

# Peace Works

Empowering the Next Generation of Peacemakers



**NEW!**  
Expanded  
Creative  
Worship  
Ideas



**INSIDE OUT**  
Christian Resources for Outdoor Ministries

# Contents

- Welcome to InsideOut
- Daily Overview for *Peace Works*
- Images for Each Day
- More Support Online
- Daily Theme Words Defined
- Biblical and Theological Overview
- Staff Devotions
- Daily Guides for Younger Children
- Daily Guides for Older Children
- Daily Guides for Younger Youth
- Daily Guides for Older Youth
- Daily Guides for Intergenerational or Family Camps
- Worship and Devotions
  - Introduction
  - Daily Worship for Children
  - Daily Worship for Youth
  - Cabin Devotions for Children
  - Cabin Devotions for Youth
  - Song Recommendations
- Extras
  - Arts and Crafts
  - Multi-Day Projects
  - Games
  - Group Building and Challenge Course Activities
  - Science and Nature
  - Table Talk
  - Story Telling Resources
  - Peace Works! Journal
- Peace Partners Packet
- Tell Us What You Think
- Writers and Partners
- InsideOut themes and Sneak Peek at 2020's "This Is Our Prayer"

# Daily Overview for *Peace Works*

Daily Guide	Daily Word	Scripture	Focus	Campers Will
Day 1	Aloha	Luke 14:15–24 Great Banquet	Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>feel welcome in the spirit of <i>aloha</i></li> <li>know we are invited to this place</li> <li>recognize the gift of being at camp this week</li> <li>recognize that the table is filled with people who are different</li> </ul>
Day 2	Ubuntu	1 Corinthians 12:1–27 Body of Christ	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognize value in themselves and others as children of God</li> <li>know we are interwoven members of the Body of Christ</li> <li>commit to nurture our camp community</li> <li>experience <i>ubuntu</i> through shared joys and challenges</li> </ul>
Day 3	Shalom	Genesis 27:1–26 Jacob and Esau's conflict	Responding to Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand that conflict happens in all communities</li> <li>acknowledge the truth that conflict can lead to brokenness</li> <li>learn that we can move from brokenness to <i>shalom</i></li> <li>understand that peace requires effort and happens over time</li> </ul>
Day 4	Agape	John 13:1–17 Last Supper and Foot Washing	God's Reconciling Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discover <i>agape</i>, God's great love, for us</li> <li>come to believe that God's peace with us can be seen in Jesus' sacrificial love</li> <li>come to follow Jesus' example as a humble servant</li> </ul>
Day 5	Heiwa	Mark 12:28–31 Great Commandment	Self-sacrifice for Unity of All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognize that we are called to respect ourselves as children of God</li> <li>learn that every person deserves our love and respect</li> <li>discover that our love of others isn't dependent on anything in return</li> <li>experience <i>helwa</i> as we practice peace over competition</li> </ul>
Day 6	Sí Se Puede®	Luke 10:25–29 Good Samaritan	Active Peacemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>learn the importance of <i>sí se puede</i>®, putting our love for others into action</li> <li>hear God's call to work together to do good in the world</li> <li>discover that being part of Christ's body empowers us to take risks as peacemakers</li> </ul>
Day 7	Aloha	John 14:25–27 My Peace I Give to You	Going Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>learn that Jesus' peace is with us now and always</li> <li>come to know that Jesus' peace will help us with our fears as we walk the way of peace at home and in the world</li> </ul>

# Images for Each Day

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

## Daily Themes: Diversity of Voices

Each daily theme invites campers to think about peace and peace making from a different perspective. Various cultural and ethnic expressions and voices are brought together to make peace more than a clichéd dream. The hospitality of Aloha, the connectivity of Ubuntu, and self-awareness of Heiwa, and the passion of Sí Se Puede® remind us that peace pushes us to change, grow, and unite.



Day 1  
**Aloha**  
**Hospitality**  
Luke 14  
Great Banquet



Day 4  
**Agape**  
**God's Reconciling Love**  
John 13:1–17  
Last Supper and  
Foot Washing



Day 5  
**Heiwa**  
**Self-sacrifice for Unity of All**  
Mark 12:28–31  
Great Commandment



Day 2  
**Ubuntu**  
**Community**  
1 Corinthians 12:1–27  
Body of Christ



Day 6  
**Sí Se Puede®**  
**Active Peacemaking**  
Luke 10:25–29  
Good Samaritan



Day 3  
**Shalom**  
**Responding to Conflict**  
Genesis 27:1–26  
Jacob and Esau's Conflict



Day 7  
**Aloha**  
**Going Out**  
John 14:25–27  
My Peace I Give to You

# Daily Theme Words Defined

## Daily Themes

Along with daily scriptures *Peace Works* includes themes that invite us to explore peace from a variety of cultural, historical, and theological perspectives. These daily theme words hold deep meaning and invite us to see the world through someone else's eyes.

### Day 1: Aloha

*Aloha* means hello, goodbye, welcome, and love. Each of these aspects of *aloha* are shown through people and nature. Through people we always aim to show love and respect whether you are from Hawaii or not. This is why Hawaiian people think of each other as family; we are all people worthy of respect and it's important to show that. This is also why we have such a strong desire to show hospitality as well. It's all about love and respect for each other and being an example of that. The same respect and love is shown for the island and all living things on it. We have a strong appreciation for nature and how it affects our lives, which creates a strong need for protecting it.

