

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Curriculum

rerouting

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PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019 Spiritual Action Plan

Theme: “Rerouting”

Theme Passage: Psalm 119:33-40

“33 Teach me, LORD, the meaning of Your statutes, and I will always keep them. 34 Help me understand Your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart. 35 Help me stay on the path of Your commands, for I take pleasure in it. 36 Turn my heart to Your decrees and not to material gain. 37 Turn my eyes from looking at what is worthless; give me life in Your ways. 38 Confirm what You said to Your servant, for it produces reverence for You. 39 Turn away the disgrace I dread; indeed, Your judgments are good. 40 How I long for Your precepts! Give me life through Your righteousness.” (HCSB)

Theme Development: The “Rerouting” theme for 2019 grows from Psalm 119:33-40. The passage uses the theme of a path or route to convey the idea of obeying the Lord. It builds on this idea with different Hebrew terms that can be translated as “turn” (“Turn my heart,” “Turn my eyes,” “Turn away the disgrace”). God’s call to repentance demands a rerouting of one’s life. His call to continued faithful obedience often includes rerouting to His path. As His followers grow in their commitment to Him & His ministry, rerouting becomes a way of life. At camp, the worship messages, dorm devotionals, & the Bible studies from Jonah will help our preteens embrace the Lord, His path of righteousness, & their mission to reach others who need to reroute to Him.

Camp Pastors, please take the worship message themes and topics, & develop your messages as the Holy Spirit leads you to communicate most effectively with your particular age groups.

Church Bible Story Leaders, please make the Bible stories your own. The stories have been written so that they could be read verbatim, but that would probably be the weakest way to teach. Please feel free to use your own illustrations & the creative object lessons to help the preteens of your church connect with the Scripture & with the Lord. Please remember that your Bible story location will most likely be used by other church groups when it's not your scheduled Bible story time; thus, visual aids will need to be removed when you finish each story. Print the Bible stories for each of your Bible Story Leaders. Be sure to make copies of the quiet time pages before you come to camp...one copy per camper. No supplies will be available at Pineywoods.

Bedtime Dorm Devotional Leaders, please do NOT skip a bedtime dorm devotional. The devotionals are written specifically to help members of your cabin to meditate on the day’s lessons while preparing their hearts for the next day’s lessons. Ideally they will fall asleep treasuring God’s Word in their hearts. Remember to bring one copy of each night’s devotional for each cabin that your group occupies.

DAY 1 (Sunday/Wednesday)

Day 1 Worship Message (Camp Pastors): “Everyone Needs Rerouting” (Rerouting Theme Interpretation); The message will focus on the depravity of all humanity, & the Bible’s emphasis on repentance & faith.

Suggested Elements:

- Everyone is traveling the journey of life. This journey has two different destinations. Each destination has its own, opposite route.
- We are all sinners by nature.
- Sin breaks our friendship relationship with God.
- Sin routes our life toward destruction, death & Hell.
- God calls people to repentance: to reroute their life away from sin, & to the Savior.
- Turning to the Savior means putting our faith in Jesus only & following Jesus only.
- When we get serious about rerouting, the Lord leads us to help others reroute their lives.

Suggested Scriptures: Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10 & 13, Matthew 4:17 & 19

Day 1 Bedtime Dorm Devotional (Dorm Leaders): “Parables of the Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin” Luke 15:1-10

DAY 2 (Monday/Thursday)

Day 2 Bible Story (Church Bible Story Leaders): “God Reroutes Us To Life” Jonah 1 & 2. God’s plan was to reroute the Ninevites to life. Jonah disobeyed God & chose his own route. God rerouted Jonah through a terrible storm & a huge fish. Jonah praised God for rerouting him to life. We should obey God the first time, & always praise Him for rerouting us to life.

Day 2 Worship Message (Camp Pastors): “Jesus Is The Only Route To Life” Jesus welcomes us when we turn to Him. The message builds on the previous night’s message regarding repentance & trusting Christ. The message also springboards from the Bible story. The message should incorporate Jonah’s disobedience & God’s rescue of Jonah.

Suggested Elements:

- Before trusting Jesus, everyone is lost (on the wrong route). They need rerouting.
- Jesus is the only way (route) to eternal, abundant life.
- We must trust Jesus, who is resurrected from the dead (The Sign of Jonah).
- Sometimes even people who seem to be the most faithful & focused followers of Jesus can lose their focus on Him & get on a wrong route. (Jonah’s decision to disobey God) Highlight different temptations common to all people, especially preteens.
- When we return to Jesus, He welcomes us back as His followers.
- Jesus also helps us to stay on-route with Him by giving us a mission by which we help others trust in Him also. (This will help setup tomorrow’s Bible story & message.)

Suggested Scriptures: Romans 3:23, John 3:16, 10:10, 14:6, 11:25-26, Matthew 12:39-41, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 John 1:9, 2 Peter 3:1-18 (9), Hebrews 12:1-2

Day 2 Bedtime Dorm Devotional (Dorm Leaders): “The Parable of the Prodigal Son” Luke 15:11-32

DAY 3 (Tuesday/Friday)

Day 3 Bible Story (Church Bible Story Leaders): “God Wants Us To Help Others Reroute” Jonah 3 & 4. God gave Jonah a second chance to obey. Jonah obeyed & shared God’s message with the Ninevites. The Ninevites actually believed in God, repented of their sins, & prayed for God to be merciful to them. God was merciful to the Ninevites, & did not destroy them. The Ninevites are a good example to us of God’s love for us, & His desire that we are rerouted to faith in Him through repentance. The Prophet Jonah is an example to us of how we are not to be. We should love everyone, pray for our everyone, & hope that everyone who hears God’s message through us is rerouted to life through Jesus Christ.

Day 3 Worship Message (Camp Pastors): “Helping Others Reroute Is Our Mission” Jesus has called us to life on-mission for Him, sharing Him with others & growing in Him with others.

