given us? (Psalm 62:1,5)
2. If all of Creation is eagerly waiting for us to step into our true purpose, how can we help restore and protect the world from the effects of change and decay? (Romans 8:18-25)

CHALLENGES:

1. What are some practical steps you can take after camp to "tread lightly" on the planet and care for it better in your daily life?
2. Make a commitment to spend at least five minutes each day in quiet reflection outdoors, intentionally listening for God's voice in the stillness.

PRAYER:

Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, speak to me in your 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)

Let us have no imitation Christian love. Let us have a genuine break with evil and a real devotion to good. Let us have real warm affection for one another, and a willingness to let the other person have the credit. Let us not allow slackness to spoil our work and let us keep the fires of the spirit burning, as we do our work for God. Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come endure them patiently, steadfastly maintain the habit of prayer. Give freely to fellow-Christians in want, never grudging a meal or a bed to those who need them. As for those who try to make your life a misery, bless them. Don't curse, bless. Share the happiness of those who are happy, the sorrow of those who are sad.

REFLECT ON THIS:

Look Around: Day Two of camp is often your first, and sometimes only, full day with your camp community. Life should slow down as our staff work to support your experience. Use this time to strengthen relationships, enjoy unhurried conversations at the meal table, and find ways to serve others. At the start of the day, take five minutes to reflect on how you can be a blessing to those around you.

DEVOTIONAL:

The writer of the Book of James was likely Jesus' younger brother, meaning he probably spent more time with Him than any other biblical author. So when he says, "faith without the right actions is dead and useless," his words carry significant weight. Helping others is a central theme in the Bible. The Psalmist reminds us that God "gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry" (Psalm 146:7). The Apostle Peter encourages believers to be God's hands and feet by "offering hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:8-9). After listing the heroes of faith (Hebrews 11), the book of Hebrews urges Christians to "continue to love each other with true Christian love" and to "show hospitality to strangers" (Hebrews 13:1-2). Jesus often used meals as a key part of His ministry, teaching through hospitality. He was even criticised for it, being called a "drunkard and a glutton" (Matthew 11:9).

Throughout the Bible and church history, welcoming strangers and showing hospitality have been central to God's mission. The Apostle Paul highlights the importance of love in action, saying, "If I speak with the eloquence of men and angels but have no love,

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

I become no more than a clanging gong or a crashing cymbal" (1 Corinthians 13:1). Living a life of love isn't about one grand gesture–it's about many small acts and choices. So, take a moment to look around, notice the needs of others, and find practical ways to serve.

Patience *by G.A. Studdert Kennedy:*

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 Thy way, O God,
Not such is Thy decree,
But deed by deed, and tear by tear,
Our souls must climb to Thee,
As climbed the only Son of God
From manger unto Cross,
Who learned, through tears & bloody sweat,
To count this world but loss;
Who left the Virgin Mother's Arms
To seek those arms of shame,
Outstretched upon the lonely hill
To which the darkness came.
As deed by deed, and tear by tear,
He climbed up to the height,
Each deed a splendid deed, each tear
A jewel shining bright,
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 shared the Great Commandment to love your neighbour as yourself, someone immediately asked Him to clarify who He meant by "neighbour." In response, Jesus told a story with an unexpected hero. The Good Samaritan (Luke) came from a group that His listeners looked down on–and who, in turn, despised them. Through this story, Jesus was essentially saying, "If even someone like this can show love, why can't you?" Loving your neighbour–including those who are different, foreign, or even disliked–isn't optional. It's essential.

QUESTIONS:

1. Am I truly valuing and treasuring God in every part of my life?
2. Who is the neighbour I find difficult to value? Why do I struggle with them? What might Jesus say to me about this?
3. Who can I come alongside to encourage today?

