



Youth Leader Handbook

NAME: _____

CHURCH: _____



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Worship Prep/Church Devotion Location: _____

Schedule

Sunday

6:00 p.m. Dinner (until 8:00 p.m.)
7:00 p.m. Not So Late... Late Night Activities (until 8:45 p.m.)
8:00 p.m. Youth Leaders Meeting
9:30 p.m. Opening Worship
10:30 p.m. Church Devotions
11:15 p.m. In Rooms
11:30 p.m. Lights Out

Monday—Thursday

7:00 a.m. Breakfast & Quiet Time (See meal schedule for exact time)
8:00 a.m. Youth Leaders Meeting
8:30 a.m. Quiet Time (Monday only—Meet in the Worship Center)
9:00 a.m. Morning Celebration in the Worship Center
10:00 a.m. Experiences
11:30 a.m. Lunch (See meal schedule for exact time)
1:00 p.m. Return to Experiences
3:00 p.m. Optional Activities
5:30 p.m. Dinner (See meal schedule for exact time)
7:00 p.m. Worship Prep
7:30 p.m. Evening Worship
9:00 p.m. Church Devotions
10:00 p.m. Late Night Activities (until 10:45 p.m.)
11:00 p.m. In Rooms
11:30 p.m. Lights Out

Friday

7:00 a.m. Breakfast / Check out of housing

Meal Schedule:	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green
Breakfast	7:00 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	7:40 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
Dinner	5:30 p.m.	5:50 p.m.	6:10 p.m.	6:30 p.m.

Who's Who at Zona Camp

Chad Murrell

Student Evangelism Team Leader

David Torna

Camp Pastor

The Exchange Band

Worship Leaders

David Johnson

Eddy Pearson

Pastors to Pastors

Roger Daniels

Camp Counselor

Austin Ryan

Production Manager

*Zona Camp produced by Austin Ryan and Worship Catalyst

Barbara Keske

Scott & Susan Brewer

Camp Health Team

Amy Medley

Administrative Assistant

Camp Office: Student Services Building

Camp Office Number: 480-798-1707

Office Hours: 7:30 am—7:00 pm

After Hours Emergency Number: 480-798-6270

Zona Crew will be wearing a Christian Challenge shirt daily. Please feel free to seek their assistance for any needs.

Church Mailboxes

The Church Mailboxes are in the Camp Office. Please have one of your leaders check your mailbox daily before or after the morning youth leader meeting. We will put updates for leaders, student absentee notices, and any mail received for your church in your box.

Health Office

Health Office phone: 480-815-1159

The health office is located in **Thompson Hall #113** on campus. Office hours are 8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. The health team is available to handle medical needs. If they feel it necessary, they will recommend a trip to urgent care or the emergency room. They have your group's health forms on file that you turned in at registration.

After hours call: 480-798-6270.

Health Forms

Every person attending Zona Camp **MUST** have a completed medical form at check-in.

Lost Keys

Charges for lost/broken keys are **\$60 each**.

Charges for lost/broken swipe cards are **\$20 each**.

All keys and swipe cards are considered lost if not returned by completion of check-out time.

Reimbursement is not made for lost key or swipe card charges if they are later returned.

Camp Discipline

Concerning any discipline problem:

- ▶ 1st Level: Resolution made between camper and youth group leader.
- ▶ 2nd Level: Camper and Youth Group Leader meet with the camp director.
- ▶ 3rd Level: Camper sent home at the church's expense.

For assistance, please call the emergency number 480-798-6270.

Camp Boundaries

No camper is allowed beyond the campus property

No guys in girls' rooms/buildings, No girls in guys rooms/buildings

NO EXCEPTIONS

Camp Dress Code

Since this is a Christian youth camp, we ask all attendees to dress with this in mind. Please do not wear the following: spaghetti-straps, open-sided or bare-midriff shirts (this includes tube-tops, etc, and applies to male and female campers); clothing which displays distasteful advertising, slogans or pictures, e.g. beer ads, crude art, satanic themes, etc.

Cell Phones/I-Pod Alert

Adults reserve the right to take away cell phones/I-pods during scheduled camp events.

Cell phones/I-pod use during free times, optional activities, meal times, late night, and in rooms —is at the discretion of adult leaders.

No Skateboards

The use of skateboards is **not** permitted on Biola's campus. Please work with your students to ensure they do not violate Biola's expectations of a skateboard-free-campus.