Suggested Elements:

- Followers (disciples) of Jesus are commanded to help others follow Jesus.
- We don’t save anyone. Only Jesus can save people. Our responsibility is to share Him with them.
- When we are on-mission for Jesus, we should expect opposition/persecution. We must persevere through the pain.
- We should help others join our church where we can grow & serve together.

Suggested Scriptures: Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Mark 4:1-8, Ephesians 2:8-10, Luke 9:23-26, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Matthew 5:10-12, Hebrews 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:23-25

Day 3 Bedtime Dorm Devotional (Dorm Leaders): “The Parable of the Sower (Seed & Soils)” Luke 8:4-8 & 11-15

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Day 2 Bible Story (Monday or Thursday)

God Reroutes Us To Life: Jonah 1 & 2

Notes to Bible Story Leaders:

1. This lesson has been written so that you could read it as a script, but please remember that it's much better if you don't simply read it to your kids. Know the activities & the lesson beforehand, & engage your kids personally. Use this lesson as a guide. Feel free to be creative & modify or add activities. Feel free to teach this lesson from your strengths in a way that best meets your group's needs.
2. When you see ---, pause for a moment to give kids an opportunity to respond, or answer a question.
3. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations have been taken from the *Holman Christian Standard Bible®*, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. In addition, bracketed words [] may have been inserted by the author in an attempt to help those who might be unfamiliar with some Bible words to better understand the flow of the text. Bracketed words are not intended to change the interpretation of the text in any form or fashion. The Bible text has been italicized for your convenience to more clearly distinguish it from the teaching script. Also, for your convenience, Bible passages referred to but not expressly taught, may have been included at the end of the lesson or in parentheses within the lesson.
4. Please remember to pray that God's Spirit would speak through you to the hearts of everyone who attends this Bible story. May the lost be rescued, & may the rescued be drawn to new depths of love & appreciation for Christ.

Introduction:

So has everybody been in the car with your parents or grandparents traveling someplace while they're using a GPS for directions? - - - Yes, either the built in GPS in their car, or a maps app on their phone. You know just twenty years ago, we didn't have GPS in our cars, and we didn't have smart phones. Just twenty years ago, everybody had to either memorize the route that they were driving, or they had to use a paper map, or sometimes a list of directions that they wrote down. It's so much easier today.

Have you ever been riding in the car when the GPS was on and suddenly the GPS says something like our theme: "rerouting"? - - - Sure. This is such a cool function. Our smart

phones and our cars are connected to satellites and cell towers that can detect when and where there are problems on the road. Some apps actually use real-time user input to tell you where the traffic police are watching, or where cars might be stopped on the side of the road, or even when there's roadkill in the road up ahead. These cool tools help us get to our destinations faster, easier and hopefully safer. Before we had them, we didn't always know what problems were ahead of us. It is way better having something that can tell us what's up ahead, and can reroute us in the best direction.

Did you know that God knows what's up ahead? - - - Sure. God knows where you've been. He knows where you are, and He knows where you're going. One of the coolest things is that God sees everything up ahead, and He wants the very best for you. He wants you to travel the best path. He wants you to have the best life. He wants you to end up with Him in Heaven forever. Sometimes He lets us experience difficult times so we can become all that He wants us to be, but ultimately, God wants to reroute us to life. Today and tomorrow, we'll learn from the lives of some people who lived more than 2000 years ago. We'll see how God rerouted them to life, and how He reroutes us to life.

Bible Story:

Look in your Bible and find the little book of Jonah. It's in the Old Testament. (Allow sufficient time for everyone to find Jonah in their Bible. Adults may need to help their preteens.) Before we begin reading, let me tell you just a little about the characters of this true story. First, there's the guy that the book is named for: Jonah. Jonah was an Israelite, a Hebrew man. He was a prophet of the Lord, which means that God would give Jonah messages, and then it was Jonah's job to speak those messages to the people. The Israelites were a nation of people who had a very special relationship with God. God called the Hebrews His special people, His children. During Jonah's day, there were many other nations that did not follow God; in fact, most of the other nations followed false gods. One of these nations was called Assyria. The capital of Assyria was the city of Nineveh. Can you say "Nineveh"? - - - The people of Ninevah were known as Ninevites. Say "Ninevites." - - - The Ninevites did not follow the Lord, they followed false gods and worshipped statues called idols. During Jonah's life, the Ninevites were very powerful, and they were very mean to Jonah's people, the Israelites. So, if the Ninevites were very mean, can you guess who in this true story God was going to reroute? - - - The Ninevites, right... but this story is also interesting because somebody else is going to get rerouted to life...somebody that you might not expect. Let's read the story beginning with chapter 1, verse 1:

Jonah 1:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amitai: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because their wickedness has confronted Me.”

Hold it right there. What did we say was Jonah's job? - - - He was a prophet, right. So the Lord spoke to Jonah and told him to go to Nineveh and preach against it. Okay, so Jonah was going to need to go on a journey. To travel from Israel, where Jonah lived, to Nineveh, Jonah would need to travel north and east across land. Maybe he would ride a horse or camel on the route. God wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell them that they were in great danger because they were doing very bad things. God's plan was to reroute the Ninevites to life. Okay, let's keep reading to see what happened. Verse 3:

Jonah 1:3 However, Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the LORD’s presence. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, from the LORD’s presence.

Wait a minute. What happened??? - - - Right, Jonah disobeyed God. He didn't go to Nineveh. Instead of going north and east by land, he went to the seaport of Joppa and paid for a ticket on a what? - - - On a ship, right. Instead of going to Nineveh, where the Lord told Jonah to go, Jonah got on a ship going westward to Tarshish. Jonah not only took the wrong route, he was trying to go to the wrong destination. This is really strange since Jonah is one of God's prophets. This is a good reminder for all of us that anyone can choose the wrong direction. Let's keep reading and see what happened.

