


IN THIS WAY



DEEP IMPACT/WORLD MISSIONS WEEK 2023

CHURCH GROUP DEVOTIONS

2023 Church Group Devotions Deep Impact/World Missions Week

Thank you for joining us at Fort Caswell for the 2023 Deep Impact or World Missions Week. Our theme this week, *"In This Way"* is taken from **John 3:16 (CSB)** - ***"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."***

The following pages contain church group devotions for those attending Deep Impact or World Missions Week at Fort Caswell this July. "Pre-Camp" devotions are available on the Deep Impact Kids page found at <https://baptistsonmission.org/dikids>. Scroll down the page for the 2023 DI Kids Devotional. These were prepared by this year's Deep Impact Kids Staff and are available to any church attending a Deep Impact or World Missions Week.

During camp, there will be a time scheduled each evening for Church Group Devotions. Two options are provided for you on these pages. You are welcome to use these devotions or provide your own. These are provided as a service to you.

You are responsible to provide your group with any additional materials needed for nightly church group devotions. Depending on the option you choose to utilize, you may need to make signs, provide pens/pencils, sticky notes, basins and towels, etc. Items needed for each evening are mentioned in the devotion. You will need to read and prepare this ahead of camp.

Each camp participant will be provided with a workbook providing morning devotions; note spaces for morning celebration, evening worship, and church group devotional times; and morning Bible study notes for the WMW youth. You may want to bring pens or additional supplies to aid your group devotions.

We look forward to our week together at Fort Caswell.

MONDAY, JULY 3, 2023
CHURCH GROUP DEVO BUILDER FROM MESSAGE

MAIN PASSAGE: _____ **MAIN THEME:** _____

MAIN POINTS OF THE MESSAGE:

STORY OR ILLUSTRATION TO CONNECT MAIN POINT(S)

GO ONE STEP FARTHER

What is the next step to go beyond where the speaker ended?

How specifically can my students respond to what they have learned?

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What main takeaway do I want my students to take from the message?

What is the main verse I want them to keep with them?

How does this relate to contemporary issues in youth or our community?

Monday, July 3, 2023
Church Group Devotion
"Community"

This week in group devotions we will be focused on community among believers and the church. How would you define "Community?" When googling the definition of community there are two results which are listed below:

1. A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
2. A feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

What should be our common interest or bond? Our bond should be in Jesus Christ as believers and disciples. Are we going to always see eye to eye?

Since our common bond is in Jesus Christ and He came to this world as a servant, this should be our focus. **Philippians 2:5 (NIV)** – ***"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."*** Imagine if our church and youth group had the same mindset as Jesus. What would our church and community look like? What would our world look like?

Invite the participants to have a time of self-reflection: How is your mindset? Is your mindset about being what you want or is it truly a mindset like Jesus as told in **Philippians 2:5**? How does your mindset impact your community with others?

Invite students to use space provided on page 10 their participant booklet and write responses to your questions.

Do you think we struggle with community? If so or if not, why? What do you think are some of the causes of disruption in our community?

This week we want to look at community within our church, our youth group, our friends, and our family. Have we lost focus on our common characteristics our common attitudes? What can you do right now to impact your community while here at Caswell? (Take time with your group and list things each one of you can do. Perhaps you will want to use a piece of poster board or newsprint you can leave up throughout the week.)

Prayer time: Pray to have the same mindset as Jesus Christ in our relationships with others.

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023
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Tuesday, July 4, 2023
Church Group Devotion
"Freedom is Found in Christ"

Happy 4th of July – True Freedom and Independence is found in Christ

What is the 4th of July? Independence Day is annually celebrated on **July 4** and is best known as "the **Fourth** of July". It is the anniversary of America's declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776. Great Britain ruled the 13 colonies here in America. The colonists became tired of being controlled by Great Britain. They wanted their freedom.

Think about things or people which have a control on your life. Many of us have habits, things in our past, people, or sin within our lives which we cannot let go – in other words, it has a hold on us. These things weigh us down. What keeps you from being free?

Pass out the sticky notes and have each person list one thing weighing them down. Place it in the designated area marked with the attached sheet "Things weighing us down." **(Create the sign for the designated area ahead of time.)**

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV)- Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

According to the scripture we just read, where can we find freedom from anything? In the Lord! Take another sign labeled "Things God Can't Lift" **(Create the sign ahead of time.)** and tape over the previous one that says, "Things Weighing Us Down." Now have those who placed sticky notes on the wall with items weighing people down remove the one they posted unless God can't lift it or remove it.

The key to remaining free is not being trapped by those things which weigh us down.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) - It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

What is a yoke? A frame fitting over the neck and shoulders of a person, (perhaps you will want to bring a picture of a yoke to show) used for carrying pails or baskets. The yoke is a heavy load for a person to carry with the items we listed which weigh us down.

How do we escape the yokes we put on ourselves? What prevents us from living our lives to the fullest? We live in the Spirit of the Lord and we enjoy freedom we have in Him.

