

# CREATION SPEAKS





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## About Your Campers

In addition to being familiar and comfortable with the content of the resource and the scripture, counselors need to understand the campers with whom they will be working. You don't need to be a certified teacher or neuroscientist to understand and respond to the needs of your campers.

In the past decade, significant discoveries about human learning and development have been made. While it is important to understand some general physical and social milestones your campers display, it is equally important to learn to assess and meet the needs of your individual campers. Children and adults within specific age ranges have multiple factors that determine the kind of input they require to learn and grow. As you get to know your campers, learn some of the facts about how brains work and how to maximize their potential.

**Safety First:** *In order for a human to learn, the environment he or she is in must feel safe.* Because the human brain developed as a tool to ensure safety, it functions best when it is safe. Safety is physical, emotional, and rational, and as a leader you need to consider how safe you are making your campers feel. Affirmation of behaviors that are safe will inspire confidence, and your campers will be more willing to take risks, a necessary element in learning.

**Learning Is Physical:** *Healthy, moving bodies make for active brains.* Even emotional and spiritual development depend upon physical health. Be sure to provide your campers with lots of physical activity, healthy foods, and plenty of rest. Camp can be a demanding physical endeavor, but science is showing that this is part of what makes it so transformative. Also, healthy habits formed at camp can make it home with your campers.

**Every Body Is Different:** *Each individual's needs are unique to them.* Life experience, gender, physical development, and chemistry shape not only desires but also needs. Remember that not all of your campers will benefit from all activities. It is important to get to know your campers' physical limitations and interpersonal abilities. Learn about each of your campers' special needs and be sure to communicate your findings with other leaders.

**Generations Change:** *Knowing how they see the world helps.* Your campers are part of the most private and practical generation on record. They see the importance of affirming others' beliefs, even when they disagree. They are technologically connected but still lonely. Learning is best done in collaboration, and personal exploration and visual images hold great power. They struggle feeling safe, but are intentional about caring for others.

For more specific information about different age groups, you can look at the **Developmental Characteristics** file at [www.OutOfTheBoxCurriculum.com](http://www.OutOfTheBoxCurriculum.com).

## Theological Overview

**Day 1:** Light and darkness are created on the first day of Creation, and we still know the power of light to capture our attention and guide us.

**Day 2:** God created water that nourishes our bodies. Jesus speaks of water that will change our relationships with God and others. Both are life-giving and life-changing.

**Day 3:** Like God shaped Creation, God shapes us and molds us in amazing ways. All of God's Creation is constantly shaped and reshaped, and that process is part of God's design.

**Day 4:** Our world and our lives are constantly changing. Just like the seasons change, our circumstances and feelings change. As we grow and experience the world around us, God is ever present.

**Day 5:** God made a covenant with people and animals. It's easy to forget that we are a part of Creation, not the sole benefactors. We are in community with the animals God created. We rely on one another to maintain balance in Creation.

**Day 6:** God created everything with a unique purpose in mind. Created in God's image, a large part of our purpose is to care for one another and the rest of Creation.

**Day 7:** God rejoices in what God created. We are invited to celebrate as we are continually inspired by this world and the role we play.

# Daily Overview for *Creation Speaks*

Daily Guide	Creation Teaching	Scripture	Campers Will
Day 1	Invited by Light Genesis 1:1-5	John 8:12 Light of the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience light as a symbol of invitation.</li> <li>• Be introduced to God's Creation and the way it manifests in their lives.</li> <li>• Discover Jesus as God's light in the world.</li> </ul>
Day 2	Refreshed by Water Genesis 1:6-8	John 4:4-15 Woman at the Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that water is life-giving and spiritual water is life-changing.</li> <li>• Learn about Jesus as one who crossed boundaries and welcomed all people.</li> <li>• Celebrate the diversity of people and backgrounds present in camp.</li> </ul>
Day 3	Shaped Like Earth Genesis 1:9-13	Jeremiah 18:1-10 Potter's House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that we come from the earth.</li> <li>• Understand that God continues to shape and reshape us.</li> <li>• Embrace that the stuff we are made of is valuable.</li> </ul>
Day 4	Moving through Seasons Genesis 1:14-19	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 A Time for All Things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge that life has ups and downs.</li> <li>• Be assured that God is with them in every season.</li> <li>• Explore ways to connect with God in each season.</li> </ul>
Day 5	Kinship with Animals Genesis 1:20-25	Genesis 8:1-12 Surviving the Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realize every creature has an important role to play in God's Creation.</li> <li>• Experience the interdependence of Creation.</li> <li>• Discover how the diverse parts of Creation and community need each other.</li> </ul>
Day 6	Purpose for Humanity Genesis 1:26-31	Genesis 2:4-7 God Breathes Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn that they are created in the image of God.</li> <li>• Learn that they are created for a purpose as caretakers of Creation.</li> <li>• Know they are empowered by God's Spirit.</li> <li>• Know that caring is a shared responsibility with God and one another.</li> </ul>
Day 7	Inspired by Creation Genesis 2:1-3	Psalms 104:1-13, 24, 31 Celebrating Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joyfully proclaim the awe and wonder of Creation.</li> <li>• Go home with grateful hearts for our Creator.</li> </ul>

# Images for Each Day

These images represent the themes of each day of *Creation Speaks*. They are simple to reproduce, and they can be found in the Art folder.



**Day 1**  
**Invited by Light**

John 8:12  
Genesis 1:1-5



**Day 4**  
**Moving through Seasons**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11  
Genesis 1:14-19



**Day 2**  
**Refreshed by Water**

John 4:4-15  
Genesis 1:6-8



**Day 5**  
**Kinship with Animals**

Genesis 8:1-12  
Genesis 1:20-25



**Day 6**  
**Purpose for Humanity**

Genesis 2:4-7  
Genesis 1:26-31



**Day 3**  
**Shaped like Earth**

Jeremiah 18:1-10  
Genesis 1:9-13



**Day 7**  
**Inspired by Creation**

Psalms 104:1-13, 24, 31  
Genesis 2:1-3

# Biblical and Theological Background

## Overview

The Bible begins with God's speaking Creation into being. God has been speaking since the very beginning of time. This account of Creation is recorded in the book of Genesis, and *Creation Speaks* will dive into all it has to teach us. God continues to speak through Creation, and Creation has things to say. We can listen to what God has to say in two ways: through what's recorded in the Bible and through what God has spoken and continues to speak through Creation. Another way to describe this is by saying that we have two "books" we can read from God: the book of Scripture in the Bible, and also the book of Creation that reflects the nature of its Creator back to us. *Creation Speaks* will help us read the stories of the Bible, listen to Creation, and hear how each informs the other. *Creation Speaks* will take a look at each day of Creation in Genesis 1, celebrate that part of Creation, and connect it to another story from scripture that echoes the lessons each creative element might teach us.

Genesis literally means "beginnings," and the first book in the Bible is exactly that—a book of beginnings. It attempts to answer the big questions of life: How did we humans come to be? How did this planet and the universe begin? Genesis 1 answers those questions with a liturgical poem that, historically, would have been read aloud in worship together. While this Creation story has similarities to other ancient Creation myths, it is unique to the Hebrew people. In particular, it describes the nature of God as much as it describes how Creation came to be. The poetry always reminds the reader of the centrality of God to the story. In fact, notice through this week how Genesis is often written from the perspective of God. For example, God notices over and over "how good it was," highlighting how Creation brings enjoyment to God.

As Genesis 1 is poetry, it has multiple layers and meanings. As we read this week, see what different layers and meanings you can tease out. Notice the repetitions. The repetitive structure reminds us of important things, such as the goodness of Creation. When read aloud, the structure helps the reader or listener spend time contemplating this goodness. Another repetition is the way in which God acts. God speaks and then Creation acts, but God does so in a specific way: by separating and gathering. This is God "setting apart"—or in other words, sanctifying or making holy—each part of Creation. Also notice the carefully worded poetic language. Poetry has layers of meaning, but it is also beautiful in its own rhyme and meter.

God's order of Creation is important. Just like any poem, the order is not arbitrary. The order reflects back to the nature of God. Also notice that each day of Creation is a little more detailed than the previous one, culminating with humans on Day 6 of Creation, highlighting humanity's special role in the created order. The process of Creation ends with Sabbath, God's special day of rest.

Outside of the book of Scripture, Creation continues to speak to us. Creation speaks by reflecting God's values and God's characteristics. The Creation story tells us about what God values. Relationships, interdependence, and growth are all parts of Creation we can observe and learn from. For example, humans aren't separate from the created order. Humans are interdependent with Creation, inextricably connected to Creation. Another way to say this is that human life is ecological. Ecology is the science of relationships between organisms and their physical environment. The Creation story tells us about the relationships between humans, God, and the rest of the created order. Creation also shows how God values diversity. God celebrates the different seeds and animals, and God loves and cares for the diversity of humans too.

On this day, help the campers listen and watch for ways God may be using Creation to speak to them. Sometimes that may mean that God will continue to shape and mold them like a potter. Maybe they just need to remember that they are connected to the earth, or maybe God wants the campers, like Earth, to be fully themselves. Help them hear the voice of Creation speaking to them today.



## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Genesis 1:14–19**

In Day 4 of Creation, God creates the sun, moon, and stars, and through those, God creates time. God continues the pattern of creating. God speaks, and it is so. God creates different kinds of “lights in the dome of the sky” and explains that these lights are “for signs and for seasons and for days and years”—in other words, for marking time.

In the next part of Day 4, God carefully constructs the “two great lights” of the sun and the moon, and then God sets them in the sky. It’s easy to imagine the gentleness and intentionality of God lovingly crafting these and placing them in their proper spaces. The moon and the sun underscore the separating of light and darkness by God. Like all the days before it, God’s Creation of lights in the sky and time is good.

God says that the lights in the sky are “for signs and for seasons and for days and years,” showing us that time is measured in different ways. Time is linear, and time is cyclical. In Greek, there are two words for time. The days and years are a part

of *chronos* time, or chronological time that we measure linearly, always moving forward. The second type of time in Greek is *kairos*, or what Ecclesiastes talks about when it describes a time for everything. Charles Dickens’ famous first line of *A Tale of Two Cities*, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” refers to *kairos* time. *Kairos* is also what Jesus refers to when he says that it is time for the Kingdom of Heaven.

