



CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY  
SUMMER CAMP 2017



CONGREGATIONAL TIME  
RESOURCES

# WHAT IS CONGREGATIONAL TIME?

- Congregational Time is a chance to meet with every member of your congregation or group, not just your confirmation students during Bible Study.
- At Camp Chrysalis, Congregational time is every day except Sunday and Friday. Congregation Time will be held after dinner for 45 minutes. Usually this means it will end by 7:30 unless stated otherwise at dinnertime.
- At Ebert Ranch, Congregational time is held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Congregational time will be held after dinner for 45 minutes. Usually this means it will end by 7:45 unless stated otherwise at dinnertime.
- Adult leaders and sponsors are in charge of this time. Campers should not be left unsupervised. If you do not want to meet with your group, staff will have activities planned for those that do not come with a congregation and will incorporate your group.
- Where you hold congregational time is decided Sunday during the adult orientation. If you know where you would like to have it please come prepared with ideas. If you have certain needs such as a TV or DVD player please let staff know at this meeting as well. If you do not know where to have this, staff will be more than happy explain what options are available. Please announce to your campers at every dinnertime, where your group will be meeting.

## **What can you do during Congregational Time?**

- The Cross Trails Staff has created a small curriculum that allows your group to connect with one another, to review the camp Bible study, or to check out the Cross Trails curriculum if you aren't using it. A guided series of questions and small mixing games allow campers to grow together as a group and bring up additional questions they may have from Bible study. You are welcome to use as much or as little of this curriculum as fits the needs of your group!
- Use this time as additional teaching time. Supplement Cross Trails led Bible studies or break your Bible study into two manageable pieces. This allows campers to participate in more camp activities during the day.
- Prepare a presentation or worship service for campers to present to the congregation when they return home. This is an excellent tool to build leadership and creativity within the group as well as an evangelism tool.
- Give the campers time to write letters to their family & friends back home. Some groups have written letters to congregational members who helped send them to camp.
- Go on a short hike with each other, play a game, make a craft or a project together, or just reflect on the day and check in. Congregational time can be used to build your group closer together.
- Does your group like to serve others or want to see the benefit of their work? Have campers make a lasting impression on Camp Chrysalis or Ebert Ranch by participating in one of our service projects. Something as simple as KP or hauling firewood can be done. Or if your group sees a need, talk to our staff to see if we can help you accomplish it!

# MONDAY

## CHRISTMAS • WELCOMING CHRIST

### Welcome

- Share highs and lows of the day. Allow campers the opportunity to process all the exciting adventures they have experienced!
- Ask about the theme of the day and how campers have been impacted by it.
- Ask campers to possibly share something they learned from Bible study or worship.

### Activities

- Make Christmas ornaments.
- Make friendship bracelets.
- Have campers sit in a circle and share the good gifts they see in others in the circle.

### Bible Verse of the Day

Read Luke 2:15-18

- What might have happened if the shepherds didn't listen to the angels? What if they didn't tell others what they had seen in Bethlehem?
- What might have happened if others didn't listen to the shepherds?
- Where did you see someone welcoming Christ in this passage?

### Evangelism

Take a moment to discuss Christ in our lives.

- What are some Christmas traditions we have in our church?
- How can we share our excitement about Jesus to others?
- How can we welcome others to join in our celebration when we get home?

### Journal Time

Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. Ask them to write about the excitement they feel at Christmas time knowing they have been given the greatest gift of all, Jesus!

Campers can also use this as a time to write a letter home or even write a letter to themselves to be opened up a few months from now! They can create an action plan or a challenge to themselves.

### Service

As Christmas is known as a time of giving, develop a plan on how you can give to your church or community. You can even participate in a service project right here at camp!

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending us your Son to come into this world and to be our Savior! Help us to welcome and invite all we meet to grow closer to you and to

# TUESDAY

## EPIPHANY • FOLLOWING THE STAR

### Welcome

- Share highs and lows of the day. Allow campers the opportunity to process all the exciting adventures they have experienced!
- Ask about the theme of the day and how campers have been impacted by it.
- Ask campers to possibly share something they learned from bible study or worship.

### Activities

- Go on a hike! A journey!
- Play charades
- Make up a new dinner grace

### Bible Verse of the Day

Read Luke 2:41-52

- Why do you think Jesus chose to stay in Jerusalem?
- Who do you think had more of an “Epiphany” moment, Jesus or the teachers in the temple?

### Evangelism

Take a moment to discuss following the star.

- How can we better follow the star? How can we better follow Jesus?
- What does it mean for us to be a star?
- How can we be a star for others? Where/how can we lead them?

### Journal Time

Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. Ask them to write about a time when they discovered something amazing; something amazing that God has done to them or for them.

### Service

Discuss and develop a plan to host a youth event at your church. Maybe it's a fun game night, maybe it's a pool party, or maybe it's something as crazy as a lock-in! What activities will you have? Who will you invite? How will you be a star leading others closer to Christ?

