

10 Bunkhouse Discussions

1. Getting to know you
2. Guilt & Forgiveness
3. What God thinks about me
4. Memory verses
5. Friendship & Jesus
6. Peer group pressure
7. Prayer
8. Sharing your story – preparing your testimony
9. Who is Jesus?
10. What is the bible about?

1. Getting to know you

Games to start things off work well! Icebreakers / questions ie Name / Age / Favourite colour or food / Pets / School / Hobbies / Sports / Computer game.

Relevant bible verses.

The bible says that God knows us really well. (Matthew 10:30)
God knows us better than we know ourselves (PSALM 139)

Questions for discussion:

How quickly do you get to know someone?
Have you ever wondered what God thinks of you?
How would you get to know God?

2. Guilt & Forgiveness

Toilet paper down the loo. God has flushed our sins away by what Jesus did for us on the Cross.
Write down the bad stuff you've done and flush!

Relevant verses:

God deals with our sin & is merciful to us (Psalm 103:8-13, John 3:16)
Luke 15:11-31 (Parable of the Lost son and the Loving Father's response)

- Considered a son
- Took advantage and unthankful of gifts received
- Removes himself from the Father
- Lives life
- *Comes to the point of recognition of sinful nature and guilt attached to hurting the Father.* Romans 7:14-24
- Turns back and confesses to God. 1 John 1:8,9
- Recognition of receiving of 'no-strings attached' forgiveness.
Colossians 1:13, 14 and 1 John 1:7 - 2:2.
- Look at Father's reaction at the return of his son. (Loving.)

Questions for discussion:

What is sin?
How does guilt affect you and others?
What has God done about it?
What does forgiveness mean to you?

3. What God Thinks About Me!

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you think God sees when He looks at you?
2. Do these thoughts ever change? How and when? (Guilt can affect how others see us and treat us.)
3. Is it easier to think of God looking upon us in a loving way or in a harsh and angry way? Why?
4. What's the most reliable way to know what God thinks about us? (Bible.)

INFORMATION AND SCRIPTURES WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL:

Pick out a number of these scriptures and get the people into groups to look them up and summarise God's attitude towards us.

Psalm 8:4-6

John 17:9-10

John 14:18

Galatians 3:26-29

Matthew 6:25-30

Romans 5:6-11, 17

Hebrews 2:7-9

Ephesians 2:10

John 15:14-15

Galatians 4:5-7

Matthew 7:7-11

Romans 8:29-30

1 Corinthians 12

Colossians 1:21

Ephesians 1:4-7

Matthew 10:29-31

GOOD CONCLUSIONS TO AIM AT:

1. God has made the ultimate sacrifice of love and sees you as forgiven, cleansed and redeemed through the power of Jesus Christ.
2. Believe that God loves you as you are, and that He has forgiven your sins. (1 John 1:9)
3. Stop being harder on yourself than God is. We exist within bodies of sin and we will fail. The life we live in Christ today is much more significant than the failures of yesterday.
4. When those around you make you feel unimportant, remember the scriptures that remind you that God sees you are unique and special. And when you sit in the light of that, everything else will fade into greyness. You are loved by the God of the universe. There is nothing more awesome than that!

4. Memory verses

This could be done each night as a competition for the next day to remember a verse or two.

JOHN 3:16-17

JOSHUA 1:9

ROMANS 8:1

GALATIANS 5: 16, 26

EPHESIANS 3: 14 - 21

JOHN 15: 1 - 4

MATTHEW 5: 3 - 12

MATTHEW 5: 13 - 16

GENESIS 1: 26 - 28

ISAIAH 55: 6 - 9

ISAIAH 53: (AS MUCH AS YOU CAN)

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 17 - 21

REVELATION 21: 3 - 7

1 JOHN 4: 7 - 12

5. Friendship & Jesus

Friendship bracelets / bands / jewelery could be used as a craft for this.
Jesus said to his disciples that he no longer called them servants, but friends.

Relevant verses:

Look at what Jesus said to his friends in John 15:13 -17
Jesus laid down his life for us & is our friend always.

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you like doing best with friends?
2. What does having a friend mean to you?
3. What qualities do friends have?

6. Peer Group Pressure

Questions for discussion:

1. Do your friends ever do things that you don't want to? What are you prepared to do?
2. How important is our 'image' around our friends?
3. (For christians) Is it difficult to live out your faith around your peers? If yes – why?
4. Can we be different?

Scriptures which may be helpful:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Romans 12:1-3 | Don't conform to the world |
| 2 Hebrews 12:1-3 | Run the race that Christ did |
| 3. 1 Peter 2:9-13 | Strangers to the world; ambassadors of Christ |
| 4. Philippians 4:8-9 | Be holy in thought AND action |
| 5. Hebrews 10:22-25 | Help each other, strengthen each other |
| 6. Philippians 1:27-28 | Live ALL of your life for Christ |
| 7. Galatians 5:16-26 | LIVE BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD!! |

Conclusions:

1. Establish your priorities - Who do you live for?
2. Enrich your relationship with God through: prayer, fellowship, quiet-times, reading the Bible, etc.
3. AVOID situations where you will be tempted. (Pray against temptation: James 4:7, "*Resist the devil and he will flee from you*".)
4. SUPPORT each other, get a Christian peer to talk with, to help, and to help you.
5. Let the SPIRIT lead you - don't try in your own strength.

