

# WHAT A BRILLIANT SUMMER YOUTH CAMP SEASON

Starting 10 December with three E3 wilderness expeditions and eight youth camps in January & February across the motu, it has been a rich season of connection, wonder and curiosity.

Throughout our camp leadership programmes in 2024, we explored how to set up and maintain a positive camp culture with a flow out from camp into community engagement. Jesus' disciples were young people, and our young campers want to be kingdom builders for God!

## BIBLE ENGAGEMENT....

.... was exploring Faith in Action. Campers reflected on key men & women of the Bible who lived their faith in radical ways. We tied these studies into the arc of Scripture.

### **David who worshipped**

God creates all things with unique purposes and calls them good (the beginning)

### **Esther who stood up to injustice**

Disobeying God and the brokenness that has entered the world (the fall)

### **Jesus the Servant Leader**

Jesus came to earth to restore all of creation (redemption)

### **Paul who was obedient**

We are called to contribute to God's Kingdom here on earth (restoration)

### **Mary who stopped and listened**

We can live out our faith today, but it also extends past this life and into eternity (Sabbath)

# WHAT CAMP LEADERS SAID ABOUT THIS?

"Spiritual structure was strong with good routine (morning prayers, quiet time, creative worship station, musical worship, sessions, 1on1 / solo time, small groups, God in my life stories, evening prayer). Our speaker did a great job in making it relatable and easy to understand, and it was cool to have campers prompt discussion rather than trying to squeeze conversation out of them."

"I think the spiritual tone was spot on. The activities and experiences seemed to march well with the maturity and spiritual understanding of the campers. To me, the way Christian content discussed never felt out of touch with where the campers were at with their own journeys."

"I really loved the themes this year, they were really engaging and prompted good conversation and also valuable lessons/takeaways from the sessions. I think solo time is always great for both leaders and campers."



# WE ASKED CAMPERS, "WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED THROUGH THE STUDIES ON CAMP AND HOW THIS AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?"

"There was a lot of good stuff in the sessions on camp, that has really challenged me personally. Learning to serve others like Jesus did and with the heart for others that he had, as well as (like Lydia) being more open with other people and hospitable. I've been trying to be more intentional with this back home, being more intentional in maintaining friendships and connections formed at camp and be intentional with the space I create to spend time with God each day."

"I learnt that I am not the only one who is wanting to lean in more to God. It's cool because I honestly feel so alone in it at school sometimes. I was inspired by other campers who knew much more than I did, and I learnt that it's my responsibility- as in my relationship with God is my responsibility. Not my parents or my youth leader."

"That I should be more obedient towards God and speak up about injustices I might see daily."

"I learnt that you could live out your faith in so many different ways. God has created everyone uniquely and with different giftings and we can all show faith in different ways, yet we are all serving God. Also, that there are many ways to worship, and I would like to worship God more in my daily life and to invite him into my every day."

"Talking about servicing others and being humble in the studies has stuck in my head and made me want to become better at those and seeing God's love through the leaders is an example for me."

