

Plan Your Training

You can use the following ideas for study of each of the seven sessions. Do this plan as is or divide it into shorter sessions spread throughout the day.

A. Use one of these methods to introduce the biblical story and focus:

- Direct staff to the chart provided with the Daily Overview for this year's curriculum.
- Read or have someone else read the passage from the Bible.
- Read the focus statement. Ask someone who is a good storyteller to tell the story. (Ask that person in advance so he or she can prepare.)
- Read the focus statement. Lead the staff through the story using one of the three Bible study methods described in the handout below (Bible Study Methods) or by choosing one of the age-level learning activities in the Explore section of the curriculum.
- Read the focus statement. Ask a small group of staff to present a skit of the story, which they can prepare themselves or choose one from the Daily Worship Plans in the Extra Resources of the curriculum. (Ask them in advance so they can prepare.)

B. Use one or more of these to introduce the background material and theological issues:

- Play the video provided with this curriculum. It introduces the theme and Bible background.
- Ask a small group of staff to prepare a presentation or lead a discussion using information from the Biblical and Theological Overview section.
- Invite a local pastor or educator to present the information.
- Deal with any issues, such as the Trinity and sin and salvation, related to the theme, examining them from the perspective of your tradition. Help counselors, especially those who are not theologically trained, to feel equipped to respond to campers when issues arise around some of the issues indicated above.
- Use maps, photos, and other illustrative material.

C. Use the Leader Reflections questions

At the end of each day's Biblical and Theological Overview are reflections addressed to the leaders. Use them as a springboard to a discussion of the ways in which the biblical material and concepts intersect with their own lives and faith.

Sample Training Exercises

1. Create an Activity

Invite staff members to explore the concepts and stories by developing and leading an activity. Divide into four to five small groups (depending on your numbers). Explain that you will assign a type of activity (Bible study, creative activity, environmental activity, service activity, or game) to each group and that they are to develop an activity to achieve one of the goals in the focus statement for the session. Tell them that they can use any of the Daily Guides or Extra Resources from the *InsideOut* resource itself or develop one of the study suggestions on the handout, Bible Storytelling Methods. Once they have prepared the activity they will lead the rest of the staff in it.

Give the groups about twenty minutes to prepare and then allow up to an hour for all the groups to lead their activities. After each activity, facilitate a fifteen-minute evaluation session involving everyone. Ask those who led the activity for ideas about how they might improve their session. Other staff members can contribute constructive and positive comments about ways that it could be strengthened. As the camp leader, participate in the evaluation, offering suggestions and taking advantage of any teachable moments.

Supplies: Bibles, Daily Guides and Extra Resources, Bible Storytelling Methods handout, recreational equipment, arts and crafts materials, and environmental education materials

2. Play Who Are You?

Explain to the staff that they will work in small groups to choose a biblical character from one of the Bible stories and identify what they admire and how they want to be like that character. You can use this activity for any one Bible story or after completing the exploration of all the Bible stories.

Have staff self-select into small groups. Assign one or more of the Bible stories to them. Give the small groups about ten to fifteen minutes to choose a biblical character from the story (or stories) and to decide what they like or admire about the character. Each small group will create a short skit about the person, letting the others guess which one they have chosen.

Gather the whole group for the presentations. Have all the small groups present their skits at one time, or scatter them throughout the day. After each skit, invite the trainees to talk about what these characters have to teach them about being camp counselors. Ask: “What kind of camp counselor would each of these biblical characters have made? How do you want to be like them this summer?”

Keep a list on a large sheet of paper of all the qualities the group identifies in the biblical characters. Afterward, post the list where staff can see it during the remainder of the training.

After the activity is finished, gather back together. Use questions such as the following to encourage discussion about the study and how they could use the method with campers:

- What did you like about this activity?
- What did you find difficult about this activity?
- Would you use this activity with campers? Why or why not?
- With what age campers would this work best?
- What do you think campers would like about this activity?

Supplies: Bibles, listing of scripture from the Daily Overview, large sheets of paper, and markers

3. Learn the Stories

Explain to staff that they will work in small groups using one of the Bible stories to reflect on what it tells them about Jesus. Then they will use a form of artistic expression such as a cartoon, poem, song, mural, and so forth to describe the nature of Jesus to the rest of the group. Let them choose their groups. Assign each group one of the Bible stories, or choose a specific activity of this type from *InsideOut*. Give them about fifteen to twenty minutes to talk about what the story tells them about Jesus and to prepare an artistic expression about what they found out.

Gather back together to share the artistic expressions. You can have all the small groups make their presentations at one time or scatter them throughout staff training.

Use questions such as the following to encourage discussion about the study and how they could use the method with campers:

- What did you like about this activity?
- What did you find difficult about this activity?
- Would you use this activity with campers? Why or why not?
- With what age campers would this work best?
- What do you think campers would like about this activity?

Supplies: Bibles, listing of scripture from Daily Overview, a variety of types of paper (such as newsprint, construction, notebook), and a variety of drawing materials (such as markers, pencils, pens, crayons)