

Small Group Leaders Material

CRYC River Camp 2008

Small group leaders should be aware that there will be four gathering/worship times and only three small group sessions, the first of which is a time for you all to get to know each other. We've included a fourth small group session in this resource, you may wish to pinch ideas from each of them while you're there, or you may decide to run a follow up session with your young people from your church after camp and use some of these ideas to help your group focus.

We've split each session into sections, you may wish to follow each section word for word or you may decide to use bits and pieces from the session in your small groups. This is here as a resource to help you meet with your small group, use it as you think is appropriate.

Faith - Session 4

Gathering

As a small group leader you should be looking after your small group member's water bottles, as you gather offer the water bottles around for them to drink of. Find a nice place for your group to meet, enter into discussion with people as you find a space and settle.

Opening Prayer

Faithful God, you call each and every-one of us towards you, on a journey that will challenge, bless, encourage, disappoint, encourage, frustrate, excite, tire and test us. We know that the road is long and sometimes hard, but we have the faith that you walk alongside us everywhere we go. We believe that the stories that we share, the faith that we hold and the vision you give us is worth working towards, worth perusing with all that we are and will be. Thank you for your ever present hope, for being with us on every step we take, we pray that you will continue to walk with us on our journey both here on camp and as we head home to those that we love.

Taking Stock

In this time we reflect on the camp thus far, how are people feeling, what are some things to celebrate and some things to work more on as a community. Ask the group a number of questions and allow time for them to answer them.

1. What is something that has happened at camp that has excited you?
2. What is something that has happened at camp that has disappointed you?
3. Is there anything at camp that has frightened or worried you?
4. Has God met you in this space, how, do you want to share it?
5. What's something you're looking forward to in the rest of the weekend?

Continue in group discussion here by asking the group to think about what Aimee has said during the worship time this morning or last night.

1. Can they name anything that was said that made them think?
2. Was there anything that was said that challenged them? What was it?
3. Was there anything that was said that they would like to go into deeper?
4. Is there anything that was said that the group would like to talk about more in this time together?

Reading

Read Genesis 12:1-5

God told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you.

*I'll make you a great nation
and bless you.*

*I'll make you famous;
you'll be a blessing.*

*I'll bless those who bless you;
those who curse you I'll curse.*

*All the families of the Earth
will be blessed through you."*

So Abram left just as God said, and Lot left with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

Focus

In this small group session your group can focus on the message brought by Aimee on "faith" in the Sunday morning session. You might have young people in your group who have made decisions of faith in the last worship time, or you might have some young people who would like to ask further questions about what they believe, and how that connects with who they are and where they're being called.

1. What do you believe in?
2. What do you find hard to believe in?
3. What is faith?
4. Why is it hard to have faith in some things?
5. Do you have faith in yourself?
6. What about your friends/family do you find it hard to have faith in?
7. What about Christianity do you find hard to believe?
8. What about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit do you believe?
9. What would help you grow in your faith?

Practice

Creeds have been written by groups of people for centuries, in some churches we repeat them as a statement of our common beliefs and in others we say them as a part of our worship services and liturgies.

As a group sit down with a piece of paper and write down your beliefs, about God, Jesus, Life, Mission, the world... You may want to start by writing everything down and if you have time you might want to cut it down into a more concise version.

Sending Out

As a group repeat the creed together as a statement of your faith.

Send everyone out with a prayer for the space and time to grow in our faith, for God to work on us, on our lives so that our faith may shape the way in which we live out our lives.