

Devotionals

NCC Pilgrimage

Weekend theme: **Let Your Perceptions Shatter!**

Friday Evening: We are all broken

Saturday Morning: We all make mistakes

Saturday Evening: God's grace is sufficient

Sunday Morning: There's power in weakness

You are not alone, so let your perceptions shatter! We are all broken. We all make mistakes. God's Grace is sufficient. There's power in weakness.

Weekend Scripture: But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." – 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)

You asked. We listened.

Pilgrimage is a weekend full of worship and activities and through the Pilgrimage 2018 surveys, the Pilgrimage Ministry Worship Team was asked to simplify our devotions to increase conversational reflection and deepen the takeaways from each session. Feel free to adapt this guide in a way that works best for your group.

We encourage all adult leaders in your group to take notes during the sessions so you will be prepared to help your students connect what they hear with their own lives and the lives of others, as well.



Devotionals

NCC Pilgrimage

Session 1: Friday Evening

You are not alone, so let your perceptions shatter! We are all broken. We all make mistakes. God's Grace is sufficient. There's power in weakness.

Think About the Day and the Friday Evening Pilgrimage Session (15 minutes)

Depending on group size, have a whole group discussion or divide into groups of 4-8 youth with other adult leaders in each group.

1. Light a Christ candle.
2. Give everyone a chance to settle into this time in one or more ways:
 - Share their jeers/cheers of the day.
 - Play a game that your group enjoys.
 - Sing a song that you typically sing when you are together.
3. Give each person a chance to share some of the following:
 - What did they enjoy most from the Friday night session and why?
 - What was challenging or confusing?
 - What would they like to know/think more about?
 - What is something new they learned during the session (e.g. song, bible verse)?
 - If they could suggest a song for the band to sing for this session, what would it be and why?

Explore the Friday Evening Theme: We Are All Broken (15-20 minutes)

As a whole group or in small groups, explore these questions.

1. If you had been asked to share a story of brokenness during the Friday evening session with your Pilgrimage family, what would it be? (something you experienced yourself, through a friend or family member, or a character from a book or movie, etc.)
2. Does the story impact your relationship with God? If so, how?
3. Were your church family and friends part of the story? If so, how?
4. Do you think this story could encourage others in their faith journey? How or how not?
5. How might something you heard in Hannah's talk this evening make you think about the story in a new way?



Devotionals

NCC Pilgrimage

Close Your Time Together (5-10 minutes)

Ask for prayer requests and close by saying UMYF benediction together:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen!"

Session 2: Saturday Morning

You are not alone, so let your perceptions shatter! We are all broken. We all make mistakes. God's Grace is sufficient. There's power in weakness.

Think About the Day and the Saturday Morning Pilgrimage Session (15 minutes)

Depending on group size, have a whole group discussion or divide into groups of 4-8 with other adult leaders in each group.

1. Light a Christ candle.
2. Give everyone a chance to settle into this time in one or more ways:
 - Share their jeers/cheers of the day.
 - Play a game that your group enjoys.
 - Sing a song that you typically sing when you are together.
3. Give each person a chance to share some of the following:
 - What did they enjoy most from the Saturday morning session and why?
 - What was challenging or confusing?
 - What would they like to know/think more about?
 - What is something new they learned during the session (e.g. song, bible verse)?
 - If they could suggest a song for the band to sing for this session, what would it be and why?

Explore the Saturday Morning Theme: We All Make Mistakes (15-20 minutes)

As a whole group or in small groups, explore these questions:

1. What do you consider a mistake? How is it defined?
2. (Before reading this question to the group, it may be helpful to read the scripture passage again.) Looking at our scripture passage for the weekend, how does God view our mistakes?
3. Turning toward the morning session, what are you taking away from Bishop Fairley's talk?



Devotionals

NCC Pilgrimage

4. How did this morning's session add to what you heard, felt, or experienced in last night's session with Hannah?

Close Your Time Together (5-10 minutes)

Ask for prayer requests and close by saying UMYF benediction together:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen!"

Session 3: Saturday Evening

You are not alone, so let your perceptions shatter! We are all broken. We all make mistakes. God's Grace is sufficient. There's power in weakness.

Think About the Day and the Saturday Evening Pilgrimage Session (15 minutes)

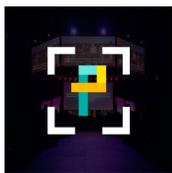
Depending on group size, have a whole group discussion or divide into groups of 4-8 with other adult leaders in each group.

1. Light a Christ candle.
2. Give everyone a chance to settle into this time in one or more ways:
 - Share their jeers/cheers of the day.
 - Play a game that your group enjoys.
 - Sing a song that you typically sing when you are together.
3. Give each person a chance to share some of the following:
 - What did they enjoy most from the Saturday night session and why?
 - What was challenging or confusing?
 - What would they like to know/think more about?
 - What is something new they learned during the session (e.g. song, bible verse)?
 - If they could suggest a song for the band to sing for this session, what would it be and why?

Explore the Saturday Evening Theme: God's Grace is Sufficient (15-20 minutes)

As a whole group or in small groups, explore these questions.

1. What is your understanding of Grace? Is grace fair? Why or why not?
2. Think about a time when you experienced the gift of grace as freely given to you when you least expected it? How did you feel? Share with your group.



Devotionals

NCC Pilgrimage

3. As United Methodists, we recognize that God's grace is at work throughout our spiritual lives. How have you felt/seen God's grace preparing you for this moment here at P19?
4. How have you encountered the presence (and forgiveness) of God throughout the day, especially during our evening session.
5. How is the Grace of God preparing you to be the person God has called you to be?
6. Read the scripture. What new insights do you get from this scripture passage?

Close Your Time Together (5-10 minutes)

Ask for prayer requests and close by saying UMYF benediction together:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen!"

Session 4: Sunday Morning Session at Home

You are not alone, so let your perceptions shatter! We are all broken. We all make mistakes. God's Grace is sufficient. There's power in weakness.

Think About Pilgrimage Weekend and the Sunday Morning Pilgrimage Session (15 minutes)

Depending on group size, have a whole group discussion or divide into groups of 4-8 with other adult leaders in each group.

1. Light a Christ candle.
2. Give everyone a chance to settle into this time in one or more ways:
 - Share their jeers/cheers of the day.
 - Play a game that your group enjoys.
 - Sing a song that you typically sing when you are together.
3. Give each person a chance to share some of the following:
 - What did they enjoy most from the Saturday night session and why?
 - What was challenging or confusing?
 - What would they like to know/think more about?
 - What is something new they learned during the session (e.g. song, bible verse)?



Devotionals

NCC Pilgrimage

If they could suggest a song for the band to sing for this session, what would it be and why?

Explore the Sunday Morning Theme: There's Power in Weakness (15-20 minutes)

1. Think of a time when you have failed. Did you learn anything from that experience? Did it make you stronger?
2. There's a line from an old song that says, "There's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." What does that quote mean to you?
3. When have you experienced God in moments of weakness? What did you learn about God and what did you learn about yourself in that moment?
4. What are you taking away from Bishop Fairley's sermon on Sunday?
5. Knowing that everyone is broken in some way and that God uses broken people, how might that change how you look at weakness going forward?

Close Your Time Together (5-10 minutes)

Ask for prayer requests and close by saying UMYF benediction together:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen!"