### Day 2: Ubuntu

*Ubuntu* is an African philosophy that embraces community, unity, and interdependence. Although it is generally considered to be a philosophical thought from South Africa, the idea is expressed in many Bantu languages. It is a concept very difficult to convey in the English language. The meaning most contributed to it is from the Zulu language, "*Umntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu*," meaning "a person becomes a person through other persons." Others would say, "I am who I am because of you, you are who you are because of who we are together." This defines our humanity and how we are interconnected and how we share our gifts with each other.

### Day 3: Shalom

The Hebrew word *shalom* is one of the greatest words in the Hebrew vocabulary. *Shalom* is said when you meet someone, as in "hello." *Shalom* is said when you are saying "goodbye." *Shalom* also means peace. In many ways, saying *shalom* means peace in all three settings, and what a beautiful way to say hello or goodbye—offering to the other person peace. The word *shalom* comes from the Hebrew root *shalaym* meaning whole or complete. Peace is what we all seek in our broken world and by coming to peace we bring the world to wholeness or completeness. Hebrew is the language spoken by Jews in Israel and is a part of the culture for Jews around the world. *Shalom* is at the core of our Jewish being. It is a word that every Jew knows and understands. On Friday evening, when our Shabbat (Sabbath) begins, Jews turn to one another as they enter the synagogue and the sanctuary and greet each other with "Shabbat Shalom" or Sabbath peace.

### Day 4: Agape

Directly translated as love, *agape* is an inner quality expressed outwardly as in acts of compassion, forgiveness, mercy, faithfulness, and service. *Agape* flows from God to human, human to God, and human to human as it calls us to live in community. While other words for love are used in the New Testament, *agape* was used by early Christians to convey some of the special qualities of Christian love. For Christians, love motivates, regulates, and characterizes all human conduct. All commandments are summed up in the command to love. God is defined as love, and God's love is the unmerited acceptance of all people, expressed supremely in Jesus. Through this love, God reconciles or makes peace with us all.

# Staff Devotions

## Day 2: Ubuntu

I remember standing in the back of the church waiting to be baptized. Yes, my church was one of those that waited till you were “old enough” to choose, then dunked you in a large pool of water. Maybe it wasn’t “old enough” but “old enough to remember yet not old enough to have bailed on Church.” Maybe it was “old enough to participate yet not know what you were getting into.” I sometimes have mixed feelings. What I remember most is frustration. My best friend was five spaces ahead of me in line, but I wanted us to be standing together. Our senior minister was reading liturgy from the pulpit, while the associate minister waited in the water. This was the wrong minister for such an important moment. Clearly my priorities were in the right place!

Still, as I came up out of the water and cleared my hair back from my eyes, I saw my family. I saw my parents and their friends. I saw mentors in the church family. I saw other youth and the younger children we helped with. I saw my grandmother’s friends sitting behind her. I remember the candle light of that Maundy Thursday service and hold it as a precious memory. While I was not exactly focused or in the right frame of mind, the Spirit seemed to have claimed me anyway. It seems to claim us all.

Jews or Greeks, male or female, slackers or overachievers, the Spirit claimed us all. We still see that today. God’s Spirit falls on us—claims us, unites us, empowers us. We have every reason to assume the worst of humanity, yet we are continually surprised—dumbfounded even—when society takes a step forward and we see the best in others come shining out. It may be slow, generational even. It may take time to be revealed. But the Spirit claims us all. And in its flowing, the Spirit draws us into each other, connecting our lives and opening our minds. Where did the Spirit find you? Who does it connect you with? What gifts do you share with each other?

### **1 Corinthians 12:13**

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

#### **For Reflection**

- When have you felt God’s Spirit at work in your life?
- What unexpected relationships has the Spirit drawn you into?
- I wonder what new gifts you might be called to share this week.

#### **Prayer**

God, open our eyes to the power of community and the Spirit that binds us together. May we be open to new connections while remembering those who first shared their faith with us. Amen.



## Day 2: Ubuntu

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** 1 Corinthians 12:1–27

**Scripture Focus:** 1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**Theological Summary:** We are all parts of the body of Christ, and each of us has an important role to play. We can learn about the gifts we have from others who share their gifts with us.

**Today, campers will...**

- Recognize value in themselves and others as children of God.
- Know they are interwoven members of the body of Christ.
- Commit to nurture their camp community.
- Experience *ubuntu* through shared joys and challenges.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Air Aloha	LEARN PLAY	Welcome campers by name
Linking Lei	LEARN CREATE	Make leis to welcome each other
Pineapple Pizazz	LEARN CREATE	Build community in your group
Team Tastes	LEARN PLAY	Learn about each other
Playful Prayers	LEARN PRAY PLAY	Campers connect through prayer

**Leader Notes:** For this age, the focus should be on remembering that everyone is important. Young campers often don't feel important, and this is a chance to remind them that God loves all, and wants everyone to be a community. Watch out for campers trying to isolate others or to only be with those they know.

**Prayer:** Dear God, we love you. Help us to remember that you love us all, big and small, and you want us to love each other. Amen.

## Daily Activities

### Tangled Up

### PLAY LEARN

**Why:** This activity is intended to remind campers: “God wants us all to remember we are ourselves, but also part of the body of Christ.”