Jonah 1:4 Then the LORD hurled a violent wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart. 5 The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his god. They threw the ship’s cargo into the sea to lighten the load. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep. 6 The captain approached him and said, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up! Call to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won’t perish.”

So Jonah got on a ship to run away from the Lord. He got on a ship that was going the opposite direction from Nineveh. He was disobeying God. What did the Lord do? - - - The Lord sent a violent storm on the sea. The storm was so bad that the sailors began throwing stuff overboard. They were afraid the ship was going to sink. Where was Jonah? - - - Jonah was asleep in the bottom of the ship. In verse 6, the captain couldn't believe that Jonah was asleep, and he told

Jonah to get up and pray to his god so they wouldn't die. Now remember, God sent the storm, but why did God send the storm? - - - Because Jonah was disobedient, right. Do you think that Jonah knew whose fault it was that there was a violent storm? - - - Yes. Jonah knew why God sent the storm, but the rest of the crew did not know yet. Let's read on with verse 7:

Jonah 1:7 "Come on!" the sailors said to each other. "Let's cast lots. Then we'll know who is to blame for this trouble we're in." So they cast lots, and the lot singled out Jonah.

The sailors knew that somebody was to blame, but they didn't know it was Jonah. They came up with the plan to "cast lots" which is like rolling dice or flipping a coin. Through casting lots, they figured out that the storm came because of Jonah. The Lord determined how the lots fell. (Proverbs 16:33) Let's read on a little further:

Jonah 1:8 Then they said to him, "Tell us who is to blame for this trouble we're in. What is your business and where are you from? What is your country and what people are you from?" 9 He answered them, "I'm a Hebrew. I worship Yahweh, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land." 10 Then the men were even more afraid and said to him, "What is this you've done?" The men knew he was fleeing from the LORD's presence, because he had told them. 11 So they said to him, "What should we do to you to calm this sea that's against us?" For the sea was getting worse and worse. 12 He answered them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea so it may quiet down for you, for I know that I'm to blame for this violent storm that is against you."

Did you notice that when Jonah told the sailors who his God was, they became "even more afraid"? - - - Even the men who worshipped false gods got scared when they heard that it was the one true God that had sent the storm. So the sailors asked Jonah what they should do. What did Jonah tell them to do? - - - That's right, Jonah told the men to pick him up and throw him into the sea. That's a pretty crazy thing for him to say. What do you think they thought would happen to Jonah if they threw him into the sea? - - - Right, they probably believed that he would die. Jonah probably thought that as well. Jonah was seriously on the wrong route...He disobeyed God by getting on a ship heading to Tarshish, when he was supposed to be going across land to Nineveh. Then when everybody else was panicking and trying to save the ship, Jonah was in the bottom sound asleep. After they woke him up and discovered that Jonah was the reason for the terrible storm, he told them to throw him into the sea. It sounds like Jonah would rather die in the sea than to go preach to the people of Nineveh. Look at verse 13:

Jonah 1:13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they couldn't because the sea was raging against them more and more. 14 So they called out to the LORD: "Please, Yahweh, don't let us perish because of this man's life, and don't charge us with innocent blood! For You, Yahweh, have done just as You pleased." 15 Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. 16 The men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

These sailors, who normally worshipped false gods, began worshiping the Lord on that day. They did everything they could to avoid throwing Jonah into the sea. They were afraid that the Lord would be even more angry with them if they killed him...But when it became obvious that throwing Jonah into the sea was the only solution, they prayed that God would not punish them for throwing him into the sea. What amazing thing happened when they threw Jonah into the sea? - - - The storm stopped. Then the men feared the Lord. God rerouted the lives of the sailors away from the terrible sin of idolatry (worshiping false gods) to the wonderful life of worshiping the Lord.

Chapter 2 tells us what happened to Jonah after the sailors threw him into the sea. He began to sink down to the bottom of the ocean. He was tangled up in seaweed, and was just about to die, when verse 17 happened. Let's read it.

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had appointed a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the fish three days and three nights.

The Lord sent a huge fish, or maybe a whale, to swallow Jonah...And he was in the huge fish for three days and nights. For most people, that would be the end of the story. If a great big fish swallowed you, you would die inside the fish and get digested, and that would be the end of your story...But this is just the beginning of Jonah's story, because God was rerouting Jonah's life in a huge way. Can you imagine being inside the belly of a huge fish for three days and nights? Can you imagine how cold and wet it was? Can you imagine how dark it was? Can you imagine what it probably smelled like? - - - Probably all kinds of rotten fish and ocean nastiness. Can you imagine how scary that must have been? If that was you inside of the fish's belly, what do you think you would do? What would you think about? What would you say? - - - Maybe you would be super scared, maybe you would cry, maybe you would try to fight your way out of the fish, and try to make the fish spit you out, or maybe you would just give up, especially after being in there for a whole day or two days. Well...Chapter 2 tells us exactly what Jonah did while he was inside the fish. Let's read it together starting with verse 1.

Jonah 2:1 Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish: 2 I called to the LORD in my distress, and He answered me. I cried out for help in the belly of Sheol; You heard my voice. 3 You threw me into the depths, into the heart of the seas, and the current overcame me. All Your breakers and Your billows swept over me. 4 But I said: I have been banished from Your sight, yet I will look once more toward Your holy temple. 5 The waters engulfed me up to the neck; the watery depths overcame me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. 6 I sank to the foundations of the mountains; the earth with its prison bars closed behind me forever! But You raised my life from the Pit, LORD my God! 7 As my life was fading away, I remembered Yahweh. My prayer came to You, to Your holy temple. 8 Those who cling to worthless idols forsake faithful love, 9 but as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation is from the LORD!