The lights in the sky might lift our eyes to lofty thoughts and call us to consider God’s place in our time. These celestial markers also are for the marking of seasons, or cyclical time. The seasons are repeating, and as Ecclesiastes reminds us, they are part of God’s creative process. In fact, in Genesis 8:22, God promises that the seasons will always endure. Ecclesiastes is Hebrew wisdom literature and, like Genesis 1, a beautiful poem. Just like Genesis promises that the sun and moon and stars will create the seasons, Ecclesiastes reminds us that “for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” The reader can hear echoes of the Creation story in this poem. There is being born and planting and building up—just like God does in Creation. Ecclesiastes also points out that the natural order of things from Creation has opposites. We will be born and we will die. We will weep and we will laugh. We will mourn and we will dance. These are all part of God’s created order. God is still with each of us during all of these times. It is God who “has made everything suitable for its time.” Whatever times we may be facing, we are reminded by the seasons that God is present.

God created time with the understanding that it will have its ups and downs, but God will be there in all times. God existed before God created markers for time, and God will continue to exist forever. There is no time without God. God is bigger than time. There is no time in our lives where God will not be. Ecclesiastes reminds us of this. There will be times where God will shape us and mold us, like God did with the earth in Day 3. From the dust God created us, and to the dust we will return, and this is all part of God’s created order. No matter what, God is God; or as Ecclesiastes says, we cannot know what God has done from the beginning to the end, but God knows because God was there. No season nor time can separate us from God’s love, not death



or mourning or war or peace or love or hate. God exists with all of it. As far as the East is from the West, God is there, even if it feels as if God is keeping silent instead of speaking.

Creation speaks in all times, even when it seems that God is silent. Creation is speaking to us in winter and in summer, reminding us of God's Creation. We can learn from the trees that lose leaves in the winter and appear to be frozen in time but are really still growing internally. Our lives may look like those trees in winter, but God is still there. Creation also reminds us that seasons are not forever. Winter may seem to last forever, but spring and summer are just on the horizon, and the anticipation of spring's flowers and summer's homegrown tomatoes makes each season seem all the sweeter.

Even this week of camp is cyclical for the campers. They experience anticipation on the first day, excitement of new friendships and new experiences throughout the week, then finality on the last day. This could even be seen each day with the structure of rhythm of communal life at camp. Help the campers see that God is in the highs and in the lows, and help them to see how God's Creation shows them that God is always with us.



## Day 5: Kinship with Animals

**Genesis 8:1–12; Genesis 1:20–25**

On Day 5 of Creation, God creates the animals. God repeats the familiar process of Creation we have seen on previous days and, like with the moon and the sun from Day 4, each of the animals are placed carefully in their particular sphere that God created and separated just for

them. God calls the animals good and loves that they are so different from one another that they each need their own area. Then God does something special: God blesses the animals, as a special way of remembering them and showing their importance.

Eight chapters later we get another story with animals. The story of Noah is familiar for most of us. We know about the flood and the rainbow. But what does the story tell us about God? The first thing the story tells us about God is that God remembers. What does God remember? Who does God remember? God remembers Noah. God also remembers both the wild animals and the domestic animals—God remembers them all. Why does God remember Noah and the animals? God remembers them because God cares about humanity and all of Creation. Upon remembering, God takes action, and the flood subsides.

Noah follows the same patterns as God. First, Noah remembers. Noah remembers God's covenant that the flood won't last forever. Then, just as God begins to work through the wind and the end of the rain, Noah takes action, looking to the animals for help. First, Noah sends out a raven, then a dove; and when the dove returns, Noah carefully puts his hand out and brings it back into the ark. It's easy to picture Noah's gentleness with the dove here. Perhaps Noah was shielding it from the lions and the other predators on the ark, or perhaps Noah just cared for this delicate creature that he lived with for all these months. Noah cares for the dove just as God cares for us and all of Creation. Noah sends the dove out a second time, and this time the dove returns with an olive leaf, giving us of a sign of God's loving care for God's creatures. Noah remembers and Noah acts because Noah cares.

Likewise, just as God worked with Noah in saving Creation, Noah works with the animals. Noah couldn't fly to find dry land by himself. He needed the gifts of the birds, just as they needed shelter during the flood. The raven and the dove helped Noah learn when the Earth was safe again, giving us a beautiful picture of God's creatures working together on Earth.

# Staff Devotions

## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

### Ecclesiastes 3:1–11

What is your favorite season of the year? Take a minute to really relish a memory that comes with it. Think of the weather, the time of year, the activities, the food, the smells, the sounds—just try and imagine it fully.

We generally think of season as one of the four seasons: spring, summer, fall, winter. This passage is talking about seasons or time in a different way. We know the seasons are temporary. They last a few months and then change into the next. That is true of our circumstances as well. Pain fades into joy, loneliness into community, mourning into dancing, and weeping into laughing. This beautiful poem in scripture reminds us that no circumstance or feeling is permanent and that each has its purpose.

Camp is a special season in your life and the lives of the campers. Here, for this short time, they will have experiences they cannot have in any other place. You will have experiences and make connections with God, Creation, and one another that you may not make any other place. Take this time and immerse yourself in it. Do not be distracted by what happened before you arrived or by worries about what may happen when you leave. While with your campers, make every effort to fully engage in this season.

#### Questions for Reflection:

- What distraction or worry is keeping you from fully engaging in this camp experience?
- What future season of your life are you excited about or fearful of?
- How has this season of your life defined you, and how might you change your role in community and in relationship with God?

#### Prayer:

God, thank you for this special season of camp. Help me to remain present, mindful that there are connections and experiences here that are life-changing. Amen.



# Day 4: Moving through Seasons

## Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Genesis 1:14–19

**Scripture Focus:** Ecclesiastes 3:11  
He has made everything suitable for its time.

**Theological Summary:** God created a sense of time. God makes one part of the day light, the other darker. God sets a sense of rhythm into the Creation. In Ecclesiastes, the writer reminds us that everything in life has a time to be and a time not to be. The writer also reminds us that God has given people a sense of the past and of the future, and reflection and anticipation are both part of our God-given human experience.

**Today, campers will...**

- Acknowledge that life has ups and downs.
- Be assured that God is with them in every season.
- Explore ways to connect with God in each season.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
__ Seasoning	LEARN	Campers will explore scripture
__ What and When	PRAY LEARN	See the changes in seasons and you
__ Outside In	CREATE LEARN	Campers will explore emotions
__ Copycat	PLAY	Active game about seasons
__ Be-Leaf It	CREATE	Paint a leaf shape to visualize change
__ Sharing Season	PRAY SERVE	Create a reminder of God’s love
__ All the Things	PLAY	Can you remember what they said?
__ Change Tag	PLAY	Active game to help reinforce change

**Leader Notes:** Young campers are just really starting to learn about time in a bigger sense. They may remember dreams or stories as reality, and they may not have a great grasp of how long something will last. That’s okay. Let imaginations roam free!

**Prayer:** Dear God, we love you. Thank you for helping us to remember that things come and go, that we will have times to be happy and times to be sad, that we will grow and change, just like the seasons come and go. Help us to remember that your love never changes, and you will love us forever. Amen.

# Daily Activities

## Seasoning

## LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible, large paper, markers

**How:** Read Genesis 1:14–19. Invite campers to explain what the lights might be (sun, moon) and why God decided to have two parts to the day. Invite them to think about what happens at night and what happens during the day, and write these on paper. What animals come out at night, and which come out in the daytime? Ask campers to tell you the four parts of the year and what happens in each of those seasons. Explain that the next passage is talking about how there are times for everything, and sometimes these times are called seasons too. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11. Remind campers that the writer tells us about how things always will change. Invite campers to think of ways they have changed from last summer. Have they grown? Have they learned new things at school? Have they learned a new sport or activity? Write their responses. Invite campers to think about ways they change every day. Do they ever wake up grumpy, happy, sad, or blah, and then change as the day goes on? That's another way that we change. There's only one thing that never changes. Invite campers to guess what it might be (God, or God's love). Remind campers that change might be a little scary sometimes, but that God is always with us and God never changes in God's love for us. Close with a prayer that God helps us to see changes, but not to be afraid because we know God is always with us.

**Try This:** Campers could also look around the camp to see changes, or if this is their first year, ask older campers what has changed since last year, or even since the first day of camp.

## What and When

## PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Paper, markers

**How:** Give each camper a blank piece of paper and ask them to fold it into four sections. In each section, write a season of the year. Have campers write or draw things that happen in each season. Talk with the campers about how some things

generally happen in certain times (leaves turn in autumn; it snows in winter, it's hot in summer, trees grow leaves in spring). Then have them flip over the paper. Write Baby, Preschooler, Now, and Older in the squares. Have campers write/draw something in each block that they could do/will do. For example, Baby crawls; Preschooler plays with toys; Now goes to school, reads; Older rides a bike, drives a car, etc. Talk about how some changes have to happen in order. You wouldn't expect them to go back to being a baby, but you wouldn't expect a baby to know how to drive a car! Remind campers that even when we change, God is still with us.

**Try This:** Campers could also list ways that they want to change as they get older. What activities do they want to learn? Help campers to see if there are any small changes they could do to make this happen.

## Outside In

## CREATE LEARN

**Supplies:** Four paper plates, markers

**How:** On each plate, draw a face that corresponds to these emotions: Happy, Sad, Angry, Scared. As a group, discuss each of the each of the emotions. Beginning with Happy, talk about what makes us happy. Invite campers to write one or two things on the back of the plate. Now, on the edges around the plate, write things that they can do to share happiness, or to express happiness. Next, move onto Sad. What makes us sad? Write one or two things on the back. On the front, campers should write things that they can do when they are sad to help them feel better. Brainstorm as a group if needed. Repeat for the other emotions. Remind campers that while we don't want to stop being happy, just like the other emotions there are ways to share it; and when we feel bad, there are things we can try to change to make ourselves feel better.

**Try This:** You might let campers hold up the plates like a mask and role-play ways of sharing each emotion.

## Copycat

PLAY

**Supplies:** Boundary markers or designated play area, ball

**How:** Have campers form groups of three or four. Each group should choose a season to pretend to be in and an action to demonstrate that season. For example, campers choosing winter might pretend to ski or shiver. Campers choosing spring might pretend to be flowers growing. The action should be something that all can do. Each group should show their action to the larger group. Then have the campers wander through the area individually, just walk around. Toss the ball to one camper. That camper calls out a season and throws the ball back to the leader, and then everyone must do that season's movement. Throw the ball to a different child and repeat the process. As the game progresses, change seasons more quickly. After a few sessions, have the groups choose different motions and see who remembers the new ones!

