

# Connecting Camp to Home



We know that the most powerful influence on any person's faith life is those closest to them. For most children and youth, that is their family. All the camps, youth groups, and VBS programs in all the world can't equal the power of faith shaped by family and mentors.

The goal of these activities is to provide some practices for families at home. The themes follow the daily themes from camp. This provides another opportunity for campers to share their experiences with family and their family to join the conversation.

## Each day has the same outline:

**Scripture to Read** – This can be done individually or as a family. You can use the other activities and questions to dive deeper, or just discuss the reading.

**Questions for Reflection** – Whether it is a meal time, in the car, or an intentional conversation together, these questions invite storytelling and idea sharing.

**Activity to Share** – Every activity is different. Some are more complicated. Some require a little planning. All of them will create quality family connections.

**Challenges for Living it Out** – These can be used for reflection in the moment, as an invitation to share stories from the past, or as goals to vision around in the future.

You don't have to do these in any order, or even have to do them all. The hope is that these questions, activities, and challenges will provide a buffet or options for your family.

These could also be activities you share with other families in your church community. There is no wrong way to use these daily sheets. They are for your use, and our prayer is that they will help campers and families grow closer to each other and to God.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 1: Gathering Fruit

**Scripture to Read:** Galatians 5:16–26

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What does it mean to “get along” with others? Why do you think this often seems harder than necessary?
- Which fruit of the Spirit seems the hardest for you personally?
- How does watching others exhibit these fruit of the Spirit impact you?
- How might you practice using these gifts in your daily life?

**Activity to Share:**

We talk about fruit as singular because it is all of the same Spirit. We know it has different expressions. Can you come up with an example of what each fruit of the Spirit means to you?

- On a large piece of paper, or marker board, write the fruit of the Spirit and ask each person to write an example next to it. Post this somewhere where everyone can see it as a reminder to keep gathering fruit of the Spirit.
- For nine days, assign each day a fruit of the Spirit and have everyone post or text a picture that exemplifies or reflects that fruit. You could print them out and make a collage to hang.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- “Gather” fruit by looking for it in the world around you.
- Pick one fruit you struggle to see or share and practice using it for a week.
- Think about who you struggle most to get along with, and find a way to practice fruit of the Spirit in connection to them.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 2: Love and Joy

**Scripture to Read:** Luke 15:3-7

**Questions for Reflection:**

- When have you been lost, or felt lost? How did it feel to reconnect with others?
- When have you found something that you were sad about losing?
- Who did you tell about it or celebrate with?
- How might love and joy keep us from getting or feeling lost?
- How do you think your life might be bringing God joy?

**Activities to Share:**

1. As a family or church, invite younger members to interview older members about a time they were lost, or a time they found something important. Have them ask about the love and joy they felt in that experience. Provide time for everyone to share the stories they heard.
2. Make a list of times that feel strange to share love or joy and talk about ways you might share them, even when it is a challenge.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Use “love” in a sentence once a day for a week.
- List a joy every time you complain about something.
- Tell other people when they have brought you joy, or even just made you smile.
- Check in, once a week, on ways you are adding to one another’s joy, and ask what else you could do together to create joy or show love.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 3: Peace

**Scripture to Read:** Matthew 8:23–27

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What most commonly disrupts your personal peace?
- What are your biggest concerns for peace in your community or in the world?
- What helps you regain peace in your own heart and mind?
- How can finding peace in ourselves lead to peace in the world?
- If you were going to wake up Jesus to deal with an issue in our world, what issue would it be?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Find a quiet space together and start taking long, deep breaths. See if you can get into rhythm, all breathing together, just by listening to the people closest to you and finding a common pace. Afterward, spend a few minutes talking about how simple calming moments can make us feel more peaceful.
2. Draw pictures of things that make messes, cause chaos, or disrupt peace in the world. Let each person share their picture. After everyone has shared, brainstorm ways that we can seek peace in the midst of those troubles and focus on things we can do to help one another work for peace.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Set a time each day to pause and take a few peaceful breaths.
- Think about how you create, perpetuate, or impact the chaos around you, and see how you might limit your impact, especially on others.
- Don't be afraid to cry out for peace in the midst of trouble. You can't disturb a peace that does not exist.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 4: Patience and Kindness