What will get you sent home to Mom — just leave this stuff at home...

Knives, firearms, ammunition or other weapons (air soft guns or any simulation of a firearm)

Water balloons or shaving cream (except for the purpose of shaving)

Use of candles, matches, or any type of open flame within buildings

Fireworks, explosives and/or highly flammable materials

Controlled substances, alcohol, or tobacco

Romance, leave all that at home

Roller-skating / roller-blading

Profanity or excessive noise

Undesirable literature

Food fights

Gambling

Pets

MISSION LIFE

Team Leader: Josh Tompkins

9:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Students will load into team vans promptly at 9:45, directly from Morning Celebration each day. Each day M.LIFE participants will need to wear clothes that can get dirty, and closed toed shoes.

On campus: Crowell Auditorium @ 2:00 p.m.

WORSHIP CATALYST

Team Leader: Aaron Petre

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Directly after Morning Celebration, move toward the stage.

IMPACT

Team Leader: Tyler Trusley

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

IMPACT 1.0 Meet in Marshburn 4

IMPACT 2.0 Meet in Rose Hall 003

After lunch, IMPACT students will choose a Zona University class or sport.

ZONA EXPERIENCE

Team Leader: Caleb Spacht

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Each group will be assigned small group leaders who will lead their groups to their classroom. Please follow your group out of morning celebration.

Small Group Discussion Question Ideas

1. There are four categories of questions:
 - a. Ice Breakers – Designed to just get them to talk.
 - b. Disclosures – Designed to lay direction for following questions, and to break through the “wall” a little.
 - c. Third Person – Designed to lead thoughts toward the Home Run question by allowing a safe discussion about “others” rather than themselves.
 - d. Home Run – Designed to have them be honest with themselves (and others)
2. The times allotted for each group of questions is approximate. Just remember that the whole point is to get them to deal with the Home Run question. Skip Ice Breakers, etc. if necessary, or keep the discussion short.
3. Feel free to rephrase the questions in your own words. (Preferably, don’t read them.) Be careful not to change the meaning of the Home Run Question, and to not reword questions to force an answer.
4. There are no “right” answers to the discussion questions. Just “truth” or “lies.” Be willing to follow up with and push on kids who are feeding you “lies,” especially if they are just giving you the “church answer,” the “clown answer,” or the “don’t want to talk answer.” Ways to do that:
 - e. Express mild skepticism about their answer. “Really?” “No, seriously...”
 - f. Invite them to elaborate. “What else?” “How”
 - g. Give them a basis to form their thoughts. “How are you different from ____?” “I am sometimes _____, how does that compare to you?”
5. If a kid gives an “unchristian” or “unbiblical” answer, resist the urge to correct them. At most, ask other kids what they think. Be prepared to follow-up with them after Bible Study.
6. Be prepared to give your own answers, but don’t volunteer them (except for the ice breaker questions). Be transparent - - if you convince them you are perfect, they’ll clam up to avoid feeling inferior. But remember that this time is for them, not you.
7. Don’t allow others to attack a group member. Cut them off and explain that there are no wrong answers, just how a person feels, thinks, etc.
8. Don’t allow talkers to control the group. Be willing to gently cut them off by asking someone else for their response.
9. You are successful when you have gotten them to honestly think about the Home Run question, which is best (but not only) gauged by how they respond verbally.
10. Be prepared to end on time. Keep it moving so you don’t get rushed and miss the Home Run question. Remember, though, that the stuff that comes later will be diminished if your group is late. If you have to, arrange to continue a discussion after Bible Study, or refer a kid back to their church leaders.

Zona Camp Guidelines

Zona Camp has a wonderful history of youth and sponsors working together to create an exciting atmosphere where the Spirit of God has freedom to create life-changing events. THANK YOU for continuing this tradition.

Because the purpose of Zona Camp is to introduce students to Christ, help them grow as Christians, and provide opportunities to engage their world, it is the desire of the Student Evangelism Team that all individuals and activities support the purpose of the camp. While explained later in greater detail, some Core Values have been established to help all remain focused. Our core values are:

Commitment to Excellence
Heart for Evangelism
Relationships
Integrity
Servant Attitude
Teamwork

All camp guidelines have been based out of our core values. Please understand that if these guidelines are abused or broken, the person breaking them may be asked to leave Zona Camp and his/her parents will be responsible for furnishing transportation for their son/daughter from Zona Camp to his/her home by bus or by coming for him/her personally.