**Try This:** To make the game more challenging, use more than one ball, so that the changes happen even faster.

## Be-Leaf It

CREATE

**Supplies:** Green leaves and paper or printout of simple leaf, glue, markers, paint (green, yellow/orange/red, brown), paintbrushes, water for cleaning brushes

**How:** Have campers choose a leaf that has fallen on the ground or use preprinted leaf outlines. If using a real leaf, they should outline the leaf onto the paper. Outline the outside edges and any inside lines with a thin line of glue. This will form a helpful boundary for paint. Talk about how leaves change during the year. They start as little buds, then grow and change. Eventually, many leaves will change color as they get ready to fall so the tree can grow new leaves. For this activity, campers will paint their leaves to show that even leaves change! Invite the campers to paint one part of the leaf green, the next part green with a little color (for example, part green, part yellow), the next part all that color (yellow), the next part that color with a little brown, and the final part

all brown. The leaf is always important, even when it changes. Just like the campers when they change, they are still important!

**Try This:** Instead of one leaf, campers could trace/draw a series of leaves on the paper and paint each one as a "stage."

## Sharing Season

PRAY SERVE

**Supplies:** Half-sheets of construction paper, scissors, markers

**How:** Have campers take a piece of paper, fold it in half, and draw a simple "half-heart" shape away from the fold so as they cut the half out, they are forming a complete heart shape. On one side of the heart they should write "God's love never changes" or something similar. On the other side, they should draw or write an encouraging picture or phrase ("God is always with you," "God loves you," "We love you," a picture of a person smiling, etc.). Remind campers that sometimes people are worried or scared when things are changing. Invite them to give their cards away to people at camp to help them remember that God helps us when things change. Say a prayer of blessing for the cards, then let campers take them to share with others.

**Try This:** Campers could also make these cards to give to one another to take home.

## All the Things

PLAY

**Supplies:** Ball

**How:** Have campers sit in a circle. Begin by holding a ball and saying, "In summer I like to..." and add an activity (for example, "In summer I like to fish."). Then hand the ball to the next camper. That camper says, "In summer I like to..." and adds an activity, and also says the activity the first person said ("In summer I like to swim, and fish."). Each person adds to the list. See how far around the circle they can go and remember the list. Try changing seasons and repeat the game.

**Try This:** After everyone has had a turn, try throwing the ball to random people for the next round, while still trying to remember the list.

## Change Tag

## PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Choose four campers and assign each one a season. They will each try to tag as many campers as they can. When a camper is tagged, they become part of the “team”—fall, winter, spring, or summer. Campers can be retagged to a different team. At the end of the time, see which season has the most members.

**Try This:** The game could also be changed to be night and day. Those tagged as night can make snoring sounds, while those tagged as day can sing “Rise and Shine.” To make the game easier or faster, campers could be tagged only once.



## Story Resources

***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, by Judith Viorst (New York: Antheneum, 1972).** Alexander has a bad day from start to finish, but his mom reminds him that bad days happen everywhere. A great humorous way to deal with emotions campers have all felt.

***Alexander Who’s Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Not Going to Move*, by Judith Viorst (New York: Antheneum, 1995).** Alexander returns when faced with the changes a move might bring. His mom and dad provide reassurance and guidelines for how Alexander might navigate this change.

***Happy*, by Mies Van Hout (Smyrna, Tenn.: Lemniscaat USA, 2017).** A picture book about emotions. This might be a good resource to help kids talk about and identify emotions.

***Charlotte’s Web* (Hanna-Barbera, 1973 [animated]; or Paramount, 2006, directed by Gary Winick).** A good story about changes and adaptation. Charlotte is a spider who helps Wilbur the pig to become more than just dinner. Also seen are the changes in the whole barnyard. This movie does have some sad parts, but it is also good to show the changes that happen over time.



## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Genesis 1:14–19

**Scripture Focus:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–4

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,”

**Theological Summary:** We have seasons in nature, and we have seasons in our lives. There is a balance to them, and nothing in any of them is bad. If there is a time to laugh, then there is also a time to cry, and both are blessed by God.

**Today, campers will...**

- Acknowledge that life has ups and downs.
- Be assured that God is with them in every season.
- Explore ways to connect with God in each season.

#### DAILY ACTIVITIES

TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.</b>		
__ Making Chains	CREATE	Make a mobius strip chain
__ Stretch Prayer	PLAY PRAY	Praying with movement
__ It's All Balance	PLAY LEARN	Balance while building
__ This Is Me	CREATE LEARN	Exploring our opposites
__ Seasons Tag	PLAY	Tag game with competition
__ Doodle Prayer	PRAY CREATE	Praying with words and pictures
__ Racing Seasons	PLAY	Running at various speeds
__ Wind Poetry	CREATE SERVE	Creating poetry to bless others

**Leader Notes:** The scriptures for today may bring up more difficult conversations regarding the balance of life’s seasons, particularly around grief or sadness. Be sure that all conversation is direct, honest, and sensitive.

**Prayer:** Changing God, bless us as we explore the seasons of nature and the seasons of our lives. Amen.

# Daily Activities

## Making Chains

CREATE

**Supplies:** Strips of two-sided paper (or two strips of differently colored paper attached back-to-back), stapler or tape

**How:** Invite campers to sit in a circle. Demonstrate how to make a mobius strip, twisting the paper strip once and attaching at the ends, which makes a ring of paper where one can always see both colors. Explain that in every season, whether it's in nature or in our lives, there is always more than one side to things. Ask them to brainstorm examples, such as "Winter brings Christmas but it also means we play outside less." Show campers how the mobius strips always show both sides. Invite the campers to make a chain out of their mobius strips, and hang them around camp. This can be a good reminder to see what they might be missing in any moment.

**Try This:** Invite the campers to write down, on either side of the paper strip, elements of a season of their choice that are different, but both evident. For instance, if the season is spring, they could write "muddy" on one side, and "blooms" on the other. If the season is one of change, they could write something they miss on one side and something they look forward to on the other.

## Stretch Prayer

PLAY PRAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Have campers sit in a circle. Invite them to pray with you, standing and stretching to their tallest when the prayer calls for it, and sitting again when the prayer calls for that. Help them along with hand signals, if needed. Say this prayer: "God of the heights (stand), you meet us when we're feeling low (sit). You love us when we're on top of the world (stand), and when we're down in the dumps (sit). You call us when we're at our peak (stand), and when we're tripping over our feet (sit). Let us feel you both when our moods are soaring (stand), and when we feel down (sit). Let us rise (stand) and drop (sit) and rise again (stand), for you, O God. Amen!"

**Try This:** When most of the prayer is through, invite campers to thank God for ups and downs, using words that indicate up or down, so that they are inviting their fellow campers to stand and sit some more, before the prayer comes to a close.

## It's All Balance

PLAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Empty drink cans or plastic cups, plates (plastic or paper) or flat pieces of cardboard

**How:** Gather the campers around a flat, level surface. Invite campers to begin by setting one can/cup on the surface and topping it with a plate. Then have them put two cups on top of that plate, then another plate, then three cups and a plate, then four... See how far they can get before their tower falls. Let them try again, if they like, and encourage them to try other strategies for gaining the balance they need. Afterward, spend a few minutes talking about the important things in their life, including things that are fun, and talk about how they all fit together in a day, week, or year.

**Try This:** You could make it a competition, dividing the group in two and seeing who can build the tallest tower, the fastest, while still staying within the parameters listed above.

## This Is Me

CREATE LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible, copies of the "This Is Me" Handout, many colors of markers, scissors

**How:** Read the Ecclesiastes passage for the day. Point out that every time has two parts, which are opposites but related. Explain that in this conversation, no answers are wrong. Ask campers what they have inside of them that sometimes seem to be at odds with one another. For example, "I love my family, but I don't always do what my parents ask," or "I love to sing but don't feel like I'm a good singer." They can also simply name things they like and don't like about themselves. Be sensitive to those who have a hard time naming their goodness or who dwell in the negative. Give campers the "This Is Me" handout. Invite them to write down or draw the competing elements of themselves next to each other in and around the outline of the person on their page, using as many colors or styles as they like. They



can write the positive inside the outline and the thing they feel is at odds or lacking on the outside. Encourage them to fill the entire outline. Once they are done, let them cut out their person, and lay the completed portraits in the middle so that everyone can see the beauty of all that is inside them. Invite the campers to look at the outside of the handout they cut away. Remind them that God sees our beauty, even when we obsess on our faults. Ask campers if there are parts of them on the outside portion that might become strengths at a different time in their life. Invite them to imagine how God will keep growing and changing them over time.

**Try This:** You could let campers write some favorite verses from Ecclesiastes on the back of their outline to remind them that things are always changing and that God is with us in all times and places.

### Seasons Tag

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Choose four campers to be “it.” Call one Winter, one Summer, one Spring, and one Autumn. When you say “go,” those four campers will chase the others. Whenever they tag someone, they say the name of their season, and the person they tag also becomes that season and starts chasing as well. Campers can be tagged more than once and may become more than one season before time is up. At the end of ten minutes, invite them to sit down. Ask who was in each season at the end, and count the number to determine each season’s “length.” Which one was the longest, the shortest? Ask campers, What is it like when one season seems to take too long? How does that make them feel as they experience it? Ask them how this same experience of time can happen in a single day or over a week.

**Try This:** Invite the campers to play the game multiple times, for shorter periods, and see if there are trends to which seasons get “longer.” You could also expand the conversation by making a list of things that seem as if “they will never get here,” and a list of events that “always go too fast.”

### Doodle Prayer

PRAY CREATE

**Supplies:** Bible/scripture passage, paper, markers/pens/coloring supplies

**How:** Provide each camper with a piece of paper and a marker or pen. Read Genesis 1:14–19 and invite the campers to pinpoint one word or phrase that really stood out to them. Ask them to write it down in large letters on their paper. Explain to them that one way to study scripture and to pray is to focus on that one word or phrase that they have each chosen. Invite them to embellish the letters with colors, outlines, or shapes. They can draw around the letters or even add extra words that come to mind based on those words. When they have finished, invite those who are willing to share their doodle prayer. They are also welcome to keep it between them and God. Afterward, ask the campers how the activity made them feel and what surprised them about their creations?