Prayer: Psalms 79:9 (NIV) - Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. Now pray for each member of your group. Pray for those who have found freedom in Christ. Pray as well for those who need to be released from the yoke of sin.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023
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Wednesday, July 5, 2023
Church Group Devotion
"Value Others First"

Monday night we discussed community and the definition of community. Our scripture was from **Philippians 2:5 (NIV)** which says ***"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."*** We looked at community within our church and youth group. We know we must have the same mindset as Jesus. We are now going to personalize this community and look at scripture which tells us how to treat others.

We must value and put others first to have a strong community in our church and youth group. **Philippians 2:3 (NIV)** says ***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."*** This is not always easy to do. As Jesus was selfless. We should be the same. We are all equal and we are not better than anyone else. Look at how Jesus used the unlikely ones to be his disciples. They were not the popular individuals, religious leaders, scholars, or wealthiest. They were known as common individuals, some even despised by their community. We all have different gifts and talents given to us by God. These gifts and talents do not increase our value over anyone else. The key is for us to understand who Jesus came to serve; yes, serve. Jesus came to serve us all. As disciples of Christ, we need to serve and love all. By serving and loving, we are valuing others as children of God and we must put them first. When we die and we go before God, it does not matter how good we look, how much money have, or how popular we are, it's whether or not we know Christ. We are to look out for the interest of others.

Philippians 2:4 (NIV) says **"not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."**

This is the time for individual reflection for each member of your group. Encourage them to think and pray about these questions. Then, invite them to make notes in the space provided on page 32 of their participant booklet.

How are you doing individually on how you are treating others?

Are you selfless or selfish?

What areas do you see others struggling?

Do you have the same struggles?

Is there someone you particularly struggle with?

As individual believers you make up the community within our church and youth group. Be humble and serve others.

Continue to pray for each other to have the mindset of Jesus Christ in relationship with others. Pray we will value each other and put our own interests behind those of others.

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023
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Thursday, July 6, 2023
Church Group Devotion
"God Never Changes"

Start this evening by breaking the group into smaller groups for discussion. We understand changes occur every minute, hour, day..... Think about some changes you are facing as you consider these questions:

- ✓ How have you changed over the past few years?
- ✓ Have you grown taller? Are you smarter?
- ✓ Have your friends changed?
- ✓ Has your personality changed?
- ✓ How have you changed over the past few weeks? What about your faith?
- ✓ Has anyone told you in a negative or positive way you have changed? If so, do you feel comfortable sharing with the group?

In the Bible Jesus changed many lives, even while on the cross, as he told one of the criminals ***"today you will be with me in paradise."*** (Luke 23:43 – NIV). Jesus was a change maker in the lives of others. He was constant and unchanging in his love for those around him.

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Jesus is, was, and forever will be a life changer. He is still changing lives today.

The same Jesus who was here over 2000 years ago wants to change your life. Before going into prayer have participants think about things in their lives they would like to change or need to change. Have students write their responses on page 44 of the participants booklet. Some may want Jesus in their lives, others may recognize changes need to be made in their actions, habits, friends, or the time they spend with God in serving Him and others.

James 1:17 (NIV) "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Prayer:

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2023
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Friday, July 7, 2023
Church Group Devotion
"The Community Member Makes It Happen"

This is our last night of group devotions at Fort Caswell. What a week! Where you have seen God working this week? Fort Caswell is a special place, but it is not the physical place, it is the spiritual focus you have had this week. This spiritual focus can continue when you are back home. Each day take time to focus on Christ in your life and the things you see Him doing. The spirit you feel at Caswell does not have to end. Continue it throughout the year. Tonight, you are going to summarize this week with scripture found in 1 Peter. Before you turn to scripture think about the various elements discussed this week during group devotions. Invite the group to go through their notes and help you list them. Now turn to the scripture below.

1 Peter 4:8-11 (NIV) says *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."*

The scripture starts out with love and then refers to being nice and helping each other without complaining. You have gifts and need to use them to serve others. Use the strength God provides you. When you sacrifice time and energy to meet each other's needs, you are drawing from God's own strength. Serve others as if you are serving God. What does scripture mean when it tells us to speak the very words of God? When you speak to each other words of encouragement, you are delivering God's words. Your words should also be clean and clear of any filth. Be constructive (building others up) and not destructive (in tearing others down).

Invite students to use space provided on page 53 of the participant booklet write ideas or begin forming a plan they can follow to build community and serve one another within the group, your church, and your community.

Prayer Time: Pray God will utilize you to build a stronger community within your group, church, and the world. Pray for those who made decisions this week while here. Pray for those still undecided. Pray for each one to take the love and compassion of Christ home and share it with your friends, family, and community. Pray for safe travels.

Thank you for attending Deep Impact/World Missions Week at Fort Caswell. You have impacted and changed our lives. We are praying for your continue growth as individuals and as a church family as you impact and change lives around you.