



Ways to Involve Your Congregation

Camp offers a strong faith experience to your youth. It can become even stronger if your congregation integrates the camp experience into the life of the church. Below are some ideas for ways that you can help the campers to transition their camp experience into their everyday faith experience with your congregation.

Send Them with a Blessing

Send the campers to camp with your blessing. Give them a sense that the congregation stands by them and is excited that they are going to camp by including a sending service in your Sunday worship. Some resources are provided below.

Have a Pre and Post Camp Session

Before they leave for camp, have members of the congregation tell campers stories of how camp has impacted their worship experiences. When they return, have campers tell the story of how camp changed how they think about worship. Have congregation members and youth compare what has changed, what they notice about worship now, and how the way they interact with worship has changed.

Set up a Prayer and Mail Campaign

Ask members of your congregation to write your campers letters and pray for them daily. Campers love mail, especially "snail mail". Imagine their reaction to receiving letters from members of your congregation while they are at camp from people who are praying for them! Send letters very early or bring them with you to distribute to your campers at camp.

Welcome Them Back and Let Them Share with the Congregation!

Set up a time for the youth to tell your congregation about camp! Give them a few minutes to share at worship, have them share their experience with younger youth in Sunday school, or let them lead a whole camp-style service! Have campers tell what they know about worship after learning about it at camp.

Have a Family Faith Night Focused on Worship

Invite the families of campers, and any interested folks from your congregation or community, to a family faith night. You can begin with some camp games or singing, and then have the youth share what they learned on each day of camp. You can even have an open the mic for anyone else who wants to share a worship story from camp.

Sending Service Resources

Feel free to use as much of this as you would like!

Call to Worship

L: From the ground up, God, you have been with us.

C: We worship together.

L: The Master Gardener plants is together to welcome all people and gather in community.

C: We worship together.

L: The Master Gardener roots us in the Word.

C: We worship together.

L: The Master Gardener feeds us through the promises of the Meal.

C: We worship together.

L: The Master Gardener gives us an abundance of blessings.

C: We worship together.

L: The Master Gardener calls us to sow new seeds and sends us into the world.

C: We worship together.

Litany

L: Creator God, we pray this morning for all of the camps of Cross Trails Ministry – Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, Day Camp, Beach Camp, and Off-Site Adventures. Let them grow.

C: From the ground up.

L: We pray for the staff who work to be examples of your welcoming, gracious, unconditional love. Let them grow.

C: From the ground up.

L: We pray for the youth who will grow closer to you with their questions and play. Let them grow.

C: From the ground up.

L: We pray for the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened. Let them grow.

C: From the ground up.

L: We pray for the faith-filled friendships that will be made and strengthened. Let them grow.

C: From the ground up.

L: We give you thanks to you God.

C: Amen.

Songs

- **Gather Us In**
- **Thy Word**
- **Let Us Break Bread Together**
- **Give Thanks**
- **Good Soil**

Scripture Readings

Our Bible Study this summer is focusing on the parts of worship through the imagery of growing plants. We will explore how God plants us together in the Gathering, roots us in the Word, feeds us through the Meal, shows us our gifts in the Thanksgiving, and charges us with sowing new seeds in the Sending. These are some of the texts we will be using in our Bible study.

- Mark 4:1-8
- 2 Corinthians 1:2
- Mark 2:13-17
- Luke 17:11-19
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Matthew 13:24-30

- Matthew 4:1-11
- John 2:1-12
- John 6:47-51

- Matthew 9:35-38
- Matthew 10:5-8
- Numbers 6:24-26

Blessing Your Campers

(Invite all who are planning to attend camp with Cross Trails Ministry this summer to come forward during worship.)

Today we are celebrating our partnership in ministry with Cross Trails Ministry. You have each heard God's call to attend camp this summer. At camp you will experience God's love in amazing new ways by living in God's creation, meeting new friends and worshipping daily. As the Holy Spirit prepares your hearts and minds for this camp experience we want to pray with and for you.

Awesome, Ever Present God, You are with us wherever we go and send us to do fun, important, and life-changing things with you.

Today, we are celebrating and asking for your blessing over our campers. They are about to embark on a journey filled with adventure, fun, and faith formation that will help them grow closer to you.

Bless them this week so that all of their fears and anxieties might be met with your peace.

Bless them this week so that all of their questions and seeking might be explored with your guidance.

Bless them this week so that all of their excitement and energy might be met with your joy.

(Here, name each camper individually): Bless these campers that they might adventure with you this week. Help them feel you close as they learn about how we grow together and worship you, and remind them that we are here, back home, praying for their week ahead. Help them know our love and our hopes for them this week.

Bless our church, too, God.

Bless us as we wait for our campers to return home prayerfully and patiently.

Bless us so that we might be changed, just as they are, because of their week at camp and the stories they will share.

Do you, the members of _____ promise to pray for these people while they are away and to support them as they return?

C: We will!

Do you campers of _____ promise to be open to the worship experience and see God at camp?

Campers: We will!

Then let all of us, campers and congregation, worship God continually from the ground up, as we go in peace and serve the Lord in the coming week. Thanks be to God as we respond all together...

All: We will!

Prayer

Dear Master Gardener, be with our campers as they are planted in a new community for the week. Let them be rooted in the Word and fed with your promises. May they know you are always with them. Amen.

Offering

Consider taking a special offering to give as a gift to camp or to have campers take with them for the summer offering.