**Try This:** If the campers like, choose one line from the passage and divide it up between campers so that they each are responsible for one word or phrase from it, but the whole line gets attention. Have them engage their word/phrase in the same way as above. This time, line the doodle prayers up next to one another so that the whole line can be read. This could be a great focus piece of art for worship.

### Racing Seasons

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** This is a variation on “Red Light, Green Light.” Start all of the campers out in a line, arm’s length apart, and determine where the finish line is. When you call out a season, campers will race according to the speed for that season. For Summer they may run. For Autumn they may walk. For Winter they may walk slowly with their legs stuck together. For Spring they may hop forward with their feet stuck together. Call out each season randomly and see who gets to the end first.

**Try This:** You could set this up in a big circle so that it is cyclical, like the seasons. Campers pass the “starting point” but can keep going around the circle as they all get their energy out.

## Wind Poetry

### CREATE SERVE

**Supplies:** Strips of colored paper, markers, hole punch, string/yarn

**How:** Remind campers that God is there for us when we're at our best, and when we're at our worst. Invite the campers to take two or three colors of paper strips, and to write the words "God hears me when..." on one side. On the other side, the camper can choose words to complete that sentence. If the strips are all read together, they become a poem. Punch a hole in one end of each strip and tie a loop of string/yarn in it. As a group, wander around camp and hang the strips where they can be seen (from tree branches, in bushes, off doorknobs, etc.) so that others at camp will be blessed. They will move in the breeze even after they have been read and be reminders of God's love.

**Try This:** Choose one particular tree in camp where people walk by or spend time every day. Dub this your "poet-tree." Write the entire sentence on one side of the paper strips and cover the poet-tree entirely with the poem.

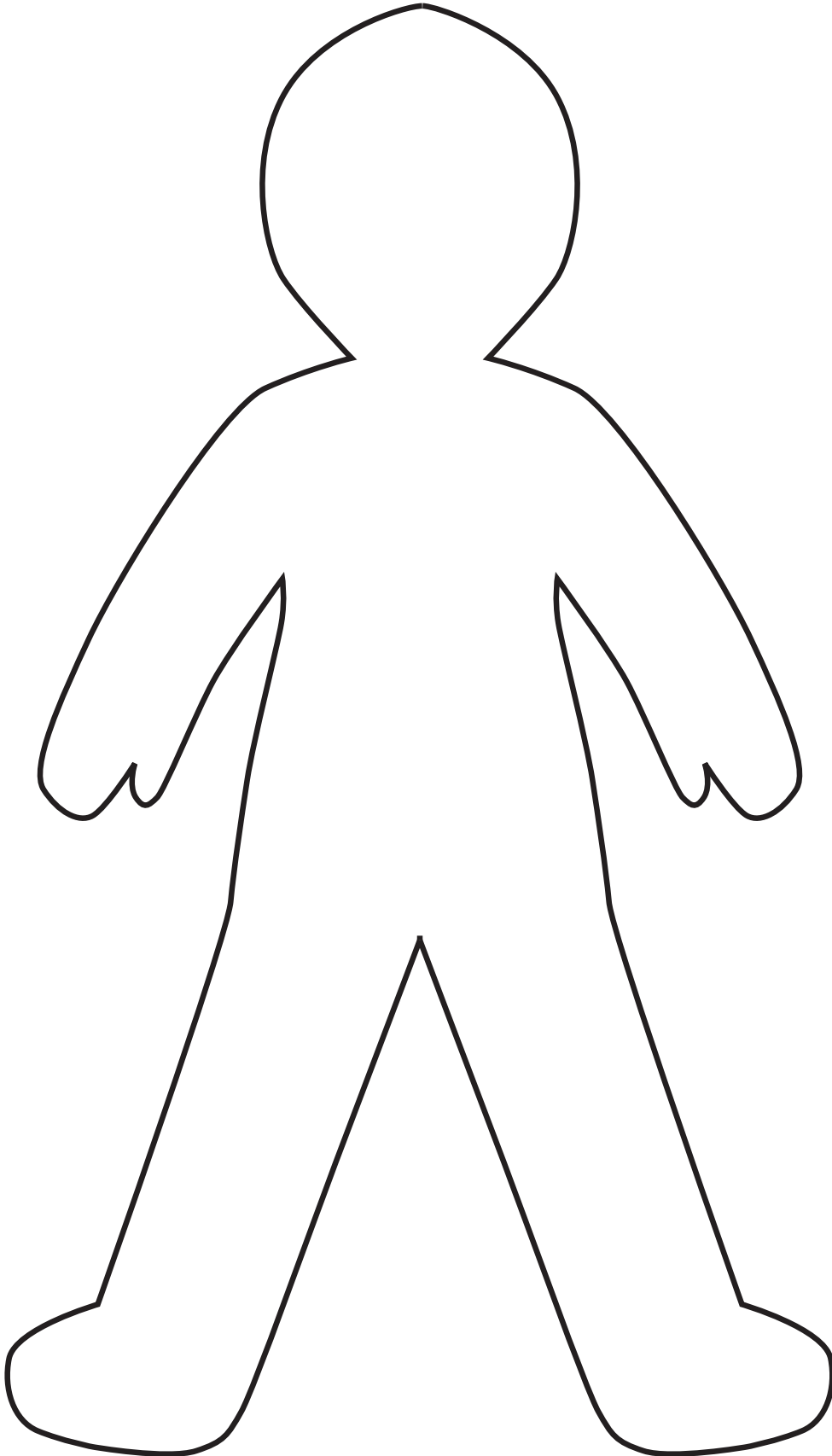


## Story Resources

***Inside Out* (Pixar, 2015).** Follow the emotions of a tween girl as she makes one of the biggest transitions of her life with her parents. As the emotions try to help her through, they must learn that balance is needed between joy and sadness. This is a great resource for looking at how our emotions affect our actions, and how balance is needed in the seasons of life.

**"In Summer," from *Frozen* (Disney, 2014).** Olaf the snowman sings a song about how he longs to experience a day in the summertime, having no idea that that experience would spell his doom. This clip is a silly way to look at the need for balance between the various seasons nature goes through.

This Is Me





# Day 4: Moving through Seasons

## Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Genesis 1:14–19; Ecclesiastes 3:1–11

**Scripture Focus:** Ecclesiastes 3:10–11

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

**Theological Summary:** God has given us seasons for everything in life, from the good to the bad and anything in between.

**Today, campers will...**

- Acknowledge that life has ups and downs.
- Be assured that God is with them in every season.
- Explore ways to connect with God in each season.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
__ A Time to Hide	PLAY LEARN	Hide and seek, relay-style
__ Marking Time	PRAY LEARN	Focusing on seasons in prayer
__ Guess What	PLAY	Charades with seasons
__ Up and Down Prayer	PRAY	Prayer with movement
__ Camp 2.0	CREATE SERVE	Creating for future campers
__ Speak Up	PRAY LEARN	Personal responses to Ecclesiastes
__ Our Time	LEARN	Empowering for change

**Leader Notes:** Be aware that the passage includes time for love and time for hate as well as time for war and time for peace. Campers will likely want to talk about how those are appropriate, and many will have differing theologies regarding them. This is a cerebral day, so time for fun, but don't avoid the deep conversations.

**Prayer:** Lord, please help us to see the seasons we are in and to feel your presence and guidance through them. Amen.



## Daily Activities

### A Time to Hide

PLAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Anything you can use as a baton for teams to pass

**How:** This game is a relay version of Hide and Seek. Split campers into teams of four or five people and have each team choose one starting seeker. Gather all seekers in a separate place to provide instructions and the location of their final hiding. At the same time, the remaining campers choose hiding places without discussing or disclosing them to their teammates. To begin, starting seekers must each find a member of their team, and when that person is found they become the seeker and search for another member. The starting seeker will then go hide in the predetermined area where all the starting seekers will meet. Like a relay, provide each team a baton, bandanna, or other item for each team member to pass to the next. When you have all but one team member, the group must go together in search of the starting seeker. The game ends when all the groups are back together. Afterward, discuss the experience, and ask the campers if it is scary or comforting to only know or have control of one portion of the activity and not know the outcome.

**Try This:** This could easily be an all camp game. You could also start it at sundown, so it starts in the light and ends in the dark. Ending at campfire or somewhere for an evening snack would make a nice transition.

### Marking Time

PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Large paper, markers, small smooth stones

**How:** Have stones available for each camper that are big enough for a camper to write a word or draw a symbol. Divide a large piece of paper into four quadrants by drawing two lines. Label each section as a season. Together, read Genesis 1:14–19. Ask the campers how they know the

seasons are changing by watching the trees outside, and write the answers in the appropriate quadrant. Once they have answered this simple question, ask them what other things tell them it is a particular season. For example, school ending could signify the beginning of summer. Crowning a champion of their favorite sport might tell them a season is ending. List all the seasonal markers in the appropriate quadrants. Spend a few minutes discussing how the change in seasons impacts our emotions, productivity, and even our bodies. Ask the campers to write one of the things from the paper that impacts them or draw a symbol of it on their rock, then try to place everyone's rocks in a circle that has all the activities in order as they come through the year.

**Try This:** You might add the stones to a labyrinth or prayer space at camp.

### Guess What

PLAY

**Supplies:** Bible, slips of paper, pen

**How:** In advance, write the various seasons from Ecclesiastes on slips of paper (a time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant, etc.) and fold them up to use in the second half of the activity. Begin by letting campers take turns acting out a season for the group to guess. Each camper should have a chance to act out each season. The challenge is to not repeat a motion someone else has used to convey the season. For example, if someone has acted cold for winter, the next person might pretend they are skiing. After covering the tangible seasons, let campers select one of the folded papers with lines from Ecclesiastes and take turns acting those out. See how many the group can guess together.

**Try This:** If you have a talent show at the end of the week, consider using the charades as an interactive part of the show.

## Up and Down Prayer

PRAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Form a circle and read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11. Explain to campers that they will be part of a physical prayer activity, talking about the ups and downs of life. Start by inviting campers to stand up, then silently offer a prayer of thanks for something good in their lives. Then ask campers to sit and pray for something they experience as negative. Repeat this a few times. Finish the activity by allowing campers to choose their own position (up, down, or in between), and remind campers that we are allowed to have both positives and negatives in our lives—and everything in between. God hears us and is with us in them all. Read the quote from Doctor Who below, and let campers discuss ways they might have experienced something similar in their own lives.