**Supplies:** Yarn ball, Bible

**How:** Form a circle and read 1 Corinthians 12:1–27. Talk about the idea that every part of one’s body has a special purpose. (Eyes see, ears hear, etc.) Explain: “If we close our eyes, our feet can still walk, but we might bump into things. Just like the parts of our bodies work the best when they work together, God’s family works best when we work together too!” Introduce the word *ubuntu*, and explain that it is the idea that we are all doing life together. Roll the ball of yarn to one camper, while holding on to the end. That camper says their name, holds the yarn loosely, and rolls it to another camper while still holding onto the yarn. Continue until all campers have yarn, loosely held, in their hand. Explain that, though we might be across the circle or across the world, what we do affects others. Gently pull yarn and ask who felt it. (Almost everyone should feel it.) Call out campers’ names and have them pull the yarn toward themselves. See who felt it. Allow each camper to have a turn, varying how (hard, soft, lift high/low, etc.) the yarn is pulled.

**BTW:** You could also use a parachute or have everyone’s hands on a large ball. These could even be different variations on the same experience, letting kids feel the impact of one person’s actions on others connected. If there is a wooded area near you, consider having campers stand with bigger trees between them, but connecting all by the yarn. They might not be able to see who pulls the strong, but they can still feel it.

### Puzzling Pictures

### LEARN CREATE

**Why:** Campers will learn that they are an important piece, but just one piece, of the body of Christ. This helps reinforce the main Bible theme.

**Supplies:** Large piece of paper, “Scenes from a Lake” handout to color (from page ???), crayons, glue sticks

**How:** In preparation, cut the picture into rectangle pieces, one for each camper. Revisit the scripture for the day, and especially the focus verse. Remind the campers: “If we only think about ourselves, we might miss what God wants us to do.” Give each camper one piece of the picture to look at. Before they share their piece with others, invite them to guess what they think the whole picture will show. Affirm that it is a good guess, but don’t reveal the answer. When all have guessed, campers can all share their pictures with the group to reveal the pieces of a lake scene. Remind them: “We sometimes think we see the whole picture, but we forget that it takes every little piece.” Invite them to glue the pieces to the poster board to form the scene, and color the picture. Allow campers to add details they want to make their scene larger and more complete.

**BTW:** Instead of the provided image, you could use pictures of camp to help campers learn the grounds. A puzzle could also be substituted, with each child receiving one or two pieces of a simple puzzle.

### Rainbow Tag

### PLAY

**Why:** Playing together helps relationships go deeper, faster.

**Supplies:** Rainbow colors of yarn or embroidery floss

**How:** Each camper is given a color of yarn to tie around their wrist. If you have more campers than colors, it is okay to “double up,” but make sure there are multiple colors. Challenge campers to form groups that have at least one of each color as quickly as they can without talking. Remind them that everyone has to be in a group. Ask them to sit when their group is complete. When all finish, congratulate them on including everyone in the body. Next, ask campers to stand up and mix together. Step back a ways from the campers and call out a color. Ask everyone in that color to run to you. Explain that these campers will welcome the next color you call and bring them to the space where you are standing. The first group then runs and finds the next color you call. For example, if blue was the color called forward, and you call red next, the blue group members must go get red members and bring them back holding hands or linking arms. They stay connected and



together got to find the next color called. Repeat until everyone is included in a group. If you have duplicate colors, they can form a team of two to begin.

**BTW:** This game could be played in parts and during small break times. Also, if yarn isn't available, try just using color of clothes or shoes. Or you can even use non-permanent markers to make a mark on each camper's hand of their color.

## Hands and Feet

## PLAY LEARN

**Why:** Help campers remember that each of us is a part of the body of Christ, but we can't all do all things.

**Supplies:** Ping pong balls, goal markers, towels (one per pair of campers: plastic bucket, string, soccer ball, inflated small balloon, water balloon)

**How:** Working in pairs, campers will complete five tasks using the materials provided, but only using the body parts assigned. Pair up campers, and give each pair the materials needed for each task. First, each pair will do tasks 1 and 2 using only their hands, then try to do tasks 1 and 2 with only their feet. Take a minute to talk about which was easier. Now, have them do task 3 with one camper only using their hands, and their partner only using their feet. After this task, spend a few minutes talking about how to work as a team when you have different gifts. Finally, invite them to do tasks 4 and 5 as quickly as possible, considering the gifts (hands or feet) each has.

The tasks are: (1) toss ping pong balls into bucket held by partner; (2) wrap a string around an inflated balloon; (3) move soccer ball together to designated goal; (4) pop a balloon; (5) squish a water balloon. Make sure you stop each task before frustration can set in, if necessary.

**BTW:** This could be set up in stations and run as an all-camp activity, or you could travel to various places in camp as you continue to get to know the grounds. If supplies are limited, consider setting up stations that campers rotate to with their partner, so they reuse most of the supplies.

## In, Out, Over, Under

## LEARN CREATE

**Why:** When we work as the body of Christ, all are included, and creation is amazing.

**Supplies:** One sheet of construction paper per camper, construction paper strips (eight per camper) in a variety of colors, tape, crayons or markers, scissors

**How:** Beforehand, prepare the "base" for each camper by cutting 1-inch slits on the long edge of paper stopping just 1 inch below top edge. Cut enough 1-inch strips of paper that are the full length of the paper so that each camper has eight strips.

