

God Reigns!

LWML Post-Convention Devotion

Even if you didn't get a chance to set foot on Mount Hood, you no doubt have found it has been an exciting, energizing, and invigorating climb these last four days! Worship, Bible study, singing, presentations, servant activities, meal times, laughter, and fellowship have left you standing at the summit of joy in the Lord. Renewed friendships and perhaps new friendships have lifted you to the height of gratitude for all the blessings God has put into your life.

Now you're ready to put what you've heard, what you've learned, and what you've discovered into practice. You felt the Spirit tug at your heart when a presenter related a story or pointed out a biblical truth. You remember something a friend shared with you, and it clicked inside, as if your eyes were suddenly opened.

Remember the Message

Take some time to reflect on your personal convention experience. Jot down your thoughts while they're still fresh in your mind so you can return to them later.

- During the convention, when did you feel closest to your Lord? Describe who was there and what was happening.

- What was the most inspiring and motivating message you heard, and why do you think this is significant to you?

- If you had to sum up the convention experience in 25 words or less, what would you say?

Take It to the Plains

If you want to linger a while longer on that mountaintop savoring your experience, you're in notable company. Jesus' disciples Peter, James, and John hoped to stay on the mountaintop where they saw their Lord transfigured in glory and standing with Moses and Elijah. Who wouldn't? Read Matthew 17:1-9. Imagine how those disciples felt at having seen such a wondrous sight!

Yet Jesus took His disciples and led them down the mountain, turning their attention to the business at hand. What they saw, what they learned about Jesus on the mountaintop was going to be put to use down on the plain in the changes and challenges the coming days would bring. We know now that these same disciples would soon be looking up and seeing Jesus atop another hill, the one called Calvary.

Mountaintop experiences serve to strengthen and encourage God's people, keeping you in the faith and faithful in the ordinary – and in the extraordinary – events of life. But the point is not to stay there, but to come down to the plain and share the things you have seen, heard, and experienced.

Reflect again on your “mountaintop experience.”

- What specific ideas and practical actions do you plan to take from the convention back to your family, church, and community?

- In what ways do you think your plans may be challenged as you move back into your daily work and responsibilities?

- What resources has God given you to meet and overcome these challenges?

Share the News

Now look up at one more mountain – the mountain of Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Here He gathered His disciples and gave them one last commandment, inviting them to “*go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*” (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).

Yes, those disciples were to head back down to the plain so they could lift others up to Him through the Gospel, the message of salvation. Jesus’ call, however, was not just for those who heard them that long-ago day. His call includes and invites you. To you, He says, “Go! Go tell what you’ve seen, learned, and discovered about My love and care for You. Go,” He says, “and share the Good News of My forgiveness, compassion, grace, and mercy.” Let your life show God reigns!

- Be prepared to share the Good News by writing a short from-the-heart message about God’s love, grace, and forgiveness through faith in Jesus. Memorize your words for the next time you have an opportunity to open a conversation about Christ.

Hymn

“It’s Good Lord to Be Here” TLH #135, LW #89

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for my mountaintop experience of worship, praise, discovery, and fellowship. Thank You for the opportunity to grow in faith and in relationship with You. As I begin again my daily tasks and responsibilities, reign in my heart so my thoughts, words, and actions will bring Your love and mercy to others. Let me sing with the prophet of old, “*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation*” (Isaiah 52:7 NIV). In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.