



2018 Kids Camp Sessions  
(Including Session 5)

## **Groups Preview Packet**

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# A Message from the Youthfront Camp Staff

Dear Youth Workers,

Our camp season is now a few weeks away, and we are so excited about the content we have planned. We have chosen the theme, "Upside Down: the way of Jesus." Our session of camp will take us on a journey through the events of Holy Week, noticing how Jesus actions defy expectations and reveal God's loving and restorative nature. You can read more details about the flow of the session below.

As you prepare your kids for camp, we want you to know that we are your biggest fans! We believe in local church children's ministry, and we want to support what you do the other 51 weeks of the year. We believe camp plays a vital role (but not the only role) in the spiritual formation of kids. We hope that what we do at camp will amplify the rhythms and practices your group creates throughout the rest of the year to help your kids grow in their relationships with Jesus.

Here are a few things to note in preparation for camp this summer:

**Volunteer Cabin Leaders** - If you are bringing more than seven boys and/or seven girls to camp, we require you provide volunteer male and/or female cabin leaders to stay with your students during your week at camp. You are responsible for providing another volunteer for every 16 additional campers of either gender: 8 - 23 kids (1 vcl); 24 - 39 kids (2 vcl's); 40 - 55 kids (3 vcl's); etc. These volunteers will stay in the cabin leader room along with the Summer Staff cabin leader. If you have questions about our volunteer cabin leader policies, please contact **Andy Garlick** at [agarlich@youthfront.com](mailto:agarlich@youthfront.com). **Ben Snethen**, our Cabin Leader Supervisor at Camp West or **Yale Averill**, our Cabin Leader Supervisor at Camp LaCygne, will contact you a few weeks before your session at camp to finalize your volunteers for the week. If you have questions about volunteers, contact either of them at [bsnethen@youthfront.com](mailto:bsnethen@youthfront.com) or [yaverill@youthfront.com](mailto:yaverill@youthfront.com).

**Hype Themes** - On the first day of camp, we split up the campers into teams to compete in events throughout the session. Each night has a different theme, complete with an event or competition attached to it. We encourage you to participate by bringing costumes and joining in the fun. Here is a little preview of each night:

- **Nightstrike** – A camp tradition, this game of stealth is played in the woods in the dark. Fight your way through zones and past Strikers to get under the infamous Tower of Power. You could play with the campers or be one of the infamous Strikers stopping campers along the way.
- **Shaving Cream War** – It's time to get messy! Make sure you and all your campers each bring one can of shaving cream that contains no aloe and no menthol.
- **Polar Pool Party** – We are putting a cold spell on our pool party, so throw your sweater vests and ski gear over your swim suits and get ready to take a polar plunge into our pool party!

We are looking forward to your group's time with us at camp. If you have any questions about camp, feel free to contact our Camp West Director, Matt Saunders at [msaunders@youthfront.com](mailto:msaunders@youthfront.com) or our Camp LaCygne Director, Josh Madden at [jmadden@youthfront.com](mailto:jmadden@youthfront.com).

Much love,  
Youthfront Camp Staff

## Youthfront Camps: Learning Theory and Practice

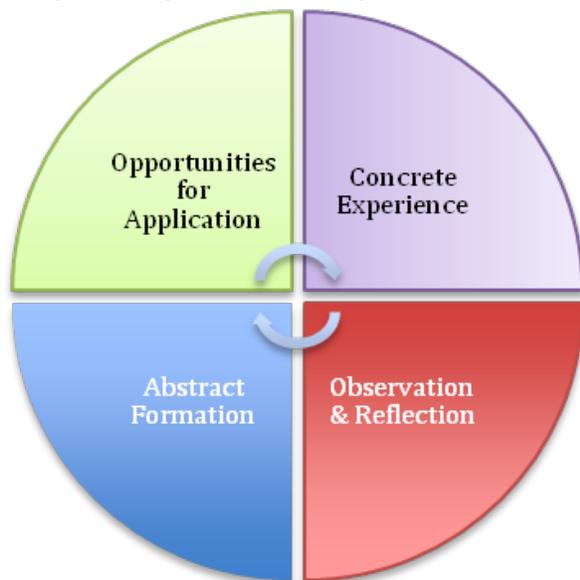
Learning takes place in all types of environments. The most effective learning, however, takes place within an environment that is intentional, authentic, transformative, and communal.

At Youthfront, we are **intentional** about the method of learning that we employ in order to maximize the **authentic** discovery, growth, and learning of each camper. Every activity we facilitate—from worship gatherings to games during free time—is carefully constructed for **transformative** learning in a communal context.

We are committed to creating environments for experiential learning. Experiential learning is simply learning by the process of making meaning from direct experiences. Therefore, we construct environments of learning through:

1. Concrete Experience
2. Observation and Reflection
3. Formation of Abstract Thought
4. Opportunities for Application

By intentionally crafting learning experiences using the four elements above, we are able to accommodate the learner's preferred method of learning, whether it be the **converger**, who learns by taking abstract ideas and actively experimenting with them, or the **diverger**, who prefers a concrete experience in which to observe and reflect. Experiential learning also accommodates the **assimilator**, who is able to take abstract concepts and make observations through inductive reasoning, or the **accommodator**, who learns best by *doing*, through concrete experiences and the active outworking of the concepts presented.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.infed.org/biblio/b-explrn.htm>

Youthfront is passionate about bringing youth into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. While there are many effective theories of learning, we believe that the experiential learning theory we practice is best suited for a camp environment where we can facilitate experiences for campers to engage God’s story in an intentional, authentic, and transformative way.

## **How is Youthfront different than other camps?**

**Youthfront is built around the fixed hours of prayer, also known as the Daily Office or the Divine Office.**

Instead of building Youthfront’s sessions around chapel, free time, cabin times, the snack shop, etc., we think it best to center all of the campers’ experiences on the practice of prayer. Youthfront Camp practices morning, midday, and compline prayer. Each of these prayer times consists of the reading of the Scriptures, music, silence, corporate and private prayer, and confessing the creeds.

**Youthfront is interested in helping adolescents ask questions that lead to ongoing engagement.**

Youthfront works hard to spark the imaginations of all campers. Our content has been developed to help adolescents think, wonder, and feel. We believe we are most successful when we allow the Holy Spirit to work and do ministry without deliberately manufacturing or manipulating the insights of humanity. If adolescents walk away from Youthfront with more questions about God and the Bible than answers, we believe it is a great thing for their ongoing learning and formation.

**What does this approach look like?**

Below is a simple table illustrating how Youthfront Camp is distinctly different in our approach to engaging adolescents in learning. The table found on the following page is not intended to be an either/or list of values; rather, it reflects a continuum of moving beyond a teacher-centered approach toward a learner-centered approach.

<b>Moving from...</b>	<b>Moving to...</b>
<b>Preferences of the teacher.</b> Most information that adolescents get is filtered through the skills and preferences of the one disseminating the information.	<b>Needs of the adolescent.</b> Youthfront’s content takes into consideration the needs, styles, and habits of the adolescent and creates learning opportunities with the learner in mind first.
<b>Static in nature.</b> Typically, most learning environments are predictable and fixed.	<b>Always evolving.</b> Youthfront’s content is always looking for ways to create dynamic, unpredictable, and mobile learning opportunities.
<b>Breadth.</b> How much information can we teach?	<b>Depth.</b> How deep can we help learners go in any given topic?
<b>Rote.</b> Memorization is good. However, memorization alone doesn’t produce a lasting effect on a learner.	<b>Experiential.</b> Youthfront’s content provides learners with the opportunity to learn through practice and ongoing application.
<b>Solo.</b> Typically, learners left on their own don’t have the necessary influence of the learning of others to help push them to think about new insights and directions.	<b>Peer to Peer.</b> Youthfront’s content is about learning in community—sharing common opportunities. Often in peer-to-peer models, learning is owned with greater passion and learners are pushed to think more deeply as a result of the interaction with their peers.
<b>Product.</b> Most learners are pushed to be complete, leaving no room for trial, error, self-discovery, etc.	<b>Process.</b> Youthfront’s content is about the process of learning. It recognizes that learners learn at different paces and that the passion to own something takes some longer to acquire than others.

Adapted from *A New Kind of Youth Ministry*, by Chris Folmsbee. Zondervan, 2006. Used with permission.

# Kids Camp Session Daily Schedule

Monday/Thursday	Tuesday/Friday	Wednesday/Saturday
9:00am Registration Begins 10:00am Camp Kickoff 11:15am Cabin Time 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm Free Time 5:00pm Afternoon Gathering <b>Friendship</b> (Maundy Thursday) 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Cabin Chill Time 7:15pm Cabin Activities 8:30pm HYPE: Nightstrike 10:00pm Back to Cabins 10:30pm Compline/Lights Out	7:30am Wake Up 8:15am Morning Prayer 8:30am Breakfast 9:00am Morning Gathering <b>Forgiveness</b> (Good Friday) 9:45am Cabin Activities 11:15am HYPE: Shaving Cream War 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm Free Time 5:00pm Afternoon Gathering <b>Hope</b> (Resurrection Sunday) 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Cabin Chill Time 7:15pm Cabin Activities 8:30pm HYPE: Polar Pool Party 10:00pm Back to Cabins 10:30pm Compline/Lights Out	7:30am Wake Up 8:15am Breakfast 9:00am Cabin Clean & Pack 9:15am Camp Finale / Parent Meeting 10:00am Open Time 11:00am Close Camp

## Session 5 Daily Schedule

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00am Registration Begins 10:00am Camp Kickoff 11:00am Cabin Time 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm Free Time 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Evening Gathering <b>Friendship</b> (Maundy Thursday) 7:45pm Cabin Reflection 8:45pm HYPE: Nightstrike 10:15pm Back to Cabins 10:45pm Compline / Lights Out	7:30am Wake Up 8:15am Morning Prayer 8:30am Breakfast 9:00am Morning Gathering <b>Forgiveness</b> (Good Friday) 10:00am Camper Reflection 10:30am Cabin Activities 12:00pm Midday 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm HYPE: Shaving Cream War 2:00pm Free Time 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Evening Gathering <b>Hope</b> (Resurrection Sunday) 7:45pm Cabin Reflection 8:45 HYPE: Polar Pool Party! 10:45pm Compline / Lights Out	7:30am Wake Up 8:15am Morning Prayer 8:30am Breakfast 9:00am Morning Gathering <b>Hope</b> (Resurrection Sunday) 10:00am Camper Reflection 10:30am Cabin Activities 12:00pm Midday 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm Free Time 4:30pm Cabin Clean & Pack 5:00pm Camp Finale / Parent Meeting 5:30pm Open Time 6:00pm Close Camp

# Upside Down: the way of Jesus

## General Overview of the Session

Throughout Jesus' time on earth, He showed his love and compassion towards humanity in completely surprising, unexpected ways. Primarily, He changed the way people understood God's relationship with people, turning their views of the Messiah upside down. During our session at camp, we will focus specifically on the events of Holy Week and how Jesus interacted with the disciples. Maundy Thursday, the night when he served the Last Supper, **Jesus shows us true friendship** by accepting the disciples just as they were. On Good Friday, when he was arrested, tried, and crucified, **Jesus shows us God's forgiveness**. On Easter Sunday, **Jesus' resurrection gives us hope** for new life.

## Afternoon Gathering - Friendship

### *Scripture:*

Luke 22:7-20; John 12:12-16; 13:13:34-35

### *Big Idea:*

We want the campers to see how **Jesus shows us true friendship** by accepting the disciples just as they were.

### *Afternoon Gathering General Direction:*

Jesus' actions during the events of Maundy Thursday demonstrated to his disciples that they belonged just as they were. Jesus served his disciples and invited them to sit with him at his Last Supper, even knowing they would betray him. Doing this redefined what it means to belong in the family of God. Simply put, we all belong. In our culture, much like the culture of the disciples, there is a belief that your worth comes from your abilities or your possessions. We want campers to know that **Jesus shows us true friendship** and that God loves us no matter what.

### *Cabin Experience:*

Campers will work together in groups of three in a challenge to collect the right colors and numbers of rubber bands and to launch them at a target across the room. They will then work together using these rubber bands to create a piece of art. Once assembled, each cabin's piece of art will come together to form a much larger piece with the message, "You Belong."

## Morning Gathering - Forgiveness

### *Scripture:*

Luke 22:47-23:49

### *Big Idea:*

We want campers to see that **Jesus shows us God's forgiveness.**

### *Morning Gathering General Direction:*

The events that happened to Jesus on Good Friday reveal a God who loves His enemies. As the early morning hours proceeded, disciples abandoned Jesus, and crowds screamed for his crucifixion. Very few people remained loyal while Jesus was arrested, tried and crucified. Rather than through seeking revenge, Jesus demonstrated how true power comes from sacrifice, submission, and forgiveness. When Christians observe Good Friday each year, we remember Christ's love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We want campers to walk away knowing Jesus as a victor over hate, death, and sin, and also to remember that **Jesus shows us God's forgiveness.**

### *Cabin Experience:*

Campers will use a balancing scale to illustrate the difference between God's forgiveness and our own flawed sense of justice. Each camper will be given a certain number of identical objects to use in weighing down the side of a homemade scale on which they stand. We will have them experiment both with their own understanding of what is "fair" and with their ideas concerning the way God's justice works in our world.

## Evening Gathering - Hope

### *Scripture:*

John 20

### *Big Idea:*

We want campers to see that **Jesus' resurrection gives us hope**, showing us the new life that God has in store for humanity.

### *Afternoon Gathering General Direction:*

Through the events of Good Friday and the despair of Saturday, the disciples probably felt that God was absent. They may have asked, "Where is God in this?" It might have been difficult for them to see that God was still present when things were going so poorly. In this case, it was easy for them to feel as though death may be getting the last word. However, because of the resurrection, the world now has a better story. The bad things that happen don't last forever. We want campers to see how **Jesus' resurrection gives us hope** for new life. Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus gathered his disciples and invited them to begin the mission of sharing about this new life with the world. Likewise, God invites us to carry out this mission in the world today.

### *Cabin Experience:*

Campers will participate in an activity with two phases. The first phase is identifying seeds, matching them with their fully grown plants, and discussing the potential each seed has for life. The second phase is planting wildflower seeds and examining new life that came from seeds planted in previous sessions of camp.