ZONA CAMP SPONSOR NOTES:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a sponsor for your local church and cooperating with us in these areas:

1. Youth Leader/staff prayer meeting daily at 8:00 am in Café Banquet Room (located next to the cafeteria). One sponsor from each church must be present daily, but all are welcome to come.
2. Church group leaders and sponsors should be a team! Likewise, cooperate with all other group leaders and sponsors.
3. Sponsors:
 - a. You are responsible for your students at all times.
 - b. Go over the guidelines with them.
 - c. Enforce the guidelines.
 - d. Help get them to the right place at the right time.
 - e. Set the example for your youth to follow.
 - Be on-time
 - Be positive
 - Be loving
 - Be a learner
 - Be a servant
 - If you have a problem, talk to a Student Evangelism Team Member. (Please, do not complain in the presence of your youth. They cannot solve your problem, but they can pick up a critical spirit.) Remember, it is our goal to solve your problem.
 - What you do in moderation, students will do in excess.
 - f. Any damage to your rooms will be billed to your church. (When your students arrive in their rooms, have them report any existing damage or problems to you. Then contact the Camp Office with that information so we can have it taken care of.)
 - g. Help your youth stay hydrated. "Most healthy adults can go without eating for a month, but they must drink 2 quarts of water a day." Headaches, stomach aches, dry lips and dry skin are all signs of dehydration.

4. ENFORCE the lights out policy. Why? Because:
 - It prevents emotional decisions!!!
 - It helps keeps us good-natured!!
 - We all need the sleep!
5. General Notes about ministry to/with youth.
 - a. Avoid “after hour” discussions.
 - b. Be sensitive and try to reschedule.
 - c. Never put off a true seeker, but never compromise your position as a sponsor.
 - d. NO church group meetings after 11:00pm.
6. Please obey all traffic signs while on Biola’s campus. (Maybe on the way home, as well.) Park cars only in designated parking areas and walk. Do NOT park in spaces marked “Reserved.” Youth are NOT permitted to drive under any circumstance. This includes golf carts.
7. Warn youth of possible thefts of their belongings. Biola, ASBC, and Zona Camp are not responsible for lost or stolen items. When not in their rooms, simply tell students to lock their rooms.
8. Make sure ID Badges are distributed to your youth and worn at all times. This in an IMPORTANT security precaution. It will not be taken lightly. If students lose an ID Badge, they must go with a youth leader to the Camp Office to get it replaced.
9. Cell phones must all be turned off during all worship celebrations and any other group time in the schedule.
10. Do not store food or other items in drop ceilings.
11. Do not take any food out of the Dining Hall.
12. No outside containers allowed in the Cafeteria.
13. Empty all trash containers to outside trash containers on Friday before you leave.
14. All accidents MUST be reported to someone in the Health Office.
15. Follow-up on spiritual decisions is a vital part of the camp experience. Begin your plans now and talk about nightly decisions in our morning meetings.

FUNCTIONAL GUIDELINES:

These guidelines will help Zona Camp run smoothly for everyone attending.

- All youth are responsible to any sponsor in response to the printed guidelines.
- All medications should be turned in to the designated youth leader from your church to be disbursed to the student at the appropriate times.
- All individuals and groups must be in their assigned rooms by **11:00 pm**.
- All youth are required to attend all scheduled sessions. If a youth becomes ill, the youth, along with a sponsor, should report to the health office.
- Do not switch class or housing assignments.
- Guys are not permitted in or around the girls' rooms/buildings and girls are not permitted in or around the guys' rooms/buildings.
- The Student Evangelism Team requires non-registered guests to abide by these guidelines.
 - Guests should actively participate in worship.
 - Guests need to register with the Camp Office.
 - Guests are asked to leave campus after evening worship.
 - Non-registered guests will not be allowed to spend the night on campus due to insurance requirements.
- Church Devotion locations are given in your church information packet.
- Lost and Found is located in the Camp Office.

RESPECT GUIDELINES:

These guidelines are designed to help everyone have an equal opportunity to enjoy Zona Camp.

- No food or beverages are to be brought into the worship center.
- No line cutting at the Dining Hall.
- At meal time, eat and leave... we will need all the tables available.
- Don't take food out of the Dining Hall.
- No outside containers allowed in the Cafeteria.
- Use the restrooms and get a drink before worship begins.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the worship center during the service unless accompanied by an adult leader.
- For your safety and those around you, no shaving cream fights, fireworks, or rock throwing.

