



2021 Kids Camp Sessions

Groups Preview Packet

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A Message to Youth Workers

Dear Group Leaders & Youth Workers,

We probably don't tell you enough about how much we admire you and your work with teenagers. It's been an incredibly difficult year of ministry, and we applaud you for your tireless work in this pandemic era to find creative ways to connect and minister with your youth. You are our heroes!

We are upbeat and optimistic about our camp sessions this summer. As the world begins to slowly emerge from the pandemic, we are working hard with our medical director and team to provide programming and protocols that will keep everybody healthy and safe. When we get closer to the summer, we'll communicate those protocols on our website.

We believe camp plays a vital role (but not the only role) in the spiritual formation of students. Our hope is that what we do at camp will amplify the rhythms and practices your group creates throughout the rest of the year. Our aim is to assist you as you help youth grow in their relationship 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 to 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 Senior Program Coordinator 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.

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.
 - **Costume ideas:** camo, dark clothing, close-toed shoes are a must! No face paint or scary costumes.
 - **Volunteer Cabin Leader involvement:** Play along with your campers or join the action as a Striker. One of the HYPE Crew members can give you instructions on when to meet up and how to play as a Striker.
- **Shaving Cream Party** – 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.
- **Poolside Yuletide:** It's Christmas in July! The weather outside may not be frightful, but the fireside entertainment, Christmas themed mini-games, and pool party will be delightful. Don your favorite Christmas sweater, or come as a beloved Christmas character for this holiday hang!
 - **Costume ideas:** swimwear, but with a Christmas twist: Christmas sweaters, Santa coats, reindeer antlers, snowmen, etc.
 - **Volunteer Cabin Leader involvement:** Hop into the pool activities! We're always welcoming brave volunteers to show off their skills during the staff belly flop contest! You can also assist with the Yuletide fire (complete with S'mores & hot cocoa) & games.

If you have any questions about our HYPE themes, reach out to Ryan Ganaban, our Program Coordinator at Youthfront Camp West: rganaban@youthfront.com.

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 misaunders@youthfront.com or our Director of Camps, Andy Garlich at agarlich@youthfront.com.

Grace and Peace,
Youthfront Camp Staff

Youthfront Camps: Learning Theory and Practice

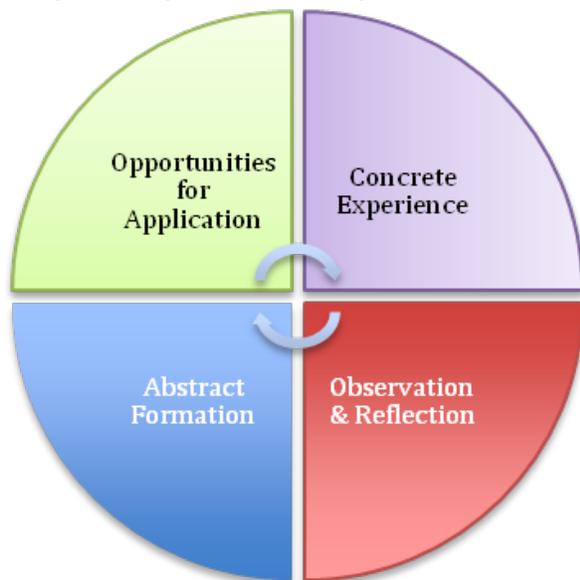
Learning takes place in all types of environments. The most effective learning, however, takes place within an environment that is intentional, authentic, transformative, and communal.

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.¹



¹ <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.

