



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

SLCC at Home- Family Devotions Playlist **Challenge by Choice-New Experiences** (Devotion 5)

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 reflect on the challenges in each new experience and consider what helps us *lean into learning and growing together*. In the book of Acts, a new community is formed. The disciples must lean into change and challenge without Jesus being fully present as he once was with some who remember him. There are cultural examples today too, of God's people being challenged daily, of people demonstrating courage, compassion, strength, and using their abilities to do something new and transformative in the face of challenge. How do you and your youth face new challenges? How do you prepare? What do you do to provide support, yet encourage growth? Each person approaches new experiences differently. When we have multiple avenues of support as we learn and grow, we are more likely to experience new challenges as an opportunity. Parental support, the support of extended family, teachers, mentors, coaches also play an important role. Campers who approach camp in anticipation of new experiences inevitably have the most transformative time away at camp. At camp, a community of support is formed. Everyone is encouraged to determine their own level of challenge. What comes naturally or easy to one youth, may be a true challenge to another. At camp, staff and campers support one another through care, communications, teamwork. This devotion is designed to help you and your youth reflect on the challenges of camp, to share what these experiences are like and how they help us grow. Research proves the support of a religious community is an invaluable asset for growth and facing challenge.

Supplies:

Set of Dominoes, Jenga Game, Rope, Deck of Cards, etc. and a Snack

Read:

Acts 11:23

"When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."



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Watch/Participate: Get a Glimpse!

What Challenge Looks Like at Camp

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HfOR6SnLlc>

Build a Bridge Engineering Challenge or Service Project Challenge

destinationimagination.org/challenge-program/2019-20-challenge-previews/

Try a Daily Virtual Instant Challenge

<https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/virtual-instant-challenge-fewer-not-more/>

Get a free list of Activities to Challenge Kids-Encourage Kids

<https://encourage-kids.org/summer-activity-success/>

12 Interesting Challenges for Kids

<https://www.unicefkidpower.org/challenges-for-kids/>

Listen/ Reflect:

As you prepare for this devotion, decide with your youth what challenge activity they'd like to engage that day. During the day, gather materials and engage in a challenge of their choosing with you. Make a covenant of support. Let them decide how they'd like you to offer support and promise to fill your role, no more. That evening, debrief your experience in a time of reflection. Have a snack and chat about the day's challenge.

- I wonder why you to choose the challenge you did?
- I wonder, what did you hoped to learn or accomplish or demonstrate?
- I wonder, what is most important to you when you consider trying something new?

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 Scripture verse and a prayer.

Pray the Examen:

As you close the day, make this practice your prayer. Close with Acts

- *What was today's high point?*
- *What was today's low point?*

"You have shown me the paths of life; your presence will fill me with happiness." (Acts 2:28)

SLCC at Home -Devotions Playlist Series

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