FOCUS GUIDELINES:

These guidelines are designed to help us hear the voice of God loud and clear while attending Zona Camp.

- Dress is not to distract from the purpose of Zona Camp.
- Clothing advertising inappropriate secular music groups/individuals, sex, tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs or drug use is considered inappropriate dress and is not to be worn at Zona Camp.
- There will be no possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs (except for medications dispersed through the Health Office). Violation of this may result in immediate expulsion from Zona Camp at the parent's expense.
- Tape players, CD players, radio's, I-Pods are not allowed during any organized event.
- Only sponsors and staff may have cell phones during worship and program times.
- Private and/or public display of affection is inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

INVITATION PROCEDURES:

1. Move to designated areas as the invitation begins. (Don't wait!)
2. Step up immediately and be ready to meet the decision-maker (same gender) after a Student Evangelism Staff member greets the individual.
3. Go immediately to the designated encouraging area with the decision-maker.

4. Students will be counseled ONLY by someone of the same gender.
5. Secure encourager materials as you enter the area.
6. Listen and encourage. Understand the need before you begin to share.
7. If you get a situation which you feel is beyond your abilities, raise your hand and someone will help you.
8. Pray through the decision with the decision-maker. Allow the youth to voice his/her prayer of decision.
9. Fill out the decision card COMPLETELY. Please PRINT clearly.
10. Seek to get the decision-maker involved in some type of follow-up material. Examples: Survival Kit for Youth, DiscipleHelps, Beginning Steps, etc.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If during **any time** at Zona Camp an “abuse-situation” becomes known to you, please seek out Chad Murrell **immediately**. He will work with you concerning the legal and proper way to deal with the issue at hand.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR ENCOURAGERS:

- **Trust the Holy Spirit to guide you.** Pray that the Holy Spirit will work through you giving wisdom, power, and right attitudes.
- **Be friendly and informal.** Introduce yourself, get the decision maker’s name, and use his/her name in conversation.
- **Let the decision-maker tell you why he/she came forward.** You might say, “John, I’m so glad you responded to the invitation tonight. Could you tell me why you came forward?”
- **Speak in such a way that you can be heard and understood.** If you naturally talk loudly, soften a little. If you have a quiet voice, speak a little louder.
- **Be pleasant to be with at close quarters.**
- **Guide the youth to the truth of God.** Do not argue. Deal with the decision at hand. Use the Bible to point out the truth.
- **Use language the youth understand.** Do not use religious jargon. Examples: redemption, born-again, sanctification, justification, etc.
NOTE: Listen...Listen...Listen! You have two ears and one mouth. Use in proper proportion.
- **Be extremely cautious about physical contact.**

PRINCIPLES FOR ENCOURAGERS:

- **Be available** – Be among the youth. Make opportunities and use those which already exist. When the youth are around, be approachable. Once approached, be open and accepting.

Caution: Limit your “availability” if one person is monopolizing your time in an unhealthy way. Know when your moment has come.

- **Listen...Listen...Listen** – Stop talking and listen. Listen with understanding and objectivity. Empathize with him/her without getting so immersed in the situation you cannot help him/her get a mature perspective on it.
- **Uncover the Real Problem** – It may be layers down. Remember that if a trivial situation is a problem to the youth, it is a problem, regardless of whether or not it seems trivial to you.
- **Guide the Person to an Understanding of Himself/Herself** – Lead the youth to see himself/herself in relation to the problem so that, insofar as possible, he/she discovers the solution. If necessary, allow him/her to make some mistakes in working out the solution, but do not fail to give the direction and guidance when needed.
- **Take the Person to the Word of God** – The Bible is the only infallible source book for direction and guidance. It is your first and utmost authority. Find the principle which applies to the need. Remember that the outworking of the principle in the youth’s life may be different than it was in yours.
- **Commit the Person to the Lord** – God, not your friends, can best help the youth. Guard confidences. You are not the Holy Spirit. Don’t try to take His place. Remember, it was said of the Lord: “His name shall be called...Counselor.” (Isaiah 9:6 KJV)
- **If Possible, Direct the Person to an Immediate Constructive Course of Action** – Direct the youth’s attention away from dwelling on the problem, away from himself/herself, and away from you. Get him/her to work on some phase of the problem, which can be solved **now**.
- **Finally**, never forget what the Lord said, “Feed the flock of God which is among you” (I Peter 5:2KJV). These youth are not yours. They are **HIS**. They are merely loaned to you for a brief time because God saw something He wanted to do for them **through you**.

