



✧ JOHN 17:3 ✧

Before Camp Devotion #1

ACCESS TO GOD

MAIN IDEA

Introduce the theme for CentriKid 2019 by discovering that God has given us all access to know Him through Jesus.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 14:6; Romans 8:32

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Bible, Images or concrete items that allow access to something (house or car key, library card, backstage pass, driver's license, passport, etc.), ID badge holders (low cost option—use notecards with a hole punched in the middle of the short side to look like a backstage pass), Cardstock cut to fit in the ID badges, Markers, Pens

INTRODUCTION

Play a game of "Would You Rather..." to get kids thinking about the ALL ACCESS theme. Gather the campers in the middle of your meeting area. Explain that you will give them two choices. If they would rather have the first choice, they run to the left of the room. If they prefer the second choice, they run to the right side of the room. Call out the following statements, allowing kids to run to their chosen side of the room each time. Feel free to incorporate other "movie" related statements to fit your group.

Say: Would you rather...

- watch a movie at home on your comfy couch or go to the movie theater?
- see an action movie or a comedy (funny movie)?
- have lunch with the director of your favorite movie or the lead actor?
- see how a movie is made backstage or be in the movie yourself?
- **while watching a movie) eat popcorn or gummy worms?**

After several rounds, gather the children back in the middle of the room and congratulate them on having fun with that game.

Say: We may have different ideas about the movies, but it is awesome that we ALL have access to God! The theme this summer at CentriKid is ALL ACCESS. We will discover that God wants to reveal Himself to us and we all have the opportunity to know Him!

EXPLORATION

Explain that you will display an item that provides access to something. That is, the items allow someone permission to use something or go somewhere. When kids see the item, they are to shout out what it gives you access to. Display a picture on screen or hold up the following items for the children to see:

- house key (or car key)
- library card
- backstage pass
- driver's license
- passport

Say: **All these things give us access to something helpful or interesting. Who knows what gives us access to God? How are we able to be with God?**

Direct children to see if their answers line up with what the Bible says. Read or ask a volunteer to read John 14:6.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Say: **Jesus is the only way we have access to God. It is because Jesus lived a perfect life and died for our sins and rose from the dead that we have the opportunity to be with God. But who gets to know God this way? Is it just for special people? Let's find out!**

Read or ask a volunteer to read Romans 8:32.

He did not even spare his own Son but offered him up for us all.

How will he not also with him grant us everything?

Ask: **Who is this verse talking about?** Allow children to offer their insight, encouraging them to clarify who "He" refers to as well as who the Son is and "us." Say: **This verse tells us that God was willing to give His own Son Jesus for us ALL. He gave Jesus—not just for a few people, not just for the ones who live in our town, but for all of us! I can't wait to learn more about knowing Jesus when we go to CentriKid this summer!**

Say: **To help us remember that we have access to God through Jesus, we're going to make our own "backstage passes."** Distribute the cardstock, markers, and pens. Encourage the campers to design a pass that shows they have access to God. You may want to give them some ideas to get started:

- Jesus is my way
- I have access to God
- I'm with God

Allow kids time to decorate their cards and then pass out the ID badge holders for them to insert the passes. Encourage the

children to attach the pass to a backpack or their suitcase they are taking to camp. If you use the low-cost option, they can use the notecards as bookmarks in their Bibles. You may want to reinforce the notecards with clear contact paper or packaging tape after the kids have decorated them.

CONCLUSION

Say: **God wants all of us to know Him. Let's pray for one another that we would be ready to experience all that God has for us.** Lead children to make a circle and pray for each other as you get to know God through His Son Jesus.





* JOHN 17:3 *

Before Camp Devotion #2

THE BIG REVEAL

MAIN IDEA

We can know God because He chooses to reveal Himself to us.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:19

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Bible

Towel or bandana

Wrapped gift with treats inside (i.e. a Starburst candy for each child)

Four different slips of paper, each with one of the following definitions written on it:

- Reveal: Make something known that was secret or unknown before
- Reveal: Allow something to be seen that was hidden
- Reveal: Make something known to humans by God
- Reveal: Make information known at the end of a TV show or movie that the characters or viewers didn't know earlier

Flower, pine cone or other interesting nature items

Cut-out paper hearts, one per child

Ahead of time, place the Bible on a table and cover it with a towel or bandana. Tape the "reveal" definitions under four different chairs in your meeting area.

