

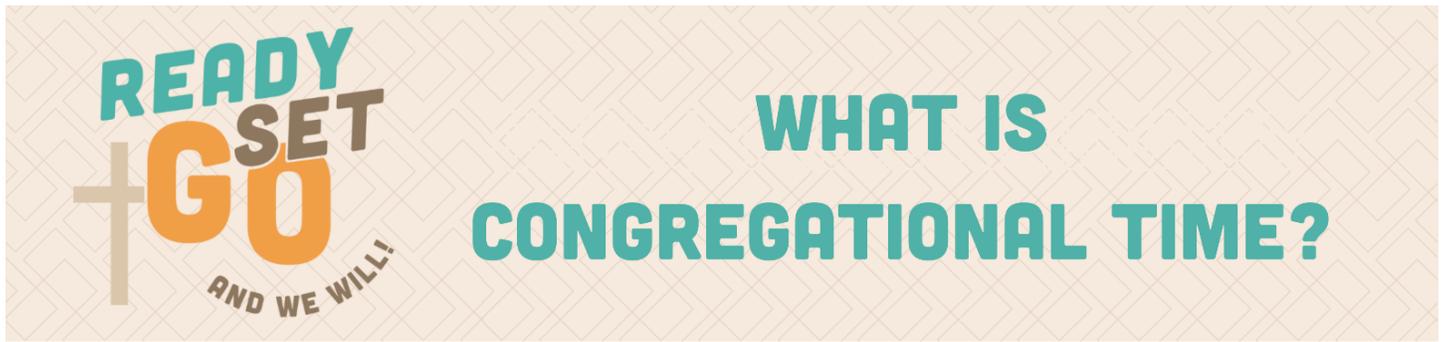


CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY SUMMER CAMP 2022

**READY
SET
GO**

AND WE WILL!

**CONGREGATIONAL TIME
RESOURCES**



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. 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 dinner for 30-45 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, 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 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, 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.
- 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: GO GATHER

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 gathering with others has influenced your own faith.

Activities

- Play a game of blob tag to emphasize that we gather together
- Have campers plan an activity they can do together as a group when they return home so that they can continue to gather in community.
- Talk about the ways you gather as a congregational community. Not all of these ways we gather are for worship or Sunday school - why is it important to gather together outside of those times too?

Scripture of the Day:

- Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 100, Hebrews 10:19-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-18
- Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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.
- Have campers journal about a time when they gathered with people who were different from them, and what they learned from being in a diverse group.
- 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 of community, we gather together to worship you and to learn more about you. Be with us as we gather here at camp and when we gather at home too. Amen.



TUESDAY: GO PRAY

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.
- Share how prayer has influenced your own faith.

Activities

- Talk about different ways you pray at church. Are there any special traditions around prayer in your congregation?
- Play a game together: each camper gets a partner, and one partner is blindfolded. The unblindfolded player must lead their partner through an obstacle course and complete a task (like putting a ball in a bucket). Campers will get to explore communication under pressure, and you can talk about how we communicate with God through prayer.
- Play a game of Captain's Coming, and talk with campers about how well they have to listen to succeed in this game!
 - If the leader says "Captain's Coming!", the campers will stand with one hand in a salute and one hand behind their back, and they must stay in that position until the leader says "At Ease" (even if the leader gives a different instruction!). Other instructions include Front/Back of the Boat (campers run to one side of the playing area), Hit the Deck (campers lay on the ground), Three Sailors Eating (three campers stand in a circle and pretend to eat, any number can be called), Octopus (four campers stand back to back and stick out all their arms), or whatever else you can think of. If campers do the wrong action or can't find the right number of people for their group, they are out.
- Ask campers for prayer requests, then write a song together to express your prayers to God. You can include both requests and praises in your song.

Scripture of the Day:

- Philippians 4:4-7
- Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6

Journal Time

- Take a moment to allow campers to write in a journal or write a letter home. Ask campers to think about different ways they have learned to pray. What does it mean to pray without ceasing? What might that look like in your daily life?
- Write your prayers in the form of a poem.

Prayer

- Dear God, thank you for listening to us when we pray and for speaking to us. Help us to keep listening to you and for your voice. May we always remember to pray without ceasing! Amen.



WEDNESDAY: GO STUDY THE WORD

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.
- Share how studying the Bible has influenced your own faith.

Activities

- Play Change Three Things: each camper gets a partner. Campers face each other for about a minute, then turn around and change three things about their appearance. Campers turn back around and see who can find the three things that are different on their partner first.
- Ask for suggestions of campers' favorite Bible stories and have them act them out together. (Suggestions: Jonah and the whale, Noah's ark, Joseph interpreting dreams)
- Ask campers for ideas about how they want to study the word when they return home. Are there any church activities that would make them excited about reading the Bible, like a trivia contest or memorization contest?

Scripture of the Day:

- Psalm 119, especially verses 105-112
- Memory Verse: Psalm 119:105

Journal Time

- Write about why it would be important to be familiar with the Bible.
- Rewrite your favorite Bible story in a new style - maybe as a fairytale or as science fiction.
- Write an acrostic poem like Psalm 119 - each stanza uses a different starting letter in alphabetical order

Prayer

- Dear God, thank you for the gift of your word. Help us to keep it in our hearts and use it in our lives. Amen.



THURSDAY: GO SHARE WHAT GOD IS DOING

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.
- Share what God has done in your own life.

Activities

- Play a game of Screaming Toes and instead of yelling, yell your favorite camp activity.
 - Have your group stand in a circle. Everyone should look down, and on the count of three look up at someone's eyes in the group. If you meet someone's eyes, scream, and both people are out.
- Have campers plan a worship service to share with the congregation when they return.
- Ask each camper to share their favorite story from the week. How did they see God this week?
- Ask each camper to make a plan to share their week of camp with someone at home. How can they use their stories from camp to share what God is doing in their own lives?

Scripture of the Day:

- Luke 24:1-12 & Mark 16:15
- Memory verse: Mark 16:15

Journal Time

- Have campers write about ways they can share what they've learned at camp and who they can share it with.
- Have campers write about why it's important to share our faith with everyone around us.

Prayer

- Dear God, help us be ready to go out and share what we've learned this week! May we be bold in showing others your love! Amen.



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.
- 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!