

GENERAL CAMP SUNDAY WORSHIP RESOURCES

Songs, Call to Worship, Prayers, Sending Forth, Scripture, 2018 Theme: *Beyond Belief!*

SONG IDEAS:

United Methodist Hymnal

62 All Creatures of Our God and King

84 Thank you, Lord

122 God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

140 Great is Thy Faithfulness

145 Morning Has Broken

261 Lord of the Dance

333 Sing, When the Spirit says, "Sing"

378 Amazing Grace

593 Here I am, Lord

370 Victory in Jesus

314 In the Garden

393 Spirit of the Living God

405 Seek Ye First

454 Open My Eyes, That I May See

451 Be Thou My Vision

512 Stand by Me

572 Pass It On

707 The Hymn of Promise

The Faith We Sing Song Book

2023 Oh Lord, our Lord, How Majestic is Your Name

2040 Awesome God

2071 Jesus, Name Above All Names

2074 Shout to the Lord

2088 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

2107 Wade in the Water

2120 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center

2158 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

2173 Shine, Jesus Shine

2164 Sanctuary

2190 Bring Forth the Kingdom of God

2223 They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love

2235b We Are Marching (Siyahamba/Caminando)

2258 Sing Alleluia to the Lord

2279 The Trees of the Field

CALL TO WORSHIP IDEAS:

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively Read)

God of Pine Cones, hiking trails and Mountain Tops.

God of River Reeds and streams and even swimming pools;

God of water sports, open field games and bouncy houses;

Touch us today with the Camping Bug that can't be swatted away.

Take us back to our childhoods when we were young and oh so innocent.

All: Bless this worship as we take a journey that is within our reach and seemingly beyond belief.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively Read)

Come to the mountain, high on the mountain.

What will I see?

God marking a path with the stars and moon.

What will I do?

Discover God in nature and in the people surrounding you.

All: God will meet us on the mountain and we will discover all things made new.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively Read)

God has set up camp in our hearts.

In God's Love, we find community.

God has made community part of our nature.

In God's Love, we find peace.

God gives us peace and a calling.

All: In God's Love, we find purpose. Camp takes us out of our daily lives and delivers us to a place of reflection.

God speaks and calls us back into the wilderness again and again.

PRAYER IDEAS:

The following prayers are a stepping stone from camping experiences recalled... we invite you to use the following prayers or change to make them your own.

PRAYER OF CENTERING (Unison)

God of our senses; a little while and we are there. We'll gather from East and West and North and South. Each of us comes from different backgrounds, experiences of life and potential. We are created in God's image and even though none of us are perfect, God is within each of us. Camp is the great equalizer; no one will know who you are until you open up and share your story with others. Camp is a place some of us have never been before. It is a place where cell phones and internet activity is put on hold for such a time as this. There will be time to worship as we commune with the sights, sounds and smells of nature all around us, unlike our home amidst clocks and deadlines. We each long for a place to be centered and grounded in God's miraculous backdrops. As campers and counselors, parents and camp staff; we'll soon see an even more wonderful creation in new and abundant ways. Bless our time of worship in this hour, in your Spirit's name we pray. —Amen—

PRAYER OF CENTERING (Unison)

God of us all; while at camp we will commune from that first crackling, snapping, popping, sizzling, fizzing, hissing camp fire to the last hugs as we say goodbye to our adventure for another year. We will reminisce in the stillness of the night as the glow of embers reflects the shadows after campfire stories have been shared. In the midst of it all, we will take inventory recollecting and taking into account our days. Then, as we ponder our day as we'll find ourselves resting under a canopy of star lit nights. In the comfort of the sounds of lakeshore waves; a trickle of a nearby creek as we hike past; the crack of lighting on a warm afternoon or summers night; the wind sifting through ponderosa pine trees with an ocean like roar, the Holy Spirit speaks to us. As we look back on all that has been of our week as the snapshots in time written in our hearts we can find comfort knowing that we will be able to recall those times once again throughout the year whenever we need your comfort and inspiration once more. We are forever confident and assured that we can come back to those moments by merely closing our eyes and breathing deeply into those inspirational moments yet again. We pray this in through the Spirit of Christ. —Amen—

PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR GIFTS, TITHES AND OFFERINGS (Unison)

Since we were children when we first gathered dandelion bouquets for our parents, to the first time we touched our toes in the warm rich sand of beaches; we've been thankful. It is in our giving that we receive grace upon grace. As inspired children we return now a portion of the joy of our childhoods in the form of financial gifts so that your love might be shared with friends and strangers alike. Bless our gifts and the hands that continue to work together so every generation will know what it means to give thanks. Through Christ's name we pray. —Amen—

SENDING FORTH (Unison)

