

First Word/Last Word

By Melissa Shults



Because a day at camp is typically a regular daily schedule, families at home have opportunities to pray for their campers at the opening and closing of each day in line with the rhythm of the camper's day.

For

Families with a child at camp

Season

Summer—while child is at camp

Needed

Candle and matches/lighter

Prepare in Advance

From the camp that your child will be attending, ask for the following:

- A daily schedule with times for morning devotions and evening campfire
- A list of daily activities and themes in which your child will be participating

Activity Plan

1. Each morning, at the same hour of morning devotions for your camper, go outside and pray for his or her day at camp. Notice the birds, fresh air and natural surroundings. As you pray, keep in mind these things:
 - your camper's activities (see schedule)
 - how your camper is forming new friendships
 - your camper's safety
 - your camper's counselor and staff
 - your camper's growth in faith through the day
2. Each evening, light the candle to symbolize the campfire experience of your camper, which is typically the closing of each day. As you pray, keep in mind these things:
 - pray for a restful night for campers and staff
 - pray that homesickness is kept to a low ebb
 - give thanks for all that your camper experienced today
 - imagine how the lessons/experiences will impact your camper beyond their week at camp

Additional Idea

Find access to an outdoor fire pit near your home and hold your own campfire one evening. Roast marshmallows, sing songs, tell stories, and share memories about your camper. You can swap song and skit ideas with your camper when she or he returns home.