



CROSSWAYS

CAMPING MINISTRIES

PLANNING A CAMP SUNDAY

TIPS & SAMPLE 'CAMP STYLE' WORSHIP

Thank you for hosting a 'Camp Sunday' to promote the summer programs of Crossways Camping Ministries! The 2015 Bible study theme is A Love That Never Ends, and the theme verse is: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." - Deuteronomy 6:5. Throughout the summer campers will walk through different stories from the Old Testament that show all the ways God's love for us is constant and unconditional, and will learn to respond to God's love by sharing it with those around us.

Camp Sunday - Use a Camp Sunday to kickoff or give a boost to registering campers. Our suggestions are:

- Select one or two enthusiastic campers and camper parents from last summer to share with the congregation some of their experiences
- Prepare a display combining camper photos, memorabilia and camp promotional pieces
- Use provided bulletin inserts and announcements
- Have past campers and camper parents prepared to answer questions regarding camp
- Designate a point person or church leader to assist in selecting an appropriate camp program and filling out the registration form

Below you will find elements that will add a little camp to your worship service. We hope these elements will serve your congregation well in giving them a taste of what a camp-style worship might look like!

Confession

- Whisper & Release: Instruct congregation members to take some time to reflect on their sins from the last day. After some moments of silence, have them make a cup with their hands and whisper their sins into that cup. Once they are finished have them release their sins up into the air as part of the absolution that is delivered.
- Garbage Can: Prior to worship make sure each pew has pieces of scrap paper and some extra writing utensils. Give congregation members time to write or draw a sin or two on their piece of paper. Once they are finished they can take fold up their piece of paper and pass it to the center aisle. Have ushers come from the back of the worship space to collect the pieces of paper in a garbage can and put the garbage can at the foot of the cross. Incorporate this image into your absolution—trash gets picked up and taken away regularly.

Prayer of the Day

God of life, you have created us to be alive with a living and vibrant faith! Thank you for gifting us with skills, passions, and talents to use and share with others. Help us to be alive in your word through study, worship, prayer, hospitality, and service. Bless us as we do your work throughout this week and be with us as we gather together in community. Amen.

Offering - This offering suggestion can be done in addition to weekly gifts collection as the options presented put a focus on offering time and talents.

- **Share with a neighbor:** Allow congregation time to silently reflect on one thing they can do this week that will serve another child of God. Once they have pinpointed what they will do, have them turn to someone near them to share what that action will be. Encourage congregation members to check in with one another next week to talk about how things went.

Profession of Faith

- Have congregation members face one another as they profess the words of the Apostles Creed and each other of the words they are saying. When done in this manner it serves as a reminder that we are called to profess the things we believe to one another daily
- **The “I Believe” Wave-** Divide the congregation into 3 groups and assign each group an “I believe” statement. One group will have “I believe in God the Creator!,” another will have “I believe in God the Son!,” and the last will have “I believe in God the Holy Spirit!” Instruct each group to stand and say their statement when pointed to by the leader. When the leader raises two arms, all groups should stand and say “I believe in the 3 in 1.” The leader will then proceed with pointing to the groups in a manner that makes it look like they are doing the wave, then end with raising his or her arms.

Benediction

L: Go with God and may your faith be alive!

C: Thanks be to God

Suggested Camp Songs - If your church has a CCLI license, below are some camp songs that you can use in your Worship services. Please note that your church must have a CCLI license to use these songs and you will need to insert your church’s CCLI license # in your bulletin. *Providing this list does not grant use of the songs under Crossways CCLI licenses.*

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