This summer and throughout the year children will gather for a "time away" from life as we know it, it will be more like it was for the Disciples of old who took time away from their daily lives to be refreshed and renewed. We'll hike on mountain tops, or dance on the prairie through games that burn off energy and embody team work and inspiration, or hear the lakeside sounds and the ever flowing streams. We'll be a part of laughter and tears like we've never experienced before. At times we'll listen to the chatter of girls and boys sharing their faith and life for a few camp days. We'll experience the feeling of chagrin at an overturned canoe with the understanding assurance from others as we turn it round right to start our voyage once again. The sounds of laughter on the beach to the groans of "how much longer" from hikers and camp counselors exhausted to their core. The abundant euphoria having accomplished what we thought we could never do as we gaze down at where we've been and stand in awe or all that is yet to be in our lives to come. Our worship ends but our camp memories are just beginning. When beyond belief comes to visit us in the here and now. In Christ's name we pray. —Amen—

BENEDICTION IDEAS:

BENEDICTION

May God set up camp in your heart. May Christ offer you bread and fish by the fire, and may the Holy Spirit be the flame that lights your way. —Amen—

BENEDICTION

May the love of the Father, the tenderness of the Son, and presence of the Spirit, gladden your heart, and bring peace to your soul, this day and all days. —Amen—

BENEDICTION (Responsively Read)

God we belong to you.

You know our thoughts, our fears, and our hopes.

Guide us as we enter this camp adventure together.

God knows the real me.

God has equipped us to be leaders and disciples.

God knows the real me.

All: May we go out with the confidence and joy that God loves us, just as we are. —Amen—

BENEDICTION (Responsively Read)

God's love for us is reflected in the light we carry.

God made us to shine.

Let us help each other lift our lights up high for all to see.

God made us to shine.

Let us go out, bringing light to dark places wherever we go.

God made us to shine. —Amen—

SCRIPTURE IDEAS:

BEYOND BELIEF! THEMES OF EACH CAMP DAY: (*InsideOutcurriculum.com*)

Day 1: What If We Belong to God? Psalm 139

Day 2: What If God Is Bigger? Luke 1: 35–55

Day 3: What If Hope Is Real? Mark 2:1–5

Day 4: What If There Is More than Enough? John 6: 1–14

Day 5: What If We Speak Up? Mark 7:24–30

Day 6: What If We Change the World? Matthew 5: 13–16

Day 7: What If We Go Beyond? Luke 10: 1–9

TRANSFIGURATION SCRIPTURES:

The Transfiguration of Jesus is an event reported in the New Testament when Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain.

The **Synoptic Gospels** describe it (Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36).

The **Second Epistle of Peter** also refers to it (2 Peter 1:16–18).

TIMES WHEN JESUS WENT AWAY TO PRAY:

After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

Mark 6:46

After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.

Luke 6:12

It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Mark 1:35

In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

Luke 5:16

But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.

Luke 9:18

And it happened that while He was praying alone, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, "Who do the people say that I am?"

Matthew 26:36

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Matthew 26:39

And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:42

He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

Matthew 26:44

And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

Mark 14:32

They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed."

Mark 14:35

And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by.

Mark 14:39

Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words.

Luke 11:1

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

Matthew 14:19

OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

FINGER PRAYER

The Finger prayer is often taught at camp or on Camp Sunday as an experiential way to remember how to pray for others. Imagine your church praying this together. Variations of the Finger Prayer exist and you can change it as you wish. Be sure and show the prayer as you pray it.

Example:

- 1. Thumb (point to yourself for those close to you)** - Friends, family, pets, and people you meet during the day. Ask for their protection and God's blessing on them.
- 2. Pointer (people who point the way)** - Leaders, teachers, pastors, counselors, governments, police, etc. Thank God for them and ask for wisdom in the important work they do.
- 3. Tall Finger (tall trees representing creation)** - The living world around you, great and small, the health of our planet. Let us remember the job God gave us to care for the earth and all within it.
- 4. Ring Finger (those who are weak)** - Those who are sick, live in poverty, grieving, homeless, need work, etc. This is the weakest finger on our hand; pray that God will give strength and courage to those in need.
- 5. Little Finger (your own needs)** - God also wants to hear our needs and desires. As you remember others, also remember to ask God to help you grow closer to Him in mind, body and spirit.

7 FOUNDATIONS OF CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The 7 Foundations of Camp and Retreat Ministry began with a prayerful discernment centered on two specific questions. What must we do well in order to be truly effective now and into the future? What is absolutely vital for us to focus on in fulfilling the church's mission within the unique camp and retreat setting?

1. Partner with United Methodist Churches and Agencies
2. Provide Sacred Places Apart
3. Extend Christian Hospitality and Community
4. Nurture Christian Faith and Discipleship
5. Develop Principled Spiritual Leaders
6. Teach Creation Care and Appreciation
7. Inspire and Equip Lives for Love and Justice