

INTRODUCING CAMP TO A GROUP

The people with whom you are sharing camp information need to understand why camping is both an effective and meaningful experience. The topics below speak to some key values and data regarding our summer camps. Each could be presented as a complete sermon topic for the day, or could be split into multiple speakers/weeks (students, parents, youth leaders, etc., sharing about how they experienced it).

Outreach

Camp is a perfect outreach event with great features and activities that draw students into a place where they begin to have the first seeds planted regarding God. Here students have opportunities to experience healthy relationships with their peers and with counseling staff that display Christian love, find both challenging and encouraging obstacles that help them grow, and dig into the big questions they have...all in the comfortable setting of camp.

Evangelism

Intentionality; every camper has a very clear opportunity to hear and respond to God's Word and Salvation during their time at camp. Everything that happens at camp in some way reflects back to our Christ-centered philosophy. Even while students are on the challenge course or through community building activities, all activities draw campers into discussions that help reveal Christ and answer questions.

Discipleship

For older campers, the story continues deeper as the message moves into the missional focus of being a disciple and what it means for each of us to live in the shadow of the cross and respond to issues of need and justice. Even while at camp, the connection to the student's home church is critically important and well understood. Programming helps to provide accountability and inspiration that will continue as the student returns home to their local faith community, and continues their journey of becoming a committed follower of Jesus Christ who lives out the gospel.

Promoting Camp Events

Most often churches promote: camping in general or specific events/sites. Both work well.

- We find that a church that sends its volunteers to lead a specific week of camp often promotes that date and works diligently to get their students into that particular event.
- Some churches have a history, affinity, or geographic proximity to a site and may simply encourage students to attend any week at that location.
- Other churches simply want to make sure the students are going somewhere and encourage the parents to choose the option that seems to fit their calendar and location needs the best.