

2020 Church Group Devotions Deep Impact/World Missions Week

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 found at <https://baptistsonmission.org/camps/deep-impact>. Scroll down the page for 2020 Pre-Camp Bible Studies. These were prepared by this year’s Deep Impact Staff and are available to any church attending a Deep Impact or World Missions Week.

The studies listed in this booklet have been prepared by Rev. Don Strader. 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.

Thank you for joining us at Fort Caswell for the 2020 Deep Impact or World Missions Week. Our theme this week, “SOAR!” is taken from **Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV)** *“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

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.

2020 Deep Impact/World Missions Week Church Group Devotions are included in this booklet or may be downloaded from <https://baptistsonmission.org/camps/world-missions-week> (scroll to the bottom of the page).

We look forward to our week together at Fort Caswell.

A Message to Church Leaders:

Welcome to Deep Impact/World Missions Week at Fort Caswell for the year 2020. We have been introduced to Tom Richter, our camp pastor and our musical worship leader, Caitie Hurst. We have left an awesome service of worshipping God. As a group what are your goals for this week? For some, a major goal was just getting here. Now you're here. What are your goals for the next 3 days?

Matthew 18:20 (NASB) - *"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."*

You are at Fort Caswell, and God is with you this week! Start every day and meeting time by inviting Him into your conversations, thoughts, decisions and activities.

There are 2 options provided for each Church Group Night Devotions.

The First Option is aimed at using Tom's evening message as the foundation for your devotion time. There are sections to fill in details from the message to help organize your devotion time. There is a challenge to take application to the "next step." Before you begin your devotion, please take a minute to think and pray through the last set of questions to ensure you take the devotion time in the direction that is most personal for your group.

The Second Option uses a group building focus to challenge your individuals to look at the group with the same love they have for themselves. There are suggested discussion questions, scriptures and ways to connect your group with their mission in the Kingdom. Please pray for the Spirit's guidance during this time. Students will be tired, and often distracted, but this is an incredible ministry time. While these devotion sets offer structure and planning, they do not take the place of Holy Spirit direction or the specific needs of your group. No plans know your students the way you do, we all realize God's plan for them is the greatest priority.

Overview of Section 2 Topics:

Monday – Direction

Tuesday – Love God (Devotion)

Wednesday – Love Others (Unity)

Thursday – Steps of Faith

SPECIAL REQUEST!

We would like to encourage your group to pass a notebook for prayer requests. This will allow students and leaders to write down answers to prayers during the week, so you will be sure to celebrate them. It will manage your time well. It will give written requests for individuals and the group to pray over specifically.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020
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?

Before presenting the devotion consider the following:

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 6, 2020
Church Group Devotions
“Finally, We’re Here”

Possible opening questions for your group to begin a conversation:

- How was your first day of Caswell 2020?
- How different was your trip to camp and getting settled in than in years past?
- What did you like about today in and outside the service?
- What were some of the things you thought were interesting?
- What are some goals for our group this week?
- What do we hope we get out of this week?

Group Goals for Caswell - Examples

We want to get closer to each other as a group.
We want to seek God’s will for our lives and our group
We want to make a difference.
See our church and group grow.

How Do We Get There?

Some individual goals may be:

I want to discover God
I want to know His will for my life

Write down goals your group mentions for the group and individuals. Determine your top few goals and make them the requests within your prayers both globally and individually.

How do we seek direction from God both individually and as a group? Consider using one or more of the following verses.

James 1:5 - Pray for wisdom when you want to please God. He will give you decision-making wisdom.

Romans 12:1,2 - Focus your mind this week. It will be a daily task.

Proverbs 16:3 - Commit your works to the LORD. Your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16:9 -The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

We have been practicing social distancing for a while now. How have things changed in your life with school/classes/work, church, eating, etc.?

Many of us had online classes, Facebook live church services, Zoom meetings, using Uber Eats, having groceries delivered to our homes, and other changes, even here at Caswell. How will camp change these next few days? Other group devotions for the week are:

- “God Never Changes” - “Jesus Ended the Distance” - “Caswell To Go”

Prayer: Pray for each person who is at Fort Caswell to discover God’s will and SOAR in their relationship with God. Pray for purpose for your group and individuals. Pray for open ears, open minds, and open hearts to listen, hear, and seek God.

