

CHURCH GROUP GATHERING GUIDE

WHAT IS CHURCH GROUP GATHERING?

Church Group Gathering is a time after Evening Session to connect and pour into your group. It is *yours* to lead and develop. We believe this time as one large group is vital to connect and debrief with your students. They can digest and process what the Lord is teaching them and share about their experiences with other students and leaders who will continue speaking into their lives.

We want to serve you in any way we can. If you need anything to make your Church Group Gathering time happen, please do not hesitate to ask!

Our prayer is that your Church Group Gathering each night fosters deep community, healthy accountability, and a clearer view of Jesus for your students.

CHURCH GROUP GATHERING IDEAS

We believe Church Group Gathering is most effective when you are able to tailor it specifically for your group. Because of that, we do not provide any formal curriculum. We won't leave you hanging though! Here are some ideas.

TIME OF SHARING

Let students talk about their camp or life experience. Ask them what they are learning from Bible study, quiet time, the camp pastor or band, etc.

CHALLENGE FROM STUDENT PASTOR

Use this distraction-free opportunity to personally challenge or encourage your students.

LATE NIGHT SNACKS

There's something special about breaking bread together... even if it's cookies. (Please keep your meeting space clean!)

PRAYER OR ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS

Intentionally connect students so they can pray together and for one another.

Pro Tip // *Whether you use some of these ideas or do your own thing, come in to Church Group Gathering with a plan!*

EXTENDED WORSHIP

Let your students or adults bring their instruments and lead this time.

AFFIRMATION TIME

Allowing students, adults, or even just you to speak affirmation can deliver a tremendous life impact. There are a variety of ways you can do this. One way is to write each student's name on a piece of paper and have everyone rotate throughout the room writing encouraging words for the person whose name is on the paper.

GIRLS' AND GUYS' NIGHT

Host a gender specific time of sharing and prayer. Plan fun activities that you know your guys and girls will like!

Pro Tip // Save announcements for the end of your Church Group Gathering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Group Gathering is a time for you and your students to be in the same place with minimal distractions. It's the perfect time to share specific announcements for your group, go over the schedule, or remind students of travel logistics on the last night of camp.

CONNECT WITH STUDENT LIFE STAFF

Ask one or more of our staff to share their heart and stories with your group.

SENIOR NIGHT

Your senior's last time attending camp is a special time. This can be a cool time to honor them and have them speak to the group. Towards the end, have them commission the juniors to be leaders in the coming year.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Looking for some ways to help guide discussion? Here are some questions that are based on each day's Bible Study and paired with a quick review of the Main Point and Focus Verse of the day. Use these in conjunction with some of the ideas above to help get the most out of your Church Group Gathering.

Again, these are just tools to equip you, if needed. Feel free to use this time however you feel will best fit your group!

NIGHT 1 — PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCES

MAIN POINT // We take heart because God has kept His promises in the past and will keep His promises in the future.

FOCUS VERSE — JOSHUA 1:9 // “Haven’t I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from what you learned about Joshua and Rahab?
- What makes it hard for you to trust God?
- One reason it can be hard is that we forget His past promises and faithfulness. How can we help ourselves remember these things?
- How have you been encouraged today by the truth that God’s past faithfulness means you can confidently approach the future?
- What is something that you are praying God would do in you this week?
- What are you hopeful for and excited about? Is there anything that you are anxious about?

NIGHT 2 — STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS

MAIN POINT // We take heart in our weaknesses because God is our strength.

FOCUS VERSE — EXODUS 4:12 // “Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Were there any parts of Moses’ story that you related to?
- What are the areas in your life where you feel weakest?
- What are some promises you can remind yourself of when you feel weak?
- How have you been encouraged today by the truth that God is your stronghold in weakness?

NIGHT 3 — LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT // We take heart trusting that God's love for us is greater than any suffering we encounter in life.

FOCUS VERSE — MATTHEW 26:39 // "Going a little farther, he fell face down and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.'"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus prayed honestly and openly with God in the garden. Do you pray like this? Why or why not?
- What suffering have you experienced in the past year?
- What is your reaction to the truth that Jesus' own suffering means He knows what you feel like when you suffer?
- How have you been encouraged today by the truth that God loves you and is near you when you suffer?

NIGHT 4 — GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT // We take heart through Jesus' resurrection knowing that He is greater and has overcome the world.

FOCUS VERSE — DANIEL 6:22 // "When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from what you learned about Daniel's life?
- Though you may not get thrown into a den of lions, what do you think it might cost you to boldly live out your faith like Daniel?
- How would your life look different if you lived like all of your opponents (sin, Satan, a world opposed to God) were already defeated?
- How have you been encouraged today by the truth that God is greater than any and all of our opponents?
- What is the biggest thing you have learned this week?
- How can you take what you've learned and apply it back home?