

Wonder: A Blessing & Commissioning for Campers and Staff



Opening (Leader)

Today we send members of our community into a time set apart. They are being sent to _____ (Camp Wapo, Ox Lake Bible Camp, and/or Wilderness Canoe Base.)

They go to paddle and play, to sing and rest, to build friendships, and to step into something a little different than everyday life.

This summer they also go to notice. To wonder. To ask questions. To discover who they are and who they are becoming. And so today, we pause to bless them and send them.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:3 "Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight.'"

Luke 1:34 Mary said, "How can this be?"

Luke 3:22 "You are my beloved."

Ezekiel 37:5 "I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live."

Acts 2:44 "All who believed were together."

Isaiah 6:8 "Here am I; send me."

Reflection (Leader)

This week at camp is shaped by wonder. Wonder notices. Wonder asks questions. Wonder helps us remember who we are. Wonder opens us to new life. Wonder gathers us into community. And wonder sends us out again. We do not send these campers and staff because they are fully ready. We send them because they are open. And we trust that God will meet them there.

Call and Response (All)

Leader: As you go, may you stay open to wonder.

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you notice something new or unexpected,

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you ask questions and do not have answers,

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you are discovering who you are,

All: God is with us.

Leader: When things feel new or uncertain,

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you build friendships and community,

All: God is with us.

Leader: And when you return home, changed in ways seen and unseen,

All: God is with us.

Commitment (Campers & Staff)

Leader: Campers and staff, if you are willing, respond: Will you go with open eyes, ready to notice and wonder?

Campers/Staff: We will.

Leader: Will you care for one another and the world around you?

Campers/Staff: We will.

Leader: Will you be open to growth, change, and new understanding?

Campers/Staff: We will.

Commitment (Congregation)

Leader: People of God, will you support and pray for these campers and staff as they go?

Congregation: We will.

Leader: Will you welcome them back and listen to their stories?

Congregation: We will.

Prayer

God of wonder, you meet us in new places and familiar ones. In questions and in quiet moments. In community and in creation. Be with these campers and staff as they go. In the water, in the woods, around the fire, in laughter and in rest, in friendships and in moments of challenge. Open their eyes to what they might otherwise miss. Give them courage to ask questions. Remind them that they are loved. And guide them as they grow. Bring them home safely, and bring back with them stories, joy, and new life. Amen.

Blessing (All may extend a hand)

May your eyes stay open to wonder.

May your heart stay curious.

May you notice the goodness around you.

May you remember who you are.

May you trust that new life is possible.

May you belong deeply to one another.

And may you go with courage, saying:

Here I am.

And may you know that God is with you in it all.

Amen.

Wonder: A Short Blessing & Commissioning



Opening (Leader)

Today we send members of our community to _____ (Camp Wapo, Ox Lake Bible Camp, and/or Wilderness Canoe Base.) They go to play and paddle, to build friendships, and to step into something new. They also go to notice, to wonder, and to grow.

Scripture (One Reader or Leader)

Exodus 3:3 “Moses said, ‘I must turn aside and look at this great sight.’”

Luke 1:34 Mary said, “How can this be?”

Luke 3:22 “You are my beloved.”

Isaiah 6:8 “Here am I; send me.”

Call and Response

Leader: As you go, stay open to wonder.

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you notice something new,

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you have questions,

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you discover who you are,

All: God is with us.

Leader: When you build community,

All: God is with us.

Leader: And when you return home,

All: God is with us.

Commitment

Leader: Campers and staff, will you go with open hearts, ready to notice, wonder, and care for one another?

Campers/Staff: We will.

Leader: People of God, will you support them with your prayers and welcome them home?

Congregation: We will.

Prayer

God of wonder, be with these campers and staff as they go. In new experiences, new friendships, and quiet moments, meet them there. Help them to notice, to grow, and to know they are loved. Bring them home safely, with stories to share and lives shaped by this time. Amen.

Blessing

May your eyes stay open to wonder.

May your heart stay curious.

May you remember who you are.

And as you go, may you say,

Here I am.

And may you know that God is with you in it all.

Amen.