



CAMP KOINONIA

STAFF HANDBOOK JUNIOR WEEK - 2018

PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY.

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ABOUT CAMP KOINONIA

A Brief History of Camp

The first session of what was to be called Camp Koinonia the following year took place at the Hensel Memorial August 10-14, 1975. There were 33 campers and 9 staff members.

The number of campers and staff grew rapidly through the years and by the early 1990's one-week sessions became critically over-crowded. In an effort to try to provide the Koinonia experience for more young people, an additional week was acquired in 1995 and the camp was split into two sessions—junior and senior.

In spite of the excessive heat some years (without air conditioning) and a couple of years when it rained every single day, enthusiasm for the camp has remained high. Through the years we have come to learn that it is not the facilities or the weather that makes a great camp. Instead, it is the special atmosphere of campers and staff sharing an encounter with God and laying down their lives for Christ and each other that has shaped the life-changing “Koinonia Experience.”

Our Goal at Camp K

The mission of Camp Koinonia is to build up the relationships between young people and Jesus. This is accomplished through providing a nurturing environment where they can grow through fellowship, spiritual guidance, Biblical teaching, and opportunities to minister to one another. Since 1975, the camp has continued to grow both in number and influence for the Lord. Participants, families, and churches have been blessed by their participation in this camp. Our goal for Camp Koinonia is to provide the best possible Christian experience for each individual involved.



KOINONIA KOMMANDMENTS

Live out CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES and ACTIONS.

Treat other people with respect and LOVE

Respect and obey members of the Camp Staff

Follow the schedule and work hard to BE ON TIME!

Stay on Camp Property

NO Cell Phones

NO food in the Cabins

Do NOT go in the cabins of opposite sex for any reason

NO electronics (iPods, TVs, DVD players, video games, etc)

NO pranks

NO public displays of boyfriend/girlfriend affection

Be courteous and well mannered at all times

Take care of your trash. Clean up after yourself.

NO fireworks or weapons

NO alcohol, drugs, tobacco, e-cig or vaping products allowed

Dress according to Camp K dress code at all times

Breaking camp rules could result in meeting with Camp K Director and, if not resolved, may result in campers being asked to leave Camp K.

ALL STAFF

LAY OF THE LAND

Camp is a relatively rustic setting. There is lots of dust, ants, & thorns. Also, IT IS HOT! It will most likely be hot all day long. Take steps to take care of yourself.

The following are descriptions of the camp's facilities:

- Dining Hall – Home base for Camp K. It contains the Kitchen, Camp Office, Medical Table, Sports Closet and Arts/Crafts Center. In addition to eating there, we also have many different assemblies here. Almost any time of day there will be drinks and snacks set out for anyone to refresh themselves. It is found at the end of the asphalt entrance road to the camp. Please remember: **the kitchen is OFF LIMITS to everyone except for those who work there.** Enter only by invitation. (There is an entrance on the west side of the kitchen that the staff is invited to use to get ice for their personal use.)
- Front Porch – East-side covered porch connected to the Dining Hall. Used as a common meeting point for many activities. Also used by a Discussion Group and is one of the coolest places to sit at camp.
- Back Porch – West-side covered porch connected to the Dining Hall. Includes a number of picnic tables & ping pong tables. Used at each meal, possibly for Bible Class, a Discussion Group, and Campers' Choice.
- Cliff – Found along the southern boundary of the camp, it's easily visible from any open area with crosses at the summit. It's the usual destination of hikes and **against the rules for unsupervised campers to be in the cliff area.**
- 5-Plex – Home for most of the girls' cabins and is located in the southeastern corner of the camp.
- 2-Plex – Home of the other girls' cabins located immediately to the south of the Dining Hall.
- Waterfront – Southern-most point on the east side of the creek before the dam. **It is off-limits to campers, unless they are accompanied by staff.** It is our usual location for baptisms. Under the large pecan tree is a great location for Discussion Groups.
- Amphitheater – Found on the eastern fence of the camp at the bottom of the hill, on which the boys' cabins are found, and north across the Small Games Field from the Medical Trailer. It is the location of our Worship/Speaker times, along with possible other activities such as Bible Classes and Discussion Groups.
- A-Frames – There are two A-Frames south of the girls' cabins. A-Frame 1 is behind the 5-Plex; A-Frame 2 is behind the 2-Plex. Can be sites for Discussion Groups and Bible Classes as well as other activities such as Cabin Times. They are also great for relaxing in the afternoons.
- Upper Pavilion – Located at the top of the hill north of the Amphitheater. It is the largest, open but covered assembly area on the campus. Can be used for Bible Classes, Discussion Groups & Cabin Times.
- Boys' Pavilion – Located immediately to the east of the boys' cabin area on the hill. It's specifically designed to make up for the cramped conditions in the cabins. It's used for Bible Classes & Cabin Times.
- Playground – A collection of equipment located northeast of the Dining Hall.
- Games Fields – There are two: the Small Games Field is located between the Amphitheater and Medical Trailer; the Main Games Field is located at the main entrance of the camp. Most of the All-Camp Activities and Team Games will be set up on the Main Games Field. Most traffic to and from the boys' cabins goes across this field.
- Games Tables – These are found between the playground equipment and Main Games Field. This is a long row of covered picnic tables next to the cement volleyball court. It is the headquarters for the Team Games and possibly Discussion Groups.
- V-Tables – These are found north of the Dining Hall along the east side of the creek. You will walk past the Director's Trailer before you can see it. The name comes from the fact that it is a set of two permanently mounted picnic tables in the shape of a V. It is a possibility for Discussion Groups.
- Medical Trailer – It is the northern most mobile home found across from the Dining Hall. It serves as an infirmary as well as sleeping quarters for the Medical Staff. The medical staff will be found either here or in the Dining Hall.

STAFF POSITIONS & JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Big Brothers & Big Sisters

- Help campers have the best week
- Serve as mentors for 4-10 campers during week
- Responsible for various activities throughout week
- Lead discussion group (partnered w/ staff member)
- Assist Cabin Counselors
- Interact with campers during Campers' Choice
- Supervise all campers during dinner until worship.

Camp Director

- Direction, motivation, and support
- Final decision maker for discipline, difficult questions, situations, & schedule

Camp Secretary

- Responsible for all administrative needs
- Helps with supplies for classes, Discussion groups, etc.
- Almost always found at "base" in the Dining Hall

Camp Counselors

- Be in cabins with campers
- Be familiar with schedule, rules and attitudes.
- Cooperation on camper supervision.
- HELP & ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER.

Head Cabin Counselor (One male, one female)

- "Go to" person for other cabin counselors for questions
- Creates cabin watch schedule
- In charge of final cleanup efforts on last day of camp

Dining Hall Staff – "Dish Dawgs"

- Responsible for setting up tables and chairs.
- Responsible for keeping the Dining Hall clean.
- Provide water in various gathering areas and during Games.
- Supervise KP duties.

Discussion Group Leader (1 Adult per group with at least 1 Big Brother/Sister)

- Lead group of 10-15 campers in a guided discussion and help campers process Biblical lessons into lives.

Kitchen Staff

- Making GOOD food!
- Clean staff shirts in time for the Friday's camper sendoff.

Maintenance Staff

- Available to fix things that break in cabins. *(All requests go through our system Camp Office)*

Medical Staff

- Provide all medical attention, including medications and diagnosis for campers and staff

Worship Leader

- Lead every morning and evening worship time
- Coordinate worship along with the evening speaker to further communicate the day's/week/s theme

ALL STAFF

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, June 22: *Junior Week Staff* is asked to meet at 7:00 PM at Belton Church of Christ to help load hardware and non-perishables.

Saturday, June 23: Belton Church members will be asked to meet at 11:00 AM at Belton Church of Christ to help load perishables.

Saturday, June 30: *Junior Week Staff Arrival & Preparation*

Staff is asked to be at Camp Hensel between 6-6:30 PM for dinner and to set up bedding before meetings.

