

Devotional #5

A Place Apart: Changing Lives through Outdoor Ministry

Review "Give Us Today our Daily Bread" from Luther's Small Catechism

What then does "daily bread" mean?

Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as: food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.



Listen to Scripture

Outdoor ministry is often considered "a place apart" that sends campers "down the mountain" at week's end. Read one of the texts about the transfiguration of Jesus: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36.

Watch the Video "A Place Apart: Changing Lives through Outdoor Ministry" (7 minutes)
(As the video ends, allow a few moments for silent reflection)

Reflect together (Feel free to do all the questions or pick and choose 1 or 2 questions to answer)
Share briefly any images, words, memories, and/or emotions the video evoked.

In the video, staff talked about how campers "gain a whole new understanding" of themselves, and campers shared that they learn to "really respect" others different from themselves in this place apart.

Referring back to Luther's explanation of what "daily bread" means...

*How does outdoor ministry provide a form of God's daily bread?
What are the "places apart" where you've received "daily bread" recently?
What are the "places apart" where you have been that bread for others?
How does this "bread" transform your life?*

Relationships with God and others are central to our life together as the church. Camp directors spoke of "messing" in the lives of camp staff to help them discover God's gifts, and inspiring young people to "explore vocational call." Camp staff talked about growing deeper in faith during summers on staff.

*Is outdoor ministry central to the mission of the church? If so, how?
How does your congregation's ministry inspire youth to explore their vocation and become clearer about their identity?*

Prayer

God of all creation, sometimes we lose sight of the need to step back from the busyness of our daily lives to see anew the wonder and beauty of your world and your presence with us. Thank you for the witness of those called to inspire our children to grow in faith. Inspire us all to risk growing deeper in trust of you that our lives might be transformed for your service. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

(To "complete the circle," remember to close your meeting with **The Lord's Prayer**.)

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Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp (www.skyranchcolorado.org) is located 55 miles west of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Its **mission** is to facilitate an encounter of Christ on the mountaintops.

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (www.rainbowtrail.org) is located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of southern Colorado.

Its **mission**: Through the ministries of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, God **Claims** us, Christ **Transforms** us, and the Holy Spirit **Sends** us for faithful service.