7. Prayer

STATEMENTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The quality and quantity of our prayers are a good indication of the quality and depth of our relationship with God.
2. When communication dies, so does the relationship.
3. Communication which is not two way, is not particularly effective.

Consider how the above relate to prayer.

SCRIPTURES WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL:

1. Passages on what to pray about:

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Matt. 5:44 | Matt 6:9- | Luke 20;44 | Eph. 1:18 | Eph. 3:16 |
| James 5:13 | 2 Cor. 13:9 | Phil. 1:9 | | |

2. Passages on our attitude to prayer:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Matt. 6:5 | Rom. 8:26 | Eph. 6:18 | 1 Thess. 5:17 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|

3. The effects of prayer :

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| James 5:16 | Phil. 4:6-7 | Luke 3:21 | Acts 16:25 | Acts 4:31 |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|

4. The lasting value of prayer:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Rev. 5:8 | Rev. 8:3 |
|----------|----------|

NOTE: *The above are only a small sample. Further study with a good concordance will be very rewarding.*

A GOOD PRACTICAL CONCLUSION:

Spend some time praising God and praying for each other in small groups. Relax and enjoy the communication.

8. PREPARING A TESTIMONY

There are two main approaches to preparing a testimony:

1: A time line approach - A spiritual Journey

2: Majoring on a theme:-

- E.G. The purpose of living.
- Release from Fear.
- Discovering peace.

NOTE: Share how God's past and present input on your life effects you TODAY!

Questions for discussion starters:

- 1: Has anything like this ever happened to you?
- 2: Does this make sense to you?
- 3: What do you think God sees in you right now?
- 4: Do you want to know God?

PAUL'S TESTIMONY (in Acts 22 and 26)

4 significant points Paul makes:

- 1: He has not always followed Christ.
- 2: God dealt with his rebellion.
- 3: Paul submitted to God.
- 4: His life is now centered on God's purposes.

9. Who is Jesus?

Questions for discussion:

Who do you think Jesus is?

What do you know about him?

What does the bible say about who he is?

Bible verses to look at:

Luke 9:18-20

- Jesus' friend Peter recognised him as the 'Christ' (which means 'saviour' or 'rescuer' from God).

Colossians 1:15-17 and Hebrews 1:1-3

- Jesus is the image of God – when we look to him, we see what God is really like.

John 1:14

- He is the son of God (the 'Word') that came to Earth as a human being.

John 3:16-17

- He is God's son sent by God to save us.

CHECK OUT THESE CHAPTERS ALSO: Philippians 2, John 1, and Matthew 27-28 tells the story of Jesus' death and resurrection – who he is has a lot to do with what he did.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

The "I AM" statements of Jesus in John's gospel:

Jesus' "I Am" Statements:

| | JOHN |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. I am the bread of life | 6:35, 48, 51 |
| 2. I am the light of the world | 8:12; 9:5 |
| 3. I am the door of the sheep | 10:7, 9 |
| 4. I am the good shepherd | 10:11, 14 |
| 5. I am the resurrection and the life | 11:25 |
| 6. I am the way, the truth, and the life | 14:6 |
| 7. I am the true vine | 15:1 |

11. What is the bible about?

Some people have never seen or read a bible – it may be helpful to start from scratch!

Check out the **INDEX** in a bible – 66 ‘books’ within one book!

It’s divided into **OLD TESTAMENT(OT)** and **NEW TESTAMENT (NT)**

OT – Before Jesus.

- **The story of God** and his people (ISRAEL).
- Creation, fall of humanity (sin), God’s promises (Abraham), law (10 commandments), Stories of God’s judgement, love, patience, forgiveness and promises.
- Writings about wisdom (like Proverbs), poetry and songs (like Psalms) and prophecy (‘foretelling’) about Jesus (like in Isaiah).

NT – Jesus and beyond.

- **Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
- The birth of **Jesus** (Christmas), Jesus’ life (walking on water, feeding 5000, preaching, teaching, miracles, etc).
- Jesus’ death and resurrection (Easter).
- Sending of his Spirit to us (John 15-17).
- **Acts** (the continued story of God’s Spirit at work through his people).
- **Letters** written to God’s people all over the world (written by Jesus’ followers like Paul, Peter and James).
- **Revelation**- the story about the end of everything (hard to understand but still God’s word to us).

Practice finding a passage:

Formula: [NAME OF BOOK] [CHAPTER NUMBER] : [VERSE NUMBER/S]

Isaiah 53: 5 and 6.

John 3:16

1 Peter 2:24-25

MORE INFO:

- Check out indexes, concordances, maps etc., in both the front and back of your Bible. Find your way around. There may be different versions of the bible floating around – for younger ones the Good News Bible is probably the easiest. There are Youth Bibles and Study Bibles that are helpful for understanding what it says.
- Encourage campers to read MARK – it’s the easiest to read Gospel.
- Be careful how you use the bible – some parts of the OT may not readily apply to today.
- **FOCUS ON JESUS** – he’s the one on who our faith depends! (HEBREWS 12: 1-2)