Okay, so now we know what Jonah did while he was inside the fish. What did he do? - - - He prayed, right. He did not pray to a false god. He prayed to the Lord. Verse 1 says that Jonah prayed to the Lord from inside the fish, and verse 2 says that God heard Jonah's voice. Did you know that the Lord hears us when we pray? - - - There's no place so far away that God cannot hear us. God heard Jonah's prayer even inside a huge fish in the sea. Jonah's prayer was pretty awesome, in fact it's more like a song that he sang to God while he was inside the fish. In verses 3 through the beginning of verse 6, Jonah sang about how he was dying in the sea: he was in "the depths" of the sea, "the current overcame" him, the waves "swept over" him, "the watery depths overcame" him, "seaweed was wrapped around" his head, and he "sank to the foundations of the mountains." Then in the middle of verse 6, Jonah praised God by saying, "But You raised my life from the Pit, Lord my God!" What was Jonah talking about? How did the Lord rescue Jonah from drowning? - - - The Lord sent the huge fish to swallow Jonah. The huge fish was actually the way that God rescued Jonah from drowning. Jonah was almost dead at the bottom of the ocean when the Lord sent the huge fish to swallow him and keep him alive (1:17). Now look back at verse 7. Let's re-read the end of what we just read.

Jonah 2:7 As my life was fading away, I remembered Yahweh. My prayer came to You, to Your holy temple. 8 Those who cling to worthless idols forsake faithful love, 9 but as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation is from the LORD!

At the beginning of verse 7, Jonah seems to be talking about how when the fish swallowed him, he was almost dead, but then once he was inside the fish, he started to be able to breathe again. Jonah says that when he started to breathe again, he immediately “remembered Yahweh.” Remember that Yahweh is the name that Jonah used for God when he was telling the sailors on the ship who his God was. Yahweh is God’s personal name. Yahweh actually means “the One who always was, the One who always is, the One who always will be...the self-existent One.” Have you ever heard anyone ask, “If God created everything, then who created God”? - - - Yes. Well, God’s personal name tells us that no one created God. God is infinite and eternal, He has no beginning and no end. We can’t even completely understand what that means, because He is God, and we are not...We can’t know everything about the Lord, but we can know the Lord, and the Lord certainly knows us and everything about us. Jonah said that he remembered Yahweh, and he prayed to Yahweh, and that his prayer came to Yahweh.

In verses 8 and 9, Jonah praised God. He said that Yahweh is the God of faithful love, and that salvation is from Yahweh. Jonah said that false gods are worthless. He told God that he would worship the Lord with thanksgiving, and that he would keep his promise to the Lord. Now think about all this for a minute. Chapter 1 said that God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against the people there, but Jonah disobeyed God and got on a ship going the opposite direction. Jonah tried to run away from God, and he tried to run away from what God told him to do. Jonah was on the wrong route.

Who sent the storm? - - - God sent the storm. Who sent the huge fish? - - - God sent the huge fish. Why did God send the storm? - - - To stop the ship. To stop Jonah from going to Tarshish. God also sent the storm to reroute the lives of the sailors. Do you remember that the sailors on the ship were praying to their false gods, until they threw Jonah into the sea? Then they started worshiping Yahweh. God used the storm to reroute the sailors away from the sin of idolatry, and to the life of worshiping the Lord. Why did God sent the huge fish? - - - God sent the fish to rescue Jonah from drowning at the bottom of the sea. The Lord rerouted Jonah from death at the bottom of the ocean. Think about this: Jonah was going to die in disobedience at the bottom of the ocean, and would have, if it wasn’t for the huge fish that God sent. The Lord rerouted Jonah to life...and not just life, but God also rerouted Jonah to obedience...see in verse 9? Jonah said, “I will fulfill what I have vowed” meaning that Jonah would be faithful to his vow of being a prophet, and if God got him out of the fish, that Jonah would go to Nineveh and preach the message that God gave to him.

Now let’s read the last verse in Chapter 2:

Jonah 2:10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

What do you think Jonah smelled like when the fish barfed him onto the beach? - - - Can you imagine? Jonah was fish puke, and probably Jonah was covered in fish puke...But at least Jonah was alive. At least Jonah was on dry land, and at least God gave Jonah another chance to do what was right. Probably none of us want to smell like fish vomit. Probably none of us want to be caught in a deadly storm at sea. Probably none of us want to be thrown into the ocean during a terrible storm. Probably none of us want to sink to the bottom of the sea with seaweed wrapped around our head. Probably none of those things will happen to any of us, but sooner or later all of us end up making the same bad choices that Jonah made. All of us disobey God. All of us are sinners, because all of us have sinned. All of us choose to go our own way sooner or later. We all end up being like the sailors too. All of us spend some of our lives worshiping false gods. Some people worship money. Some people worship power. Some people worship fame. Some people worship sports. Some people worship nature. Some people just worship themselves (always doing what feels good or makes themselves feel happy). God is the only one who deserves to be worshipped. The Lord is the only one who deserves to be the first in our lives. Anytime any of us put anything in the place where only the Lord belongs, then we become idol worshipers. The bad news is that we all do these things. The good news is that God loves us, and that He can reroute any of us to life.

It's pretty cool that hundreds of years after Jonah lived, Yahweh God came to Earth. He came in the form of a human baby. He grew up in a normal family with younger brothers and sisters. When He was thirty years old, He began teaching people about Himself, and about Heaven. He began healing people, and He began forgiving their sins. Do you know what His name is? - - - That's right, His name is Jesus. For three and a half years, Jesus worked many miracles, and many times He proved that He was God in human flesh. Jesus rerouted many people's lives away from death and sin. Jesus always rerouted people's lives to life. Even when Jesus was doing all those wonderful things on Earth, there were some people who refused to believe in Him. Those people were always mean to Jesus, and they were always telling Jesus to show them some kind of a sign. They wanted Jesus to obey them instead of them obeying Him. Jesus told the people that He would give them only one sign. Do you know what Jesus said that sign was? - - - In Matthew 12:39, Jesus said that the only sign He would give was the "sign of the prophet Jonah"...Just like Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days, Jesus would also be in the heart of the earth for three days. Jesus was talking about the fact that He was going to die on the cross to pay for our sins, and then He would be buried in the tomb for three days, and then

after three days, Jesus would come back to life and come out of the grave. Just like Jonah came out of the fish after three days, Jesus came back to life after three days. By resurrecting from the dead, Jesus proved that He is Yahweh God.