*“The way I see it, every life is a pile of good things and bad things. The good things don’t always soften the bad things, but vice versa, the bad things don’t necessarily spoil the good things and make them unimportant.” Dr. Who*

**Try This:** If you have a very active group, or squirmy campers, you can let them jump higher for bigger highs, or lie flat to get lower. Let their bodies share the emotions of the prayer.

## Camp 2.0

CREATE SERVE

**Supplies:** Large paper and markers for group discussion, extra paper and pens/pencils/markers for campers to work in smaller groups or individually

**How:** Many camps have stories or songs they share each year. Invite campers to brainstorm a list of favorites and write them on a large piece of paper. Explain that many of the songs and stories are passed down through the years, much like the wisdom in Ecclesiastes. Sometimes we are receiving from others, and sometimes we are passing things on. Remind them that other camps might sing the same songs but have different motions. Working in groups of two or three, challenge campers to create new motions for a song, new words for a song, or a new chapter for an old camp story. Maybe Ecclesiastes can inspire

them as they create a slow version of a fast song or a comforting story to balance a scary one. Once they have had time to create, invite them back to share their ideas, leading one another in songs and telling stories. These can be shared with the full camp later in worship, at campfires, or at mealtimes. Maybe some of these will become new traditions that get shared for years to come.

**Try This:** You might invite campers to come up with new spiritual traditions, such as meal prayers, or new ways of sharing God’s love that can be practiced by campers of the future. Encourage them to be creative and to think seriously about how we celebrate our faith at camp.

## Speak Up

PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Large paper, markers

**How:** Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11 together, then ask campers which items on the list are the most confusing or difficult. Write these on your paper. Allow time for them to reflect on why those words may be there and what the right time for difficult seasons such as killing and war might be. Be respectful of different opinions. On another piece of paper, write “speak” and “silence” as the titles of two columns. Ask campers how we know when to do one and when it is time for the other. Invite them to brainstorm times when silence is a strong form of communication, positively or negatively. For example, “a moment of silence” communicates respect, whereas a bully might consider people’s silence as affirming their behaviors. Ask campers to consider something they see in the world—at home or at camp, internationally or in their hometown—that they think they should speak up about. Invite each camper to name an issue out loud, as practice for speaking up, but do not force them. At the end, have a moment of silence for the concerns raised, and for the campers as change-makers in the world.

**Try This:** Consider handing out journals for campers to continue working through these ideas on their own. Journaling is a great way to work out our big questions and emotions or to frame ideas for the future.

## Our Time

## LEARN

**Supplies:** Paper, markers

**How:** In groups of two to four, ask campers to make a list of different age groups and what their roles in society are. What are things they can do, things they are expected to do, and things they are not allowed to do. Ask them to flip over their paper and do the same thing for participation in church. Bring the groups back together and invite them to share, then have a conversation about the expectations and limitations placed on their age group. Be sure to point out Bible characters such as Miriam, David, Jeremiah, Mary, and Timothy, who spoke out and did amazing things as youth.

**Try This:** You could take this a step further by inviting the group to imagine changes they would like to see in their church or the world, and imagine how they might partner with people of different ages (who have different gifts and permissions in society) to make change.

## Story Resources

***Back to the Future*, directed by Robert Zemeckis (Universal Pictures, 1985).** Marty McFly travels to the past and almost erases himself in the process. This is a fun way to show campers what it looks like in practice to only know your own part of the story and not have any idea what God has in mind.



## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Genesis 1:14–19

**Scripture Focus:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–2

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

**Theological Summary:** Like the earth and its many seasons, our lives are always changing. Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything, and that there’s no need to feel shame when our lives aren’t perfect. God doesn’t disappear from our lives when they get messy.

**Today, campers will...**

- Acknowledge that life has ups and downs.
- Be assured that God is with them in every season.
- Explore ways to connect with God in each season.

#### DAILY ACTIVITIES

TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.</b>		
__ You – Me – We	PLAY	Finding Commonality
__ Life Cycle Hike	PLAY	Watching the earth grow
__ Moon Phases	CREATE	Chart the stages of mental health
__ Planting Seeds	SERVE	Plant seeds you won’t see grow
__ Ecclesiastes Poem	CREATE LEARN	Write about Ecclesiastic balance
__ Advice Sharing	PLAY	Learning from others
__ Sun/Moon Prayer	PRAY	Sharing joys and concerns

**Leader Notes:** Today’s material can be tough for some, especially anyone who has recently experienced the death of a loved one. Ecclesiastes declares there is a time to die, to kill, to hate, and to go to war. Don’t be afraid of the big questions campers might raise today. Be ready to incorporate their thoughts into the day’s discussions.

**Prayer:** God of seasons, we admit that we are often scared in the face of change. We pray that we can lean on you and one another in times of pain, and that we can give thanks to you and celebrate with one another in times of joy. In words of thanksgiving and anticipation we pray, amen.



# Daily Activities

## You – Me – We

PLAY

**Supplies:** You – Me – We handout, pens

**How:** Give campers a copy of the You – Me – We handout and a pen. Let your campers work as a group to fill out the worksheet, discussing the items that require everyone’s input and those that might lead them to talk to one other person. Encourage them to both share and listen to help complete the activity. Once they are done, invite those willing to share their discoveries and responses, and talk as a group about what surprises arose.

**Try This:** You could repeat this activity for the next few days, pushing campers to find more and more commonality while discovering one another’s unique story.

## Life Cycle Hike

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Go on a nature hike and invite campers and staff to point out every example they find of the life cycle at work. What is growing? What is dying? What has been turned into an animal home? How can you tell it’s summer by looking at the trees? Is there evidence of rain? Has anything new been planted? Stop and observe when someone sees something interesting.

**Try This:** You could create a scavenger hunt–style worksheet based on some of the unique natural locations at your camp. This could also be a great time for staff to share stories about what the camp looks like in other seasons of the year.

## Moon Phases

CREATE

**Supplies:** Moon Phases handout, pens

**How:** Read Genesis 1:14–19 and point out how God gave us both the sun and the moon, and God called them both good. This means that just because we aren’t bright and happy like the sun all the time doesn’t mean we aren’t good. Talk with your campers about the phases of the moon and ask if anyone can identify what each stage of

the moon’s cycle looks like. Give each camper a Moon Phases handout and invite them to fill it in at their own pace. After they have completed the activity, invite those willing to share some of their reflections. Remind campers that there is a time to share and a time to listen; encourage them to experience both but don’t push anyone to share. You can let them break off for some private reflection time, or work organically, brainstorming with each other.

**Try This:** You could alter the activity to discuss phases of our lives and what things we expect to happen at different ages. Be sure to allow time for conversation however you structure the activity. Reflecting and sharing are more important than the structure.

## Planting Seeds

SERVE

**Supplies:** Seeds, soil, gardening tools

**How:** Ask campers to brainstorm some of their favorite places at camp. Talk about what makes your camp uniquely beautiful, from the plants and wildlife to the unique views. Explain that they will get to add to the beautiful landscape today by planting flowers. They’ll tend to and water their new plants every day, but they won’t get to see the reward of their hard work because they’ll be gone by the time the flowers bloom. After the work is done, take some time to talk about the importance of doing good things even when there’s no obvious reward, and discuss the benefit of service and altruism done for others.

**Try this:** If you want a more industrious task, you could build bee or bat boxes. Be sure to keep campers safe when using tools.

## Ecclesiastes Poem

CREATE LEARN

**Supplies:** Paper, writing utensils

**How:** Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11 and ask campers which lines stood out to them. Discuss what you think some of the verses mean, and let campers discuss any questions or issues they have about difficult verses. Give campers paper and writing utensils, or encourage them to write in a journal if they brought one. Instruct campers to write their own poems in the style of Ecclesiastes 3:1–11, taking the template of “A time for/to \_\_\_\_ and a time for/to \_\_\_\_” and inserting concepts that are

relevant to their own lives. It might be helpful to share an example written by a staff member first. At the end of the activity, invite campers to share their poems if they want to.

**Try This:** Campers could work together to create a version that reflects their generation or today's culture. This could be shared in worship, or on social media so local congregations could share it.

## Advice Sharing

PLAY

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Have both campers and counselors sit or stand in two circles, one inside the other, facing a partner in the opposite circle. Have the oldest half of the group in the inside circle and the younger half in the outer circle. Invite everyone in the outer circle to move one person to their right, then ask for advice on an issue. Give them about 30 seconds to respond. Rotate again and let the inner circle ask for the advice this time. If you want, you can assign the questions they will ask for advice on; or let it be organic. Afterward, spend some time talking about how it felt to get advice from someone younger, and how younger and older people in a community can better inform one another's lives.

**Try This:** You could expand this into a total camp activity, and maybe even pull in kitchen staff or others who don't normally get to connect with campers. The more diverse the ages, the better.

## Sun/Moon Prayer

PRAY

**Supplies:** Large piece of paper, marker

**How:** Before campers arrive, tape a large piece of paper to the wall with a line drawn down the middle. Draw a sun at the top of one column, and a moon on top of the other column. Gather campers in front of the paper and create a list of "sun prayers" and a list of "moon prayers." The sun list contains prayers of joy and thanksgiving, where campers can share the fun things happening in their lives, what they're grateful for, and what they're excited about. The moon list contains prayers of sorrow and longing, where campers can share their concerns, worries, fears, and challenges. Keep the list on the wall for the rest of the week to remind campers to pray for one another.



## Story Resources

**"Vapor (A Meditation)," *The Liturgists'* 2014** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ELxqIES8v8>). This nine-minute meditation reflects on the smallness we feel reading Ecclesiastes, a book that dwells on the supposed meaninglessness of our short human lives. This is a common feeling, especially for teenagers who are just started to really wonder about their place in this great big universe. "Vapor (A Meditation)" takes a different approach to this smallness, finding the joy and wonder in it without diminishing the deep worry of Ecclesiastes.



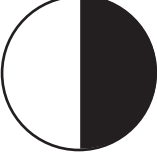
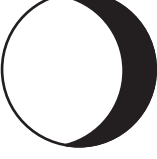
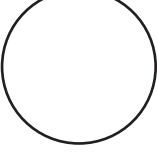
***Inside Out* (Pixar, 2015).** The whole plot of *Inside Out* is kicked off by a disruption in the very balance written about in Ecclesiastes. We are made whole by having a time for sadness and a time for joy, a time for anger, disgust, and even fear. Pixar movies are especially great for teenagers in much the same way that Jesus' parables were great for his adult audiences.

