

Worship Resources for Camp Sunday

2022 Creation Speaks

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This year, the Camp Curriculum focuses on the creation story in Genesis, using additional stories on each day to flesh out the wonderful ways in which God cares for us. All page number references are from the curriculum packet for "Creation Speaks."

For this year's worship, we have drawn heavily from Day 2, "Refreshed by Water."

Scripture (NRSV):

Genesis 1:6-8

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

John 4:4-15

But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Music

Hymns, Traditional (pg. 211)

Theme: "This is My Father's World" UMH No. 144

"Morning Has Broken" UMH No. 145

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" UMH No. 147

Water: "Fill My Cup, Lord" UMH No. 641

"Here I Am, Lord" (v.2) UMH No. 593

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” UMH No. 605

“Come Thou Font” UMH No. 400

Contemporary

Theme: “Beautiful Things” (Gungor, 2010)

“Faith Like a Child” (Jars of Clay, 1995)

Water: “Oceans” (Hillsong United)

“As The Deer” TFWS

“Wade in the Water” TFWS

“All Who are Thirsty, All Who are Weak” (Kutless)

“River of Life” (Mack Powell)

“Healing River” (Christopher Grundy)

Call to Worship

(Psalm 104)

God makes springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,

The waters give drink to every wild animal.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;

They sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains;

The earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

Alternate Call to Worship-

Just as God moved over the waters of creation

God will move with us today

Just as God drew people to the waters of the Red Sea for deliverance

We are a part of God’s salvation today

As God worked in John the Baptism and Phillip and the Ethiopian,

We will be blessed by God’s grace and brought to new life

We open our hearts in worship today with all who have gathered by the water of life

May we pray with Lydia, sing for those by the rivers of Babylon,

and serve with Jesus who offers water to the thirsty.

Opening Prayer- (pg. 196)

We give you thanks, O God;

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered

Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

Amen.

Alternate Opening Prayer-

God of refreshing love, you draw us to places of renewal.

Bless this space with your Spirit of Living water. As we celebrate and lift up to you Camping and Retreat ministries, may the power that transformed common water into the wine of Joy and Community, so transform our common into that which draws us together. May we anticipate the splashing of campers at play as we witness to the life-giving waters. Fill us to overflowing that from us may flow exuberant praise to you, the Author of Creation. Amen.

Children's Message-

(pg. 181) (Italicized added by Dayne and Paul)

Give each camper a saltine cracker and ask them how it feels in their mouth without something to drink. Ask them to spend some time thinking about times they have been really thirsty. Ask them to think about times they were emotionally thirsty, needy, or sad.

Summarize the story of the woman at the well, inviting the kids to understand both her thirst and the gift that Jesus was offering in water that would make it so she was never thirsty again.

Provide small cups of water for campers to drink, maybe even letting them serve each other. Ask the campers to think about times they have felt emotionally refreshed, made to feel better or cheered up.

Help the kids to see that the water in the story represents these things as well.

Close by saying, "I wonder if that is what it might feel like to taste living waters."

Sermon Notes

Your goal in this message is to invite people to know Christ in the ministry of Camping. Share stories from people you know who experienced camping ministry. Some stories that may be helpful for this theme would be about people who were physically thirsty during a hike, canoe trip, or an overnight experience. It would also be appropriate to hear a story of someone who found acceptance and had thirst for healing in some way through camping and retreat ministry.

Key Points- Many campers come to camp and are away from those circles of people who often judge them or make them feel unworthy or unwelcome (The Samaritan woman likely felt this, too)

-Meeting Christ at a place apart (the well and our Campsites) gives opportunity to claim an identity in Christ rather than the labels people have given you.

- The woman learned of the sustaining love of God in Christ because of her experience, this is what we pray for each of the campers, volunteers, and staff of our United Methodist Camps.

The Problem- Thirst (for physical needs to be met, for emotional connection and healthy relationship, for the indwelling of the Spirit) for those involved in camp directly and for all of us.

Good News- Jesus offers all the living water that will forever satisfy.

Challenge- Go and tell the story of Jesus, who knows you, loves you, and offers you life-giving water, inviting all to come to that well.

Remembrance of Baptism

Use the resource from the UM Book of Worship

-or-

To close this sermon, use a pine branch and a bowl of water to “throw” water over the congregation saying “Remember your baptism and be thankful” or “Receive the water of life,” or “Go, offer water to those who thirst.”

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, Almighty God,

From the waters of chaos, you created all that is.

Between the waters and the sky, you set a place apart,

A place where we can live, and move, and have our being.

In this space, we find ourselves thirsting for your presence.

We know your waters pour upon us, if we are willing to receive.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord.

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the Highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the Highest.

Holy are you, and your presence gives us life.

When Jesus stood by the waters of Jordan,

the Spirit descended upon him.

At the wedding in Cana, he transformed water

into a time of celebration, of community and love.

When he stood at the well, with one who was seeking a relationship,

he offered water that would never end.

by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit...
(Continue with Great Thanksgiving)

Invitation to Offering-

One of the many ways in which we support our conference Camping Program is through our apportionment giving through the local church. There are also opportunities for direct gifts to ministries or programs. These things all start with having a healthy local church. We invite you to give generously in that way. We also invite you to give to local camp scholarship funds and support individuals in your congregation to attend camps. Finally, each of your conference Campsites will gladly receive and faithfully use any gifts that you would like to give in support of this vital ministry.

Possible Prayer of Thanksgiving or Benediction- (pg. 196)

O God, today we remember your life-giving water. We rejoice as we are refreshed and sent out to share your good news with others. We are named and claimed, walking wet for you, Jesus. Amen.