Moving from...	Moving to...
Preferences of the teacher. Most information that adolescents get is filtered through the skills and preferences of the one disseminating the information.	Needs of the adolescent. Youthfront’s content takes into consideration the needs, styles, and habits of the adolescent and creates learning opportunities with the learner in mind first.
Static in nature. Typically, most learning environments are predictable and fixed.	Always evolving. Youthfront’s content is always looking for ways to create dynamic, unpredictable, and mobile learning opportunities.
Breadth. How much information can we teach?	Depth. How deep can we help learners go in any given topic?
Rote. Memorization is good. However, memorization alone doesn’t produce a lasting effect on a learner.	Experiential. Youthfront’s content provides learners with the opportunity to learn through practice and ongoing application.
Solo. 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.	Peer to Peer. 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.
Product. Most learners are pushed to be complete, leaving no room for trial, error, self-discovery, etc.	Process. 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

Subject to modification due to Covid Protocols*

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 Free Time ends 5:15pm Afternoon Gathering Bread of Life 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Cabin Chill Time & Activities 8:30pm HYPE: <i>Night Strike</i> 10:00pm Back to Cabins 10:30pm Compline & Lights Out	7:30am Wake Up 8:00am Morning Prayer 8:15am Breakfast 9:15am Morning Gathering Light of the World 10:00am Cabin Activities 11:15am HYPE: <i>Shaving Cream PARTY</i> 12:30pm Lunch 1:00pm Free Time 5:00pm Free Time ends 5:15pm Afternoon Gathering Good Shepherd 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Cabin Chill Time 7:15pm Cabin Activities 8:30pm HYPE: <i>Poolside Yuletide</i> 10:00pm Back to Cabins 10:30pm Compline & Lights Out	7:30am Wake Up 8:00am Breakfast 9:00am Cabin Clean & Pack 9:15am Camp Finale 10:00am Open Time 11:00am Close Camp

Who I AM

Throughout their childhood, kids are experiencing time with themselves, friends, and family. They are watching those around them and trying out different things to figure out who they are. This is something that they may know they are doing, or it may be something that they are unaware of to a certain extent. Nonetheless, it is still happening. They may start asking questions about themselves, and even may start asking questions about God, faith, life, and why hard things happen.

Similar to how identity formation is an important step in a child's development, finding one's identity in Christ is an important step of Christian formation. But what does it mean to "find your identity in Christ"? We can begin by exploring Jesus' own self-identity as recorded in the Gospel of John (his "I Am" statements) alongside the Creation account of humanity being created in the image of God. As we take a look at who Jesus says he is, we can begin to understand who God has created us to be.

Our session of camp will focus on the I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. In John, Jesus describes himself with rich metaphors that give us wisdom as to how we should understand him and his significance for us in our daily lives. Jesus' statements are object lessons of sorts, illustrating for his followers his relationship to God and the depth of God's love and care for humanity. Each of these statements also echo the creation story in Genesis 1:26-27, where God speaks of creating humanity in God's own image, what we sometimes call the *Imago Dei*. Simply put, we are created to reflect God.

As we take a closer look at these "I AM" statements, campers will explore what Jesus meant with each of these metaphors (Bread, Light, and Shepherd) and consider their implications for us as humans created in God's image. Jesus shows us a way of life that often gets lost, and throughout the entire session, campers will be given invitations to trust and follow Jesus into this way of life. By the end of the session, we want campers to walk away with more understanding of "Who I Am" with a deeper sense of God's love for them and a desire to keep exploring and learning about who God is, which includes loving others as Jesus loves them.

Monday / Thursday Afternoon Gathering

Bread of Life

Text/Story: John 6:1-13, 6:35

Big Idea: We want campers to know that Jesus invites us to experience the everlasting presence of God.

Camper Statement: “If Jesus is the Bread of Life, then I am provided for.”

Afternoon Gathering General Direction:

In John 6, a crowd of people are following Jesus because they’ve seen him do miraculous things. In order to take care of the crowd in the moment, Jesus does something completely unexpected by feeding the five thousand people with nothing but five loaves of bread and two fish. It was an incredible feast and satisfied the crowd for the moment, but they still pursued Jesus thinking that he would continue to do miraculous things for them. Jesus explains to the crowd that continues to follow him that they are only looking for him because he fulfills what they have been wanting (food), but his actions point to something greater. Then Jesus says something crazy: that he is the “bread of life,” and that whoever comes to him will not be hungry, and whoever believes in him will not be thirsty (John 6:35). Jesus is talking about living a life fully in the presence of God, and that is something that fills us up more than just in our bodies, but in all parts of us: filling our hearts with love, and bringing our minds peace. No matter what we eat, we will still end up feeling physically hungry. But when we live our lives pointed toward Jesus, that is when we experience life to the fullest, and we can experience the everlasting presence of God. Campers will be invited to trust Jesus to show us God’s presence.

