

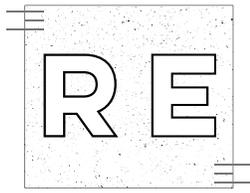
**REIMAGINE**

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**“MY PEOPLE, HEAR MY TEACHING; LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH. I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH WITH A PARABLE; I WILL UTTER HIDDEN THINGS, THINGS FROM OF OLD—” PSALM 78:1-2**

**2018 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS**

**PRE-CAMP PRAYER GUIDE**



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## 2018 PRE-CAMP PRAYER GUIDE

### DAY ONE

Use this guide to pray the week before coming to camp. We want to pray that God will meet us at camp. We can pack clothes, our Bibles, toiletries and whatever else we need and not prepare our hearts for what God has in store for us while at camp. He knows all things. Therefore, He knows you are coming to camp, which week, and the circumstances in your life.

We want to pray that God's Word will go out in power, accompanied by the Holy Spirit. We want to pray for receptive hearts and minds-to understand and embrace the truth-so that God's Word will enter our lives. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." We want God's Word to enter our lives and discern the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

**Pray:** Take time to pray now for your week of camp. Asking God to open up your ears to hear, your eyes to see Jesus in a new way, your mind to comprehend, your heart to respond to Jesus this week.

#### LOOKING CLOSER AT OUR THEME VERSE:

Have you ever heard something and just knew you had a handle on what you heard? You felt you totally understood everything about the subject. Then you discussed it with a more knowledgeable person only to discover the meaning you imagined was all wrong.

Jesus dealt with that in His day, too. What many thought was going to be His kingdom was not what He had in mind. He used parables to help convey truths about who He was and what He taught. Parables were used in the Old Testament, as well. Check out our theme passage from Psalm 78.

Our main theme verses are from Psalm 78:1-2

- 1 My people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

These are called deep sayings because they are to be examined carefully. God's word was given so that it would be handed down from one generation to another. Our theme verses are intended to be viewed as a parable that sets forth the conduct and experience of believers in all ages.

Many from the past generation are fortunate that their parents or grandparents spoke often of God's provision and direction in their lives, attended church and walked with the Lord's guidance.

However, many today grew up without that direction. Many teenagers are unprepared for the world around them now and the world that lies ahead after graduation. Our prayer is that during this week of camp, you will see, hear, understand and respond to God's call on your life. We need to commit our time and our efforts to God and ask that He might manifest His power among us to help us hear and understand and rightly apply His Word. We

The logo for 'REIMAGINE' features the word 'REIMAGINE' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters 'R' and 'E' are contained within a square frame that has horizontal lines extending from the top and bottom edges. The remaining letters 'I', 'M', 'A', 'G', 'I', 'N', 'E' are positioned to the right of the frame. Below the word 'REIMAGINE' is the website address 'BEDOTELL.COM/CASWELL' in a smaller, all-caps font.

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want His Word to change us. We will have fun, but we don't want to just mark time at the beach and miss what God has for us.

Without the work of God's Spirit, we would have no understanding of spiritual things. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

**Pray:** Ask God to meet you at camp and that He will accomplish His purpose among all of us.

Without the work of God's Spirit, we would have no understanding of spiritual things. We need the Spirit to open our eyes, knowing when God first rescued us from sin through believing in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and putting our trust in Him.

Have you made that decision and does it still have meaning to you today?

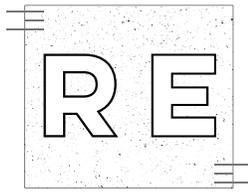
If so, write down how you came to know Jesus.

Who helped you in this process?

We continue to need the Spirit day-by-day as we read God's Word and seek to live a life of worship in Christ. The Spirit helps us every time we pray, every time we read and try to understand the Bible, and every time we share our faith with those in need of Jesus. God gives us power and grace that only He can give.

We must be a people dependent upon God.