CHALLENGES:

1. Commit to being a positive part of at least one person's day today and make it a habit that continues beyond camp.
2. Make a list of ways you can contribute to your home street or community in a way that would make you truly missed if you ever moved away.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the people around me today. I praise You that each of them is made in Your image. Help me to see the best in them as we spend time together. Please guide me to those I can bless and serve.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

DAY THREE

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

TODAY'S PASSAGES: 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.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (JB Phillips)

Surrounded then as we are by these serried ranks of witnesses, let us strip off everything that hinders us, as well as the sin which dogs our feet, and let us run the race that we have to run with patience, our eyes fixed on Jesus the source and the goal of our faith. For he himself endured a cross and thought nothing of its shame because of the joy he knew would follow his suffering; and he is now seated at the right hand of God's throne. Think constantly of him enduring all that sinful men could say against Him and you will not lose your purpose or your courage.

REFLECT ON THIS:

Look Up: Day Three of camp is often your last, and your thoughts will naturally start turning toward home. Camps are sometimes described as "mountaintop experiences," with the journey home seen as a return to the valley–but we don't see it that way. We hope your time at camp has brought refreshment and renewal, equipping you to return home re-energised and ready to make a difference in the world around you. As you prepare to leave, take a moment to pause–look heavenward in prayer and reflection–and seek God's guidance on the changes you can make to bless and encourage those around you.

DEVOTIONAL:

Most Christians are familiar with the Great Commission, but how often do we truly consider what it means? At its core, it calls us to make disciples and teach them everything Jesus modelled. This isn't a quick task–it requires time, deep relationships, and a commitment to walking alongside others in faith.

The writer of Hebrews urges us to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:2 NIV). This reflects the mindset of the Psalms: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains; where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

A disciple of Jesus is someone who follows Him, is transformed by Him, commits to His mission, and brings others along on the journey. Living out the Great Commission means seeking mentors, being mentors, and always looking to Jesus–who left Heaven to dwell among us. As John reminds us, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:17).

Faith *by G.A. Studdert Kennedy:*

How do I know that God is good?
I don't.
I gamble like a man. I bet my life
Upon one side in life's great war.
I must, I can't stand out.
I must take sides.
The one who is a neutral in this fight is not
A soul.
They're bulk and body without breath.
I can't stand shiv'ring on the bank.
I plunge
Head first. I bet my life on Beauty, Truth,
And Love, not abstract but incarnate Truth,
Not Beauty's passing shadow but its Self.
It's very self made flesh, Love realised.
I bet my life on Christ - Christ Crucified.

Paul, writing soon after Jesus gave the Great Commission, reminded the early church, "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). Reaching spiritual maturity takes time and effort. Discipling others–and allowing ourselves to be discipled–can feel like a big commitment, but Jesus reassures us from the very start of the Great Commission that He is with us always and that all power in heaven and earth belongs to Him. Ultimately, discipleship is a lifelong journey. As Isaiah beautifully puts it, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns" (Isaiah 52:7). Our time on the mountain doesn't have to be a fleeting moment–it can be a lasting source of inspiration that shapes how we live.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who in your life encourages and inspires you to follow the example of Jesus?
2. Who in your life can you encourage and inspire to be more like Jesus?

CHALLENGES:

1. Write a letter of gratitude to someone who has played a significant role in your faith journey.
2. Make a list of people you can encourage and inspire in their faith, along with practical ways you can invest in their spiritual growth.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank You for inviting us into Your adventure–to be Your disciples and to take part in bringing redemption to the world. As I prepare to return home, guide me to wise mentors, show me those I can mentor, and help us together share Your goodness with the world.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

AFTER CAMP

The Sweet Spot

TODAY'S PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 6:10 (JB Phillips)

As far as we are concerned we do not wish to stand in anyone's way, nor do we wish to bring discredit on the ministry God has given us. Indeed we want to prove ourselves genuine ministers of God whatever we have to go through - patient endurance of troubles or even disasters, being flogged or imprisoned; being mobbed, having to work like slaves, having to go without food or sleep.