Jesus died so that our lives could be rerouted from sin to forgiveness, and from death to life. Jesus conquered death by rising from the grave so that our lives could be rerouted from Hell, the place of forever punishment, to Heaven, the place of forever love, peace and joy. In our story today, the sailors needed to be rerouted from idolatry, and Jonah needed to be rerouted from disobedience. When we are honest with ourselves and with God, then we know that we also need to be rerouted by Jesus. Jesus reroutes us when we ask Him to forgive our sins, and we trust in Him only.

When you trust in Jesus, He forgives your sin, and gives you eternal life. Some of you are ready to trust in Jesus right now. We can talk to God here, today, just like Jonah talked to Him so many years ago. You can tell God that you want Him to reroute your life right now. I can help you tell Him from your heart. I will say the words out loud, but you can just repeat them in your heart. What really matters to God is that you really mean what you say in your heart. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes, so we're not distracted.

If you want to give your life to God by trusting in Jesus right now, then repeat these words in your heart: "Dear God,...I am sorry for my sin...the times I've disobeyed You...I believe that Jesus paid the price for my sin...when He died on the cross for me...I believe that Jesus rose from the grave on the third day...I believe that Jesus is the only way for me to be rescued from my sin...please forgive me right now...I give my life to You...please make me Your child... please help me to be the example for other people to also trust in Jesus...I love You, Lord...in Jesus' name...Amen." If you prayed that prayer, and really meant it for the first time, then raise your hand right now. Don't be shy. We don't ever have to be ashamed of Jesus. In fact we need to always be proud of Him.

Everybody who raised their hand, please stay right here for a few minutes. I'd like to talk with you for just a moment. Everyone else can pick up a Quiet Time Page, and find a quiet place nearby to talk with God and answer the questions. Don't go too far away. I'll call everybody back together in just a few minutes. (Distribute the Quiet Time Pages. Take a few minutes to counsel with those who made decisions. Call the group back together in about five or ten minutes. After Quiet Time, dismiss to Free Time.)

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Quiet Time DAY 2 (Monday or Thursday)

God Reroutes Us To Life: Jonah 1 & 2

Sit quietly and think about the Bible story today.

Think about the Prophet Jonah. God gave Jonah a very important job, but Jonah disobeyed the Lord. Think about how God sent a terrible storm to stop Jonah, and God sent a huge fish to rescue Jonah. God loved Jonah, and directed him even when Jonah was disobedient to the Lord. Ask God to show you some ways that you have been disobedient to Him.

Understand that the Lord loves you so much that He came to Earth and died to pay for your sin. He rose from the grave on the third day so that you could have eternal life. Thank the Lord for loving you so much.

If you have given your life to Jesus, and He has given you eternal life, then take a moment to tell Him thank You for forgiving your sin, and for giving you eternal life.

If you have given your life to Jesus, and He has given you eternal life, then take a moment to tell Him thank You for forgiving your sin, and for giving you eternal life.

If you have not received eternal life, then ask God to help you give your life to Jesus. Ask Him to help you talk to your adult sponsor right now about trusting in Jesus. As soon as we dismiss, find your sponsor and talk to them about this. You might want to tell them that you are ready to give your life to Jesus, and you would like their help.

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Quiet Time DAY 2 (Monday or Thursday)

God Reroutes Us To Life: Jonah 1 & 2

Sit quietly and think about the Bible story today.

Think about the Prophet Jonah. God gave Jonah a very important job, but Jonah disobeyed the Lord. Think about how God sent a terrible storm to stop Jonah, and God sent a huge fish to rescue Jonah. God loved Jonah, and directed him even when Jonah was disobedient to the Lord. Ask God to show you some ways that you have been disobedient to Him.

Understand that the Lord loves you so much that He came to Earth and died to pay for your sin. He rose from the grave on the third day so that you could have eternal life. Thank the Lord for loving you so much.

If you have given your life to Jesus, and He has given you eternal life, then take a moment to tell Him thank You for forgiving your sin, and for giving you eternal life.

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Day 3 Bible Story (Tuesday or Friday)

God Wants Us To Help Others Reroute: Jonah 3 & 4

Notes to Bible Story Leaders:

1. This lesson has been written so that you could read it as a script, but please remember that it's much better if you don't simply read it to your kids. Know the activities & the lesson beforehand, & engage your kids personally. Use this lesson as a guide. Feel free to be creative & modify or add activities. Feel free to teach this lesson from your strengths in a way that best meets your group's needs.
2. When you see ---, pause for a moment to give kids an opportunity to respond, or answer a question.
3. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations have been taken from the *Holman Christian Standard Bible®*, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. In addition, bracketed words [] may have been inserted by the author in an attempt to help those who might be unfamiliar with some Bible words to better understand the flow of the text. Bracketed words are not intended to change the interpretation of the text in any form or fashion. The Bible text has been italicized for your convenience to more clearly distinguish it from the teaching script. Also, for your convenience, Bible passages referred to but not expressly taught, may have been included at the end of the lesson or in parentheses within the lesson.
4. Please remember to pray that God's Spirit would speak through you to the hearts of everyone who attends this Bible story. May the lost be rescued, & may the rescued be drawn to new depths of love & appreciation for Christ.

Introduction:

Remember in our Bible story yesterday that God spoke to the Prophet Jonah? - - - Yes. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, and preach against the Ninevites. Did Jonah obey God and go to Nineveh? - - - No. What did Jonah do? - - - Jonah got on a ship and headed in the wrong direction. What did God send to reroute Jonah's life? - - - A terrible storm, right. Who else did the Lord reroute because of the storm? - - - The sailors on the ship. Before they met Jonah, did the sailors worship Yahweh God? - - - No, they were worshiping false gods, idols...But when they saw Yahweh's power, they began worshiping Him instead.

