

Short Sheet # 14

Beginning a Journey with Jesus

(First of five follow-up Bible Studies for after camp)

To the Leader: The following discussion is designed for kids, who have been to Young Life camp, have decided to trust Jesus Christ and have just returned home. It includes some processing of the camp experience and the shock of returning home, some review of what happened to them spiritually and some preparation for what they can expect in the coming days.

Ice Breaker (Choose one or more, depending on group size.)

- What surprised you most about Young Life camp? What has surprised you most about returning home? Has anything been particularly difficult about being home? Particularly good?
- What's the first thing you did when you got home? What's the first thing you told your friends/parents? Has anyone had the opportunity to talk with someone about the "spiritual" side of camp? Would you mind telling us what that conversation was like?
- Complete the following statements:
 - One thing I *did* at camp that I'll never forget is _____
 - One thing I *heard* that I'll never forget is _____

Bridge Statement

A lot has happened to you in the last two weeks, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually. Today we want to take some time to regroup, to talk about where we've been and where we go from here.

Examination of Scripture

Read John 1:43-51 and discuss the following questions:

- Jesus asked Philip to follow him and Philip did exactly that. Plus Philip tried to convince his friend Nathanael to follow Jesus, too. In verse 45, what tactics did Philip use to persuade Nathanael to follow Jesus?
- Before you decided to follow Jesus, did anyone talk with you personally about following Him? Would you mind sharing with us who talked with you and some of what they said?
- Nathanael was unimpressed with Philip's presentation of the facts. In fact, Nathanael was essentially mocking Jesus before he met Him. What was your attitude toward Jesus before you met Him?
- Philip's intellectual reasoning with Nathanael failed. What was Philip's next tactic to persuade Nathanael in verse 46?
- Nathanael ended up taking a look at Jesus for himself because Philip invited him to do just that. How did you end up at Young Life camp taking a look at Jesus for yourself?
- What was it about Jesus that changed Nathanael's perspective and convinced him to follow Christ?
- What was it about Jesus that changed your perspective and convinced you to follow Christ?
- A good look at Jesus changed Nathanael from a sarcastic sceptic to an enthusiastic believer. What is something about you? What has changed since you got a good look at Jesus?
- Jesus seemed almost amused at how easy it was to impress Nathanael. He said, basically, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!" Young Life camp may have been one of the best weeks of your life. If so, it was probably because that is where you finally recognized Jesus for who He is. But Jesus looks at how impressed we are with Young Life camp and says with a smile, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!" The best is

yet to come. You've begun a journey with Jesus, a journey of following Him through life. And as great as camp may have been, the road ahead with Jesus holds much more than what you experienced at camp. In the next few weeks of Campaigners, we're going to explore just a few of the "greater things than these" that Jesus has in store for you as you undertake your journey with Him.

A Verse to Meditate on for the Week and Memorise (Leader chooses one.)

- 1 Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

Application

See items 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 in "Examination of Scripture" section above.

Action Step for the Week (Choose one.)

- Assign reading from Scripture and have the kids write down questions that come up as they read. Perhaps a few verses from John each day, beginning with 1:1, would be appropriate. Ask them to bring their questions to Campaigners next week. If you do this, be sure to make time to discuss their questions during the next meeting. Or perhaps you'd like to challenge them to call you sometime during the week with at least two questions concerning what they've read.
- Make the following assignment: Take a few moments this week to write a letter to Jesus. Thank him for the people He has used to introduce you to Him. Thank Him for the characteristics He has that make you want to follow Him. Thank Him for the changes He is already making in you. Thank Him for the "greater things than these" that He has prepared for you in the future. Ask Him for help in facing specific challenges in your life this week.
- Complete daily readings in a booklet or pamphlet. (See Short Sheet #6.)