INTRODUCTION

Say: **Today I have a few surprises for you! Does anyone want to know what they are? Hold up the wrapped gift. First, I have this gift for you. Do you know what is inside?** Kids may offer guesses, but emphasize that none of them knows what's inside because you have not shown any of them yet.

Say: **My other surprise is a special word. In fact, I will give you this present if you know the special word. The trouble is, I haven't told any of you my special word! What will we do?? Maybe my next surprise can help you.** Explain that you have hidden pieces of paper under four different chairs that explain something. Lead the children to search and find the papers. Ask those who found the papers (with the definition of "reveal") to

read what is written on them. Make sure that kids are understanding what the word "reveal" means.

Say: **Reveal sounds like something we need to do! Would you like me to reveal the special word?** Ask kids to give you a drumroll and tell them your special word (whatever word you choose).

Say: **Now that you know my special word, I guess you'd like me to reveal what's in this present, right?** Encourage the campers to chant your special word and allow a volunteer to help you open the gift. Guide the volunteer to distribute the treat inside to each of the children.

Say: **Did you enjoy my big reveal? Unless I had chosen to tell you the word or chosen to let you open the gift, you would not have gotten to enjoy that treat! In a similar way, the only way we can know God is because He has chosen to reveal Himself to us!**

EXPLORATION

Read or ask a volunteer to read Psalm 19:1.

**The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.**

Ask: **What does that verse tell us about where we can hear or see the glory of God? All around us!**

Pass around a flower or a pinecone or other interesting nature item. Encourage children to make observations about what they see and how these things can tell us something about God.

Say: **One way God reveals Himself is through His creation! He also reveals Himself through our hearts. Let me show you what I mean.** Distribute a cut-out paper heart to each child. Lead the children to trade hearts with someone and say something nice about the person they traded with.

Say: **All of you could recognize how good it is when someone is kind to you. You also know deep in your heart when you or someone else does something wrong—like saying hurtful**

things or lying or cheating. Crumple the heart you are holding to emphasize what you are saying. **God has placed in us an understanding of what is good and right, even if we haven't read the Bible! Speaking of the Bible, that is another way God reveals Himself to us—through His Word!** Uncover the Bible that has been hidden during this time.

CONCLUSION

Hold up the Bible you just uncovered. Say: **Aren't you glad God has chosen to reveal Himself to us? He really is THE big**

reveal! There's so much more to know and understand about God. I'm really looking forward to spending the week with you at CentriKid as God reveals Himself to us! We'll be with each other every day and we'll probably even reveal things to each other—like which adult leaders snore when they sleep and who brings the best snacks! Let's look for ways to encourage each other and listen for what God is teaching us through our friends. I have a challenge for you as we get ready for camp! Challenge the kids to read Psalm 103 before camp and make a list of everything they discover about who God is and what He does. Pray over the children, asking God to reveal Himself in new ways to each of them.





* JOHN 17:3 *

After Camp Devotion #1

JESUS IS GOD'S SON

MAIN IDEA

Jesus was revealed as God's Son during His baptism. Baptism is a way we can show that we are part of God's family.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 3:13-17

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Bible
Cup of water
Hand soap
Bowl with water
Ice pack
Small paper cups
Pitcher of water

INTRODUCTION

Say: **Almost every day at CentriKid, one of the announcements was to "drink plenty of..."** Allow the kids to answer—water! **Yes! When I'm thirsty, water is so good!** Take a drink of the water in the cup. **When I've been running around outside and it's time to eat, it's always a good idea to wash my hands first. I need some soap and..."** Let the kids answer again—water! Wash your hands in the basin of water. **And sometimes I might injure myself or strain my muscles and need something soothing to help like an ice pack. It's a frozen kind of..."** The kids answer again with water!! Say: **Water is pretty important in our everyday lives. God used water to reveal something important to us too.**

EXPLORATION

Read or ask a volunteer to read Matthew 3:13-17.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

Ask: **What happened with water in this story?** Allow kids to share what they heard.