Will you let Him? It’s up to you.

(Adapted by permission – How to Be a Camp Counselor, Scripture Press)

What we expect from Leaders at Zona Camp

Leader Expectations

It is understood that no matter what our position, we are perceived as leaders and therefore we must “lead” in all areas of our life which include:

- Maintaining a life centered on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which includes regular weekend worship attendance, a daily devotional life and regular prayer
- Involvement in a small group

Core Values

Core values are what drive an organization. Zona Camp core values exist to represent the behaviors and attitudes most important and relevant to the Zona Camp leadership. Zona Camp believes in:

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

I will do my best at all times according to acceptable standards.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17

HHEART FOR EVANGELISM

I will love people (students) because God loved me. I will see those without Christ as precious.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:10

RELATIONSHIPS

I will build a genuine relationship with God and others.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39

INTEGRITY

I will be honest in what I say and do.

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity.” Titus 2:7

SERVANT ATTITUDE

I will put the interests of others before my own.

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

TEAMWORK

I will respect, encourage, and support my teammates.

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1

The following are general commitments that we seek to make with each other.

Moral Integrity

DON'T:

- Visit the opposite sex alone in room/car/etc.
- Travel alone with the opposite sex
- Counsel the opposite sex alone
- Counsel the opposite sex more than once without others knowing
- Dine alone with the opposite sex
- Show affection to the opposite sex that could be questionable
- Discuss detailed sexual problems with the opposite sex in counseling
- Discuss your relationship problems with the opposite sex

AT ALL TIMES STRIVE TO:

- Be careful in answering questions from the opposite sex
- Make other leaders your ally
- Pray for the integrity of the other leaders

“But among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)

Always Honor:

- **Confidentiality** - One basic rule of the student ministry is the confidential relationships between the youth leaders and students. It is imperative for all leaders regardless of their position, to respect the privacy of others. Any conversation, counseling session, or correspondence with Zona Leaders must not be discussed or made public in any way. Knowledge about people gained because of leader relationship shall be closely guarded. Breach of this confidentiality will only be acceptable in situations of sexual abuse or misconduct, and then only communicated with the Camp Director or Camp Pastor.
- **Nondisclosure** – The protection of confidential information is vital to the interests and the success of Zona Camp. Such confidential information includes but is not limited to the following examples:
 - Counseling records
 - Student information
 - Background check records
- **Personal Appearance** - Zona Camp is a place of ministry and we are professionals. Leaders are expected to exercise modesty in their dress. Ask the Camp Office if you have any questions as to what constitutes appropriate attire for either recreation or worship.
- **Attendance and Punctuality** - To maintain a safe and productive camp environment, Zona Camp expects leaders to be reliable and to be punctual for all Bible Study, Track Times, and worship services.

- **No Tobacco Use** - In keeping with Zona Camp's intent to provide a safe and healthy camp environment, tobacco use is prohibited on Biola campus. This policy applies equally to all leaders, staff, attendees, visitors and outside groups.
- **Drug and Alcohol Use** - Drug and alcohol use is a highly detrimental example to students. No one may be under the influence of any illegal drug or alcohol while at Zona Camp.

The unlawful manufacture, possession, distribution, transfer, purchase, sale, use or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while at Zona Camp is strictly prohibited and may lead to disciplinary actions, including dismissal from camp. When appropriate, Zona Camp may refer leader to approved counseling or rehabilitation programs.

Dealing with Sexual Abusers of Children

PURPOSE: A profound legal and moral obligation exists to reduce the possibility of Child Sexual Abuse from ever occurring. The goals of this policy and procedure to make our camp a safer place are:

- Safeguard the children and youth of our camp from sexual molestation
- Protect camp staff and volunteers from the potential allegations of sexual abuse
- Limit the extent of the camp's legal risk and liability due to sexual abuse
- Protect the ability of the camp to maintain its ministry

DEFINITION: Child sexual abuse shall mean the following types of conduct if committed against a person under the age of 18: (1) any assault or abuse of a sexual nature; and/or (2) any type of sexual molestation, harassment, or intimidation. Such conduct constitutes Child Sexual Abuse whether or not such conduct is the subject of criminal investigation.

