



Cross Trails Ministry Summer Camp 2021

From

The

Ground up!

Congregational Time

What is Congregational Time?

- Congregational Time is a chance to meet with every camper from your congregation or group, not just your confirmation students during Bible Study.
- At Camp Chrysalis, Congregational Time is every day except Sunday and Friday. Leaders will have the option of a 30 or 45 minute time period depending on if they would like to meet with their group during a sing-a-long or during an All Camp or scheduled activity.
- 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: God Plants 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.

Activities

- Use a field guide to identify different plants in the area that are growing together
- Play a game of blob tag to emphasize that we are gathering people together when we worship
- Plant a bean seed in a clear cup close to the edge so you can monitor its progress throughout the week. You may need to pre-soak bean seeds for 24 hours before this time.
- Talk about ways your church welcomes people into the church community or building
 - What do you see when you walk in
 - How do they know how to follow along with the worship service
 - How can we campers get involved in the welcome/hospitality/visitor committee?

Bible Verse of the Day:

- 2 Corinthians 1:2
- Mark 2:13-17

Parts of Worship

- Create a section of worship daily. Every day there will be a new part that campers can add to their worship so you don't have to create the whole thing at one time. How do the parts of your worship point to what you want people to learn in worship?
- Have campers create a gathering section for a worship to be done in their home congregation.
 - Preludes or opening music
 - Confession and Forgiveness
 - Thanksgiving of Baptism
 - Greetings
 - Prayers of the Day

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. This could be for church, for school, for sports, with family. Have campers write about ways they have felt welcome or included in something.
- Have campers write about times they have excluded someone. What would campers do in the future to make sure all people were included.
- 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 of what they plan to do when groups gather together and the role they can take on.

Prayer

- God, we are gathered together to worship you in all we do. We see things that are planted close together and also far apart. Help us to be people that welcome others so they can know you better. Amen.

Tuesday: God Roots 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.

Activities

- Try some practices of grounding or rooting yourself in the moment such as yoga, deep breathing, meditation, mantra reflection, lectio divina bible reading, or prayer.
 - Mountain pose and tree pose are good imagery for being connected to the ground
- Check on your bean plant from the first day. See if any roots have sprouted.
- Play Bible board games from church - flash cards, memorizing verses.
- Talk about if anyone has a favorite bible verse and make book markers to highlight where these verses are

Bible Verse of the Day:

- Matthew 4:1-11

Parts of Worship

- Create a section of worship daily. Every day there will be a new part that campers can add to their worship so you don't have to create the whole thing at one time. How do the parts of your worship point to what you want people to learn in worship?
- Have campers create a word section for a worship to be done in their home congregation.
 - Old Testament Reading
 - New Testament Reading
 - Psalms
 - Gospel Reading
 - Message or Sermon
 - Hymn of the Day
 - Prayers of Intercession or Prayers of the People
 - Sharing the Peace

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 see scripture outside of the Bible. Why is it important to have it visible in your life?
- Make an acrostic poem using the word SCRIPTURE. Include why it is important to be rooted in scripture.
- 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 of how they will learn more scripture.

Prayer

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Amen.

Wednesday: God Feeds 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.

Activities

- Share a snack together
- Find a plant that has produced some sort of "fruit." This could be a fruit, nut, flower, seed, berry, blossom.
- Check on your bean plant. What does it need? Water? Sunlight? Shade? Fertilizer?
- Talk about what baptisms and communions look like at your church. Do a remembrance of baptism together.

Bible Verse of the Day:

- John 2:1-12
- John 6:47-51

Parts of Worship

- Create a section of worship daily. Every day there will be a new part that campers can add to their worship so you don't have to create the whole thing at one time. How do the parts of your worship point to what you want people to learn in worship?
- Have campers create a meal section for a worship to be done in their home congregation.
 - Offering
 - Offering Prayer
 - Great Thanksgiving
 - Communion
 - Communion Song
 - Prayer after Communion

Journal Time

- Write about the best meal you ever remember eating and why you loved it so much.
- Brainstorms things you can do that would spiritually feed you or what you can do to spiritually feed other people.
- Write some things that you are in need of. What things would help you grow and how can you go about getting or receiving them?

Prayer

Creator God, you constantly feed and nourish us. You give us exactly what we need. You're the best. Amen.

Thursday: Thankful for God's Bountiful Harvest

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.

Activities

- Write thank you cards to members of the congregation or staff members at camp.
- Hold a mini talent show to display people's gifts
- Conduct a service project at camp as a way to say thank you
- Do a spiritual gifts inventory

Bible Verse of the Day:

- Luke 17:11-19
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Our Stories

- Create a section of worship daily. Every day there will be a new part that campers can add to their worship so you don't have to create the whole thing at one time. How do the parts of your worship point to what you want people to learn in worship?
- Have campers create a thanksgiving or sending section for a worship to be done in their home congregation.
 - Thanksgiving
 - Offering
 - Canticle of Thanksgiving
 - Thanksgiving for the Word
 - Sending
 - Sending of Communion
 - Affirmation of Christian Vocation
 - Blessing
 - Sending Song
 - Dismissal

Journal Time

- Make a list of things you are thankful for.
- Make a list of things you are good at. How can you use these gifts to serve others?

Prayer

Have campers say prayer requests and have other campers pray for those other campers

Friday: Sowing New Seeds

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 sections you planned during the week to put together a worship for your congregation in the coming weeks.
- 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
- 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!