Cabin Experience Summary:

Campers will have an object lesson about temporary and everlasting by comparing their experience eating a quick dissolving candy (pop rocks, perhaps?) and an everlasting gobstopper. The campers will then engage in a bracket-style “showdown” in which they will be presented with different scenarios that answer the prompt “life would be better if....” Once the campers narrow down to the scenario that would “make life best,” the campers will have a discussion about the two activities, where the goal is to show that even when things seem to promise long term fulfillment, they don’t compare to the wholeness that comes from Jesus.

Tuesday / Friday Morning Gathering

Light of the World

Text/Story: John 9:1-6, John 8:12

Big Idea: We want campers to trust Jesus as the Light of the World.

Camper Statement: “If Jesus is the Light of the World, then I am God’s reflection.”

Afternoon Gathering General Direction:

Lights are a big part of human celebrations. This was true in Jesus’ day too! During one of these festivals of lights, Jesus healed a blind man. But right before Jesus healed the man, Jesus made a statement about himself. He said, “I am the light of the world.” The story can be found in John 9:1-6.

By saying he was the light of the world, Jesus was reminding his disciples that they could trust him--they wouldn’t have to walk in darkness. To show us what God’s work is like, Jesus helped the man who was blind to be able to see. Not only did Jesus help the blind man see, but also Jesus showed that he brings God’s light into the world.

Even though we may be able to physically see, sometimes we feel “blind” or “in the dark” because we feel confused or uncertain about things. We may ask questions like, “When will Covid end? Will my baseball team win the tournament? What is my teacher this year going to be like? Will kids at school make fun of me?” Because Jesus is the light of the world, we can trust him even when we feel “in the dark” about something. John 8:12 reminds us that as we follow Jesus, we won’t walk in darkness, but instead have Jesus’ light of life. Jesus also wants to work in and through us so that we can reflect God’s light (love and hope) with others. Campers will be invited to trust Jesus as the light of the world who will guide their lives and will be their source of help when reflecting God’s light to the world.

Cabin Experience Summary:

Campers will work together on laser and target challenge. Each round, the target will be placed in a less direct path from the laser, increasing the difficulty of the challenge, and campers will work together using mirrors to reflect the light around the room in order to hit the target.

Tuesday / Friday Afternoon Gathering

Good Shepherd

Text/Story: John 10:11-18

Big Idea: We want campers to see that Jesus cares for us, knows us, protects us, and watches out for us.

Camper Statement: “If Jesus is The Good Shepherd, then I am cared for.”

Afternoon Gathering General Direction:

Take some time to explain the role of shepherding in New Testament times. What did shepherds do? Why were they important? Sheep were an extremely valuable and necessary commodity in Jesus' time and place. If we are Jesus' sheep, what does that say about us? What does it say about Jesus? Our scripture for this theme tells us what the Good Shepherd does. He lays down his life for the sheep, meaning that he willingly sacrifices his own body and life and safety to save us (v. 11). The Good Shepherd knows his sheep, and his sheep know him (v. 14). And finally, the Good Shepherd is searching for ALL the sheep in the world, because all of us belong to one flock. We know his voice, and we know that he is the one who cares for us, knows us, protects us, and watches out for us. Campers will be invited to trust and follow Jesus.

Cabin Experience ideas:

Campers will play a game where they are blindfolded and guided by Cabin Leaders who will use verbal cues to bring them safely back to their cabins. The hope with this experience is to mirror the level of care and trustworthiness of Christ as the Good Shepherd.