



KINGDOM QUEST

Leader Devotional

**AN EPIC JOURNEY
TO DISCOVER GOD'S KINGDOM**



CALLED TO THE QUEST

READ LUKE 5:1-11 NIRV

“One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. The people crowded around him and listened to the word of God. Jesus saw two boats at the edge of the water. They had been left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into the boat that belonged to Simon. Jesus asked him to go out a little way from shore. Then he sat down in the boat and taught the people.

When he finished speaking, he turned to Simon. Jesus said, “Go out into deep water. Let down the nets so you can catch some fish.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done so, they caught a large number of fish. There were so many that their nets began to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees. “Go away from me, Lord!” he said. “I am a sinful man!” He and everyone with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught. So were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who worked with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore. Then they left everything and followed him” (Luke 5:1-11 NIRV).

Long before any of us filled out a volunteer application, Jesus extended the invitation: “Follow Me.” This is not a call to perfection or performance, but to His presence. When Jesus called Peter, He didn’t wait until Peter had cleaned up, figured it all out, or proved himself. Jesus simply stepped into Peter’s boat and asked for trust. The same is true for us.

As leaders, it’s tempting to feel like we need to have everything together, especially during this, the week of all weeks in Kids ministry. We want to show up with the right energy, the perfect lesson, the smooth check-in system. Those things are wonderful, but Jesus’ call isn’t about our polish—it’s about our posture. He asks us to be available, willing, and surrendered. Instead of making room for Jesus, why not just give Him the whole room?

Remember, it’s the presence of Jesus that changes lives. Each small moment this week—a smile, a high-five, a quiet prayer behind the scenes—is pointing to something much bigger. Something that carries eternal weight. Remember, you aren’t “just helping” at camp. You are answering the call to bring the presence of Jesus.

Today, pray this simple prayer: “Jesus, I say yes to whatever You have planned. Use me however You want today. I don’t just make room for you in every moment—I give you every moment.” Keep your eyes and ears open. Look for ways to step out in faith, to speak, to serve, or to show up, even if it feels small or unseen.



STEADY IN THE STORM

READ MATTHEW 14:22-33 NIR

“Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then he sent the crowd away. After he had sent them away, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone. The boat was already a long way from land. It was being pounded by the waves because the wind was blowing against it.

Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake. They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said. And they cried out in fear.

Right away Jesus called out to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

“Lord, is it you?” Peter asked. “If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.”

“Come,” Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!”

Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said.

“Why did you doubt me?” When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, “You really are the Son of God!” (Matthew 14:22-33 NIRV).

Whether or not Peter was trying to impress the other disciples when he stepped out of the boat (we’ll leave that debate for another day), one thing is certain: he was responding to the voice of Jesus. His faith didn’t start with boldness—it started with obedience. The waves were still crashing, the wind still howling, but Peter walked simply because Jesus said, “Come.”

Camps have their own kind of waves. Plans change. Tech goes rogue. And suddenly you’re quoting Princess Leia: “Help me, Wi-Fi—you’re my only hope.” A child melts down just as you were hoping for a holy moment of hands-raised worship. And in all of it, you may find yourself wondering, What did I step into? But here’s the truth: Jesus meets us right in the middle of the mess. He doesn’t wait for the storm to pass—He invites us to lock eyes with Him in the thick of it.

Peter began to sink the moment he focused on the storm instead of the Savior. We do the same. We look at the clock, the chaos, the behavior, and forget that Jesus is right there with us. We didn’t join the kids’ team because it would be easy—we said yes because it’s worth it. And like Peter, we get to witness the miraculous, not in the calm but in the middle of the waves.

At some point today, things might feel overwhelming. When that happens, whisper, “Jesus, I see You. Help me focus on You.” Write it on your hand if you need to. Let it be your anchor. He is not distant. He is right there, steady and strong. And don’t forget to have fun today. Remember, the joy of the Lord is your strength.



STEADY IN THE STORM

READ LUKE 24:1-6 NIRV

“It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this. Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. Then the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee” (Luke 24:1-6 NirV).

The women who went to the tomb weren't expecting a miracle. They came carrying grief, acting out of loyalty and love. But what they found was life—life so powerful it shattered the grave. They didn't have a grand plan. They simply showed up ... and encountered the miraculous.

You're showing up, too. This week might be stretching you. You might feel unseen, exhausted, or wonder if what you're doing is making any difference. But every small act—every game you lead, every snack you hand out, every smile you offer—is creating space for resurrection moments. And those moments matter more than you know.

A child hears they are deeply loved. Another experiences a sense of safety they've never known. You hear voices—tiny, joy-filled voices—singing truth about who God is. These aren't just sweet moments. They are sacred ones.

