

## Short Sheet # 15

### Your Guide

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

**To the Leader:** By the second week home from camp, kids may be struggling with the temptation to return to some old habits. They may be discouraged by some of the obstacles they face at home. The goal of this discussion is to remind kids that Jesus is not back at camp, He is present with them and within them. He is present to give strength, direction and encouragement. Kids may be surprised to find out that God does not want them to live a Christian life – He wants to live His life through them. You may need materials for this section, depending on which questions you choose. The materials needed include pipe cleaners (Ice Breaker, item 3, 4) and envelopes (Examination of Scripture, item 5).

**Ice Breaker** (Choose one or more.)

- When you were little, did you have a bosom buddy? Someone you stuck to like glue? Who was it and what were some of the things you did together?
- Have you ever been close to someone who has moved away or has gone away for a few weeks? What happened to your relationship when you were apart? What steps did you take to try to stay close to one another? Did it work?
- (Leader: Hand out pipe cleaners, one per person, and give the following directions.) This pipe cleaner represents your life for the past two weeks, ever since we returned from camp. It is a timeline of sorts. Bend and shape the pipe cleaner to represent your relationship with God over the past two weeks, and then explain your timeline to the group. (Leaders lead first and model vulnerability. Typical explanations of the pipe cleaner usually include “hills” and “valleys” and “plains” to represent the ups, downs and smooth times with God.)
- (Leader: Hand out pipe cleaners, two per person, preferably of two different colours, and give the following directions.) One pipe cleaner represents you. The other pipe cleaner represents God. Use the two pipe cleaners to illustrate your relationship with God since camp, and then explain your pipe cleaners to the group.
- Have you noticed any differences in yourself since you’ve been home from camp? Different attitudes, perspectives, feelings toward other people? What have some of those differences been?
- When have you felt closest to God in the past two weeks? What has helped you feel close to God? What is it about camp that makes it easy to feel close to God there? What has made it difficult to feel close to God at home?

### Bridge Statement

When we’re at camp, it is easy to feel close to God. When we get home, sometimes we feel all on our own. That can be tough, especially when we’re facing difficult situations or temptations. Today we want to talk about what we “feel” versus what is “real.”

### Examination of Scripture

Read John 14:15-20 and discuss the following questions. Background: Jesus is talking to His closest circle of friends, His disciples, and right before He was to be arrested and crucified. They had been with Jesus day in and day out for three years. Now they were about to be separated from Him by death. It’s probably safe to say they felt many times worse than we felt on the last night of camp when we had to say our good-byes.

- In verse 18, what did Jesus say to His friends to comfort them? Describe your mental picture of an orphan. Describe the opposite of an orphan. Which description would Jesus use for you? Why? Which best describes how you’ve felt since you’ve been home from camp and why?

- Jesus says He will come to his followers. In verses 16 and 17, He gives some details of His coming. What are two of the names Jesus uses in these verses to describe the form in which He will come?
- According to verse 17, where will the Counsellor, the Spirit of Truth, be when He comes to Jesus' followers? Have you noticed any differences on the inside since you met Jesus? Describe those differences. According to verse 16, how long will the Comforter be with us? Does Jesus list any exceptions such as, "He will be with you forever as long as you don't make too many mistakes?" Or, "He will be with you forever as long as you remember to pray and read your Bible every day?"
- Imagine you are a principal at a high school. You have an opening in your school for a counsellor. A young man walks in your office one day to apply for the job. He asks you what the job will involve. What do you say? Have you sensed Jesus counselling you in any way over the past two weeks? Has he given you any advice? Comforted you? Would anyone like to share a specific example of when Jesus has counselled you?
- Jesus says He will come as the Spirit of Truth to live inside us. If a five year old were to tug on your shirt tail and ask, "What is a spirit?" what would you say? The Bible uses a capital "s" at the beginning of the phrase "Spirit of Truth." What does a capital letter at the beginning of a word usually tell you about the word? The Spirit of Truth is not a nameless mist or green smoke that floats in the air. It is a person, Jesus, who comes to live inside you. According to the full name of the Spirit, what is one of the dominant characteristics of the Spirit? What are synonyms for "true?" If you were a teacher making a true or false test, what other words could you use besides "true" and "false?" Jesus gives us a true perspective on life. How has your perspective - how you see the world - changed since you met Jesus? You are on a journey of following Jesus. He is your guide for the journey, living inside of you. It's nice to know that your guide is the Spirit of Truth. Is there any situation you are facing this week where you need your guide to show you the right way to go, the wise choice to make?
- Envelope exercise: Either demonstrate or give each person a set of envelopes and lead them through the following illustration. You need three envelopes of three different sizes and a slip of paper for this illustration. Have someone read verse 20, pausing after each comma, until you tell them to go on. At the first pause, write the word "Father" on the largest envelope, and the word "Jesus" on the medium envelope. Put "Jesus" inside the "Father." At the second pause, write your name on the remaining envelope and slip it inside the Jesus envelope (which is inside the Father envelope). At the third pause, write the name "Jesus" on the slip of paper and slip it into the envelope with your name on it. (You will have a slip of paper inside an envelope, inside a second envelope, inside a third envelope.) This demonstrates the intimate relationship we have with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. If each person has made their own envelope illustration, encourage them to use it as a bookmark. Write John 14:20 on the outside and encourage them to mark that place to remind themselves that Jesus is not back at camp, He is within them.
- Jesus doesn't believe in long-distance relationships. There was a popular song a few years ago that said, "God is watching us - from a distance." This isn't the case with followers of Jesus Christ. God is with us, within us, in the form of the Holy Spirit. Still, we must take action to interact with God, to develop our relationship with Him. When people are separated by distance, what are some actions they might take to remain close? We are not separated from God, but what actions might we take to remain "feeling" close to God?

**Verse to meditate on and Memorise** (Leader choose one.)

- John 14:16, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever."

- John 14:20, "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."

### **Application**

Perhaps you 'feel' like Jesus lives at Young Life camp, and now that you're home you have a long-distance relationship with Him. According to Jesus, this isn't so. He is with you and within you all the time. Is there any activity you are currently participating in that perhaps Jesus doesn't enjoy being part of? Is there any relationship that He is uncomfortable with? Is there any struggle you are facing that now you can know you don't face alone? Is there any time in your week when you can just take time to enjoy your companion? Is there any decision you are facing that you need your guide, the Spirit of Truth, to give you direction concerning?

### **Action Step for the Week** (Choose one.)

- Raise your hand if you agree with this statement: God wants me to live a Christian life. (After the vote:) This is a trick question. God doesn't want you to live a Christian life. He wants to live His life through you. Think of a situation in your life right now that is difficult for you to deal with. It might be a relationship, an old habit, some tough circumstances. This week, when you face that situation, stop and tell God silently that you cannot live the Christian life in this situation. Ask Him to live His life through you. Let us know how it went next week.
- Identify one situation you are facing this week where you need advice from the Counsellor, direction from the Spirit of Truth. Write this situation on a slip of paper and carry it in your Bible. Ask Jesus to give you advice and direction concerning this situation. Let us know next week what happened.
- Make a personal plan to get away at least once this week to simply enjoy some time with Jesus. Take a walk with Him. Watch a sunset together. Lay out and look at the stars together. Ask Him to speak to you from within. Let us know next week how it went.