



2019 Kids Camp Sessions  
(Including 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, "Mary: A Life of Love." Our session of camp will take us on a journey through some major moments of Mary's life and notice how her story helps us see Jesus and understand God's love.

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 **Ben Snethen**, our Cabin Leader Director at Youthfront Camps. Ben or one of our Cabin Leader Supervisors 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 Ben at [bsnethen@youthfront.com](mailto:bsnethen@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.
- **80s Pool Party**- Comb your mullet, slip on your leg warmers, and dial back your DeLorean to 1985 for our totally tubular 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

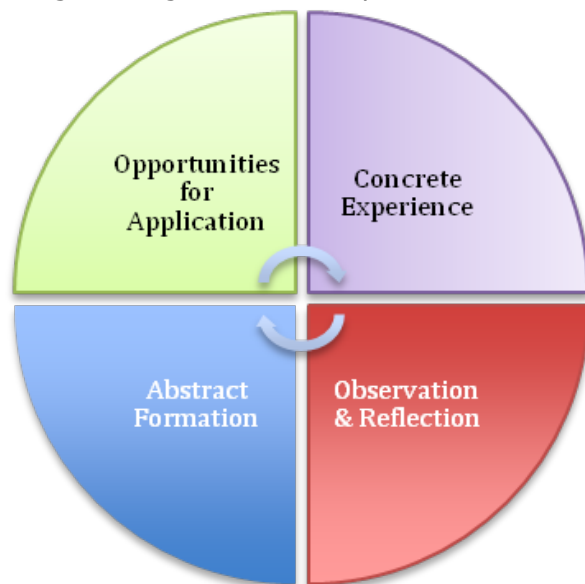
Learning takes place in all types of environments. The most effective learning, however, takes place within an environment that is intentional, authentic, transformative, and communal.

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>God loves Mary</b> 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Cabin Chill Time 7:15pm Cabin Activities 8:30pm HYPE - Night Strike 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>Mary responds to God</b> 9:45am Cabin Activities 11:15am HYPE - Shaving Cream War 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm Free Time 5:00pm Afternoon Gathering <b>Mary loves others</b> 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Cabin Chill Time 7:15pm Cabin Activities 8:30pm HYPE - 80s 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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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>God loves Mary</b> 7:45pm Cabin Reflection 8:45pm HYPE - Night Strike 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>God loves Mary</b> 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 HYPE - Relic Hunters 8:30pm Evening Gathering <b>Mary responds to God</b> 9:30pm Cabin Reflection 10:45pm Compline/ Lights Out	7:30am Wake Up 8:15am Morning Prayer 8:30am Breakfast 9:00am Morning Gathering <b>Mary responds to God</b> 10:00am Camper Reflection 10:30am Cabin Activities 12:00pm Midday 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm Free Time 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Evening Gathering <b>Mary loves others</b> 7:45pm Cabin Reflection 8:45pm HYPE - 80s Pool Party 10:00 Back to Cabins 10:45pm 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

# Mary: A Life of Love

**General Overview:** This session of camp will be about learning a life of love by examining the life of Mary. Our hope is to share the story of Mary, an understated hero of the Bible. When we compile our lists of Biblical heroes, we often leave her out. We usually think of Mary only in terms of the Christmas story. While this is an important part of her story, it isn't her whole story. We want to spend some time exploring the entirety of Mary's story, exploring other exciting ways that it relates to Jesus. Our focus is finding different expressions of love in Mary's life, using those expressions of love to point campers back to Jesus, and discovering what it means to be a follower of Christ. The idea is that love is more than a feeling, it requires action on our part.

Mary's life gives us an example of what it means that God is love and that God loves us, that we can believe God's love for us and respond to him in love, and how we can love others. By the end of the session our hope is that campers will know that **God loves them**, will **believe God's love for them** and how God created them to be, and will know that they are **invited to love others around them**.

## Afternoon Gathering - God Loves Mary

### *Scripture:*

Luke 1:26-30

### *Big Idea:*

We want campers to walk away with knowing that God is love.

### *Afternoon Gathering General Direction:*

In this first gathering we are looking at God as true love and that all love comes from God. (1 John 4:7-8) In Mary's story God expresses his love for her through the angel Gabriel. The first words the angel Gabriel said to Mary were, "Greetings, you who are highly favored!" To be highly favored is to be loved. God said this to Mary first. Tomorrow we will see that God was going to ask a big favor of Mary but whether or not Mary was going to carry out this favor didn't change God's love for Mary. Mary was God's daughter and that was all he cared about. This is crazy love! This unconditional love God expressed to Mary is the same love that God has for Jesus and is the same love that Jesus extends to us all.

### *Cabin Experience:*

Cabin leaders will lead campers through a water activity. There will be various objects - tennis ball, stuffed animal, flip flop, etc. and a pitcher of water. The cabin leader will pour water on all the objects and all of them will get wet because that is what happens when you pour water on something. The connection is that God's love is like water, if you come into contact with water you will get loved by God.



## Morning Gathering - Mary Responds to God

*Scripture:* Luke 1:30-55

*Big Idea:* Mary received God's love and believed that she was worthy as God created her to be.

### *Morning Gathering General Direction:*

This morning we will talk about how Mary responded to God's expression of love and how we can choose to respond likewise. Mary's "yes" revealed the trust she had in and the love she had for God by taking on this risk. God spoke love and favor over Mary but she had to accept this for herself. When Mary said "may your word to me be fulfilled" she had to believe that God made her worthy to carry out what God was asking of her. Even if she had doubts in herself, again, she had trust in God that he would give her the strength that she would need. Mary responded to God's expression of love by accepting and believing this love and showing love to God in return.

### *Cabin Experience:*

This activity will illustrate the difference between receiving and experiencing. Campers will go through having a coupon for candy, being given candy but not opening the candy, opening the candy but not eating the candy, and finally being able to eat the candy and experience it. In the end, we want campers to receive God's love for them and to experience that love in its fullness.

## Afternoon Gathering - Mary Loves Others

*Scripture:* John 2:1-11

*Big Idea:*

Mary lived a life of love that touched and affected people around her.

*Afternoon Gathering General Direction:*

After Mary believed in God's love for her and believed that she was worthy to carry out God's request of her, Mary didn't let this be the end of love in her life. Mary lived a life of love that impacted the people in her life. The event in Mary's life in which we will look at her life of love this afternoon is when she went to wedding celebrations in Cana with Jesus.

Mary's life, like Jesus', impacted the people around her. God worked in and through Mary to show love to people. Her words and her actions mattered. We want campers to walk away with the knowledge that God is working in them and through them to love people in their life. They too can do small things with big love and have an impact.

*Cabin Experience:*

Campers will participate in a message relay game that involves reflecting with mirrors a specific message back to a teammate. We want campers to understand that they can reflect God's love to impact others around them.