

Camp Sunday 2010

Camp theme: Breakthrough

Campers will be invited to “breakthrough” to new ways of seeing people and situations. We will hear the stories of social outcast, oppressed peoples, and religiously unclean people whose lives Jesus touched and transformed. Through these stories of people such as these who Jesus cared for and welcomed, we will be challenged to consider the biblical mandate to be a neighbor to all of God’s people.

I have picked out two of the Daily Discoveries to give you a sense of the theme for the week to use for Camp Sunday. Discovery 1 is Jesus Welcomes: Campers will hear about Jesus’ welcome for the children and explore ways they can welcome others into the camp community. (Mark 10:13-16)

Discovery 6 is Jesus Invites: Campers hear stories about the Great Banquet and explore ways they can extend an invitation to others beyond the camp community.

I have taken and adapted activities and worship ideas from the curriculum for you to use as works best for your Camp Sunday. Feel free to adapt and use as needed.

Daily Discovery Day 1

Jesus Welcomes Mark 10:13-16

Ideas for the worship space

Make signs that have the word “welcome” from different languages (*Bienvendios* from Mexico, *Bienvenue* French Quebec, or *Välkommen* (Sweden) You may also want to include languages with letters that are entirely different from the Western Alphabet (Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, etc). These signs could also include pictures of people and places from the countries that speak that language.

Place these signs in the area where worship will take place. Have the people read the words of welcome together. Remind people that while we do not all come from different countries, we come from many different places. Yet we are all welcome to be part of this community of faith. God brings us together so that we might learn from one another and it is important to welcome one another to camp/worship.

“As God welcomes us, let us welcome one another. As we gather in this place, let us all worship God.” (Older Children 85).

Call to Worship

1. Invite people to greet God this morning by looking up and lifting their arms up to God. Then have them put their hands together in a prayer position and bend at the waist as they bow toward the earth, indicating that they are ready to serve God. Next have them stand up and hold their hands up near their shoulders with palms facing out, turning to greet one another. Tell them that Jesus loves them. If there are children in worship, make sure that you welcome the children and tell them that Jesus loves them as well and that they are welcome in worship. (Daily Discoveries 1 for Younger Children page 59)

2. Leader: We come from many different places and circumstances.

Campers/People: All are welcome here

Leader: We come to make new friends, have new experiences, and come close to God and God's world.

Campers/People: All are welcome here

Leader: We come as children of God seeking God's welcome and blessing.

Campers/People: All are welcome here (Daily Discoveries 1 for Younger children page 59).

Litany

Leader 1: When we come to camp (church)

People: Jesus Welcomes

Leader 2: When we feel all alone,

People: Jesus Welcomes

Leader 3: When we experience new activities,

People: Jesus Welcomes

Leader 4: When we meet new friends

People: Jesus Welcomes

Leader 5: When we need to be blessed

People: Jesus Welcomes (Daily Discoveries 1 younger Youth page 109)

Prayers

1. God, open our eyes and hearts to welcome one another today. Amen (OY 133)

2. O God, we give you thanks for the gifts of this day. May you bless our time together in worship this morning. Help us to welcome all of your children and let them know that they are loved. May your Holy Spirit blow into this space of worship and be present with us. Amen.

Suggested songs

Shake a Friend's Hand

All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir

It's a Happy Day

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus Loves Me UMH 191

Sanctuary TFWS 2164

More Precious than Silver TFWS 2065

Message and reflection

When was a time when you were especially welcomed? How were you treated? What made you aware that you were welcomed? How did it feel to be welcomed? When did

you welcome someone else? How do you make someone else feel welcome? How does it feel to welcome someone else? What can you do to make others feel welcomed and blessed? How did Jesus welcome the child? How did he welcome others?

Children's Moment

Have children stand or sit in a circle. The pastor or leader walks around the circle and selects a child by tapping him/her on the shoulder. Pastor shakes child's hand and introduces self: "Hello, may I bless you?" The other person says "Yes, Please. Thank you very much." The leader repeats this with other children. Then pick a new leader to ask the question. Remind the children that God blesses them and loves them and that all are welcome here at the church. (YC 58)

DISCOVERY DAY 6

Jesus Invites Luke 14:12-24

Call to Worship

Leader1: When we are not sure which way to go,

Campers/People: Jesus Invites.

Leader2: When we are all alone,

Campers/People: Jesus Invites.

Leader3: When we are not sure who we are,

Campers/People: Jesus Invites.

Leader 4: When we bring our friends and other people to him,

Campers/People: Jesus Invites.

Leader 5: When we say, "Here I am, Lord,"

Campers/People: Jesus Invites.

Confession and Pardon

Leader: You have invited us to your feast, O God.

Campers/People: No More Excuses, God

Leader: Yet, sometimes we turn away from you.

Campers/People: No More Excuses, God

Leader: You call us to care for each other and your creation.

Campers/People: No More Excuses, God

Leader: Yet, sometimes we exclude others and harm the earth.

Campers/People: No More Excuses, God

Leader: Your invitation remains open and there is always room at your table.

Hallelujah! Amen.

Prayers

1. O God we give you thanks for the gifts of the day. We invite the Spirit to be present in this place. We thank you for the ways that you help us change our lives and the

world for the better. Help us to invite those who are lonely and excluded into your church. May your church be a place of welcome and love. Amen. (YC 81)

2. Inviting God, you call each of us to your feast. As we leave worship this morning, help us to share the feast with everyone we meet. Amen.

Scripture

Invite 8 people/campers to help with the scripture. Have the leader read Luke 14:12-24. Stop periodically. Tell the group that when you stop, they are to create a *tableau* or frozen scene of the portion of scripture that you have just read. Encourage the people to have fun with this. Stop after the following verses: 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24. Then read the scripture straight through. Share thoughts about how Jesus invites us all to God's feast. (YY 129)

Message

As you reflect on the Parable of the Wedding Banquet think about these thoughts:

- There are no excuses for missing out on God's love.
- There are no excuses for not inviting others to follow Jesus
- As Christians, we are the hosts and must be willing to invite all persons
- You are invited to be in this ministry
- You are challenged to "breakthrough" and extend the invitation to others. (YY 129)

Reflection and Offering

This is a good Sunday to have communion or an agape meal. If you have communion, this would be a good time to have homemade bread or fancy bread. You could have communion by offering the bread and cup to one person, who then offers it to the next person, etc. If you have an agape meal, you can have grapes, strawberries, cheese, etc. Tell people that they are able to eat when someone offers them food. Then have people enjoy the feast.

After communion or an agape meal, you could have a time of reflection with the questions: Where did you see God in this? How do we share the feast of God in the world? Close the time of feast with the following prayer: Loving God, you invite us out into the world. Guide us to become more like Jesus---welcoming, listening, showing compassion, loving, transforming, and inviting. Be with us as we follow your call. Amen." (OY 153)

Children's Moments

Sit in a circle and have the children remove their shoes. Ask the children where their shoes have been this week. After they share, have them put their shoes in the center of the circle. Ask them where they think their shoes will go during the week. Will there be new places the shoes will go? What new people will they encounter? Where will God be? Have each child give back someone else's shoes. Then close with a prayer

thanking God for the places the shoes have been and where the shoes will go this week. (OY 152).

Suggested Songs

All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir

Here I am, Lord UMH 593

Fill My Cup, Lord UMH 641

Sing Alleluia to the Lord TFWS 2258

Let Us Be Bread TFWS 2260

Come to the Table TFWS 2264

Come! Come! Everybody Worship TFWS 2271

Pass it On UMH 572