## You – Me – We Handout

- *What is one thing our whole group shares in common?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *What is one thing you share with one other person in the group?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *What is one thing unique to you that no one else in the group shares?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *Who in the group do you have the most in common with?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *Who in the group do you have the least in common with?*

## Moon Phases Handout

For each of the stages of the moon, list activities that would be appropriate or helpful for your personal care. For example, when you feel like a “full moon,” it might be a good time to spend with a difficult friend or family member. When you feel like a “new moon” it might be good to ask someone for help, or journal.

Full Moon		
Crescent		
Quarter		
Gibbous		
New Moon		



# Day 4: Moving through Seasons

## Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Genesis 1:14–19

**Scripture Focus:** Ecclesiastes 3:1

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

**Theological Summary:** Our world and our lives are constantly changing. Just like the seasons change, our circumstances and feelings change. Sometimes we feel happiness and hope, and other times we feel sadness and fear. As we grow and experience the world around us, God is ever present.

**Today, campers will...**

- Acknowledge that life has ups and downs.
- Be assured that God is with them in every season.
- Explore ways to connect with God in each season.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
__ Up and Down Prayers	PRAY LEARN	Pray through different times
__ Season Stories	PLAY LEARN	Reflect on the seasons
__ A Time to Choose	PLAY	Choose your season
__ Seasonal Charades	PLAY	Act out your season
__ Pray through the Seasons	PRAY	Prayers for different times
__ My Happy Time and Place	CREATE	Create your favorite season
__ Seasons of Camp	SERVE	Serve in different situations
__ Camper Clocks	PLAY LEARN	Make a clock to mark time

**Leader Notes:** This should not be a day of “When I was younger...” All generations represented in the group should feel comfortable sharing. Put your effort into making sure voices from every season of life are heard today.

**Prayer:** Thank you, God, for creating time and seasons. Help us to enjoy and appreciate the fun things for each, and remind us to help those who may suffer during the different seasons. Amen.

Intergenerational

# Daily Activities

## Up and Down Prayers

PRAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Bible, large paper, markers, paper, pens

**How:** Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11 and invite campers to give thumbs up for the positive moments and thumbs down for the negative moments as you read. Together, brainstorm a list of positive things that happen in life and write them in a column on a large piece of paper. Go back with a different color and identify a negative that is related to each positive. Invite campers to write their own prayer based on Ecclesiastes. They can start with, “Thank you for loving me when (fill in a positive), and thank you for being with me when (add a negative).” Let them get creative as they create their prayer. They can pull ideas from the brainstormed list or add their own. Be sure to provide a time to share for those who wish.

**Try This:** This could be a camp-wide prayer where everyone contributes a line. You could use it in worship, or at the close of camp.

## Season Stories

PLAY LEARN

**Supplies:** Season Stories Activity Prompts handout, Bible

**How:** In advance, cut the Season Stories Activity Prompts into slips of paper. Read Genesis 1:14–19 together, draw a question, and let campers discuss the prompt with a partner. Invite pairs to share some of their stories with the full group. You can allow some time for questions about stories that catch the group’s imagination. Allow time for the older campers to respond to the younger campers and for the younger campers to respond to the older campers. When everyone has had a chance to talk, ask the group what answers surprised them the most and what stories they heard that they would love to have experienced. Repeat for each prompt.

**Try This:** This could be done in a group setting rather than with partners, letting everyone hear the stories together. You could also do this over a meal, at campfire, or on a hike.

## A Time to Choose

PLAY

**Supplies:** List of activities

**How:** This is a season-themed version of a familiar activity. Explain that each season has things we like and things we don’t like, and they are different for each person. For example, some people love snow, but others can’t stand the stuff! Ask campers to move to one side of the group space or another based on their answer to questions. Here are some suggestions to get you started, but feel free to make up your own: snow ski or water ski, build snowmen or sandcastles, plant flowers or pick flowers, ice skate on a lake or skateboard in a park, play in snow or stomp in rain puddles, bake Christmas cookies or roast marshmallows. Help campers see that they are as varied as the seasons.

**Try This:** This activity could be paused for storytelling or followed up with some moderated debates over highly contested questions. Keep the focus on the diversity of opinions and validity of all experiences.

## Seasonal Charades

PLAY

**Supplies:** Seasonal Charades Prompts handout, cup

**How:** In advance, cut the Seasonal Charades Prompts into individual slips. Divide campers into two teams. One at a time, have campers draw an activity from the cup and give them one minute to act out the activity while their team is trying to guess what it is. After the activity is guessed, ask the campers which season is the best time for that activity. You can add extra activities if campers are really into the activity. Consider adding some specific to your geographic area.

**Try This:** This is a great activity to divide by older and younger campers. It could also be played by having the campers draw the activities for their group to guess.

## Pray through the Seasons

PRAY

**Supplies:** Large poster or paper, different colored marker for each season

**How:** Divide the paper into four quadrants and label them after the seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer. As a group, brainstorm events common for each season. If campers have not thought of challenges or fears of living in those seasons, go back through and brainstorm those. These could be weather-related (life-threatening issues or extra chores such as raking leaves) or social issues (sad memories or scary decisions) common in different seasons. Invite campers to imagine what it might be like to face different seasonal challenges or share personal stories from their own experience. Ask campers how they would like to pray for people facing such challenges. Close with a prayer, asking God to be with those facing seasonal challenges.

**Try This:** This could be a journaling activity asking campers to reflect on their experience with each season.

## My Happy Time and Place

CREATE

**Supplies:** Seasonal Landscapes handouts; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

**How:** Spread copies of the Seasonal Landscapes coloring sheets out in the center of the group. Invite each camper to come to the center and choose their favorite scene. Give campers time to color the scene they chose. When everyone has had time to color or decorate their sheet, ask campers to reflect on why they chose their picture. Ask them to share what attracted them to the image, and what they would be doing if they magically popped into that picture.

**Try This:** These images could be collected and formed into a large mural for the rest of the week. Maybe they could cover a wall of the dining hall.

## Seasons of Camp

SERVE

**Supplies:** Bible

**How:** Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11. Take a walk around camp and see if you can find evidence of the impact different seasons have had on the grounds. Maybe you will find trees downed in a storm, or some brush growing closer to hiking trails. You might even check buildings for leaves blown under them or peeling paint. Invite campers to serve the camp by helping with one of the issues they discover. This could be as simple as dragging some fallen branches to the campfire area to burn or raking leaves out from under a shelter.

**Try This:** If you did the “Pray through the Seasons” activity, you might connect the two, asking campers to imagine the impact of seasons on camp and those who live close by. They could perform acts of service to support that community.

## Camper Clocks

PLAY LEARN

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Invite campers to create a large circle. Choose a taller camper and a shorter camper; they will be clock hands. Have the group designate campers to be 12, 3, 6, and 9. Ask the “clock hands” to arrange themselves to represent the following times: meals, worship or “vespers,” recreation time, bedtime, sunrise, sunset, and so forth. This could be a great way to review the rest of the day’s schedule. Afterward, ask the campers how they personally deal with time. Are they early arrivers? Do they lose track of time? Do they worry about time? Help them see the differences in their answers and celebrate the diversity and ways we help one another.

**Try This:** Switch out “clock hands,” or instead of an analogue clock have the campers put themselves in order to create digital numbers.



## Story Resources

***Snow Day*, directed by Chris Koch (Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies, 2000).** What happens when a regular school day is canceled because of the weather? In this movie, children take full advantage of a change in their schedule because of an excess of snow, showing that you can have an adventure in any season.

***The Sandlot*, directed by David Mickey Evans (Island World, 1993).** This coming-of-age movie follows a group of friends on their adventures over summer break. Showing that we all grow and mature, we can be good friends at every stage of our lives.

***The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages*, by Leo Buscaglia (Thorofare, N.J.: 1982).** Using imagery of leaves growing, changing, and falling, the author takes the reader on the journey of Freddie as he experiences new life, growth, and death. It is a short book that helps children and adults understand the delicate balance in the cycle of life and death.

**“Seasons on Earth,” PBS Learning Media([https://pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ess05.sci.ess.earthsys.lp\\_seasons/seasons-on-earth/](https://pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ess05.sci.ess.earthsys.lp_seasons/seasons-on-earth/)).** This website is full of teaching aids to help explain the science behind the change of seasons. It is informative and interesting for children of all ages.

***Frozen 2* (Disney, 2019).** Olaf sings a song about understanding things that scare him once he is older. He is confident that the scary things won't be so bad once he is a “grown up.” Ironically, all his fears are legitimate and scar adults too. It's a great discussion starter about how we all face things at various times in our life.