So then Jonah was sinking down to the bottom of the ocean. What did God send to rescue Jonah? - - - A huge fish, or a whale. The fish swallowed Jonah. How many days was Jonah in the belly of the fish? - - - Three. Remember that while Jonah was inside the fish, he turned back to the Lord and began praising God. At the end of three days inside the fish, what did God command the fish to do? - - - Vomit Jonah onto dry ground, that's right. So then Jonah was on the beach, and God gave him another chance. Today we get to read the rest of the story.

Bible Story:

Look in your Bible, and find Jonah chapter 3. (Give everyone enough time to find Jonah 3. Adults might need to help some of the preteens find the right chapter.) Let's read starting with verse 1.

Jonah 3:1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the LORD’s command. Now Nineveh was an extremely large city, a three-day walk. 4 Jonah set out on the first day of his walk in the city and proclaimed, “In 40 days Nineveh will be demolished!” 5 The men of Nineveh believed in God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth—from the greatest of them to the least.

This time, Jonah obeyed the Lord. He went to Nineveh, and he preached a very simple message, “In 40 days Nineveh will be demolished!” It must have been a very strange thing for Jonah to do. The city of Nineveh was the capital of the extremely powerful Assyrian Empire. The city of Nineveh was huge. It took three days just to walk through all the streets, and all Jonah did was walk along saying “In 40 days Nineveh will be demolished!” According to verse 5, what did the people of Nineveh do when they heard Jonah’s message? - - - They believed in God, they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth. This was really amazing. The Assyrians were idol worshippers like the sailors on the ship in Chapter 1, but because of Jonah’s very simple and scary message, the Ninevites believed in God. Not only did they believe in God, but they also began a fast. A fast is when you stop eating. They also put on sackcloth. Does anyone know what sackcloth is? - - - Sackcloth is a super itchy, coarse material used to make bags. Nowadays we call this fabric burlap. Sometimes it’s used in decorations, but it’s really rough and itchy. Can you imagine wearing clothes made out of this itchy fabric, and not eating any food for days? How would it make you feel? - - - Maybe sad, or uncomfortable. The reason people would fast and wear sackcloth was to show God that they were very sad, and that they were truly sorry.

The end of verse 5 says that the Ninevites “from the greatest of them to the least” all participated in the fast and sackcloth. This means that everybody, no matter how rich or poor, no matter how young or old... everybody participated in the fast. The news of Jonah’s message traveled quickly through the city. In fact, the message had a powerful effect on the king of Nineveh. Let’s see what happened in verse 6.

Jonah 3:6 When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he issued a decree in Nineveh: By order of the king and his nobles: No man or beast, herd or flock, is to taste anything at all. They must not eat or drink water. 8 Furthermore, both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth, and everyone must call out earnestly to God. Each must turn from his evil ways and from the violence he is doing. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent; He may turn from His burning anger so that we will not perish.

Wow! When the king heard Jonah’s message, he did the same thing as all the other Ninevites. He even sat in ashes, which was another way that people showed they were very sorry about something. This was some serious rerouting. Not only did the king leave his throne, and take off his royal robe, but he also gave an order for everyone in Nineveh to also do some major rerouting. He commanded that every person, and even all their livestock (horses, donkeys, cows, and sheep) would stop eating and drinking...And that they would all be covered in sackcloth. He also commanded that everyone pray to Yahweh God, and that everyone would stop doing evil things and stop being violent. The king literally commanded the entire city of Nineveh to reroute their lives. Look at verse 9 again. (Re-read) The king ordered for this citywide reroute in hopes that the Lord would see how sorry they were, and would have mercy on them and not destroy their city. Does anyone remember what the word is that means to turn away from your sin? - - - Repent. The king, and all the Ninevites repented of all their sin, and asked the Lord to have mercy on them. Let’s look at verse 10 to see what happened.

Jonah 3:10 Then God saw their actions—that they had turned from their evil ways—so God relented from the disaster He had threatened to do to them. And He did not do it.

Wow! This is one of the greatest examples of rerouting in all of human history. The entire, evil city of Nineveh repented (turned away from evil) and called out to the Lord...And the Lord heard their prayers, and saw that they were truly sorry for their evil ways. When God saw all of this, He decided to have mercy on them, and not destroy them. The Lord used Jonah to reroute the entire city of Nineveh to life. After these amazing results, you might think that Jonah was

happy that the Ninevites believed in God and repented from their sins, but sadly Jonah had the opposite response. Let's read in chapter 4.

Jonah 4:1 But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. 2 He prayed to the LORD: “Please, LORD, isn’t this what I said while I was still in my own country? That’s why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that You are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to become angry, rich in faithful love, and One who relents from sending disaster.

Jonah was extremely angry that God did not destroy the Ninevites. Jonah knew that God loved all people, even sinners. Jonah knew that if he went to Nineveh and preached the message that God told him to preach, that the Ninevites might repent, and if the Ninevites repented, then God might not destroy them. Jonah knew this, and that's why he didn't want to go to Nineveh. Jonah was hoping that all the Ninevites would be destroyed...But the Lord had a different plan. God wanted to use Jonah to rescue the Ninevites from evil. God wanted to reroute the Ninevites from sin and destruction. God wanted the Ninevites to live.

God wants to use us to help people reroute to life. He wants us to share the truth with our friends, our family, and everyone we meet. He also wants us to have the right attitude about helping people. Jonah was actually a very bad example for us to follow. Jonah was actually an example of what we should not be like. Let's look at the next verses and see how we should not be. In verse 3, Jonah said:

Jonah 4:3 And now, LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” 4 The LORD asked, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 5 Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city. 6 Then the LORD God appointed a plant, and it grew up to provide shade over Jonah’s head to ease his discomfort. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant. 7 When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered. 8 As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down so much on Jonah’s head that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die. He said, “It’s better for me to die than to live.” 9 Then God asked Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “Yes,” he replied. “It is right. I’m angry enough to die!”