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for always leading us and guiding us to you. Help us to know how we, too, can be a bright shining star for others. In Your name, Amen!

# WEDNESDAY

## LENT • CONFESSING OUR FAILURES

### Welcome

- Share highs and lows of the day. Allow campers the opportunity to process all the exciting adventures they have experienced!
- Ask about the theme of the day and how campers have been impacted by it.
- Ask campers to possibly share something they learned from bible study or worship.

### Activities

- Venture off to a remote place for meditation and quiet time.
- Create a prayer chain, prayer tree or prayer garden.
- Practice reciting the Lord's Prayer together and help others learn it. Recite it one word at a time around a circle!

### Bible Verse of the Day

Read Luke 4:1-13

- What are some things you really want?
- Is there anything that would make you turn against God to get what you want?
- Do you think it was easy for Jesus to avoid the temptation?

### Evangelism

During Lent, many Christians choose to give up something as a sign of sacrifice.

- What is something you would like to give up that you feel is getting in the way of your relationship with God?
- What is something you could take on that could bring you closer to God?
- How can you help others grow closer to God?

### Journal Time

The Lenten journey is one of self reflection and one that can be full of emotion. Ask campers to reflect and write about their Lenten experiences and emotions on this day.

### Service

As Jesus took time to get away from the world to pray and talk to God, so should we. Take time to help improve our areas of prayer at camp: Bible study spots, Prayer labyrinth, worship spots, etc.

You can also use this time to develop a plan to build a prayer garden or prayer walk (labyrinth) at your church.

### Prayer

Good and gracious God, we are a sinful people. We are constantly losing sight of you and getting off track from where you need us to be. Forgive us. Guide us. Help us to turn back to you and live in your grace. Amen!

# THURSDAY

## EASTER • CELEBRATING FORGIVENESS

### Welcome

- Share highs and lows of the day. Allow campers the opportunity to process all the exciting adventures they have experienced!
- Ask about the theme of the day and how campers have been impacted by it.
- Ask campers to possibly share something they learned from bible study or worship.

### Activities

- Color Easter eggs (or Easter rocks!) and have an egg hunt!
- Decorate an Easter cross with flowers!
- Sing your favorite camp songs!
- Play a game of beach towel volleyball... with water balloons!

### Bible Verse of the Day

Read John 16:31-33

- Are any of us ever alone? Who is with us?
- Does Jesus promise us that life will be easy?
- Where do we find hope in this? Where is the joy?

### Evangelism

Take a moment to discuss our risen Savior.

- What does it mean for us that Jesus conquered sin and death?
- How should we treat others knowing that Christ forgives us?

### Journal Time

Ask campers to write about a time when they experienced forgiveness. It could be from someone forgiving them or they forgave someone.

Campers can also use this as a time to write a letter home or even write a letter to themselves to be opened up a few months from now! They can create an action plan or a challenge to themselves.

### Service

Plan a worship service for your home congregation. Share with them the joys you have experienced here at camp through songs and messages! Share with them all the great news you have heard that they too may become more fired up to share the Gospel with their friends as well!

### Prayer

Dear Risen Savior, we praise you and thank you for allowing us to gather on such a joyous occasion as you have conquered sin and death! We thank you for this incredible week you have blessed us with and for this opportunity to learn so much more about You! In your saving name we pray, Amen! Alleluia!!

# BACK AT HOME

## PENTECOST • GOING TO THE WORLD

We pray your week at camp has been a faith strengthening experience for you and each of your campers! As you prepare to go back out into the world to share the Gospel and the love of Christ, we have prepared a few ideas on how you and your campers can help make that happen.

### **Worship**

Plan a special youth led and/or youth recognition worship service.

- Have campers create a “camp style” worship.
- Celebrate the return of the campers and their faith strengthening experiences.
- Invite campers to share their experiences as part of a message through skits or even them simply sharing stories.
- Have campers pick camp songs and sing them during worship.
- Take up a special offering for Cross Trails Ministry.
- Use campers as readers, liturgists, etc.
- Allow campers to share their unique gifts in a worshipful way during the service.
- Share pictures taken from camp in a slideshow during worship.

### **Congregational Service**

- Have campers put on a game day for Sunday school students with camp games that they learned
- Plan a family or congregation retreat at Camp later in the year
- Have campers decorate the worship space when the liturgical seasons change
- Campers could be volunteers at Day Camp or VBS programs at your church
- Have campers give a presentation on what they have learned at camp to the adults.
- Campers could meet with an adult mentor to share in the memories of camp and how it has changed over time.

### **Community Service**

- Have campers invite others into their church community, especially other campers that they have met at camp
- Develop a way to help share the Gospel within your community and invite all people to church to learn more about God!
- Have campers help with ongoing service opportunities in their community (food pantry, clothing collections, etc.)
- Is there a need within your community that is not being met? Develop a program that could help fill that need.
- Invite youth groups from other churches to join up for fun activities as we are all one in Christ!