Supper at 7:00 PM

Cabin Counselors Meeting at 8:00 PM

Staff Devotional at 9:00 PM

- There will be a worship/praise team meeting after staff devotional

Sunday, July 1: *Junior Week Camp begins*

Breakfast opens at 8:00 AM

Worship at 9:00 AM

Staff Orientation at 10:00 AM

Journey Group Leaders Meeting at 11:00 AM

Games/Camper's Choice Meeting at 10:30 AM

Lunch at 12:00 PM

Teachers Meeting at 12:00 PM (during lunch)

Worship/Praise Team Meeting at 12:30 PM

Registration Setup at 1:00 PM

- Campers of Staff register at 1:30 PM
- Campers Check-in begins at 4:00 PM

Friday, July 6: *Last Day of Junior Week*

Cabin Cleanup and luggage onto tarps at 8:30 AM

Cabin Photos at 9:00 AM

Breakfast with Journey Group at 9:30 AM

Camp Cleanup 11:30 AM

Worship, Wrap-Up, & Camp Picture at 12:00 PM

Camper Check Out at cabins at 12:30 PM

Packing Up around 1:00 PM

Head Counselors walk through cabins and final camp cleanup at 1:30 PM

Director final walk through and approval at 1:50 PM

Leave for Home around 2:30 PM

Friday, July 6: *Camp Koinonia Unloading and Clean-up*

Senior Week Staff is asked to meet at 4:00 PM at the Belton Church of Christ to help unload camp supplies.

Sunday, January 27, 2019: *Camp Reunion*

More details as we get closer to this date

ALL STAFF

PREPARING FOR CAMP – ALL STAFF

Our staff is our most important commodity for camp. We are so encouraged by your desire and enthusiasm to come and work! Whether you are serving in the kitchen, setting up tables, helping with maintenance, or in a Journey group, you will make a difference in the lives of these kids. Thank you so very much!

There are some things we would like you to do before camp begins.

- Pray daily about 1) how God can use you and 2) what He is going to do in you during camp. Focus on submitting your will and your agenda to His plans.
- Pray for the campers. Pray specifically about:
 - What God is planning to do in their lives during camp.
 - How you can get on board with Him and what He wants to do in their lives.
 - What God is planning to show YOU through them
- Be diligent in being prepared for your various roles at camp.
 - Bible Class Teachers should have their lessons ready.
 - Journey Group Leaders should be familiar with the activities, blessing ideas, and basic discussion points.
 - Cabin Counselors should bring items they want for their campers, i.e. decorations, notes, candy, etc.

SUPPLIES LOADING/UNLOADING DAYS

JUNIOR WEEK STAFF is needed at Belton Church of Christ to help load supplies into trailers on Friday, June 23 at 7:00 PM. If you'd like to help and are not part of the Jr. Week Staff, you are more than welcome to help.

SENIOR WEEK STAFF is needed at Belton Church of Christ to help unload supplies on Friday, July 6 at 4:00 PM. Again, if you'd like to help and are not part of the Sr. Week Staff, you are more than welcome to help.

STAFF PREP DAY

ALL JR WEEK CAMP STAFF is expected to attend Staff Prep Day.

- Junior Week Staff Prep Day is Saturday, June 30. **Arrive at Camp Hensel at 6-6:30pm.**

**If you are unable to be there at that time, please call the Camp Director and make him aware of your situation and arrival time. Do not assume he knows.*

We will have a General Staff Orientation each week at camp. *Please note: Children of staff will need to have other activities during these meetings & may not be in the dining hall.*

- For Junior Week, Orientation will be after worship Sunday morning.

Please remember that your children are your responsibility until camp begins on Sunday afternoon. Please make certain they are safe, not disturbing other staff, and making themselves useful. If you don't think you can complete your responsibilities and supervise your children, please make other arrangements for their arrival in time for camper check-in.

SATURDAY DEVO

Depending on the length of the meeting (which depends on the cooperation of the staff) we will have a devotional before going to bed. Children of staff members are welcome to attend.

