



Cross
Trails
Ministry

Summer Camp 2024



Congregational Time Resources



What is Congregational Time?

Congregational Time is a chance to meet with every camper from your congregation or group.

- At Camp Chrysalis, Congregational Time is every day except Sunday and Friday. Congregation Time will be held after dinner for 30-45 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 all camp for 30-45 minutes. It is held in conjunction with snack, so plan to give your campers a few minutes to eat if you are planning a game. Those participating in the What Does this Mean? Confirmation program will have an hour each camp day. They will receive separate resources upon their arrival at camp.
- 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, let the Program Director know. 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. We recommend meeting outdoors. If you know where you would like to have it please come prepared with ideas. If you have certain needs such as game or craft supplies 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 where your group will be meeting to your campers at dinner announcements.

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, if you are teaching Confirmation Camp Bible study, 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 and 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. Camp can provide materials for games and staff can help facilitate activities if
- 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 & Epiphany

Celebrate Christ

Theme Statement

- The seasons of Christmas & Epiphany invite us to celebrate the coming of Christ to the world and reveal Christ's presence among us.

Objectives

- Identify the meaning and traditions of the seasons of Christmas & Epiphany.
- Consider how we welcome and celebrate Christ in our daily lives.
- Learn how to use the gifts we have in our lives right now and how we reveal those to others.

Welcome

- Share the 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.
- Tell campers a story of how you have noticed Christ's presence in your own life.

Activities

- Give each camper a piece of paper and have them write their name in the center. Then, have everyone take turns passing their paper to the left and write down strengths that they have around their name. Continue this until everyone has their own piece of paper again.
- With your campers, think about people who are still at home in your congregation who have great gifts that you see in them. Then, write thank you notes to these people for the gifts they share.

Scripture of the Day:

- Scripture: Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12
- Memory Verse: Luke 2:10: "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"

Journal Time

- Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. Ask campers to think about how they can share about how they have seen Christ's presence in their lives. They can write about the things they've learned about their faith when they share these stories with others
- Campers can also use this as a time to write a letter to themselves to be opened up a few months from now!

Prayer

- God, thank you for the gift of Jesus born into our world and present among us. Please help us to recognize and share your presence with those around us. Amen.



Tuesday: Lent & Holy Week

Discover Forgiveness

Theme Statement

- The season of Lent invites us to reflect on sin in ourselves and the world, and turns us to Jesus and the hope of the resurrection.

Objectives

- Identify the meaning and traditions of the season of Lent.
- Explore Lenten faith practices that help us recognize and reflect on sin and our relationship with God.
- Explore the story of Holy Week, from the celebration of Palm Sunday to the despair of Good Friday and the hope of the Easter Vigil.

Welcome

- Share the 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 share something they learned from Bible study or worship.
- Share how the hope of Jesus' resurrection has influenced your own faith.

Activities

- Today we're talking about some faith practices that help us recognize and reflect on sin and our relationship with God. Have campers choose one individual faith practice to try out tonight. They may journal, pray quietly, read their Bible, or something else they come up with. Pair this activity with the communal faith practice below.
- Faith practices can be both individual and communal. Talk about some faith practices you see at home in your congregation. This can include confession and forgiveness during worship. Think about ways that you have seen communal faith practices outside of worship but in your home communities.

Scripture of the Day:

- Scripture: Luke 19:33-38, John 13:1-5, Luke 23:32-33, 39-46, John 19:40-42
- Memory Verse: Joel 2:13: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

Journal Time

- Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. Ask campers to reflect on sin and their relationship with God. They can write about the things they've learned about their faith when they have been shown grace.
- Campers can write about a time when they have experienced communal faith practices.
- Campers can also use this as a time to write a letter to themselves to be opened up a few months from now!

Prayer: God, we are not always perfect. Thank you for continuing to forgive us and make us new. Amen.



Wednesday: Easter

Discover New Life

Theme Statement

- The season of Easter invites us to celebrate Jesus' power to overcome death and the gift of God's grace.

Objectives:

- Identify the meaning and traditions of the season of Easter.
- Learn about the power of Christ that overcomes any separation between us and God.
- Explore how we respond to the new life Christ grants us: living a life of love for all of God's children.

Welcome

- Share the 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.
- Share how God's grace has influenced your own faith.

Activities

- Set up an Easter egg hunt - hide tennis balls or other small objects for campers to find. Talk about how the symbolism of the egg at Easter represents our new life in Christ. *(If you need objects to hide, ask a staff member!)*
- Play a game of "hospital tag." Choose one camper to be "it" and another to be the "medic." The goal of the person who is "it" is to tag everyone in the game. Once someone is tagged, they must stand in place and call for the "medic." The goal of the person who is the "medic" is to save people who have been tagged by touching them. As the game is almost over, tell the person who is "it" that they are out of the game, giving the "medic" a chance to heal everyone. Speak with your campers about how this game is a representation of sin and forgiveness.

Scripture of the Day:

- Scripture: John 20:1-2, 11-18
- Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Journal Time

- Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. Ask campers to think about the grace of God. They can write about how they want to respond to God's grace in their lives.
- Campers can also write about how they've shown God's grace to others.
- Campers can also use this as a time to write a letter to themselves to be opened up in a few months!

Prayer: God, in our busy lives we don't always give others grace the way you give it so freely to us. Please be with us as we learn to appreciate your grace, and do our best to give it to others. Amen.



Thursday: Pentecost

Discover Community

Theme Statement

- The season of Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit that sustains us to live together in the world as Jesus taught us.

Objectives:

- Identify the meaning and traditions of the season of Pentecost.
- Learn what bonds us together as a community of believers.
- Explore how our community of God's children on earth reflects what Jesus taught us.

Welcome

- Share the 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.
- Share how being in community has influenced your own faith.

Activities

- Have campers participate in a game of "Blob tag." This is a game of tag where one camper will start out as "it," and as they tag others, they link arms until everyone playing has joined them. Talk about the ways our communities are linked together in Christ.
- With your campers, think how your congregation reflects Jesus' call to love God and love neighbor. What are some community activities they can participate in that reflect that call?

Scripture of the Day:

- Scripture: Acts 2:1-6, Luke 10:25-37
- Memory Verse: Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Journal Time

- Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. Ask campers to think about times they gather. They can write about the things they've learned about their faith when they have gathered with other people.
- Campers can write about ways that they can show God's love better with others rather than by themselves.
- Campers can also use this as a time to write a letter to themselves to be opened up a few months from now!

Prayer

God, thank you for providing us with communities that we can rely on. Help us to use these communities to share your love with the world. Amen.



Friday: Ordinary Time

Discover Faith 365

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

- Using the skills your campers learned in planning their own worships this week, put together a worship for your congregation in the coming weeks. As you plan worship, consider these options:
 - 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
- 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

- 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!