



CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY

SUMMER CAMP 2018



CROSS TRAILS
MINISTRY

CONGREGATIONAL TIME
RESOURCES



- 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 to 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!



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 musical instruments (paper tambourines, rubber band guitars, etc.).
- Host a sing-along of favorite camp songs.
- Have campers sit in a circle and share how they show their praise to God.

Bible Verse of the Day

Read Matthew 14:13-21.

- What is so exciting about this story?
- How do you think did the people show their praise to God?
- How would you have felt if you were in the crowd? How would you have reacted?
- Why do you think Jesus acted the way he did towards the crowd?

Evangelism

Take a moment to discuss God in our lives.

- What is the good news we heard today?
- How can we share our excitement about God 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. Campers may write about how great God is and all that He has blessed them with.

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 a sign of adoration, many choose to build worship sites to praise and honor God. This may be a time to help clean up a worship site at camp or even discuss ways you can help your congregation back home.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we praise you for being so amazing and so awesome! We praise you for all the great things you have done! You are so good and we thank you for your constant faithfulness. Amen!



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Activities

- Go on a meditative hike in God's beautiful creation for self-reflection.
- Splash around with God's cleansing waters by playing water balloon volleyball.
- Get creative with water colors and paper.

Bible Verse of the Day

Read 1 John 1:9 - 2:2

- Why do you feel is it important to confess our sins?
- Why do you think God is so willing to give us a fresh start each and every day?
- Why is it important to have that fresh start and newness in Christ?

Evangelism

Discuss with your campers:

- What does it mean to forgive?
- How can we be forgiving of others?
- How can we help create a more forgiving world?

Journal Time

Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. They may feel the need to write a not to God asking for forgiveness and pray over this. They may want to write a letter to a friend asking for forgiveness or even a note to someone letting them know they are accepting the forgiveness from someone.

Service

Have campers think about areas in their community which might be hurting or a wrong they see in their community. Discuss with one another ways you might be able to help heal those hurting. For example, if hunger is a problem they see in their community, then creating or assisting with a food pantry might be the service they could provide.

Prayer

Dear God, we are truly sorry for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. We ask for your forgiveness and guidance. Help us to stay close to you always. Amen!



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Activities

- Make friendship bracelets with each string signifying something God has blessed them with.
- Create a new dinner grace.
- Write thank you notes to the summer staff and deliver anonymously.

Bible Verse of the Day

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- What does it mean to rejoice always?
- What ways can we pray without ceasing?
- How is it possible to give thanks in all circumstances? How do we show that?

Evangelism

During the Thanksgiving holiday, many will venture to soup kitchens and homeless shelters to help those in need. Many find this to be a way to humbly see all that God has blessed them with and to be thankful for those blessings.

- Is Thanksgiving the only time we can show our thankfulness?
- What are other times we can show our thankfulness?
- How can we share in our thankfulness with others?
- How can we help others show their thankfulness to God?

Letter Writing Time

Think of someone that has done something amazing for you. Write a thank you note to them. What did they do for you? Why was it so amazing? How did you see God working through them?

Service

God has blessed all of us with a beautiful creation surrounding us! How can we show our thanks? We can show it through service! One service project idea to show our thanks to God for this creation is designing a “clean-up” project for camp or for your congregation or community. How can you make this a recurring project back home?

Prayer

Good and giving God, we thank you for all that you have given us. We are so thankful for the people in our lives that help lead us to you. We are thankful for the gifts you give us each and every day. Thank you, God! Amen!



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Activities

- Create a prayer chain, prayer tree or plan a prayer garden.
- Practice reciting the Lord's Prayer together and help others learn different versions of it. Recite it one word at a time around a circle!
- Challenge another congregation group to a game of Gaga ball, volleyball, field games, disc golf, etc.!

Bible Verse of the Day

Read Philippians 4:6-7

- How can we avoid being anxious?
- What can we pray for?
- How does it feel to be in constant prayer and communication with God?

Evangelism

- How can we pray for others?
- How does it feel knowing someone has been praying for you?
- How can we pray for others outside of the comforts of our camp, church, home?

Journal Time

Ask campers to write a prayer for someone in need or something they are in need of. While journaling, ask campers to meditate on the prayer they have written.

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. This is a great time to write many thoughts they have had while at camp.

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