**Scripture to Read:** 1 Kings 17:8-16

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What is the difference between patience and doing nothing?
- When is it most difficult for you to be kind or patient?
- When do you make it hard for others to be patient or kind?
- In our scripture, Elijah seems to be someone who struggles to be patient and kind. How might he have treated people differently?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Work together to make a meal for someone in need. This could be a family member, neighbor, friend, or stranger. Or spend time cooking at a homeless shelter. Take some time afterward reflecting on the patience required to fix food, work together, and serve others. What made it fun, challenging, and rewarding?
2. Have each person pick someone they struggle to express kindness around. They do not have to say who it is out loud. Allow time for each person to brainstorm ways they might practice patience with that person, then spend a week practicing patience. Afterward, spend some time sharing how practicing patience impacted kindness. You can also do this in reverse, practicing kindness toward someone who tries your patience.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Look for ways patience or kindness can deepen difficult relationships.
- Remember that kindness and patience are not one-time things; they require repetition.
- Ask for grace and forgiveness when you have struggled to be kind or patient.
- Try to figure out why people who are not kind struggle to be so. It may help you have patience with them.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 5: Goodness and Faithfulness

**Scripture to Read:** Mark 12:38–44

**Questions for Reflection:**

- How often do you think the woman in the story comes to the temple?
- What do you think coming to the temple means to her?
- How much do you think the woman would give if she were suddenly wealthy?
- How often does a person have to do something good or faithful to really be considered faithful?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Goodness and faithfulness are not one-time actions. They are a way of being that shapes, or is reflected in, our character. Make a list of things you think reflect goodness or faithfulness and pick one to invest your time and energy in as a family or church group. This might be a mission project, fundraising effort, or relationship with someone in need. After a few months, spend some time reflecting on how the experience has impacted you individually or together.
1. Make a list of people you feel reflect God’s goodness and faithfulness and choose one to interview. Invite them to share a meal or dessert and ask them about how they invest their time and energy in the things they care about. Afterward, spend some time reflecting on how that person might inspire your own levels of commitment or time management.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Make commitments and stick to them, even when it is inconvenient.
- Give of yourself, in some way, to things that matter to you.
- Give in ways that require some level of sacrifice without reward for you.
- Make sure you believe in the things to which you are most invested.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 6: Gentleness and Self-Control

**Scripture to Read:** 1 Samuel 24

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What is the silliest or strangest thing in this story to you?
- How do you think David shows self-control?
- Could David have shown more self-control at the end, or did he need to confront Saul in public?
- How can gentleness lead to self-control or how can self-control help us be more gentle?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Ask everyone to make a list of their “pet-peeves,” then brainstorm together healthy ways of responding to each. Encourage everyone to pick one on the list that is a challenge for them and try to use the suggestions to show better self-control. Check back in a week or so to see how the experiment is going.
2. Let each person take a turn rolling a ball toward a wall and seeing who can bounce it off the wall and get it to come back to them. Try again with a goal of having the ball touch the line but not come all the way back. Do it again and see who can hit the wall and have it come back the least distance. Finally, try to roll it toward the wall without hitting it. Who can get the closest without making contact? Spend some time talking about the challenges to being gentle. What are the challenges to being gentle with people?

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Share your thoughts without demanding your way.
- Care more about the person you are making a decision with than the outcome.
- Know where you struggle to show self-control so you are ready to respond in healthy ways.
- Practice giving grace to others and to yourself when there is a failure to practice self-control or gentleness.
- Write a prayer you can say in times of struggle rather than being overly aggressive or losing control of your emotions.

# Take Home Sheets



## Day 7: Sharing Fruit

**Scripture to Read:** Galatians 5:16–26

**Questions for Reflection:**

- Which fruit of the Spirit do you most easily share with others?
- How does sharing fruit of the Spirit with others impact you personally?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel your community needs you to share most right now?

**Activities to Share:**

1. Make a list of challenges or issues in the world or community, then match a fruit of the Spirit with each, thinking about how each might make a difference. Invite each person to pick one issue and the fruit they will share to try to make a difference. This could be a global issue or something in your family. There is no issue too big or too small for fruit of the Spirit to make an impact.
2. Keep a fruit bowl out in a public space and encourage everyone to stop and give thanks for a place they have seen or shared a fruit of the Spirit before taking a piece of fruit. After the bowl has been emptied, spend some time reflecting on how the fruit bowl has impacted everyone.

**Challenges for Living It Out:**

- Share fruit of the Spirit with no expectation for what you get in return. If you are looking for a reward, you're not really sharing fruit of the Spirit.
- Don't be afraid for others to see fruit of the Spirit growing in your life.
- Regularly find ways to give God thanks for the fruit of the Spirit in your life.