Show the flimsy way the "base" moves when empty. Remind the campers of the scripture that says all are part of the body of Christ, and it takes each of member to make the body strong. Give each camper a "base," and a pile of eight strips. Ask each camper to write their name on each of their strips, and somewhere on their base. Have campers lay all their bases on a flat surface and ask campers to weave one of their strips up and down through the slits on the edge of the paper (over and under) into their base. Campers now move to the base on their left, with their strips. At each base, they weave in a name strip. Proceed around until all bases are filled. Help campers tape the ends to finish their project, then show everyone how much stronger it is. Explain that the paper is like them when they practice *ubuntu*.

**BTW:** Consider using contact paper to make placemats out of the finished project. These could be used at a camp meal or taken home. You could also use tape to connect all the weavings into one larger piece of art and hang it for the camp to see.

## Minute to Guess It

## PLAY LEARN

**Why:** The parts of the body can do things together that one part cannot do alone. Each part of the body of Christ does things better together as well. Members do these things to show their love for God.

**Supplies:** Two strips of 1-inch x 5-inch paper per camper, container to hold strips, pens

**How:** Beforehand, on half the strips, write general activities that require two or more body parts to work together (e.g.: eating popcorn, calling on a phone, eating a meal, kicking a ball, singing a

song, building a block tower, sleeping, brushing teeth, walking a dog). Leave the other half blank.

Remind campers of the scripture story, and how they are all parts of the body, and each one of them has a gift that can be used with someone else's gift to do amazing things for God. Give each camper one minute to act out one of the slips while the group tries to guess. When all campers have had a turn, move on to the things that the body of Christ can do. Brainstorm ideas with campers, writing ideas on the blank slips of paper, talking about what gifts would be needed to do the tasks (e.g.: feeding the hungry—need people good at cooking, but also people good at welcoming others). You may need to prompt them to get answers. Have them think about missions their home church may do, or be prepared to suggest activities such as building houses, feeding people, caring for children, praying, etc. Repeat the game, but this time have the children do the tasks in pairs or threes. Reflect on the activity by asking, "Why do you think we used pairs this time? Why do you think the body of Christ does the things they do?"

**BTW:** If you are worried about the second round being too easy, try switching papers with another group. You could also divide your group in half, and have one group brainstorm things the body of Christ does that the other half of the group will act out. You could also have them draw, or create their clues out of Legos rather than using charades.

## Tangled Up Again

## PRAY

**Why:** This activity is intended to help the campers experience praying for one another.

**Supplies:** Yarn ball

**How:** Sit in a circle with the campers. Roll the yarn to a camper (while holding on to the end), thanking God for that camper by name and mentioning something that they bring to the body of Christ (e.g.: "Thank you God for Susie, and her friendliness"). Ask the camper to hold onto the yarn, but roll the ball back to you. Repeat for each camper. Have all the campers hold up the yarn and say a prayer after you, thanking

God for helping them to be parts of the body of Christ.

**BTW:** If yarn isn't available, you can use a ball to roll. Then have campers join hands and lift their hands up as you thank God for making all the campers parts of the body of Christ.



## Story Resources

**"The Gourds Must Be Crazy," on *Are You My Neighbor?*** (Big Idea Entertainment 1984) – A short *VeggieTales* video that talks about the different gifts people possess. Junior Asparagus must help the *U.S.S. Applepies* when the ship loses power. It ends up that two of the "new guys" have the skill needed to save the ship. This is one of two episodes on the video. The other one would be applicable to the good Samaritan story.

***Maybe God Is Like That Too*, by Jennifer Grant** (Sparkhouse Family 2017) – A picture book describing how a boy sees the body of Christ throughout his everyday life. The book is set in the city. It helps young campers connect ideas with concrete examples.

***When God Made You*, by Matthew Paul Turner** (WaterBrook 2017) – Beautiful pictures and rhymes assure children that God made them unique and beautiful. Doesn't take the next step to connectedness, but is a great reminder about how special each child is.



## Day 2: Ubuntu

### Daily Quick Reference Guide

**Scripture Passage:** 1 Corinthians 12:1–27

**Scripture Focus:** 1 Corinthians 12:12

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**Theological Summary:** As members of the body of Christ, we are each known and valued as a child of God. Each member of the body of Christ is called to live in community with others, knowing that we are all missing something without the gifts of others.

**Today, campers will...**

- Recognize value in themselves and others as children of God.
- Know they are interwoven members of the body of Christ.
- Commit to nurture their camp community.
- Experience *ubuntu* through shared joys and challenges.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Epic Rock, Paper, Scissors	PLAY	“Rock, Paper, Scissors” game that grows
Rhythm Leader	PLAY	A circle game of follow the leader
Outlines	LEARN	Chalk body outlines
Peaceful Pieces	LEARN CREATE	Making puzzle trees
Recipe for <i>Ubuntu</i>	PRAY SERVE	Snack making
Collective Knowledge	PLAY LEARN	Teamwork and sharing activity
Surfer Prayer	PRAY	Cool, connected prayer

**Leader Notes:** Today’s passage is a familiar passage to many, and yet fairly long and complicated for very young campers. God’s people are diverse and different. Be sure to focus on the ways that faith brings us together as the body of Christ, rather than on beliefs or practices that divide.