That hallway, that stage, that noisy preschool room? It's holy ground. Because Jesus is alive, and His Spirit is moving. Something deeper is happening than most people can see.

“You have made sure that children and infants praise you. Their praise is a wall that stops the talk of your enemies” (Psalm 8:2 NIRV).

The praise of children is not just beautiful—it's powerful. It builds a stronghold against darkness. Every time you hear a child sing to God, something shifts in the spiritual atmosphere. Not just in your classroom, but across your city ... and beyond.

This is more than a volunteer role. It's a holy assignment. Praise God that we get to be a part of it!

Pause today and stand somewhere quiet. Take off your shoes if you can. Say, “This is holy ground.” Ask Jesus to help you see the sacred in the ordinary. Thank Him that He brings life where we least expect it.



THE BEACH MOMENT

READ JOHN 21:15-17, 19 NIRV

When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?"

"Yes, Lord," he answered. "You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He answered, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." Then Jesus said to him, "Follow me!" (John 21:15-17, 19 NirV).

Think back to your salvation story. Maybe you met Jesus as a child, or maybe He met you further down the road. Either way, chances are you've had what we'll call a "Beach Moment"—a time when, like Peter, you knew you had failed, fallen short, or simply drifted. And instead of shame, Jesus met you with kindness. He didn't scold you—He sat you down and served you grace. He welcomed you back and reminded you who you are. That's the heart of our Savior.

In the swirl of ministry, it's easy to get tangled in the logistics—the how, the who, the what. How do I make this lesson hit home? Who is actually supposed to be in this room with me right now? What time is service really ending because ... yep, the pastor's still preaching. Again.

But then Jesus' words echo: "Do you love Me? Feed My sheep." And suddenly, it all makes sense again. Yes, we love the mission. Yes, we love the kids. But above all, we serve because we love Jesus. And He made it clear—welcoming a child in His name is welcoming Him (Matthew 18:5; Mark 9:37; Luke 9:48), That's not just important. That's holy.

So what if today began with a fresh "beach moment"? Not with strategy, but surrender. Not with a to-do list, but a simple, "yes." Before you head into the classroom or chaos, pause and meet with the One who called you. Ask, "Jesus, is there anything in me You want to restore today?" Let your yes come from love, not pressure. And then go—confident that the One who restored Peter will equip you, again and again, to feed His sheep.

Find a quiet spot before the day begins—Close your eyes and picture Jesus meeting you on the beach. Hear His voice ask, "Do you love Me?" Don't rush past that moment. Let it sink in. Then respond honestly. Write down or type into a note on your phone what He might be inviting you to surrender, to receive, or to renew. Let your service today flow from that love-filled "yes."



FUELED UP, NOT BURNT OUT

READ JOHN 21:15-17, 19 NIRV

“When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered in one place. Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this

The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. Everyone was amazed at what God was doing. They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs. All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something. Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. They ate meals together in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere. They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved” (Acts 2:1-4, 42-47 NIRV).

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, everything changed. Fear turned into boldness. Confusion became clarity. The disciples went from hiding out to preaching out loud. And it didn't start with a giant stage or a slick program. It started in an upper room with ordinary people faithfully waiting on God. As camp wraps up, it's tempting to jump straight into the “what's next” list. Thank-you notes to write. Parents to follow up with. Sunday service to prep. Oh, and let's not forget the mountain of Goldfish® crumbs you'll probably still be finding in your shoes. If your nickname is something like “Kidmin Energizer Bunny,” you might already be halfway into planning your fall kickoff.

But hear this: rest is holy, too. In Jesus, there is power—and permission—to pause. You are a leader, and that means you go first in setting the tone for healthy, Spirit-led ministry. And sometimes that means going first in... taking a nap. (Yes, seriously. Jesus napped. Be like Jesus.)

And while you rest, remember: the work of the Holy Spirit didn't end when the last kid got picked up. The same Spirit that filled the disciples fills you—and those kids—today. Seeds were planted this week. Some will sprout quickly. Others may take years. But every prayer, every laugh, every story, every hug was a part of God's greater rescue plan.

You've helped light a path to Jesus. Now you're sent—not burned out, but fueled up—back to your family, your church, and your neighborhood. You're still on mission. You're still filled with the Spirit. You're still His.

Challenge: Before diving into your post-camp to-do list, take 10 quiet minutes today to sit with Jesus. No planning. No multitasking. Just be with Him. Close your eyes and thank Him for the work He's done through you—and in you. Ask, “Holy Spirit, what do You want to keep growing in me now that camp is done?”

Write down what comes to mind. Then, in bold obedience, do the most spiritual thing you might do all week: take a nap, go for a walk, or sit still in His presence. Let your soul catch up to what your body just lived through. Rest is worship when it brings you back to the One who fills you.