Koinonia



SCHEDULE FOR JUNIOR WEEK

am

pm

- 7:30 Wake Up / Cabin Clean Up
- 8:15 Rise & Shine
- 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:15 Journey Group/Quiet Time
- 9:45 Cabin Challenge
- 10:15 Morning Worship
- 11:00 Class #1
- 12:00 Meet in Corral
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 Rest Time
- 2:00 Class #2
- 3:00 Big Event / Camper's Choice /
Swimming
- 5:00 Clean up
- 6:00 Dinner / Dinner Entertainment
- 6:45 Journey Group
- 7:15 Evening Worship
- 8:15 Journey Group
- 8:45 Refreshments / Evening Fun
- 9:30 5-6 Head to Cabins / 7-8 Devo
Under the Stars
- 10:00 5-6 Lights Out / 7-8 Cabin
Head to Cabins
- 10:30 7-8 Lights Out

Sunday Schedule

- 4:00 Check In
- 5:30 Orientation
(in the Amphitheatre)
- 6:00 Meet Bigs
- 6:30 Dinner with Bigs
- 7:30 Evening Worship
- 8:15 Refreshments
- 8:45 Head to Cabins
- 10:00 Lights Out

Wednesday Schedule

- 4:30pm Clean up
- 5:30pm Groups Picked Up / Pictures /
Meal
- 7:00 Journey Group
- 7:30 Evening Worship
- 8:15 Head back / Refreshments
- 9:00 Journey Group
- 9:30 5-6 Head to Cabins / 7-8 Devo
Under the Stars
- 10:00 5-6 Lights Out / 7-8 Cabin Head
to Cabins
- 10:30 7-8 Lights Out

Friday Schedule

- 8:00 Wake Up
- 8:30 Pack, Luggage on Tarp,
Cabin Clean-Up
- 9:00 Cabin Pics (Corral)
- 9:30 Breakfast with Journey Group
- 11:30 Camp Clean-up
- 12:00 Morning Worship / Camp Picture
- 12:30 Parents Check-Out Campers at
Cabins

CABIN COUNSELORS & GROUP LEADERS

Thank you for giving up your time to work with our campers. The time you pour into them will be well spent. Please take time to read and familiarize yourself with all of the material in this document.

EXPECTATIONS – BEFORE CAMP

There are some things we would like you to do before you arrive to camp. Read the sections below for details.

- Meet your cabin co-counselors.

If a face-to-face conversation is not possible, please make the effort to call and get acquainted.

NOTE: It's possible your cabin assignment can change even as late as the Saturday before camp. Remain flexible. If changes are made, they are to benefit the campers.

EXPECTATIONS – UPON ARRIVAL ON SATURDAY

WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

1. Come to the dining hall area for specific instructions regarding the unloading camp supplies.
2. Check in with the Camp Secretary in the dining hall to:
 - Confirm your cabin assignment
 - Confirm your other assignments
 - Check on the schedule for any other activities and meetings for the rest of that day
3. Stow your stuff and settle in before meetings begin. Select your bunk with a few things in mind:
 - Counselors are responsible for who comes and goes in cabins so have one counselor by the door.
 - Counselors should also spread out in the cabin.

ONCE IN YOUR CABIN

1. **Inspect your cabin** – Look for anything broken, unwanted insects, and general “fix-ables.” These need to be reported on the check-in sheet and returned to the Camp Secretary. Camp Maintenance will fix things as they come up. Be patient, we will probably have a long list. If you can reasonably fix it, please do so.
2. **Collect cleaning supplies for your cabin & bath area** There's no need to store paper goods for the whole week, but please get enough to get started. Check with the Dining Hall Staff for help with this.
3. **Make sure there is a container for trash in your cabin.**
4. **Post important papers so they're easy to see** including a laminated schedule, camp rules, etc.

