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FOCUS
SERIES

Focusing
on the
Foundations
of Christian
Camping

Using the Outdoor Setting to Communicate Spiritual Truths

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What's fun about camp? For one thing, being in the great outdoors—God's classroom! Such an environment affords many opportunities to communicate spiritual truths to campers and outdoor education participants of all ages, helping them learn more about God and His creation. The outdoor setting is a wonderful place to impart such knowledge for several reasons:

- Campers and outdoor education participants are far away from the demands and stresses of everyday life such as academic studies, extra-curricular activities, jobs and social pressures.
- The environment is bursting with natural object lessons and illustrations.
- Camp's quiet places make it possible to listen to God's voice and recharge mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
- Camp staff members love God and His creation. Who better to share about what God teaches through nature?

"Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you, or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you" (Job 12:7–8).

Finding spiritual truth in nature is easy, even if you don't know a lot of doctrine. Choose a

natural object or setting that Scripture describes, lead your campers or outdoor education participants to that spot, and let the discussion begin. But first, you'll find it helpful to learn (or review) some Bible verses to use as you lead discussions.

The Big Picture Through God's Eyes

Start your search for spiritual truth in outdoor settings by walking through God's Word on your own. Do a little personal searching about spiritual truths; then you'll be ready to teach others. Here are some basics:

1. God made creation. He owns it. Many outdoor education participants and campers have only heard the secular view of nature—a humanist or evolutionist view. Others might have some idea of what the Bible says about creation. You can help people see creation through new eyes: biblical or spiritual eyes.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the

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waters" (Psalm 24:1–2).

Other Scriptures to study: Genesis 1–2; Leviticus 25:23; Psalm 50:10–12.



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