

FFWPU Austria's Yearly 14-Day Divine Principle Workshop 2026

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August 9, 2026



Theme: Seeking for the Light

Organizer: EMPOWER

Dates: July 27 - August 9, 2026

Location: Gaflenz, Austria

From July 27 to August 9, 2026, EMPOWER hosted its annual 14-Day Divine Principle Workshop in the scenic countryside of Gaflenz, Austria. Centered on the theme "Seeking for the Light," the gathering brought together youth and young adults for an immersive spiritual journey designed to deepen their understanding of God, human responsibility, and personal purpose.

Over two transformative weeks, participants engaged in intensive study, small-group dialogue, outdoor recreation, and deep personal reflection, returning home empowered with renewed clarity and strong bonds of community.

Core Objectives and Theme

The 2026 theme, "Seeking for the Light," served as both a spiritual compass and an invitation to personal inquiry. The workshop aimed to achieve three primary objectives:

Intellectual and Spiritual Grounding: Provide a comprehensive exploration of the Divine Principle, encouraging participants to wrestle with core spiritual questions and gain a practical framework for faith.

Community and Character Building: Foster a safe, supportive, and uplifting environment where youth could build authentic friendships, express vulnerability, and practice compassionate leadership.

Personal Awakening: Guide attendees in recognizing their intrinsic value, healing personal challenges, and identifying actionable ways to project light into their families and local communities.



Program Journey and Highlights

The 14-day schedule balanced academic study, communal activities, and quiet introspection, utilizing both structured indoor sessions and the natural beauty of the Austrian landscape.

Week 1: Foundations of Creation and Internal Discovery

The first half of the workshop focused on establishing a strong group identity and examining the foundational chapters of the Divine Principle.

Lectures and Discussions: Morning and afternoon lecture blocks unpacked the Principle of Creation and the Human Fall. Interactive small-group sharing allowed participants to digest the content, ask challenging questions, and relate theoretical concepts to real-life struggles.

Team Integration: Small groups ("families") were established early, led by experienced facilitators who cultivated trust, active listening, and open expression.

Evening Reflection: Daily schedules concluded with reflective prayer sessions, group journaling,

and musical devotionals designed to internalize the day's themes.

Mid-Workshop: Connection in Nature

To mark the transition into the second week, the group took advantage of Gaflenz's stunning Alpine surroundings.

Mountain Expedition: A day-long hike through the foothills of Upper Austria offered participants time for quiet contemplation, team bonding, and a physical embodiment of the "seeking" theme.

Outdoor Fellowship: Group challenges, sports, and outdoor campfires provided healthy physical release and strengthened interpersonal connections across different age groups and backgrounds.

Week 2: Restoration, History, and Action

The second week turned toward the practical application of spiritual truths through the lens of history and personal responsibility.

Restoration and History: Participants explored the Principles of Restoration, analyzing historical patterns of growth, conflict, and renewal. This contextualized individual life journeys within a larger historical purpose.

Life Application Workshops: Dedicated sessions helped participants translate theoretical insights into everyday life skills, focusing on habits, relationship-building, conflict resolution, and personal goal-setting.

Testimony and Cultural Night: Attendees shared personal stories of growth, performed musical and artistic pieces, and celebrated the diverse talents within the community.

Outcomes and Participant Experience

The 14-day duration allowed for a noticeably deeper spiritual trajectory compared to shorter retreats. Key outcomes observed across the participant body included:

Enhanced Faith and Knowledge: Participants demonstrated a clearer, more nuanced understanding of Divine Principle concepts and an increased confidence in articulating their spiritual beliefs.

Stronger Peer Support Networks: Long-term bonds were forged across European regions, creating a lasting support system for youth after returning home.

Renewed Sense of Purpose: Through guided reflection, many participants reported gaining clarity on personal values, career aspirations, and spiritual goals.

Moving Forward

The 2026 14-Day Workshop in Gaflenz reaffirmed EMPOWER's commitment to raising confident, faith-anchored young leaders. The energy, insights, and spiritual momentum cultivated during these two weeks will continue to resonate through follow-up local groups, online mentorship sessions, and upcoming regional gatherings throughout the coming year.