EXPECTATIONS – DURING CAMP

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

This week, we ask that you:

- Know that we have high expectations of our staff
- Pour your lives into the campers. Love them intensely
- Prepare yourself for something spiritual to happen. Watch for what God is going to bring to you.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CAMPERS

- Make it a priority to learn each of your campers' names before Sunday is over.
- Pay special attention to campers who don't get involved quickly or seem to be "on the fringe" of the group.
- Particularly look for the special needs of campers and try to understand where they are coming from.
- Be aware of campers with medical needs. The Medical Staff will help you with this. Help the Medical Staff by keeping them well informed of camper needs.
- Be aware of the campers who may be homesick. Talk to the Head Cabin Counselor, if needed.

DRESS CODE

Familiarize yourself with the dress code for all campers and staff (found below) so you can help us enforce the camp's dress code policy for our campers.

It is a difficult part of camp and we all need to work together. Be mindful of how you talk with campers about their clothing. Help them understand why it's important (beyond just the camp rule) and offer to help them find appropriate clothes, if they don't have anything else to wear.

The dress code is as follows:

- A. All tops and shirts should cover at least the belt line (when arms are raised) and must be at least 3 fingers wide at the shoulder. No halters or spaghetti straps. Sheer shirts must have a camp appropriate shirt worn underneath.
- B. Shorts should have AT LEAST A 4" INSEAM and skirts should be knee-length.
- C. Skin tight clothing (tops, spandex, yoga pants, tight jeans, etc.), halter tops, and/or revealing clothing are inappropriate for camp and need to be left at home. Young ladies, do not to bring any shirts/tops that reveal cleavage.
- D. During swim/lake time, appropriate swim wear must be worn. Guys, swim trunks must be modest length. Girls, swimsuits should be a one piece, tank-ini, or t-shirt worn over swimsuit.

DISCUSSING DRESS CODE WITH CAMPERS (LOVINGLY AND EFFECTIVELY)

- Inform campers that this is Camp K dress code, not that they are immodest or inappropriate. Let them know we have camp rules to help the other campers not be distracted by girls or boys, but to focus on God.
- Don't talk to them in front of other campers. Politely ask the camper aside in private.
- Talk calmly and use your words wisely. Don't be degrading or negative towards their attire – they might not know or think there's anything wrong.
- This is a good teaching situation. Explain why their attire isn't appropriate and why modesty is important.
- Don't make the situation a bigger deal than it is.
- Don't let the incident affect your ongoing relationship and ministry with the campers.
- Please be sure you address any dress code issues in the morning before campers leave the cabin – it's never good if the Camp Directors or other cabin counselors have to talk to your campers about dress code.

TIPS & PREP FOR CABIN COUNSELORS

This may be a new experience for you (and for your campers), but if you let God work through you, this will be one of your greatest camp experiences. You want to be the person that campers come to for prayer, to talk to, to be mentored and to be loved.

You may be stretched and asked to deal with issues you might have never experienced, but you will have multiple resources to help you through these.

You'll have to enforce rules (no cell phones, dress code, cabin clean-up, etc.) but always remember that camp is about the campers and their relationship with God, so focus on mentoring and disciplining in a loving way.

Make sure to know the names of all your campers on the first day. Study your cabin list ahead of time. Spread out and don't sleep right next to the other cabin counselors.

Cabin Time is a great opportunity each night to visit with campers, to process through the day's events or just to pray as a group. Be sure that cabin time is intentional in building relationships with the campers.

Issues you could face as a cabin counselor:

- homesickness
- wetting the bed
- starting their period
- trying to use a cell phone
- cursing
- coarse joking
- teasing
- cleanliness (showering)
- dress code
- falling off the bed
- being dehydrated/not eating
- cleaning the cabins
- playing pranks on other campers/cabins
- following the schedule
- staying out of the cabin when supposed to
- outright neglect of the rules
- sneaking out
- testing boundaries

Here are some good ways to help the campers avoid some of these issues:

- Check on each camper (after lights out) to make sure they are okay.
- Let the campers know Sunday night that you are there for them all week.
- Lead by example. Always be aware of situations and stay in tuned with the campers.
- Warn campers about cursing, coarse jokes and teasing. Talk with them when it happens, being careful not to embarrass them in front of other campers.
- Make sure each camper takes showers throughout the week, but don't embarrass them if they are scared or don't want to.
- If you hear any loud noises in the middle of the night, get up and check on it. Check on campers to make sure they are okay. If you catch a camper sneaking out or around your cabin, please contact the Camp Director immediately.
- Constantly remind students to be drinking water. If it's more than you can handle, please talk to the medical staff. The same thing goes for any campers not eating.
- Help and encourage campers to clean up cabins and bathrooms daily.