POLICY: The following statement is our policy in dealing with persons known to be sexual abusers of children;

"No person who has ever engaged in Child Sexual Abuse shall be allowed to lead at any level at Zona Camp (e.g. leadership team, staff, chaperone, teacher, etc)."

PROCEDURE: Furthermore, as leaders, we are directed to adhere to the following procedure in support of this policy:

"If you become aware or have reason to believe that someone in leadership at any level at Zona Camp (e.g. leadership team, staff, chaperone, teacher, etc.), has ever engaged in Child Sexual Abuse you are to immediately advise the Camp Director so that a review of the situation can be initiated. In an effort to honor confidentiality, under no circumstances should you discuss the matter with anyone other than with the Camp Director, unless you are specifically directed to do so by the Camp Director, or required to do so by applicable law."

SPECIAL NOTE:

If during **any time** at Zona Camp an "abuse-situation" becomes known to you, please seek out Chad Murrell **immediately**. He will work with you concerning the legal and proper way to deal with the issue at hand.

CHURCH DEVOTION INFORMATION

Below are a few guidelines that **MUST** be followed **BY ALL YOUTH LEADERS** in order to create the proper environment for all groups:

1. Start on time.
2. End on time unless decisions are being made for Christ.
3. **DO NOT DISMISS EARLY.**
4. Meet in the area assigned to you, unless a change is approved by Camp Office Personnel.
5. Keep your church group together. **DO NOT** allow your youth to join another church group so they can be with someone with whom they have just "fallen in love".
6. Be conscious of the noise level. Do not disturb others.
7. Please pick up the trash after each church group meeting.
8. Make sure your youth know how to have a Quiet Time. Instructions are below.

HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME (THAT'S NOT SO QUIET)

There are two essential steps for developing a quiet time.

1. Make a commitment to observe a time with God daily.
2. Develop a plan of how you will spend your time with Him.

Let's briefly deal with both of these issues.

In order to have a daily quiet time, it is up to you!!! No one can force you to have fellowship with God. Only you can make the decision to be actively involved in this wonderful experience. Therefore, you must make the willful choice to do it! After you have experienced the joy yourself, it will be easier for you to maintain this discipline.

However, to get things started, **YOU MUST MAKE THE DECISION TO DO IT!!!**

Why not make that decision right now?

NOW, once you have made the decision to have a quiet time, it is necessary to develop your strategy or plan. In developing your strategy, you will need the following items:

1. A definite time of day you'll have it
2. A definite place to have it
3. The right tools
4. The right attitude

A DEFINITE TIME: Pick a good time when you can meet God on a regular basis. Most people seem to prefer the morning, but the evening or afternoon is just as good. The main thing is to make it a regular part of your daily schedule. Just like you have a special time to practice your favorite sport or musical instrument, you need a special time to meet with God.

A DEFINITE PLACE: Pick a special place to meet God. Find a location free from distractions and interruptions. Just as you desire to have a quiet place to meet with that someone special in your life, it is nice to have a special “get-a-way” location for your meetings with God.

RIGHT TOOLS: Have the right tools available for your quiet time. This means items like your Bible, paper to take notes, and a pen or pencil to record your thoughts. Another important item is some type of prayer list.

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE: Have the right attitude when you come to meet God. Remember, you are meeting with God. He is your best friend and He loves you, but nonetheless, He is still God. Give Him the reverence this is due Him. Likewise, when you enter your quiet time, come with an open heart and mind. Be ready to allow God to minister to all of your needs. Be honest with God. He knows how you feel, so relax and be yourself!

FINALLY: Keep on keeping on! As you are developing this good habit of meeting with God daily, you may occasionally miss a day. If you do, do not quit! If you miss a meal due to your busy schedule, you don't give up eating! Therefore, why should you stop having your quiet time just because you missed a day or two? Quiet times are not always easy, but they are always valuable. If you see a pattern developing which keeps you from having a consistent quiet time, change your schedule or change the time you have scheduled for your quiet time. Talk with others and discover when and how they have their time alone with God. The main thing is keep trying...don't quit!

If you have further questions about how to have a quiet time, the camp staff, your minister, pastor and/or camp sponsor(s) are excellent resource people. Remember, this discipline called “Quiet Time” is vital to your walk as a Christian. The main thing is to meet the Lord daily through a quiet time and allow Him to help you.