## **Season Stories Activity Prompts:**

**Describe the first time you saw or played in snow.**

**What is/was your favorite part of going back to school?**

**What memories do you have of spring break?**

**Tell a story about a favorite tree, and be sure to include the season.**

**What is your best summer memory?**

**What is your best winter memory?**

**What is your scariest weather-related memory?**

**Tell about the last day of school before summer vacation.**

**What did/do you do to stay cool in the summer?**

**What is the weather like in the fall where you live/lived?**

## Seasonal Charades Prompts:

Playing baseball

Ice skating

Swimming

Making a snowman

Snow skiing

Easter Egg hunt

Making snow angels

Cheering at a sports event

Making luminaries

Lighting fireworks

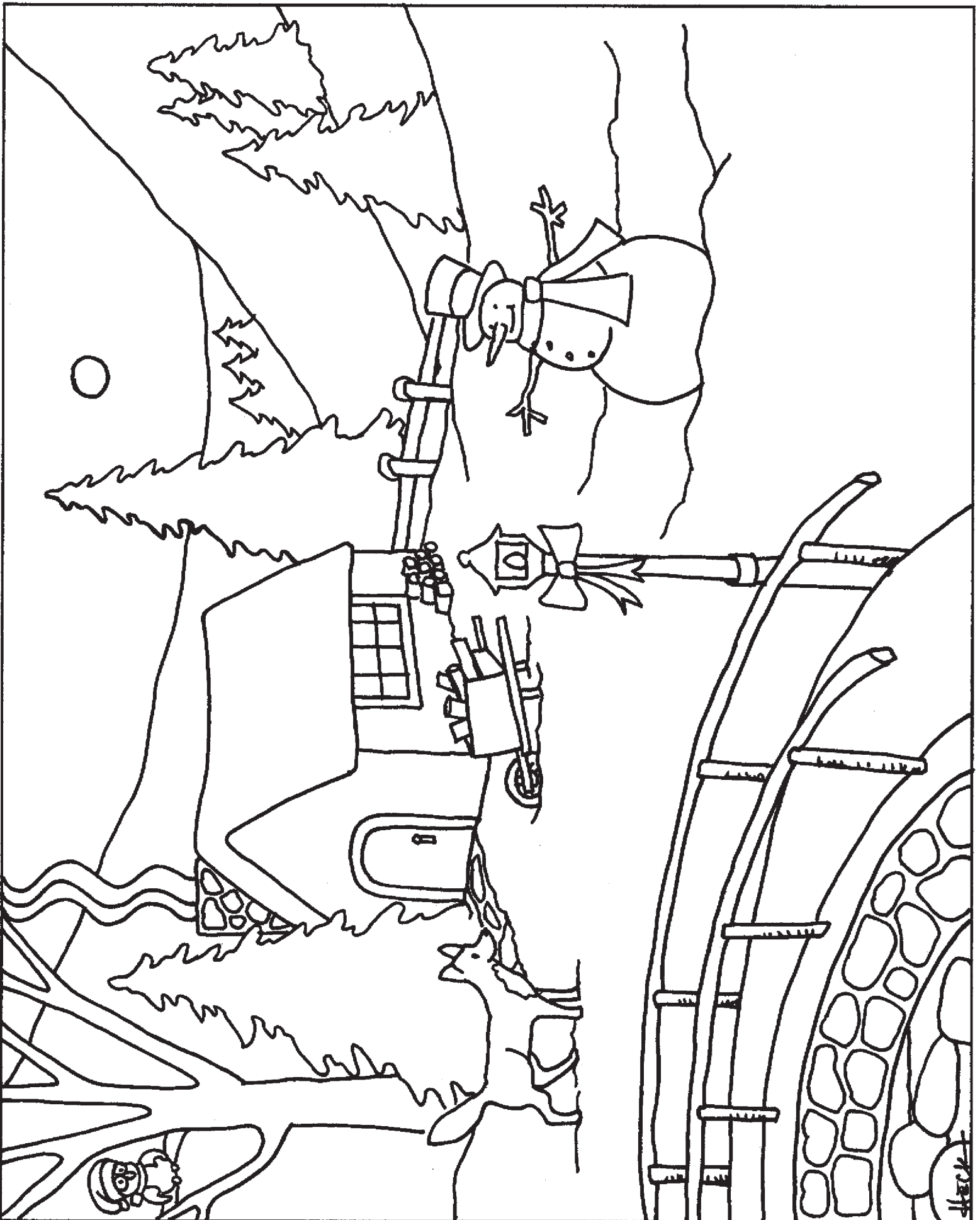
Fishing

Picking flowers and  
making a bouquet

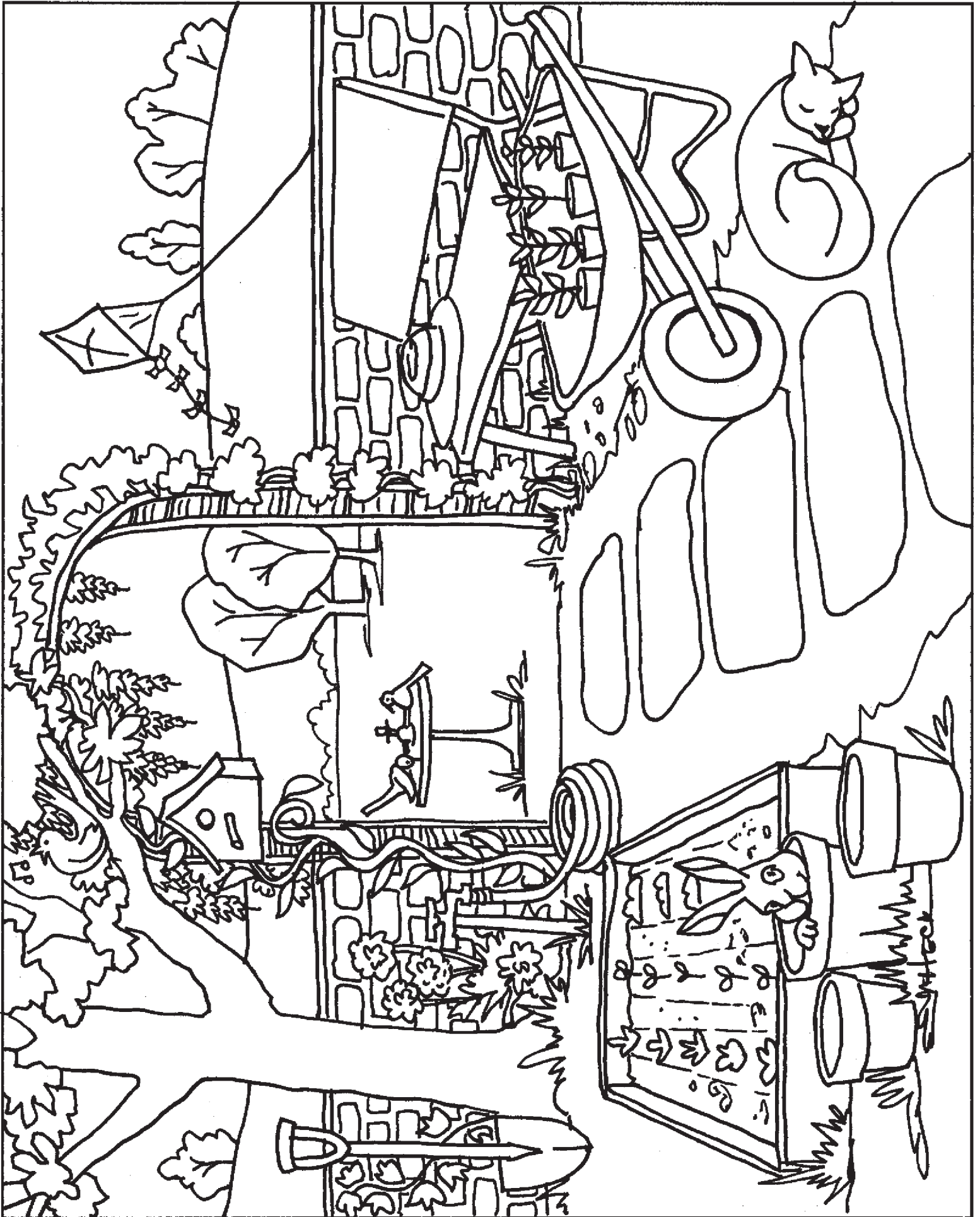
Catching fireflies

Putting on coat, scarf,  
gloves, boots

Winter landscape coloring sheet



Spring landscape coloring sheet



## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

**Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Genesis 1:14–19**

### GATHERING

This is a call and response call to worship. It pauses partway through for a scripture reading, labeled B. B is a second speaker so the campers know to repeat after the first leader only. A pauses after each line to allow campers to repeat.

A –

I am going to say a phrase and then I want you to repeat it. Here we go:

This!

This is!

This is the day!

This is the day that God has made!

This!

This IS the day (emphasize IS)!

B – Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-11.

A –

This!

This is!

This is the day!

### Opening Prayer

**Prayer to read:** God of spring, you create new life. God of summer, you help us grow. God of fall bring us wisdom. God of winter, you help us look back and remember. God of every season, be with everyone this day. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If you have the ability to show a video, consider doing a visual prayer with “A Year on Planet Earth” (4 minutes), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10Jzw1hjOv4>

When the video is completed, simply say: Amen.

If you are not using video, call out the seasons and ask campers to share things they are thankful for in each season. Close with “Thank you God! Amen.”

### SCRIPTURE SHARING

Ask campers to close their eyes. Read Genesis 1:14–19 with the campers’ eyes closed, then again with their eyes open, or if worshiping inside, with the lights off and then again with the lights on.

### RESPONSES

#### *Celebrating*

Have someone read Ecclesiastes and invite campers to act like overly expressive emoticons for each thing there is a time for. Sound effects seem like a fun idea too. You could divide the camp into two sides and let one cheer for the good things and the other group sigh or moan for the sad things. You could also rework the text so that all the sad things go first as one reader shares these in a drab voice, and a second reader response with, “but there is also a time for...” while listing the more positive or happy experiences. The whole camp can cheer for these.

#### *Centering*

**Supplies:** Construction paper (yellow, green, pink and white), scissors, poster, markers, tape

Before worship, cut out leaf shapes of each color so that each leaf is big enough to have a camper’s name on it. Draw a large tree with no leaves on the poster and divide it with a thin line into four quadrants. Put some decorations around the tree to designate each quadrant as a different season. Set the tree poster in the front of your worship space. Place the cutout leaves next to the season they represent (White: Winter, Yellow: Fall, Pink: Spring, Green: Summer) along with some markers and tape.

Ask the campers, “What season would you be in if you were a leaf on a tree?” Invite them to grab a leaf that from that season and write their name on it, then tape their leaf to that section of the tree. Remind them, no matter what season they are in, God is with them.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Supplies:** Crayons, paper, large leaves with clear veins, stems, and edges

Pass out pieces of paper to each camper and invite them to take turns coming to the front of the worship space to make a quick leaf rubbing with the side of a crayon. Have them place their rubbings in a basket or bucket. Once they are all collected, pass them out and ask everyone to take a rubbing.

**Say:** Today our offering reminds us how the seasons give us life and calls us to be thankful. As the basket is passed, take a leaf rubbing and carry it with you. When you see it during your day, and the rest of camp, give God thanks for Creation and the friends who share this season of life with you.

## COMMUNION

**Read to Campers:** We can see all the seasons as we come to this table with Jesus. Things are planted in the spring, grow in the summer, and are harvested in the fall. In the winter, the ground rests and nature is transformed within as it prepares for new life in the spring. In the wheat and grapes that are gathered to make bread and wine, we remember that Jesus calls us to be loving in all seasons and that God is present with us at all times and in all places. All who believe are welcome at Christ's table.

## CLOSING

Invite campers to go out from worship with joy, pretending to do an activity from their favorite season. For example, skating, jumping rope, or dribbling a ball. Maybe even chasing an ice cream truck. Let them be creative as they joyfully celebrate the seasons God gives us. Encourage them to watch each other on the way out and see what activities they can spot.

## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

**Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Genesis 1:14–19**

### GATHERING

Continue to use light imagery from your first service in a central focal point of your service. As campers arrive, explain that there is a time for everything and that now is a time to worship. Ask them to clear their minds of distractions, questions, or worries and offer this time as a gift to God.

### OPENING PRAYERS/LITANY

Assign two readers to share Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 as an opening litany.

B—For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A—a time to be born, and a time to die;

B—*a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

A—a time to kill, and a time to heal;

B—*a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

A—a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

B—*a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

A—a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

B—*a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

A—a time to seek, and a time to lose;

B—*a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*

A—a time to tear, and a time to sew;

B—*a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

A—a time to love, and a time to hate;

B—*a time for war, and a time for peace.*

A—*Now is our time to worship. May our hearts and minds be present with God.*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If you used the Sun/Moon Prayer earlier, post them in your worship space to guide your prayer time. If not, create them now: Post large pieces of mural paper labeled “Sun” and “Moon” around your worship space and invite campers to create either “sun” prayers or “moon” prayers. The sun list contains prayers of joy and thanksgiving, where campers can share the fun things happening in their life, what they’re grateful for, and what they’re excited about. The moon list contains prayers of sorrow and longing, where campers can share their concerns, worries, fears, and challenges.

### SCRIPTURE SHARING

Invite four campers to share the scripture reading, with each camper reading as if they are in a different season. They could even dress to match their season. This could be as simple as someone acting hotter or colder, but you could also make it more elaborate by pouring leaves over one, or sprinkling water on another. Be creative as you share Ecclesiastes 3:1–11 as a camp.

## RESPONSES

### Celebrating

*Read Genesis 1:14–19, then say:* In Genesis 1:14–19 we heard that God gave us both the sun and the moon, and God called them both good. Just because we aren't bright and happy like the sun all the time doesn't mean we aren't good. Let's celebrate those moments or seasons of life when we feel like the sun, and try to imagine how God might meet us in our challenges so there is something worth celebrating in any season. Raise your arms and turn your face upward, spin, or dance as you are comfortable as we sing together (choose a familiar upbeat song) and celebrate.

### Centering

*Read Genesis 1:14–19, then say:* In Genesis 1:14–19 we heard that God gave us both the sun and the moon, and God called them both good. Just because we aren't bright and happy like the sun all the time doesn't mean we aren't good. Let's create a way to focus our energy on those times when we feel like our energy is waning like the moon. Curve yourself into a small ball. Reflect quietly on the times in your life that feel dim or dark. Think about how something changed, or how you experienced joy in the midst of struggle. Listen quietly or join in singing (choose a familiar meditative song) and reflecting on how God has met us in times of both struggle and celebration.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Supplies:** Paper circles, pens or markers

Give each camper a paper circle and marker or pen.

**Say:** You have each been given a circle. Is it a moon? Or is it a sun? That is for you to decide. Whichever it is, think of a time in your life that is reflective of that and a way that you can turn that over for God's service. For instance, when you are feeling joyful like sunshine, perhaps your joy will help calm children in a church nursery. When you are feeling reflective like the moon, you may choose to use that quietness to fill communion

cups at church or relate to a hurting friend.

Decide what your circle represents and how you can respond, and thank God in a silent prayer as your offering today.

## COMMUNION

Set up communion in four stations to represent the four seasons. Decorate or label each—spring, summer, autumn, winter.

**Introduction to Read:** Today as you commune, go to the station that best represents your season of life. If you feel that you are in a growing and learning season, go to the spring station. If you are in a full and bright season, choose summer. If you are struggling and feeling tired, visit fall. And if things are dark and quiet, commune at winter.

**Prayer to Read:** God, thank you for experiences of new life and new experiences. Fill us with your body and blood to enjoy new things. When we are experiencing life to the fullest, thank you for your body and blood as we experience a time of joy. God, life can be difficult and sad. Let your strength wash over us and fill us through this communion. God, things can seem dark and the days go on forever. Be with us, comfort us, wrap us in your love. No matter our season, may we gather as one in your love. Amen.

## CLOSING

Invite everyone to form a circle. Ask campers to begin with hands fist in front of their eyes.

**Prayer to Read:** Lord, sometimes we feel dark. We are challenged, sad, tired, alone. Help us to remember that you are in the darkness.

Ask campers to open their hands wide in front of their eyes like rays of sun.

**Prayer to Read:** Other times, Lord, we glow and reflect your glory. We are energized, refreshed, and vibrant. Help us to remember that you are in the light. Amen.



# Cabin Devotions – Children and Intergenerational

These devotions are designed to be conversational, followed by a brief prayer experience. They are best used in cabins before bed, but you could adapt them for mornings or even for an individual “Morning Watch” experience (printing out questions for each camper) that is self-guided. Devotions are divided into “Conversation Prompts” and “Prayer Suggestions.” Use these as they best fit your campers, but remember that your intentionality and ability to be completely present for these devotions will be the biggest factor in engaging campers.

## Day 1: Invited by Light

### Conversation Prompts

- What are some sources of light that we notice every day?
- What are some ways we use light on special occasions?
- Who made you feel welcome today, and how did it happen?
- I wonder whom you might help feel welcome at camp.

**Prayer Suggestion:** “God, thank you for welcoming us to camp this week. Help us to be a light to one another, including one another into new friendships and encouraging one another to try new things. Amen.”

## Day 2: Refreshed by Water

### Conversation Prompts

- What is your favorite way to experience water?
- What does it mean to be refreshed? How does water refresh us?
- Like Jesus and the woman at the well, I wonder whom you might become friends with this week.

**Prayer Suggestion:** “God, thank you for all the ways you have provided water to refresh us. Help us to remember to care for one another as you have cared for all people. Amen.”

## Day 3: Shaped like Earth

### Conversation Prompts

- How has the surface of the earth been shaped and changed over time?
- How have you changed over time?
- How can we encourage others to become more comfortable with change?
- I wonder how you might change this week.

**Prayer Suggestion:** “God, thank you for all the ways you have changed and shaped your Creation. Help us remember that you continue to shape us as we grow. Amen.”

## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

### Conversation Prompts

- What does “season” mean?
- What is your favorite season and why?
- What is your least favorite season and why?
- I wonder what changes you are going through.

**Prayer Suggestion:** “God, thank you for creating different seasons and different feelings. Help us to remember that seasons and our feelings change, and that we can always have hope that things will be better soon. Amen.”

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## Songs and Music

There is no designated music time, theme song, or music guide for this curriculum. Below are recommendations to help you prepare for opening gatherings, worship presentations, or a music session with children. Most are readily available in hymnals or with a simple online search. Many have videos on YouTube which you can use to lead children should you lack music leaders.

### Creation Speaks: General Theme

- “The Whole World’s in God’s Hands” (Traditional)
- “Turn the World Around” (Harry Belafonte, 1977)
- “What a Wonderful World” (Louis Armstrong, 1968)
- “This Is My Father’s World” (Hymn)
- “We Are the World” (USA for Africa, 1985)
- “One Spirit of Love” (Andra Moran, 2012)
- “Let There be Peace on Earth” (Hymn)
- “Lean on Me” (Bill Withers, 1972)
- “Faith Like a Child” (Jars of Clay, 1995)
- “Beautiful Things” (Gungor, 2010)

### Day 1: John 8:12; Genesis 1:1-5 Invited by the Light

- “This Little Light of Mine” (Traditional)
- “I Am the Light of the World” (Hymn)
- “Thy Word” (Amy Grant, 1990)
- “We Are Walking in the Light of God”/”Siyahamba” (Hymn)
- “Walk in the Light” (Aretha Franklin, 1987)
- “Day & Night” (Andra Moran, 2012)
- “In the Light” (DC Talk, 1995)
- “In the Light of God” (Hymn)
- “Light the Fire” (Bill Maxwell, 1986)

### Day 2: John 4:4-15; Genesis 1:6-8 Refreshed by Water

- “I Went Down to the River to Pray” (Traditional)
- “For Those Tears I Died” (Marsha Stevens, 1972)
- “Deep & Wide” (Traditional)
- “Peace Like a River” (Traditional)
- “We Shall Not be Moved” (Hymn)
- “Spring Up O Well” (Hymn)
- “Oceans” (Hillsong United, 2013)
- “Oh Fill My Cup” (Hymn)
- “Just around the Riverbend” (Disney’s *Pocahontas*, 1995)

### Day 3: Jeremiah 18:1-10; Genesis 1:9-13 Shaped like Earth

- “Spirit of the Living God” (Hymn)
- The Whole World’s in God’s Hands” (Traditional)
- “In the Garden” (Hymn)
- “This Pretty Planet” (Tom Chapin, 1988)
- “Creation Doo Wah Diddy” (Traditional)
- “God of Wonders” (Third Day, 2003)
- “Green Grass Grew All Around” (Traditional)
- “This Island Earth” (The Nylons, 1987)

### Day 4: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Genesis 1:14-19 Moving through Seasons

- “Turn! Turn! Turn!” (The Byrds, 1965)
- “Seasons of Love” (*Rent* the Musical, 1996)
- “In the Bulb There Is a Flower (Hymn)
- “When It’s Time to Change” (Brady Bunch cast, 1972)
- “Johnny Appleseed” (Traditional)
- “Let Everything That Has Breath” (Hymn)

# Creation Speaks Journal

## Day 4: Moving through Seasons

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. —Genesis 1:14–19

- How do you feel about waiting for things to change?
- What season or event is the hardest to wait for?
- I wonder what you are looking forward to most in the last days of camp?

— Draw a picture of yourself in your favorite season.

# Take Home Sheets

## Day 4

### Moving through Seasons

**Scripture to Read:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What is your favorite season and why?
- What are your favorite activities for each season?
- What are unique parts of your family story, history, or shared life related to each season?

**Activities to Share:** Let’s practice making memories for each season.

1. Interview the oldest generation of the family together as a family. Have each person ask them about life at the interviewer’s age. Take turns asking about the years in between. Be sure to ask them how they dealt with change in different seasons of their life.
2. Make a scrapbook, digital or with developed photographs, of family memories divided by seasons.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Approach change as natural and filled with potential rather than with fear and dread.
- Find ways to talk to God about all your feelings.
- Live in the moment while looking forward to the future.
- Name the changes that intimidate you and ask others to help or share the journey.
- Be attentive to changes in your environment on a daily basis.
- Be attentive to changes in the people who live and work around you.