

THEME FOR DAY ONE: DYING AND CHANGING

(5 minutes. No poster. No discussion. No summary sharing. This introduction is given by an outside team member.)

Open with a short prayer.

Scriptural source: The theme for Day one is taken from John 12:24 "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains but a seed"; and from Romans 6:4 "Through baptism into His death we were buried with Him..."

Purpose: To explain the meaning of dying and changing and how it is rooted in the Scriptures. This is not a full talk but a brief explanation of how the talks on Day One will revolve around the theme of dying and changing. Just like Jesus Christ, in order to have a resurrection we must first die. This is the first mandatory step if we want to change. We must die to our past and recognize how our lives have been self-centered rather than Jesus-centered. We must repent and ask for forgiveness.

Points to develop:

1. By being here you are showing your willingness to change. No one is here by chance. Take advantage of this opportunity God is offering you. Listen and participate.
2. Explain what happens to a seed after it dies. Parallel the seed story with real life. How can we be like the seed in the story.
3. We are no different from you. We have our own seed stories also and we will share them with you. We are here as God's instruments to help you.
4. Change is always possible. If others have done it why can't you do it also? With the help of God everything is possible. Learn to trust the Lord.
5. Change doesn't happen overnight. Change doesn't come easy, you have to work hard at it. We will offer some suggestions, ideas and tools to help you.
6. There is a better way of living. God is inviting you to this new life. Are you going to accept his invitation? The decision is up to you.

NOTE: At the discretion of the Lay Director the same person can be in charge of explaining the theme of the day each day of the retreat.