Jonah had a terrible attitude. God had chosen Jonah to help bring life to the city of Nineveh, but Jonah just wanted Nineveh to be destroyed. These verses remind us that God is in control, even

when people have really bad attitudes. Think about the story yesterday. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah got on a ship and went the opposite direction... But Jonah's disobedience did not stop God. God sent a terrible storm. The sailors threw Jonah into the sea, but even Jonah sinking to the bottom of the ocean didn't stop God. God sent a huge fish to swallow and rescue Jonah. Jonah being inside a fish for three days didn't stop God. God commanded the fish to vomit Jonah out onto the beach. God chose Jonah to help the Ninevites reroute, and Jonah's hateful attitude didn't stop God. When Jonah sat down outside of the city to watch what was going to happen, God appointed a plant to grow up in one day and provide shade for Jonah. The next day, God appointed a worm to eat the plant, a burning hot wind to blow on Jonah, and the sun to beat down on him. God was reminding Jonah that Jonah was not the one who was in control...God is in control. This made Jonah so angry that he didn't even want to live.

Do you think that God was happy with Jonah's attitude? - - - No. God was very disappointed with Jonah. God loves people and wants them to have eternal life and abundant life. God wants to use us to help others believe in Him, and He wants us to have the right attitude. We should be happy when other people believe in the Lord. It should bring us great joy when people are rerouted to life. In fact, we should have the same attitude as God. Look at the last two verses of the book.

Jonah 4:10 So the LORD said, “You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. 11 Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?”

The book of Jonah ends with some simple reminders for us...Don't have an attitude like Jonah's. Jonah cared more about himself than the lives of the people in Nineveh. Shame on Jonah. Also, God cares deeply for people who need to be rescued from sin...And God wants to use us to help people reroute from sin to life. If God cares deeply about the lives of others, we should also care deeply about their lives. When the Lord gives us opportunities to help others trust in Him, we should do everything we can to help them. In the New Testament, Jesus gave His friends a very simple command about this, and this command is for us today. Turn in your Bible to Matthew chapter 28. (Allow time for everyone to turn to Matthew 28.)

Matthew 28 is the last chapter in the Gospel of Matthew. Before this chapter, Matthew described the life of Jesus. Matthew wrote about Jesus' miraculous birth, how He grew up as the only person to never sin. Matthew wrote about the many times that Jesus healed sick people, how He

forgave people's sins, how He worked many miracles, how Jesus taught many things about God and Heaven, and also how Jesus loved people...especially people who were hated or forgotten. Matthew also wrote about how Jesus was arrested, how He was tortured and laughed at, how He was hated by very mean people. Matthew wrote about how Jesus allowed soldiers to nail Him to a cross, and how He allowed Himself to be killed, so that He could pay for the sins of all people. Matthew wrote of how three days after Jesus was buried in a tomb (a small cave with a huge stone rolled in front of it), He miraculously came back to life. In this last chapter of Matthew, we read about how Jesus was preparing His friends to continue the work of rerouting people to God. Jesus was preparing to leave Earth and return to Heaven, but before He left, He told His friends what He wanted them to do. Let's read the last few verses together. Start with verse 18.

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Jesus told His friends to go make disciples of all nations. This means helping people everywhere to turn away from their sin, and to truly trust in Jesus. A disciple of Jesus is someone whose life has been rerouted from going their own way, to now following Jesus. Jesus commanded His friends to help people follow Him. He commanded them to help people to be happy about living for Him, and to never be ashamed. He told them to baptize these people. Baptism is a wonderful way to tell the whole world that a person's life has been rerouted away from sin, and is now being lived for Jesus. He also told His friends to teach people to be obedient to God. It is our responsibility not only to help people trust in the Lord, but it is also our responsibility to help people obey the Lord. This is one of the reasons why it's so important for us to be faithful to our church, and to be faithful to study the Bible. When we study the Bible, and when we go to church, we learn more about the Lord and more about what He wants us to do. Then He will use us to help more people follow Him even better. At the end of verse 20, Jesus reminded His friends, that God is really the one who reroutes people...God is really the one who rescues people from their sin. Jesus told His friends that even though He was returning to Heaven, His Holy Spirit would be in them and with them forever. Jesus was reminding His friends, and us, that God works through us to help others give their lives to Him and live their lives for Him.

Now we have a choice. Will we have a bad attitude like Jonah, or will we love people like Jesus? Will we obey Jesus by telling other people about the Lord, or will we try to run away

from God? I hope that you will love others like Jesus, and that you will be obedient to God. Let's pray together. "Dear Lord, please help us to turn away from sin with our whole hearts like the Ninevites did. Please help us to obey You with our whole life. Please use us to help other people's lives to be rerouted to You too. Dear Lord, thank You for loving us. Thank You for being merciful and slow to anger, and thank You for providing eternal life through Jesus...in Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

Everyone take a Quiet Time Page, and find a quiet place nearby to talk with God and answer the questions. Don't go too far away. I'll call everybody back together in just a few minutes. (Distribute the Quiet Time Pages. Take a few minutes to counsel with those who may have made decisions this week. Call the group back together in about five or ten minutes. After Quiet Time, dismiss to Free Time.)

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Quiet Time DAY 3 (Tuesday or Friday)

God Wants Us To Help Others Reroute: Jonah 3 & 4

Sit quietly and think about the Bible story today. Think about how the king of Nineveh and all the people repented of their sins. They believed in God, they prayed to the Lord, they put on itchy clothes, they stopped eating and drinking, they sat in ashes, they stopped worshipping idols, and they stopped all their violence. They did all of that because they were sorry for their sin. Ask the Lord to help you be that sorry about your sin, every day. Ask the Lord to help you be like Jesus. Ask Him to help you love other people enough to tell them about Him. Ask God to use you to help other people reroute their lives, so they can believe in Him and live for Him too.