Say: **Jesus was baptized in water. That is, his friend John put him under the water and then brought him back up again. Baptism is a picture of someone dying and coming back to life. When Jesus was baptized, God revealed to everyone that Jesus is God's Son. When we trust Jesus as Savior, we can follow His example and be baptized to show others that we are part of God's family.** Briefly revisit the Gospel plan that kids heard at CentriKid:

- God rules.
- We sinned.
- God provided.
- Jesus gave.
- We respond.
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If you have children in your group who trusted Christ at CentriKid, this is a great time to talk about baptism and what it means. This can also be a way to help other children know what it means to be a Christian.

CONCLUSION

Provide each camper with a cup of water. Lead them to take a drink of water.

Say: **Think about how refreshing water is. Take another drink of water. Jesus was baptized to show us that His death brings new life. When we trust Jesus as Savior we should follow Jesus' example and be baptized too. Let's thank God for taking away our sins and giving us new life.** Close your time with a prayer of thanksgiving that God sent His Son Jesus!



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After Camp Devotion #2

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US

MAIN IDEA

God reveals Himself through the Holy Spirit who helps us every day.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 14:16-18; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 2:8-10;
Romans 5:5;
1 Corinthians 2:13

SUPPLIES

Bible
Slips of paper with the scripture passages printed on them
Paper
Pencils or crayons
Quiet worship music

Ahead of time, hide the scripture passages around your meeting area.

INTRODUCTION

Ask: **If you have ever needed help, jump up and down! We all need help sometimes, even adults! Let's play a little game to see who helps us. I am going to call out a situation and then say "Who ya gonna call?" You answer with who might help you in that situation.** Call out the following situations and allow campers to answer with who could help them.

- **You can't figure out how to do your math homework...Who ya gonna call?**
- **Your hair is a tangled mess...Who ya gonna call?**
- **Your house is on fire...Who ya gonna call?**
- **Your dog is lost...Who ya gonna call?**
- **You spilled all the milk in the fridge...who ya gonna call?**

Say: **Great job, everyone! Remember when we learned at CentriKid that God reveals His power? God gives us power through the Holy Spirit. Let's dig into how the Holy Spirit helps us every day!**

EXPLORATION

Say: **The Bible reveals several ways that the Holy Spirit helps us. Let's see if we can find the hidden Bible verses in this room.** Organize your group into six different teams. Explain that

each team needs to find one hidden Scripture passage and read it together. Then, they must decide what that verse tells us about how the Holy Spirit can help them. Allow the children a few minutes to find the passages and discuss what they mean. Then call for the children to gather and share what they discovered.

Say: **Wow! The Holy Spirit helps us in so many ways! When we become a Christian, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in us. As we continue to know God better, we will learn to listen and do what His Holy Spirit guides us to do.**

CONCLUSION

Lead the children to practice listening to the Holy Spirit. Distribute paper and pencils or crayons. Explain that you will play some quiet worship music and allow them to listen to what the Holy Spirit may want to say. As they listen, children can draw or write what comes to mind. The Holy Spirit may want to remind them of God's truth or encourage their hearts or guide them to do something to help someone else. Encourage the children to begin by asking God to help them hear the Holy Spirit. Remind the kids that they might not have heard anything or felt prompted, but that's ok! God is not limited to any time or place and He is always there for us.

After a few minutes, turn off the music and ask if anyone would like to share what they heard. If the Holy Spirit is prompting someone in your group to do something specific, consider how you might champion that call. For instance, maybe someone hears the Holy Spirit asking them to do something for the homeless in your city. Pray about how you can work together to meet that need. Or, maybe a child feels like the Holy Spirit is saying he should be kind to his sister. Write a note to that child this week, encouraging him to love his sister. Close your time with prayer, thanking God for His Holy Spirit.