All this we want to meet with sincerity, with insight and patience; by sheer kindness and the Holy Spirit; with genuine love, speaking the plain truth, and living by the power of God. Our sole defence, our only weapon, is a life of integrity, whether we meet honour or dishonour, praise or blame. Called "impostors" we must be true, called "nobodies" we must be in the public eye. Never far from death, yet here we are alive, always "going through it" yet never "going under". We know sorrow, yet our joy is inextinguishable. We have "nothing to bless ourselves with" yet we bless many others with true riches. We are penniless, and yet in reality we have everything worth having.

REFLECT ON THIS:

Finding Your Sweet Spot: Over three days of camp, we explored three key commands God has given humanity–to care for and steward the earth, to love and serve our neighbours, and to live our lives following the radical example of Jesus while encouraging others to do the same. It's often said that an unreflected experience is a wasted one. James reminds us: "Don't, I beg you, only hear the message, but put it into practice; otherwise, you are merely deluding yourselves" (James 1:22). Take some time in solitude with a notebook–whether physical or digital–and reflect on the changes you want to make in your life after this camp experience. Commit them to memory and action.

DEVOTIONAL:

In his letter to the Romans, Paul urged believers to let God transform their minds from the inside out, warning them not to let the world "squeeze you into its own mould." Through Scripture, humanity has been given three main tasks:

1. The Creation Mandate - to care for and steward God's Creation.
2. The Commandment Mandate - to love and serve our neighbours, including Jesus' challenge to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).
3. The Commission Mandate - to be disciples and make disciples, sharing God's goodness with the world.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

Like the Trinity, these three mandates must be kept in balance. If we focus too much on one while neglecting the others, our spiritual journey becomes unsteady–like a car with a wobbly wheel. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reassures us not to worry about food, drink, or clothing, reminding us that our Heavenly Father knows what we need. Instead, He calls us to "set our hearts on the kingdom and God's goodness, and all these things will come to you as a matter of course" (Matthew 6:33). Some believe this verse is better translated as "seek only God's kingdom." This is where the three mandates overlap–and where true fulfilment is found. It's not just a command; it's our life's purpose.

Work *by G.A. Studdert Kennedy:*

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.
Longing to pick the hammer up
And strike a blow,
Longing to feel his plane swinging out,
Steady and slow,
The fragrant shavings falling down,
Silent as snow.
Because this is my Work, O Lord,
It must be Thine,
Because it is a human task
It is divine.
Take me, and brand me with Thy Cross,
Thy slave's proud sign.

Writing to the Romans, Paul paints a big vision of worship. He describes "intelligent worship" as this: "With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him." When we live this way, we "prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity" (Romans 12:1-2, JB Phillips). Let's commit ourselves to living this out.

QUESTIONS:

1. Am I truly committed to living out the three mandates God has given humanity? What changes do I need to make for this to become a reality?
2. Where is my sweet spot? What gifts and talents has God given me to bless His creation and His people?

CHALLENGES:

1. Display the attached "Triple Mandate" graphic in a visible place at home as a daily reminder of your sweet spot–where your gifts, passions, and God's purpose align.
2. Make a list of the things you are most passionate about, then in a second column, write down ways each passion can be used to bless others.

PRAYER:

Giver of life, I thank You for all You have given me. In return, I offer myself freely–a living sacrifice, committed to serving You and sharing Your good news with the world. Show me how to use the gifts, talents, and abilities You have given me for the life of the world.

QCCC
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE & CAMPING CENTRES

CAMP DEVOTIONALS

TRIPLE MANDATE:

LOOK OUTSIDE
GROW IN WONDER
EXPERIENCE GOD'S CREATION
RECONNECT, RELAX, RECUPERATE
CREATION CARE
GENESIS 1:28-30

LOOK AROUND
GROW COMMUNITY
COMPASSIONATE SERVICE
BE HOSPITABLE
ENCOURAGE OTHERS
MATTHEW 26: 36-40

LOOK UP
GROW CREATIVITY
MENTOR AND BE MENTORED
FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE
SHARE GOOD NEWS
MATTHEW 28: 16-20

THE SWEET SPOT: