



Slumber Falls Camp



PLANNING A CAMP SUNDAY TIPS & SAMPLE 'CAMP STYLE' WORSHIP

Thank you for hosting a 'Camp Sunday' to promote the summer programs of Slumber Falls Camp! Camp Sundays are a great way for congregations to connect with our outdoor ministries at Slumber Falls, share camp stories of members in the church, talk about why camp is important to long term faith development, promote summer camp, and even raise awareness of the life transforming ministries that occur each summer.

Each summer campers focus on a different theme. For more details on the theme, see the theme sheet. Each week campers will walk through different stories from the Old Testament and New 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. Camps achieve many goals, but some of the top goals are relationship formation, spiritual development and Christian education, laughter and fun, camper discovery of their God given gifts, and how we live as an intentional Christian community and function as one body of Christ.

Camp Sunday - Use a Camp Sunday to kick off 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. Former campers can also provide a powerful testimony to the long term effects of camp. Great way to involve older members of the congregation.
- Prepare a display combining camper photos, memorabilia and camp promotional pieces
- Use 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
- Show videos from the Slumber Falls Camp website to highlight camp to first time campers, parents, and grandparents.
- Set up a registration table (connected to WiFi) so that people can register their kids. Have a person available to help first time registrants with navigating UltraCamp.

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!

Scriptures

- Do a special reading on the text either in storytelling style (see Biblical Storytellers - <http://www.nbsint.org/>)
- Have a group readings or a banter between two readers give interest to the text
- Skits - actors act out the text while it is being read.
- Visual – use a YouTube video of the text
- Lectio Divina – meditative form of presenting, listening, and prayer to scriptural readings



Prayers/Confession

- Whisper & Release: Instruct congregation members to take some time to reflect on their lives from the last day or week. After some moments of silence, have them make a cup with their hands and whisper their shortcomings/prayers/hopes for the world into that cup. Once they are finished have them raise them up into the air as they recognize that God is in the midst and can help/empower/comfort/etc them as they seek to become better reflections of God in the world.
- Being God Bearers: 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 something they can do that week to be a God bearer to someone else, their families, society or to creation 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 basket and put the basket at the foot of the cross or on the offertory table.
- 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.

Prayer of the Day

God of life and creation, you have called 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 so that we are a reflection of your light, love, and peace. Empower us to be a passionate people that champion the gospel, hunger for deep and meaningful relationships, and advocates for the whole of creation. Thank you for your presence in our camping program and ever speaking voice to our campers, counselors, and directors. We lift up Slumber Falls Camp and the ministries to our children and youth. Continue to bless us as we engage in Christian education, advocate and work for justice, and offer safe places for your children to be themselves and learn to grow in your ways. We ask these things in your name. 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. Slips of paper, small rocks, or other objects can also be written on to offer gifts or self-service.

Pipe cleaners can also be distributed to the congregation. People are asked to shape them into a symbol of how they can be a living witness to the gospel. These can be placed in offering plates or baskets and lifted up in prayer.

Closing Circle/ Benediction – Invite the congregation to stand in a circle with arms crossed right over left. Have members hold hands. If your group is small, you can go around the circle sharing joys and concerns followed by a prayer and benediction. The members then spin around while still holding hands as a symbol that they are called to go forth into the world taking what they have learned and experienced here to share with others. If the congregation is too big to share, cross arms and hold hands, but have a leader give the benediction.

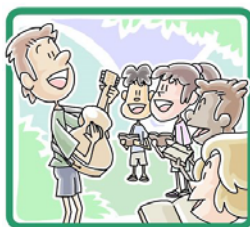
Benediction – use the one below or create your own.

L: Go with God and be reflections of God in the world spreading love, establishing just societies, and teaching others how to live in the light of God!

C: Thanks be to God

Suggested Camp Songs – The songs below represent part of the Slumber Falls Camp tradition of singing. If you are wanting the guitar chords for any of the songs, please contact the camp office.

- *Pass it On*
- *Seek Ye First*
- *Breathe*
- *Light the Fire*
- *Sanctuary*
- *Alleluia*
- *Shine Jesus Shine*
- *Lord I Lift Your Name on High*
- *Humble Thyself*
- *In His Name*
- *Gypsy Song*
- *They Will Know We Are Christians*



- *by Our Love*
- *One Bread One Body*
- *As The Deer*
- *Ah La La La*
- *Blind Man*
- *Pharaoh Pharaoh*
- *Lord of the Dance*
- *In the Secret*
- *Shout to the North*
- *Prince of Peace (You are Holy)*
- *Here I Am Lord*
- *I am the Resurrection*

After the Service

Have campers and church leaders staff a table where others can ask them questions. Have dates available, talk about church/camp scholarships if needed, show them how to register online through UltraCamp, and continue to tell stories of the powerful witness and ministry that occurs at Slumber Falls Camp.

- Hosts wearing Slumber Falls Camp Shirts – If no one has any Slumber Falls shirts, contact the office, and we can send you some. Please let us know your sizes. Thanks!
- Camp Council Liaison – camp council members are willing to join you for your camp Sunday if you would like their presence. Please contact the camp office or your association camp council members.
- Energy and enthusiasm
- Computers for Registration
- Computers to run camp videos or slideshows (on the Slumber Falls website)
- Flyers
- Camp Poster
- Camp Description Sheets
- Why Church Camp? - See link with videos on the SFC website
- Travel Forms
- Camper Information Sheets
- Camp Policies and Procedures
- Church paperwork if required (i.e. covenants)



If there is something the camp can create to help you for Camp Sunday, please do not hesitate to contact the office. We would also love to know what resources that you use, so that we can share those ideas with others.

Camp Confessions

Confession #1

- They say the happiest place on earth is Disneyland. They're wrong, it's camp!

Confession #2

- My years are divided into two seasons – camp and not camp.

Confession #3

- If I could be at camp every day that would be my definition of heaven.

Confession #4

- You can leave camp but camp never seems to leave you.

Confession #5

- The best cure for my campers' homesickness is me, dancing like an i

Confession #6

- Showers are overrated.

Confession #7

- Camp makes me a better person.

Confession #8

- Camps keep you young at heart

Confession #9

- I have more confidence in who I am at camp than I do anywhere else.

Confession #10

- I have learned that some things change and some things don't and camp friends will always love you.