ADDITIONAL COUNSELOR PACKING ITEMS

Pack your stuff with the understanding there NO dressers or shelves in the cabins.

In addition to the items found on the camper's packing list (found in the Camper's Handbook – available for download on the camp website), you may want to bring the following:

- Plastic drawers for your clothes and personal items
- A small stand or table to set things on
- Something to carry your stuff to the shower
- Extra shoes: one old pair that can get wet or muddy and one more pair than you think you need
- Comfortable, large-brim hat
- A lightweight blanket (Although the days are hot, the nights with the air conditioners can get cool)
- Small rug to put by bed
- Supplies to write notes to your campers and others that can be delivered during camp
- A hammer and a supply of nails, hooks, rope, bungee cords, zip ties, scissors, and duct tape for fans and other “customizations”
- A pad to sit on at worship (*The amphitheater seats are concrete*)
- Lysol or air freshener spray
- Plenty of bug spray (*You will most likely have to share*)
- Extension cords and a power strip
- Permanent Markers (*for your campers to label stuff*)
- Non-chocolate candy in AIR-TIGHT CONTAINER (for bribes, rewards, etc.)
- Battery-operated alarm clock and fan

BIG BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CABINS

Each cabin will have 1 or 2 Big Brothers or Sisters to assist the cabin counselors – their role is to help campers feel comfortable, get rest and build relationships – not to discipline.

There's an added responsibility of having high school students in the cabin, but they have been a huge help in the past. They should be positive role models and examples for the campers. Be sure to talk to them if there's a problem. If the problem persists, contact the Camp Director.

Use the gifts and strengths of the Big Brothers & Sisters to help in the cabin. They can help wind down campers before bed, lead Cabin Time, encourage Rest Time, encourage the campers to clean the cabins, check on campers throughout the week, etc.

But we don't want the Big Brothers and Big Sisters to handle any disciplinary needs. You may need to discuss how you would like to handle discipline issues for the Big Brothers & Big Sisters once everyone has arrived at Camp K.

Camp Koinonia 2018: This Changes Everything ----- JR Week -----

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Daily Focus | This Changes Everything | This changes my relationship with others (Anger) | This changes how I speak to others (truth/covenant) | This changes how I treat others (revenge) | This changes who & how I love (Love enemies) |
| Scripture Foundation | Sermon on the Mount-Matthew 5 | Matthew 5:21-26 | Matthew 5:33-37 | Matthew 5:38-42 | Matthew 5:43-48 |
| Class/ Teacher | | Joseph (<i>C. Howell</i>) | Samson (<i>S. Seela</i>) | Nathan to King David (<i>K. Bowen</i>) | Paul & the Phillipian Jailer (<i>B. Beaver</i>) |
| Class/ Teacher | | Cain & Abel (<i>B. Weddle</i>) | Mordecai & Haman (<i>J. Benedick</i>) | Jacob & Esau (<i>B. Weddle</i>) | David & Saul (<i>R. Daniel</i>) |
| Daily Bottom Line | Common Thread - Relationship with others | Become a person with self-control | Become a person of integrity | Become a person of compassion and mercy | Become a person who loves deeper |
| Evening Speaker Focus | Being a follower of Christ should change how you act, speak, and think | Your relationship with God is dependent upon your relationship with others | Lying breaks relationships | Break the chain of retaliation | Everyone is somebody Jesus died for |
| Evening Speakers | Bruce Beaver | Robbie Daniels | Kyle Bowen | Scott Seela | Ritchie Hamm |

SCHEDULED JOURNEY GROUP TIMES

The Journey Groups focus on group building as well as unpacking/applying the messages they hear each day. The groups will also function as teams during game time. Group times are:

