



## Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

### SLCC at Home- Family Devotions Playlist Stargazing and Slumber-God in the Night Sky (Devotion 3)

*This series is a 'Playlist' of 5 devotionals. These opportunities were created to engage you- the parents, grandparents, caregivers and others- who support young people in their experiences of outdoor ministry or summer conferences at Silver Lake Conference Center. (SLCC) The invitation to you is to create an experience through these devotionals with your youth that enables you and them to deepen the experiences you've each had and to open a sacred space to share moments together to explore, engage, and celebrate summer camp (outdoor ministry) more fully. These are intended to be shared at home in times of physical distancing or following times of face to face programming.*

**Purpose: To enjoy the beauty of a summer evening as dusk turns to night. An opportunity to end the day with an evening activity before bedtime.** One highlight of a week at camp is the beauty of evening as it turns to nighttime. After dinner, worship, a staff show, a dance, or a snack the campers begin to anticipate nightfall. Campers look forward to nighttime activities as a special way to end the day. They enjoy night games such as using a parachute and glow-sticks, a night hike, stargazing on the ballfield, a late evening scavenger hunt, flashlight tag, etc. These activities offer youth a last opportunity to expend energies before settling in to their bunks for the night. In this time of physical distancing or during a week at home post-camping, these activities can call to mind the joy and wonder of the deepening night and the wonder of camp under the stars.

#### **Supplies:**

Flashlight and / or glow sticks

Favorite evening snacks

All Natural Insect repellent

Beach towel or outdoor blanket

Star map <http://planetarium.ipisd.org/Subpage.aspx?id=282>

Constellation Stories <http://www.tcoe.org/scicon/instructionalguide/constellations.pdf>

#### **Read:**

**Psalm 136:9 Common English Bible (CEB)**

*"The moon and the stars to rule the night, God's faithful love lasts forever."*

#### **Watch/Participate: Get a Glimpse!**

15 Great Night Games for the Whole Family

<https://icebreakerideas.com/night-games/>

15 Great Outdoor Night Games for the Family

<https://aheartfullofjoy.com/15-great-outdoor-night-games-for-kids-and-teens/>

SLCC at Home -Devotions Playlist Series

Karen E Ziel, Minister of Faith Formation and Leadership

June 2020



## Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

Astronomy in Isolation: Night sky activities for those stuck at home

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/advice/skills/isolation-home-activities-astronomy-stargazing/>

The Night Sky- Meditations and Night Stories for Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jhNzaNQv9s>

How to Find the Summer Constellations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EieqUGAJHMw>

### **Listen/ Reflect:**

Begin your reflection /devotional time with a favorite night-time game or two. (your number of participants may vary, so choose something appropriate) Afterward, spread your blanket or towels somewhere comfortable in your backyard or garden with a view of the sky. Settle down for star-gazing with a snack and get ready for the show! Let your eyes develop night vision- beware of using flashlights at this point...you especially don't want to point them in one another's eyes. This will prevent night vision. Using what you discovered about the stars by reviewing your map before dark, look for the constellations you might expect to find. Share a story or share a guided meditation. Relax and enjoy the evening. As you do, talk about night activities at camp. You might also share conversation around a few questions such as:

- I wonder what do you like best about the night?
- I wonder, when you look at the stars, how do you imagine God?
- I wonder, what is your favorite night-time activity at camp and why?

In this exercise above, you (parent, relative or other caregiver) should also answer these questions as well as your youth. Close your night activity by sharing the Psalm verse and a prayer.

### **Pray:**

*May the light of a thousand stars shine upon you. May the love of a thousand angels now surround you. May the trials of today be far behind you. May the deepest, sweetest sleep always find you.*

~Anna Taylor