**Pray:** Ask God to help you with your feelings of independence, which is where you think you can do it all on our own.



## DAY TWO

Tradition was how the people of old passed down their faith. My grandmother was a widow. She worked long hours to feed her family. My dad shares of many times he was left at home after school so his mom could go to work. One night at work, my grandmother was seen crying and when asked if anything was wrong, she replied, "No, I'm asking God to protect my children while I'm at work. My deepest longing is to provide for them, but I hate it at the same time because I am away from them so much. So I'm begging God to protect them."

Stories like this one allowed me to see a heritage of faith that was handed down for me to build upon.

**Pray:** Ask God to be your provider. Whatever needs you have, call them out to Jesus. If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, pray that God will provide for you the truth and faith to believe.

Read Psalm 100:3-5.

3 "Know that the LORD is God.

It is He, who made us, and we are His;  
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving  
and His courts with praise;  
give thanks to Him and praise His name.

5 For the LORD is good and His love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues through all generations."

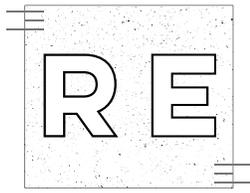
Write down all the things this passage says about God.

Now write down what this passage says about us.

Write down what we are to do.

Make a list of all the things you are thankful for today. Be specific.

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for His provision in your life.



## DAY THREE

Psalm 78:2 says some things will be shared in parables. We are looking at several parables of Jesus during camp. A parable is a story with a spiritual meaning or application. In Matthew 13:34, the New Testament quotes Psalm 78:2. Isn't it great seeing the connection between the time before Jesus came to earth and when He walked this earth? He came proclaiming truths that would change how many people viewed Him and His kingdom.

To put this verse more into today's language it says, "Listen closely — why? Because I will tell you a parable, something hidden, and if you don't listen closely, you are going to miss it."

I don't know about you but I don't want to miss anything that God wants me to see. The history of Israel is retold in the rest of Psalm 78. It recalls their going out of Egypt, to their entering the Promised Land, to the reign of King David. The Psalm instructs us of how Israel had cycles of unbelief. Look at Psalm 78:34-38 for a good summary

34 Whenever God slew them, they would seek him;  
they eagerly turned to him again.  
35 They remembered that God was their Rock,  
that God Most High was their Redeemer.  
36 But then they would flatter him with their mouths,  
lying to him with their tongues;  
37 their hearts were not loyal to him,  
they were not faithful to his covenant.  
38 Yet he was merciful;  
he forgave their iniquities  
and did not destroy them.  
Time after time he restrained his anger  
and did not stir up his full wrath.

What did they remember? (v. 35)

Then what did they do?

How did God respond to their disloyalty?

This is a lesson to us. When do you feel disloyal to God?



Rewrite how God responded to the Israelites and how He would respond to us (v. 38).

**Pray:** Ask God to reveal to you areas of your life that you are disloyal to Him.

**Pray:** Ask God to help you focus more on Him so that you will respond to His commands instead of what you want to do.

## DAY FOUR

The word, “hide” is used in Psalm 78:3-4. It has a specific meaning of keeping something back, to refuse to make something known. God instructs us to tell future generations of what we have learned of God. Nothing is hidden from God. Romans 8:27 says, “And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

**Pray:** Ask God to search your heart for hidden things.

Many of us are given opportunities to share of what God is doing in our lives, but we choose to remain silent. We miss the chance to pass on our faith. However, we won’t share if we do not pray for God to reveal to us with whom to share.

**Pray:** Ask God to show you who among your friends needs to hear of what God has done in your life. Ask Him to give you courage to know who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus.

Prayer changes things. We no longer want to hide things from God as we walk with Him daily through prayer and reading His Word. Let’s start by thinking of who to pray for and what to pray about.

### **Here’s a specific way to pray today:**

Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict unbelievers. In addition, pray for all the believers to be stronger and more bold. Ephesians 6:18 says, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Pray that Jesus would be the center of all things. John 3:30 says, “He must become greater; I must become less.” It’s not about you, but it’s about making much of Jesus.