Sunday

- 6:00 pm
- Group Introductions/Bonding:- Choose from provided “Group Bonding Activities” section. Pick your activities and get any supplies from container on the stage.
 - Eat dinner as a group

Monday-Thursday

- 9:15-9:40 am
- Focused quiet time (20 minutes, self-directed) & then discussion. A study will be provided each day.
- 6:45-7:15 pm
- Spend time talking about the classes of the day and what they drew from them.
 - Read the scripture passage for the day (be creative) and pray for the evening speaker.
 - As time permits, chose from the Group Bonding Activities or use the Communication Ball
- 8:15-9:45 pm
- Process materials/activities provided by evening speaker

Friday

- 9:30-11:30 am
- Breakfast with your group (picnic style)
 - Group Blessings (see Group Blessing section)
 - Groups have up to 2 hours for this activity

GROUP BONDING TIME

We have provided a list of activities on the “Staff Resources” page on the camp website (www.camp-k.org) that will help your group get better acquainted throughout the week. These activities are intended to devote time to learning one another’s names and characteristics, appreciate similarities and differences, and practice respect and inclusion of all group members. These activities are designed to be cooperative, not competitive. As a group leader, it is your responsibility to set the tone and protect the environment. Pick & choose to best suit your group.

GROUP BLESSING

What’s the big deal about a blessing? We have come to understand that what every young heart longs for is to be truly known and affirmed. This is so important that we ask leaders to thoughtfully plan a special blessing for their group members at the end of the week.

During Friday’s Group time at breakfast, you will be given time to share in a time of blessing. Spend this time making each member of your group feel special, be recognized as a precious child of God, and affirming their faith and spiritual character in a way that flows out of the thoughts and ideas shared together this week.

Each group is different and each team of group leaders is different, so there are various blessing experiences. There are many great ways to create a positive blessing for your group; the only “wrong” way is to do nothing and miss the opportunity to reinforce that God is at work to develop the hearts and minds of the campers with whom you have shared your week.

To see a list of activities, visit the “Staff Resources” page found on the camp website (www.camp-k.org) menu.

GOOD PRACTICES IN LEADING YOUR GROUP

Small group discussion is a great learning environment because it enables each student to meet God and understand His word in a way that will change lives forever. Listening and leading are two vital skills to this learning experience. Most people assume they are good listeners. Many assume they know how to lead a group discussion. Both are skills that can be practiced and improved upon no matter your level of proficiency.

Here are some very important tips to leading a successful group discussion.

- Be prepared to **be transparent** as you share your heart and thoughts with the group. This will encourage transparency in others. But remember, it's about the campers, not you.
- Think of some of your own questions. Personalize the lesson & the questions by making them your own.
- **Make sure your questions use simple language.** You want your students to concentrate on figuring out the answer, not trying to understand the question.
- **Try your best to get as many of your members as possible involved in the discussion.** Ask those who aren't sharing, or who seem to be reluctant to share, questions to draw them in.
- **Always be encouraging in your comments.** Say "That's a good point." Or "Could you explain that for us a bit more?" If a person takes you too far off course, gently nudge him/her back to the subject.
- Always, always, always spend time in prayer before and after your group discussion.
- The key to your work is **PRAYER**. Ask God to increase your sensitivity to His will and to constantly shape the desires of your heart so that your energy is always available to His Spirit. Every moment of the day is a potential teaching/learning moment for you and your group. By constantly seeking God in prayer and living this week focused on students' lives, you will easily fulfill these leadership expectations.
- **Be real with the students.** Don't be afraid to share with them your own challenges and feelings about the passage you are studying, but be sure not to share too much or take over the discussion.
- **Remember that this week is not about you.** No matter how great or inexperienced you are at leading students, the real work is done by the Spirit of God working in students' lives.
- **Establish and honor confidentiality within the group.** It is normal for students to share some personal stuff with one another. In your first group meeting, ask the group to make a commitment to keep the comments made by the group members within the group.
- The Word of God has power to change lives. Use it. **Be familiar with the text.** Read through and meditate on the text before you begin the lesson. There are several scriptures used throughout the discussion material. You may not be able to get through everything, but do what you can to encourage reading the Word and discussing it.
- **Never ask more than one question at a time.** Even in the case of a short answer question followed by a "why?", let them answer the first question before asking why. Let them put their thought into answering the question, not trying to understand the question.