**Prayer:** Creator God, we stand before you as your beloved children, each created in your image and gifted by your Holy Spirit. Help us to claim our gifts and use them as a part of this community to bring joy and peace to all. Amen.

Intergenerational

# Daily Activities

## Epic Rock, Paper, Scissors

PLAY

**Why:** Play is one of the most effective ways to break down barriers and get to know one another.

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Explain that you will be playing “rock, paper, scissors”—and make sure everyone knows how to play. Begin by inviting campers to pair up and play together. Assure campers that no matter what the outcome, they are still important to the activity. As campers lose, they join the winner’s team. Team members are linked by putting hands on each other’s shoulders with each new team member joining the back of the line. Team members cheer for whoever is in the front of the line of their team. Once everyone is joined into one line, let the team (which now include everyone) take a victory lap around the play space. If you have time, play a few rounds.

**BTW:** Younger campers may not be tall enough to reach others’ shoulders. Encourage them to connect through holding hands or linking arms to keep the new team together.

## Rhythm Leader

PLAY

**Why:** As we seek to live lives of bringing the most good to ourselves and others, we must work together with others. This game illustrates how we can be good followers and join together in community.

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Have campers form a circle. Ask them to do what you do. Lead them through simple actions—such as clapping, stomping, hopping, etc. Practice changing the rhythm without telling them. Have the group choose one person to be a guesser. Send them far enough away (with a guard) so they can’t hear. Then have the group, silently if possible, choose a new “rhythm leader”. Clap to bring the guesser back and follow the new leader. The guesser gets three chances to figure out who the leader is. Then play again! Keep rounds going

quickly to keep younger children’s attention and ensure that as many campers as possible get to try different roles.

**BTW:** This could also be played with rhythm instruments. Campers could even make their own out of pie tins, blocks, sticks, etc. These could be used in worship throughout the week.

## Outlines

LEARN

**Why:** To guide the exploration of today’s scripture, campers will make chalk outlines of their bodies.

**Supplies:** Chalk, Bible

**How:** Invite campers to take turns outlining each other in chalk. Read Corinthians 12:1–27 out loud. Inside each camper’s chalk drawing, have other campers write gifts that camper has, or things that are special about that person. These can be generated by the group, or adult campers, depending on your setting. Suggest being creative and tying some of these gifts to different parts of the body—such as “caring *heart*,” or “helpful *hands*.” Invite campers to look across the different drawings and name what things they see in common. Write the word “*ubuntu*” between two outlines, connecting them, and explain that *ubuntu* is an African word that means, “We are each who we are because of those around us.” Invite campers to take turns writing “*ubuntu*” between other outlines, until all are connected.

**BTW:** Instead of sidewalk and chalk, butcher paper and markers would work just as well. You can even cut the outlines out and try to connect them like puzzle pieces to explain *ubuntu*. If you use chalk drawings you might consider taking silly pictures with them after the activity, or letting campers decorate the area with fun designs to fill in gaps. You could also shrink this activity down by simply drawing body shapes on 8.5” x 11” paper.

## Peaceful Pieces

CREATE LEARN

**Why:** Create a piece of art to take home and continue to celebrate the covenant of community.

**Supplies:** Paint and paintbrushes, markers, glue, cardstock or thick strong paper (8” x 11” or larger)

**How:** Ahead of time, cut up enough pieces of cardstock into puzzle-shaped pieces so that each camper can have 5–10 pieces.

Family members can work together, or on their own to create a puzzle tree. Give each camper 5–10 pieces cut from cardstock that look like puzzle pieces. Invite them to paint their pieces, which will serve as leaves for their tree. While the puzzles pieces dry, give each group a full piece of cardstock, and invite them to draw or paint a tree. Next, campers will take the dry, painted pieces and glue them onto the paper like leaves on a tree. Ask campers to think of people they feel connected to, and to put the first letter of their name on a “leaf.” If family members are working together, invite them to write names of family members they feel connected to. If campers want to paint their leaves other colors than green, the pieces can hang like fruit.

**BTW:** This could be a good opportunity for the telling of family stories. Invite adult campers to share a memory about their genealogy, or a story about how the family is connected. If some campers are not with biological family, be careful with how you approach this.

### Recipe for *Ubuntu*

### SERVE PRAY

**Why:** Explore food as a symbol of connection, then share some together

**Supplies:** Bibles, plastic bags, serving gloves, napkins, brown lunch bags, and trail mix ingredients of your choice (peanuts, raisins, M&M’s, pretzels, cheerios, cheese crackers, etc.)

**How:** Begin by brainstorming things that are mixed together to make a special food, but without changing the individual pieces (for example: salad, pico de gallo, etc.). Remind campers: “*Ubuntu* calls us to each be a special, unique person while also remembering we are part of something bigger.” Give each camper an ingredient or supply for making trail mix. Help them figure out the best way to share their individual resources to make a snack for everyone. After all the ingredients have been doled out, have then sit down to enjoy the “fruits of their labor.”

