

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2014

Bedtime Dorm Devotions – Notes to Leaders

Bedtime Dorm Devotions are intended to be used at bedtime in your dorm. They are written to be read verbatim without discussion. These devotions serve the purposes of reminding preteens of the big lessons of the day, while preparing them for the big lessons to come. They are written with the prayer that as preteens fall asleep thinking on such things, the Lord will continue to teach their spirits while they sleep.

Plan ahead for the Bedtime Dorm Devotions

1. If you share a dorm with another church, talk with the adult leaders from the other church & decide who will read the devotions which nights. Share the responsibilities & the honor.
2. Wait until everyone has prepared for bed, & gets into their bed before you start.
3. Explain to all the preteens that when the devotion is finished, everybody needs to stay in their bunk & go on to sleep.
4. Try turning out the main room lights & using only the restroom or vanity lights during the devotion.
5. Take your time while reading the devotional. Don't worry or be offended if they fall asleep during the devotion.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations marked "HCSB" have been taken from the *Holman Christian Standard Bible*®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. The Bible text has been italicized for your convenience to more clearly distinguish it from the devotion script.

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2014

Bedtime Dorm Devotion – Night 1 (Sunday/Wednesday)

Our theme this whole week is “Shine.” This week we’ll learn more about how Jesus is the Light of the World, & how He wants His followers to also be the light of the world. The whole idea of light and darkness is something that God thought up a long time ago. In fact, the very beginning of the Bible tells the story. Listen to what the Bible says about when there first became a difference between light and darkness. Genesis chapter one says,

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” Evening came and then morning: the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5 HCSB)

The very first thing that the Bible records God saying is “Let there be light.” Our camp theme of “Shine” seems like it’s been around for a very long time...since the very beginning. The Bible verses then say that instantly “there was light,” and when God saw the light, He “saw that the light was good.” From the very beginning God has considered “light” something that is good, and He has wanted it to shine.

In a few hours, the Sun will most likely come up. The night will end, and a new day of camp will begin. The light of the Sun will shine all over camp. If we have good weather, the Sun will shine bright enough for us to have fun outdoors...at the lake, at the pool, & on the rec field. When we’re inside, we’ll have plenty of lights to help us do all the cool indoor stuff we have planned. Tonight as we go to sleep, and tomorrow as we wake up, let’s remember to tell God “Thank You” for creating light. Let’s remember to tell Him thank You for sending Jesus to be the Light of the World. Let’s remember to tell Him thank You for wanting us to be the light for this world too. Let’s ask Him to teach us how to live in the light of Jesus, and shine for Him.

(Lead your dorm in prayer, & go to sleep.) “Dear God, thank You for creating light. Thank You for making it good. Thank You for sending Jesus, Your Only Son, to be the Light of the World. Thank You that Jesus died to pay for our sins...that He rose from the dead on the third day..., and that He will come back to take His followers to Heaven someday. Dear God, thank You for wanting us to be light for this world too. Please help us to shine Your light into other people’s lives, so they can know You too. Please teach us this week how we can be the best and brightest lights for Jesus. Please give us a good night’s rest tonight so we can get everything You want us to get, and so we can give everything You want us to give. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2014

Bedtime Dorm Devotion – Night 2 (Monday/Thursday)

Last night we heard about how in the beginning God created the light. We heard that He saw that the light was good, and then He separated it from the darkness. Today we learned that Jesus is the Light of the World, and that He is the only hope for the world. Something that we can think about as we go to sleep tonight is how all of this has always been God's plan. From the very beginning, God has always planned to give life to the dead, and light to those living in darkness. The Bible teaches that the life that God gives is only found in Jesus.

Last night we heard the first few verses in the book of Genesis in the Old Testament. Tonight, listen to what the Bible says in the first few verses of the Gospel of John in the New Testament,

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. 4 Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. 5 That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:1-5 HCSB)

These Bible verses remind us of some very important truths. 1. Jesus is God. 2. Jesus created everything. 3. Only Jesus gives eternal life. 4. Eternal life shines light for other people to come to Jesus. 5. Darkness can never conquer the light of Jesus.

These truths have always been true. From the very beginning, God has planned for Jesus to be the only way for people to have their sins forgiven. From the very beginning, God has planned for eternal life to be attractive. People who have not given their life to Jesus are all looking for something to show them the way. They're stumbling around in the darkness of sin. God's plan is for them to see Jesus shining through the lives of His followers. The plan is really simple...when they see Jesus shining through His followers, then they will want to be His followers too. Let's ask God to help us shine the light of eternal life to everybody we meet so they can trust in Jesus too.

(Lead your dorm in prayer, & go to sleep.) "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your Only Son, to be the Light of the World. Thank You that Jesus died to pay for our sins...that He rose from the dead on the third day...and that He will come back to take His followers to Heaven someday. Dear God, thank You for wanting us to be light for this world too. Please help us to shine Your light into other people's lives, so they can know You too. Please teach us tomorrow how we can be the best and brightest lights for Jesus. Please give us a good night's rest tonight so we can get everything You want us to get, and so we can give everything You want us to give. We love You, God. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2014

Bedtime Dorm Devotion – Night 3 (Tuesday/Friday)

A number of years ago, for fun, people used to ask each other, “If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?” That’s kind of a silly question, but let me change it just a little and ask you a similar question as we head to bed. “If you were a light, what kind of light would you be?”

Think about it, there are lots of different types of lights. There are flashlights, lights in houses, walkway lights, street lights, car headlights, flashing emergency lights, laser lights, stage lights, computer screen lights, phone lights, parking lot lights, pool lights, security lights, Christmas lights, lights, lights & more lights. If you think about it, we’re kind of obsessed with lights.

With all these lights, what kind of light would you be? Would you be a super bright flashlight to shine way out in front, or would you be a good walkway light to shine right down at people’s feet? Would you be a good stage light to shine on the lives of others, or would you be a good pool light so others aren’t afraid of the deep end? Would you be a household light to help a family learn and live in safety, or would you be a good computer screen light to help someone write great Bible studies for kids? What kind of light would you be?

Did you know that the Bible is a light? In the very middle of the Bible there’s a verse that tells us that the Bible itself, God’s Word, is actually two kinds of lights. The writer of the book of Psalms in the Old Testament wrote this,

***105 Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.
(Psalms 119:105 HCSB)***

It seems that the writer meant that the Bible is a great lamp at our feet to show us where we are and where we should and should not step. It also seems that the writer meant that the Bible is also a bright light that shines down the road of our lives to show us the right direction to go in, and the wrong direction not to go in. Let’s tell God thank You for giving us the Bible that will always guide us in life. Let’s also tell Him thank You for making us His lights in this world.

(Lead your dorm in prayer, & go to sleep.) “Dear God, thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Thank You for telling men what You wanted them to write down for us. Thank You for making sure that faithful people throughout history kept it safe so we could know it today. Thank You that the Bible shows us how to live for You, and how to help others. Dear God, thank You for wanting us to be light for this world. Please help us to shine Your light into other people’s lives, so they can know You too. Please give us a good night’s rest tonight so we can get everything You want us to get, and so we can give everything You want us to give. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”