

Dearly beloved of the King,

So here you are, just returning home. You spent the entire summer on an adventure of epic proportions, growing in your knowledge of Jesus Christ, sharing His love with people around you, worshiping and reading His Word every day, fellowshiping with an amazing group of like-minded Christians, and having your mind blown in ways you did not expect.

But now you're home. There is a huge difference between being over there with your fellow Royal Servants, and being over here, back in your own everyday life. There are a lot of emotions that go along with that. Some good, some not so good. But all of them are definitely normal and being felt by other Royal Servants at this very moment.

Cut yourself some slack. It's going to take time to readjust. Sometimes it takes a longer time than you might think. Maybe you just hopped from the greatest spiritual high you've ever felt, to the deepest downward spiral you've ever experienced. Maybe the close proximity of teammates and special bonds that you had overseas do not exist back at home. Perhaps your home church now seems dull and boring, or even hypocritical.

Take a deep breath, and let me encourage you. It's going to be ok. Let whatever emotions you feel chase you into the arms of your Heavenly Savior, Jesus Christ. Start that quiet time habit and everyday prayer right away so that the habits you picked up over the summer don't fade. And trust me, it's so easy to let them fade, so don't be discouraged if they do. But keep at it! The greatest comfort and strength comes from the throne of God Himself.

If you find that you don't have a good friend group that consistently encourages you and builds you up in Christ, take it to the Lord, and seek those kinds of people out. God knows what we need, and He is faithful. He will bring those people into your life.

And remember that every church is different. What matters is that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, so be careful not to be judgmental when returning to your home church. That was a big struggle for me after my first Royal Servants summer. Every church is a group of God's people living and learning together. So be patient, be gentle, share what you've learned in a kind and respectful way, and learn the knowledge of God together as humble servants. We are all spiritually mature in different ways, and need to be open to learning from each other and testing everything with the Bible.

And so, dear brother or sister in Christ, I hope this letter provides a bit of encouragement as you face the transition home. It's no easy feat. Frodo struggled at the end of the Lord of the Rings when he finally arrived back at Hobbiton at the end of his long journey. He longed for more. So whether you're psyched to be home and hope to never step foot outside your bedroom again, or you're hankering for more adventure out in the great beyond, remember that God is not done with you yet. He has more excitement, hope, and adventure for you right where you are.

Embrace it! And always seek Him. He will provide the comfort, perseverance, rest, and joy that you need. It's going to be ok. It's going to be more than ok. It's going to be amazing!

For the Kingdom!!!
Amy-Beth Morway