While sharing the snack together, invite campers to reflect on or read 1 Corinthians 12:1–27 and think about the different pieces that make

up their home church. Use simple wondering questions, such as, “I wonder who is the heart? Or the Brain?” Be sure to follow up by asking, “Why?” as campers answer. If you have time, invite the same conversation about schools, neighborhoods, teams, or other groups. At the end of your snack, invite campers to participate in a popcorn prayer, saying “thank you” to God for the pieces that make up their community.

**BTW:** Remember to revisit this activity at appropriate times in the week, such as setting out food for a meal, or working together to clean up. Name times that individuals work together as a community and celebrate *ubuntu*. To help name these moments, you might consider adding some ritual to the original activity. Ask campers to name the gifts of others as they receive them, such as, “I see Tanya’s pretzels and am thankful.” This sets an example for later actions, such as, “I see Desmond setting out the napkins and I’m thankful.” Adult campers can model this in cabin time or other shared moments.

### Collective Knowledge

### PLAY LEARN

**Why:** This activity is intended to help campers see the importance of working together, and the power of shared knowledge.

**Supplies:** Note cards, markers

**How:** In preparation, draw simple pictures on note cards. You need one card per camper, and each card should have an exact duplicate (for example: two hearts, two pineapples, etc.). Mix up the cards and number them on the backs. Assign each camper a number so that every card is assigned to someone. If you have an odd number of campers, you or another leader can participate. Place all the cards, picture side down, in front of the group. One at a time, allow each camper to look at the card with their number without saying anything. Explain that, together, the group knows everything it needs to know in order to match the cards without flipping them over. Now, invite the group to work together to place the cards into pairs without looking at the pictures. Once the cards have been paired, flip them over to reveal the pictures. Spend some time talking about how the group worked together, and other times in life when the knowledge or wisdom of others can help us.

**BTW:** You can make this more intricate by using two cardstock copies of the same picture and cutting them into identical pieces with numbers on the back. After campers find their pairs and reveal them, flip the pieces back over. See if the group can use their knowledge of what the pieces looked like to assemble both copies like a puzzle, without looking at the picture side. Use tape to hold them together before flipping to reveal the images.

## Surfer Prayer

## PRAY

**Why:** Adding physicality to prayers helps pull in younger campers and provide unique connections to one another and to God.

**Supplies:** none

**How:** Have campers make a circle. Ask each to put their arms out like a surfer—but with one palm up, and one palm down. Then, as a group, have campers place their open palms together, their left underneath the person's to their left, their right on top of the person's to their right. Explain: "When we join our hands like this and pray, we are each letting things go with our hand facing down. Yet, we are supported by and supporting one other, represented by the hands holding one another up."

Begin leading the prayer, giving thanks to God for bringing all of the campers together, and for the gift of creation around you. Give space for campers to share their own joyful prayers, or prayers of concern. Close the prayer when they are finished.

**BTW:** Try having the group pray out loud all at the same time—first for the person on their right, then on their left!

# Story Resources

**Zandi Finds Ubuntu, by Tereria Trent** – Zandi guides readers through the African countryside around her home, making connections about the natural world around her. This story can help campers put the word *ubuntu* into context as an African term, while also exploring how to achieve *ubuntu* in life.

**Red: A Crayon's Story, by Michael Hall** – A blue crayon is mislabeled as red, leading to funny and insightful struggles with the crayon's teacher, friends, and family. With the help of "Scissors," the "Blue" discovers what readers have always known—they are "red!" Use this book with campers to help them recognize their value, even if others don't see it.

**The Invisible Boy, by Trudy Ludwig** – Brian feels invisible, as if no one ever notices him. When Justin moves to his school, they are paired on a class project that helps them both grow, and Brian finally feel known.

**"Allegory of the Long Spoons,"** YouTube, (<https://youtu.be/7mGVOekKMRs>) – Based on an ancient story about hunger and sharing, this animated video is part of Caritas' "One Human Family, Food for All" campaign. This one-minute short provides a great visual representation of *ubuntu*. Campers could even try to replicate the parable!

# Worship and Devotions

## Introduction

Services at camp Offer a unique opportunity to connect campers and creation in worship. The resources in this section are designed to help you and your campers express your faith and give thanks to God. You will find Cabin devotions and song recommendations, as well as outdoor worship resources that are age appropriate.

**Song Recommendations:** Remember that we are simply giving some suggestions, and our list should not be considered the definitive list for the themes. The goal is to provide you with a starting place for music selection, while also providing some recommendations from different genres or generations you might not have thought about. Some music will be great for sing-along, while other is best used for reflection or as a response to scripture. Singing is a powerful community builder. Be sure to provide enough time for campers to learn songs by singing them more than once, while teaching new songs to engage the various tastes and preferences of your camp.

**Cabin Devotions:** We recommend doing devotions by cabin before bed. This is a good time to let campers reflect on their day and connect with one another. Showers and getting ready for bed can be a chaotic time that is particularly difficult for younger campers and those who are homesick. It can also be a time when community is challenged by teasing or the insecure posturing of peers. A devotion to end the night can put things back on track or help keep community norms in the forefront of camper's minds. Versions for Youth and Children/Intergenerational Cabins are provided.

**Planning Worship:** We recommend having campers plan worship. While they will need help, Camp provides an opportunity for campers to step into roles normally played by adults. There is also some creative freedom not found in the local congregation. Campers can be loud, silly, angry, excited, joyful, or thankful as they share their hearts with God. Each age group has

its own challenges and gifts when it comes to planning. Lean into the blessings of your camp and find ways for personal gifts to become a gift of worship.