- Don't be afraid to call on students to increase participation. **Encourage discussion.** Lead the students to make their own discoveries throughout the week. Call on the ones you know are following along, but may just be shy to speak up.
- **Don't tear apart someone's answer.** This will obstruct discussion. An incorrect answer can create more discussion if you ask others what they think of the answer or use follow-up questions to help a student come to a better understanding.
- **Don't be afraid of silence.** If students don't immediately respond to a question, they might be thinking.
- **Don't be afraid to say "I don't know."** The goal of discussion is self-discovery for the students. You will often be tempted to solve the deep and personal struggles of the group, but instead point them to God. Teach students to seek God to answer their questions.
- **Don't be afraid to utilize "off-topic questions" for another time.** These are those questions asked by students that are good, but off topic, or are too big of a question for the group discussion. Thus, you can discuss them one-on-one after the lesson.
- **Be available** for the students to talk to you outside of group discussion time.

CREATIVE WAYS TO PRAY

Sometimes we get in a habit of saying prayers the same way over and over again. Here are some ways to make your prayer time interesting and unique.

1. After one person shares his/her request(s), ask the person on their right to pray briefly for him/her. Move through the group this way. After everyone's requests has gone, end the prayer together.
2. Devote all but the last five minutes of your prayer time to praise, thanksgiving, and talking to God about your discussion. Then, let group members pair up, share a prayer request & briefly pray with each other.
3. Share answers to prayers. Whenever answers come, stop right then and give God thanks. Answered prayer and verbalized gratefulness bring energy and enthusiasm to the group.
4. Vary prayer posture. Kneel, stand in a circle, hold hands, raise hands in praise, etc.
5. Let music enhance your times of worship. There are many worship choruses that can "get you in the mood" for expressing adoration and praise. Use music to lead the group through several prayer transitions. Use one worship song to lead the group in adoration, another song set the stage for several minutes of silent confession, another song led into thanksgiving, and so forth.
6. Hold hands and have students pray as it goes around the circle by squeezing hands. Anyone who is terribly uncomfortable with group prayers can pass it along to the next person.
7. Popcorn Prayer – Open with prayer and your other Group leader will end it. Invite the students to say whatever prayer they want to in between in no particular order (like popcorn).
8. Circle Prayer – Everyone will hold hands. You will open with prayer and the person to your left will close the prayer. When you are done praying squeeze the hand of the person to your right. Invite the students to say whatever prayer they want to in between squeezes. If the students can't think of anything to pray invite them to pray that God would help us to know His love beyond when we are good.

ACTIVITIES SPECIFIC TO JUNIOR WEEK

Journey Groups

These small groups are built for discussion and learning in a more intimate environment. The Group times help process the day's theme and what they heard from the evening speaker. Group times should be confidential to encourage sharing and prayer. These groups are led by an adult leader and a Big Brother/Big Sister.

Rise and Shine

Each morning we have games that the entire camp participates in to wake up and get excited about the day.

Rest Time

Exactly what it sounds like...rest. Everyone goes back to the cabins for an hour of rest. Not everyone has to nap but we are respectful of those who would like to take this opportunity to catch a few "ZZZZZ"s.

Big Event

Each afternoon, we have fun games and activities to encourage relationship-building and physical health. Some days involve water games to cool down from the summer heat!

Devo Under The Stars

Just what it sounds like! While this also takes place during Senior Week, this devotional is with the 7th and 8th graders (we send the 5th and 6th graders back to their cabins just before).

FINAL NOTES

After camp, you will be contacted by the Camp Director to fill out an evaluation form. We are always looking to improve Camp Koinonia so your suggestions, comments and input are greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your support, prayers, time, and effort in making Camp Koinonia what it is. We simply could not do it without you!