If you have given your life to Jesus, and He has given you eternal life, then take a moment to tell Him thank You for forgiving your sin, and for giving you eternal life.

If you have not received eternal life, then ask God to help you give your life to Jesus. Ask Him to help you talk to your adult sponsor right now about trusting in Jesus. As soon as we dismiss, find your sponsor and talk to them about this. You might want to tell them that you are ready to give your life to Jesus, and you would like their help. If you have not been baptized as a follower of Jesus, then talk with your sponsor about being baptized soon after you return home from camp.

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PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Bedtime Dorm Devotion - Night 1 (Sunday or Wednesday)

Today was a super busy day. We made the trip to Pineywoods. Once we got to Pineywoods, everybody had to figure out where to go and when to be there. With so many people going so many different directions, sometimes some people can get lost. Some people can just get confused. Some people can just get left out or forgotten. It's scary to get lost...And it hurts when you get left out or forgotten. We should always try to help others find their way, and we should always make sure others don't get left out or forgotten.

In Jesus' day, many people felt forgotten and left out. Other people thought that they were better than everyone else. These people were among the religious leaders of the day. They were called Pharisees and scribes. They thought that God loved them and valued them much more than the other people...But Jesus taught that they were wrong. Jesus taught that God loves everyone. Jesus taught that He came to find people who were lost because of their sin, or left out because they were poor, or forgotten because they were sick. Jesus came to rescue them, and make sure that they knew God loved them with all of His heart. In fact Jesus taught that there was great rejoicing in Heaven every time a sinner turned away from their sin and trusted in Him.

Luke 15 says, *1 All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to [Jesus]. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them!" 3 So He told them this parable: 4 "What man among you, who has 100 sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the 99 in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, 6 and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' 7 I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who don't need repentance.*

8 "Or what woman who has 10 silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she finds it, she calls her women friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' 10 I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

Let's pray. You pray silently in your heart, while I pray out loud. "Dear God, thank You for allowing us to come to camp. Thank You for a great first day. Thank You for giving Your life for us so that we could be rescued from sin. Thank You for finding us, and thank You for rerouting our lives. Please give us good rest tonight so we can give You our very best tomorrow. We love You, Jesus. Thank You for first loving us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

Print this page for each cabin your group will occupy.

PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Bedtime Dorm Devotion - Night 2 (Monday or Thursday)

Sometimes we make bad choices in life. These bad choices lead us in the wrong direction. Disobedience to God is always sin, and sin is always disobedience to God. Listen to this parable that Jesus taught, and think about how much the Lord loves us, and how He rejoices when we repent of our sin, and return to Him.

Luke 15:11 He also said: “A man had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate I have coming to me.’ So he distributed the assets to them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living. 14 After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing. 15 Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to eat his fill from the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one would give him any. 17 When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I’ll get up, go to my father, and say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. 19 I’m no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired hands.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. 21 The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father told his slaves, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let’s celebrate with a feast, 24 because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate. 25 “Now his older son was in the field; as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he summoned one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 ‘Your brother is here,’ he told him, ‘and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ 28 “Then he became angry and didn’t want to go in. So his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 But he replied to his father, ‘Look, I have been slaving many years for you, and I have never disobeyed your orders, yet you never gave me a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ 31 “‘Son,’ he said to him, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Let's pray together tonight. "Dear God, thank You for a great second day of camp. Thank You for the recreation, the Bible stories, the wonderful time worshiping You and thank You for all of our friends. Please help us to always follow You. Thank You for rerouting us back to Yourself. Please help us to rejoice when others are also rerouted to You. Please help us sleep well tonight so we can give You our very best tomorrow. We love You, Jesus. Thank You for first loving us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

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PowerPlus Preteen Camp 2019

Bedtime Dorm Devotion - Night 3 (Tuesday or Friday)

This week we've learned a lot about how God can reroute our lives. We've learned that God always reroutes us away from sin. He always reroutes us to life, and that life is only found in Jesus. We've also learned that God chooses to work through us to reroute other people to life in Jesus. Tomorrow we'll go home, and we'll see family and friends we haven't seen in a few days. When school starts back, we'll see people we haven't seen all summer long. For the rest of our lives, we'll have opportunities to be used by God to reroute other people's lives to Him. It's our responsibility to go and tell them who Jesus is, what He has done for them, and how they too can follow Him...But we need to remember that not everybody will be rerouted. Not everybody will repent of their sins and trust in Jesus. Only God can save. We are only called to share Him with them. Listen to what Jesus said about this in Luke 8.

Luke 8:4 As a large crowd was gathering, and people were flocking to Him from every town, He said in a parable: 5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. As he was sowing, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the sky ate it up. 6 Other seed fell on the rock; when it sprang up, it withered, since it lacked moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns; the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 Still other seed fell on good ground; when it sprang up, it produced a crop: 100 times [what was sown]." As He said this, He called out, "Anyone who has ears to hear should listen!"... 11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 The seed along the path are those who have heard and then the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 And the seed on the rock are those who, when they hear, welcome the word with joy. Having no root, these believe for a while and depart in a time of testing. 14 As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit. 15 But the seed in the good ground—these are the ones who, having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, bear fruit.

Let's pray that God will use us to help many people reroute to Him, and that their lives will produce much fruit for Him too. "Dear God, thank You so much for this week of camp. Thank You for loving us enough to come and die for us. Thank You for loving us so much that You would come back to life so that we might live forever. Thank You for using us to help others be rerouted to You. Please help us to always spread Your Word. Please help us make many, many disciples who will love You and live for You too. Please give us good rest tonight so we can give You our very best tomorrow. We love You. Thank You for first loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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