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020
CHURCH GROUP DEVO BUILDER FROM MESSAGE

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Tuesday, July 7, 2020
Church Group Devotion
“God Never Changes”

Changes happen every day, hour, and minute. 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.” Jesus was a change maker in the lives of others but not one who changes.

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. Some may want Jesus in their lives, others may recognize changes need to be made in their actions, habits, friends, or the time they spent with God in serving Him.

Prayer:

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.”

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020
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Wednesday, July 8, 2020
Church Group Devotion
“Jesus Ended the Distance”

As we saw last night, Jesus changes many lives and he can change ours. Before COVID-19 we did not have the term social distancing, but today we do. Social distancing recommends to be at least 6 feet apart or two arm’s length away from others. After COVID-19 our lives will be impacted forever. There will be a new normal. Is it a good or bad normal? Only time will tell?

What has social distancing impacted in our lives as a group? Individually?

What is sin?

What do you think the term “sin distancing” means?

God despises sin, Adam and Eve committed sin by not being obedient to Him. Sin created distancing between God and man. This distancing did not allow for man to be with God due to sin. For years there was no cure.

We all have sinned against God. *Romans 3:23 (NIV) – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

God sent a vaccine or cure to sin distancing. God sent Jesus to carry the sins of the world on the cross. Jesus carried the sins for each of us. Jesus is the cure to sin distancing. Each of us needs the cure no matter how hard we try we sin.

John 3:16 (NIV) – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Many of us may need the cure of sin distancing and it is available right now by believing in Jesus Christ. We need to turn away from our sins, believe Jesus died on the cross and rose three days later, and confess Him as our Lord and Savior. We can now look forward to a new life in Christ with assurance there is no distancing between us and Jesus.

Some of us may feel distance in our relationship with Jesus and we desire to become closer to Him. He never moves, we do. The same Jesus who accepted us originally will still welcome us back right now. The one who died on the cross with His arms wide open, still has His arms open today for all of us.

Prayer

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020
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Thursday, July 9, 2020
Church Group Devotion
“Fort Caswell To Go”

During the Corona Virus all of us have taken a meal home to eat. Many restaurants now offer “to go” service when before these times we would have eaten in the restaurant. As we have had to go meals, how cool would it be to take Fort Caswell home with us?

What were your favorite parts of Fort Caswell?

What parts of Fort Caswell will you take home?

How have you changed this week? How do you feel?

How can/will Fort Caswell impact our lives at home?

Fort Caswell is a beautiful creation by God on the coast of North Carolina and a beautiful gift to the Baptist State Convention. The Fort Caswell campus is nothing more than God’s beauty and the facilities. We have heard many pastors say the church campus is buildings but the true church is its members. We love this campus but the same is true of Fort Caswell.

The feelings we have leaving hopefully center on the time we spent with God, friends and family. The time we spent learning, serving, and worshipping. We can still spend time doing these things when we are home. We can listen and sing to Christian music, we can spend time in prayer, we can read our bibles, we can continue to pray, we can continue to serve and we can invite others to join us virtually or in person. We can record and post a video about our Fort Caswell experience or how my life changed or has been impacted by Jesus. Some of us may have felt the Holy Spirit at Fort Caswell as we have never felt before. Yes, we will take Fort Caswell home with us but it’s not the sun, or the sand, or the sea, or the buildings -- it is the Spirit. The Spirit which has changed and impacted our lives at Fort Caswell is within us and available to us anytime or anyplace.

Romans 13:13 (NIV) – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

CLOSING THOUGHT

It is a step of faith to continue doing all the things you’ve done at camp when you are home. Continue to grow and make disciples. Maybe God would rather see you do a cannon ball into your faith pool, than merely dip your toe in the water.

Thank you for attending Deep Impact/World Missions Week at Fort Caswell. We hope you have grown closer to God. We pray your life has been impacted and changed. You have impacted and changed our lives. We are praying for your continue growth as individuals and as a church family.

Prayer