(Check out the testimonies online of Philadelphia Eagles’ quarterback Nick Foles and tight end Zach Ertz. When they won the Super Bowl, they used their platform to lift high the name of Jesus.)

Pray for God’s family. Pray for your church, your ministry leaders, volunteers and their families. If you know who will be chaperoning your group to camp next week, pray for them by name or at least pray for them as they sacrifice their time to bring your group to camp.



**Pray over this Scripture for you and those coming to camp:**

Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Pray that God will help you have the desire to hide His Word in your heart.

## DAY FIVE

Each generation handing down their faith to the next generation and hearing of all the things God has done results in what Psalm 78:7 says, "Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands."

This is our greatest hope for those who come to camp – that they would put their trust in God. It would be great to graduate at the top of your class or play the sport you love, but if you don't trust God and put Him first in your life, then it is all for nothing. We learn faith from people who practice faith. You cannot expect to lead anyone higher in the Christian faith unless you are willing to grow yourself.

**Pray:** Ask God to help you grow in your faith this next week at camp. Ask Him to help you not just to get the "camp high" of growing closer to God but also to show you how to keep it after you return home.

Israel continually forgot what the Lord had done for them. Remembering God's deeds provides a way to be encouraged and keep growing.

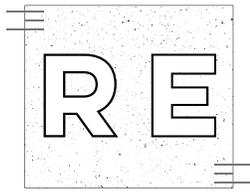
Take time to commit all your ways to Him and to look for His hand at work all around you.

**Pray:** Ask God to allow you to hear and see the God stories next week at camp and for them to have an impact on you and your faith.

Pray for strength to keep God's commands. There are consequences of disobedience. Psalm 78:8 says, "They would not be like their ancestors — a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him."

Those who went before this generation were marked by stubbornness and rebellion. What will you and your friends be marked as? Have you thought of that? What testimony are you leaving behind?

My senior year in high school brought a time of reflection of what legacy we were leaving for those behind us. I was an officer of my class and had a great senior year serving and enjoying being in leadership. The election for that leadership position caused me great stress. As we waited for the results of the election that fall, I was in the bathroom when my opponent entered. Immediately, I realized she had her group of friends, and she was saying negative things about me. I immediately tried to figure out what to do – I had to get to class on time but to walk out of the stall at that moment would be terrible. I prayed that God would help me know what to do. I had this urging from the Lord that I was to walk out and not say a word. I argued with the Lord for a minute that there was no way I could do that. However, I also knew I didn't want to be late for class. So I walked out, slowly went to the sink to wash my hands as they all stood behind me with their mouths open, shocked that I had been in there and heard them. The Lord gave me strength to not say a word. As soon as I got out the door, I crumbled on the wall, realizing I made it out.



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Fast forward 10 years later. That same girl approaches me at our 10-year reunion and asked to be forgiven for the mean things she had said about me. She said my silence really burned her up. She couldn't believe I said nothing in response to her hurtful words. However, as she reflected over what she really knew about me and my reputation, she commented that my silence spoke louder than any words. She realized my faith was real and not a show. I had practiced right before her what she knew was in God's Word. She said it had helped her begin to look at her own life and spiritual walk, and that it led her to commit her life to the Lord.

For me, I stood again in shock. I knew that when I prayed that day for God to give me strength to know what to do and then to walk out was God's provision of His grace, mercy and forgiveness. Therefore, to me and it must be extended to her.

Psalm 78:7 reminds us to set our hope in God. Whatever you are facing, there is hope for a better tomorrow through faith and trust in God.

**Pray:** Ask God to help you see the parables shared next week at camp in a new light. May they not be a good story you have heard in church or Vacation Bible School. May they reveal to you how to live this life in God's strength.

**Pray:** Ask God to help your youth group get along with each other and with those at camp. That's where your testimony will be out front for all to see. How you treat each other speaks more than what you can say.

**Pray:** Ask God to help you re-imagine how He can be your provider and strength.