*Daily Worship* resources will provide you with a simple structure for planning, but you can also use the various pieces in your own way. You can mix and match – pick and choose. They are arranged in a suggested order of:

- Opening Prayers / Litany
- Prayers of the People
- Scripture Sharing
- Celebrating and Centering Responses
- Stewardship
- Communion
- Benediction/Blessing

We hope these resources will help you create worship services that allow campers to express their faith, creation to sing God's praise, and the community to feel the Spirit move. However it might look to others, we know that when creation, Christ, and community come together, worship is happening!

## Parts of the Service

*Opening Prayers or Litany:* This is intended to center the camp for worship in a way that connects with the scripture or daily theme. You might want to write words for any responses on posters if you are worshipping outside. If you have technology in your services, these can be projected.

*Prayers of the People:* Each day's prayer experience is different, but each invites campers to be connected in prayer. Some are more reflecting and some more expressive, but all are a good way to pray through the daily themes or in connection with the day's scripture reading.

*Scripture Sharing:* Some scriptures work well as a skit. Some lack a narrative but can be shared in other creative ways. This section is provided to help you present the scriptures to campers in a creative way while still being true to the text.

*Celebrating and Centering Responses:* You probably want to pick one of the two or put them at different parts of your service. Celebrating responses are more active, while centering tries to create a calmer mood in the service. You might want to use these as described, or use them as a jumping off point for the creativity of your campers.

*Stewardship:* More than “giving,” stewardship is about being responsible for what God has put in our care and working as partners with God for the care of all creation. At camp, we might take an offering for a special project, mission, or even to support camp scholarships, but we can also talk about care for the earth, and how to use our blessings to care for others.

*Communion:* This curriculum is created by representatives of many Church traditions and all celebrate communion in different ways. The Communion resources provided are intended to be an “introduction” or “invitation” to the table that can be used with liturgy and prayers specific to your tradition. These resources also assume the table is open to everyone present. If this is not the case for your tradition, remember that these are just resources and you are free to edit or use other resources that reflect your beliefs and practices.

*Benediction/Blessing:* A closing prayer is often called a benediction. It is a blessing and sending out. Remember that worship has moods and how you leave worship can impact the rest of your day. Think about what comes next. Do you need campers up-beat, or do you need them calm and attentive? Will you make announcements after the benediction or before? We recommend making the benediction the last thing as often as you can so that in your gathering time, the last words are either to or from God.



---

# Daily Worship - Children

## DAY 1

### Opening

*If the word of the day has not yet been introduced, consider spending a moment explaining aloha's multiple meanings.*

One: Camp has invited us here this week. And so, we say, "Hello!"

**All: Aloha!**

One: When we worship, we thank God for bringing us together. And so, we say, "love."

**All: Aloha!**

One: Jesus reminds us that every person is part of God's family. And so, we say, "Welcome!"

**All: Aloha!**

### Prayer

Use this repeat and answer prayer to help your campers "bless" the staff that will lead them at camp. Have campers form a circle around their group or cabin leaders and reach their hands out as a sign of blessing.

Dear God // Bless our leaders // Help them lead us // Help us hear them

We welcome them // into our lives // and we promise // to help them lead // by praying for them // and working together. // Amen.

### Scripture Sharing

Read Luke 14:15–24 out loud, then say, "I wonder what it would sound like today?" Have some counselors act out the story using more modern excuses, maybe even silly ones. They can pull up random campers to be "extras" in the reenactment.

### Responding to Scripture

#### Creation Welcome

#### CELEBRATING

**How:** Explain to the campers that we are welcomed to camp by staff, leaders, and even by other campers, but that even God's creation welcomes us. Invite them to think about how it would sound if they were welcomed by different creatures that are common at your camp. What would a squirrel's welcome sound like? How would a frog welcome you to camp? Campers can use real works in a funny voice or make animal sounds and imagine it means "welcome." Invite everyone to turn and greet someone else in one of their favorite ways. If you have not yet introduced *aloha* as the daily theme, you might want to close by explaining that it is a way many people say "hello" and "welcome," inviting campers to repeat the word with you as a greeting to everyone.

#### Warm Welcome

#### CENTERING

**How:** Invite campers to think about the people who make them feel most welcome, or times they have felt the most welcome in a new place. Ask them to focus on one person and their face and imagine them standing at the great banquet as host. Ask them to imagine how that warm welcome might make a difference in the party. Ask campers to imagine themselves as the host of the party and how they might be able to make others feel welcome. Close with a short prayer, asking God to help everyone share a warm welcome to everyone who comes to camp this week.

#### Stewardship

Before worship, make a list of all the ways camp practices stewardship, for example: recycling, short showers, composting, food share, protecting nature, etc. Write each of these on a piece of paper and trim it to the shape of a pineapple. Have someone explain all the ways the camp will be practicing stewardship while campers hold up the different pineapple signs. Go back through

each way again and invite the campers to shout *aloha* after each if they are willing to be partners in those projects.

