

Miscellaneous Camp Resources

(for use during and following camp)

Suggested songs

“King of the World” by Natalie Grant

“Cast My Cares” by Finding Favour

“My Hope is in You” by Aaron Shust (maybe for prayer)

“Christ in Me” by Jeremy Camp

“Never Been Unloved” by Michael W. Smith

“Remind Me Who I Am” by Jason Gray

Prayer Partnerships

During the week of camp, we are hoping to focus on helping people to understand better and deepen their relationship with the triune God as we meet Him in Jesus Christ. Along with considering who Jesus is and the relationships He establishes with us, we will be looking at some of the ways we can participate in this relationship.

The second day's chapel will be on worship and prayer – what is it and how do we get involved? Praying can seem like a daunting task to someone who has not really done much of it. How do I go about talking with God? What should I say?

To help campers grow in their prayer life, we decided to offer this guide through the week that could be used by them. I thought the best way to give them an opportunity to practice praying regularly, you could divide your groups into prayer partnerships for the week. If you have an odd number of campers in your group, perhaps you could partner with one of them. I think it will be simpler and easier to actually do if they are just meeting with one other person.

Another way to form prayer partnerships would be to make this a whole camp activity and pair each camper with an adult helper. This would give an opportunity for forming more intergenerational relationships. This is also something that could be done with each camper when they return to their local church.

I am thinking of these times as being about 15 minutes long. To help your campers to actually do this and benefit from it, it might be good if you could decide on a time in the day when they will meet in their prayer partnerships rather than leaving it up to them to find a time in the day to meet together.

My hope is that this guide both encourages and enables those who use it in their prayer life. My own journey in learning more about who I am praying to and how to respond and participate in my relationship with Him in this way was slow and at times confusing or frustrating. I hope this provides some helpful guidance.

Prayer Partnership Guide

Think about what it would be like if you could not talk with someone you really care about? What if you could not communicate at all with that person, in person, on the phone or writing? You couldn't talk about –what you are thinking and feeling or hear from them? What kind of relationship could you have with that person? Relationships need communication to continue and grow.

Jesus shows us that God Himself is a loving relationship with real interaction between the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Jesus tells us that He says what He hears from His Father. And we see many times in the Gospels where Jesus is praying to His Father. Towards the end of the Gospel of John, He tells us that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to pass on to us the words of Jesus.

God wants to enable us to have a relationship with Him where we can communicate with Him. Jesus encouraged His followers to pray and taught them to pray when they asked him how to pray. In Hebrews 7:25 we find out that Jesus now lives to intercede, that is, to pray for us! And God cares so much for our relationship with Him that He gives us His Spirit to live in us and to help us to pray, even when we don't have words to pray.

Prayer includes talking with God, and seeking to be quiet and listen to Him, especially after we've read or think about his Word. Because we know that God wants to hear us and that He is speaking to us by His Spirit, we can pray trusting that He is fully present and active when we pray. In prayer, we can grow to love God more and to know His love for us. When we are praying, the whole God is drawing us to Himself.

Ideas:

When you begin your prayer time, take some time to thank God. In thanksgiving, we are reminded of how good God is and are able to receive and rest in His presence with us. Thanksgiving is our primary posture before God – it helps us to open our hearts to Him. I would suggest always starting your prayer for your prayer partner this way.

There are so many things we can thank God for:

- For giving us another day, for sustaining our lives and this world
- For being the good Father who loves to listen to His children
- For giving us His Word and his Spirit to live in us and help us to know and trust Him more
- For knowing and caring already about what is on your heart
- For faithfully working (redeeming and transforming) in your live, in the lives of those you care about, and in the lives of those you struggle with for various reasons
- For His forgiveness

Take time to thank God for your prayer partner – for his/her life, that God created them and loves them. Thank God that He has them, He is always with them and that He is working out His good purposes in their lives.

Ask God to help you listen to Him, to trust Him with your life, your plans, your relationships. Ask Him to help you to hand over all those things on your minds and hearts that make it harder for you to listen to and trust in Him.

A Suggested Action Plan for After Camp

This past week we learned about being on a life-long journey with Jesus. You had some opportunities to enjoy your relationship with him this week in prayer, worship, Bible study and service. As you know, Jesus has made a way for us to stay in relationship and communication with him every day of our lives.

What was learned and enjoyed here does not have to end. But it may take some deliberate planning and being intentional to continue experiencing the joy of that relationship. And we'd like to help you with that.

That's what this action plan is about—helping you think about how you might continue some of the practices and patterns of relating to Jesus and to others that you began to enjoy here at camp. We'd like you to consider planning on ways of meeting Jesus and continuing to know him when you go back to "regular" life. He is already there and waiting for you.

Take some time now to reflect on this past week and then ask God to help you come up with one or more commitments you would like to make to grow in your relationship with Jesus once you're back home.

Here are some ideas to help you. You can use any of these ideas or come up with your own. Which of these would you like to plan on doing to continue to live in relationship with Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Check off the ones you'd like to try. If more than one, number them in the order of importance to you. You can share your plan with someone if you like.

1. Read through a gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
2. Study the Bible in a small group or with one other person (a Gospel is a good place to start).
3. Regularly attend worship or a fellowship meeting of GCI or if not available to you another church or fellowship group that knows Jesus, studies the Bible and will help you grow in faith, hope and love for God.
4. Make a confession of faith and be baptized in a GCI church or fellowship or another if not available.
5. Become a regular participant in a GCI youth ministry (or another one if not available).
6. Regularly serve someone you know perhaps in a simple and ordinary way: a friend, neighbor, relative, elderly, brother, sister.
7. Find a way to help out in a GCI church ministry or outreach
8. Pray regularly for a friend who doesn't yet know Jesus
9. Become prayer partners with someone else, perhaps someone you got to know at camp (guys with guys, gals with gals)
10. Talk with a friend about Jesus who doesn't yet know him. Share a few stories about him from the Bible (perhaps a story you heard here a camp. Share what you came to know about Jesus and his relationship you).
11. Talk to a pastor about a problem you are facing and need help with
12. I would like to plan on _____.
13. I would like to plan on _____.
14. To help me follow through, I will share this plan with _____.

Signed: _____ Date _____.