## Communion

I wonder if you have ever wished an invitation would show up, that never did. Maybe an invitation to a party. Maybe an invitation to sit and eat with someone. Maybe an invitation to attend Hogwarts. There are some invitations that will never come, but we know that one invitation never stops showing up. God is always inviting us to live together in love. Like the host of the great banquet, God invites all of us, and there is always room for more people at God's table. Welcome to this special meal where everyone is family, and everyone is invited! *Aloha camp, aloha!*

## Benediction

Read by camper or counselor: *God, thank you for welcoming us to this place. Help us welcome one another and make new friends. Help us learn, grow, play, and share an amazing week together with you. Amen.*

## DAY 2

### Opening

Invite worshipers to respond to each statement that applies to them with clapping, cheering, or by doing some other celebratory sign.

One: All of us have different gifts. Some of us like playing sports...

*Worshipers respond.*

One: And some of us like music or making things with our hands.

*Worshipers respond.*

One: Some of us like to learn about reading or writing...

*Worshipers respond.*

One: And some of us would rather learn math or science.

*Worshipers respond.*

One: We can use all of our gifts to worship God, and we say together:

All: Praise the Lord!

## Prayer

Invite campers to find a partner with whom to share a prayer concern. Each of them tells the other one thing they want to lift to God. These can be joys or concerns. Together they say, "Ubuntu," then link arms. Campers then try to connect with others by sharing a prayer and then linking arms. Once connected, campers cannot divide from each other. As you go, pairs become groups of four, and so on till everyone is connected. There should be two campers left at the end who share a prayer to form a circle. You might want to close in a communal prayer of thanks for all the connections made.

## Scripture

Invite campers to participate in the reading of 1 Corinthians 12:1–27 by responding to words with particular responses. You will need to read a little slower to allow them to respond. Here are some suggested cues, but you can create more of your own:

One – hold up one finger and repeat the word.

Spirit – say, "Ooh, Ah" and do "jazz hands."

Body – shake your body all over.

God – put hands over heart.

## Responding to Scripture

### *Being the Body*

### CELEBRATING

**Supplies:** Butcher paper, marker, tempera paint, paper plates, hand wipes, markers, trash bag

**How:** Before the service, trace a life-sized body on a large roll of paper, lying on a table in the center of the space or on the floor. Pour several colors of slightly watered-down tempera paint on paper plates. In the service, invite each camper to come to the sheet of paper. Ask them to gently dip the palm-side down of their hand in a color of paint and then place it inside the outline of the body. Ask an adult helper to write the name of the camper underneath/around the hand. Have

hand wipes available to clean the hand after this activity.

At the end of the painting time, note how each of us contributed to this body, like we are all one in the body of Christ: different colors, different sizes, and different gifts. You may want to play some music while campers are moving and painting. You can hang this in your worship space or other common area after it dries.

### **Parts of Me**

### **CENTERING**

**How:** Invite campers to think through the different people who have shaped them and made them the people they are today with this simple guided reflection. Ask campers to get in a comfortable position, then think about their brain, and then people who have helped them learn. Invite them to whisper the names to God. Ask campers to think about their arms and then people who have either carried or lifted them. Invite campers to whisper their names to God. Ask campers to think about their heart and think about people who love them. Invite campers to whisper their names to God. Ask campers to think about their feet and think about people who already follow or look up to them. Invite campers to whisper their names to God. Ask campers to stand and reach up high as you remind them that from their fingertips, to their feet, they can remember all the people who are connected and care for them.

### **Stewardship**

Remind campers that we are all part of one Body, and that each person's an important part. Explain that at church, we often pass an "offering plate" for money, but that in this service we will be offering the gift of ourselves, and the things we can do for others. When the plate or basket comes to them, invite the campers to place their hand in the space where money might be placed, and say a silent prayer to God about what they can do to support the camp community. You might give some examples, like sharing or cleaning up, or making a new friend.

### **Communion**

Have you even had a missing piece in a puzzle? It's really frustrating. Sometimes it's a new puzzle and we know is laying around somewhere – or maybe the dog at it. Sometimes it's an old puzzle

and we worry that a piece got lost along the way. When a piece is missing, it is frustrating. We see a picture, but it's not all that it could be. As we celebrate communion, we remember that, like a puzzle, our community is so much better when we have all the pieces. Unlike a puzzle, we always have room for more pieces. There are no straight edges. Our church can just keep growing and growing, as more people add on their pieces. As we celebrate communion, we are thankful for the people to invited us to share our piece of the puzzle and those who remind us how special we are. We know that when we come together, Jesus is with us.

### **Benediction**

Ask campers to form a circle and link arms. Remind them that we will be sharing lots of fun times at camp and even doing some deep thinking together. Ask campers to look around and see how they are all connected and see if they can get to know as many of the people connected to them as possible before the week is over. Say, "*God, may ubuntu be our reality as we are all connected in your love. Help us get to know each other and teach each other about your love. Amen.*"

## **DAY 3**

### **Opening**

One: Sometimes, like Jacob and Esau, people don't get along. It can be hard when our feelings are hurt, or when we hurt someone else's feelings. But God reminds us that we can say we're sorry and forgive other people when they do. One way to act out that forgiveness is to say, "The peace of Christ be with you." As we come to worship together, turn to someone next to you and say, "peace be with you." (Pause.) Turn the other way and say it to someone else—"Peace be with you." (Pause.) Let us worship God!

### **Prayer**

Explain to the campers that "confession" is an old word for admitting the times we could do better and invite them to participate in a simple