



CHURCH GROUP TIME GUIDE 6-DAY

SUMMER 2023



IN HIS IMAGE

CREDITS

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INTRODUCTION

Church Group Time

Immediately following Worship each night, your students and adults will gather as a group. You have freedom to lead this time however you feel is best for those of you who came together from your church. The purpose of this material is to provide a guide for you to use, if you desire and need help structuring this time.

Purposes for Church Group Time:

1. **Continue Worship.** The Lord may have stirred the hearts of your students during Worship, so you may want to continue in this spirit. Some of your students may have made decisions that they need to make public to your group. Perhaps you will want to continue the discussion of the sermon.
2. **Debrief Night Life.** This summer, we are offering a Night Life with a mission focus. The Night Life will follow Worship with Church Group Time afterward. The plan for the night of the third full day of camp is written as a debrief of this Night Life.
3. **Reflect on the daily theme and what the Lord has done.** Time for reflection is critical at camp, especially since so much happens with a busy schedule throughout the day. One of the best ways to help students experience transformation is by creating space to process the day's events and acknowledge God's presence in their lives. Reflection allows time for everyone to slow down enough for their hearts to catch up with their minds or their thoughts.
4. **Pray together as a group.** One of the deepest connections we can make as human beings is through praying together. Praying with and for someone is one of the most meaningful ways to care for them. Students may not remember what you say, but they do remember how you made them feel.
5. **Share important information and announcements.** Some administrative items will need to be shared such as walking through the schedule, sharing details about Night Life, talking about the mission emphasis, and so forth. You may want to wait and share these at the end of this time so that you do not disrupt the spirit that was started during Worship.

You may lead each of these sessions yourself, involve the adult sponsors from your group, or ask students to help lead. You may choose to use this material, use your own plan, or allow this to be a reflection and share time. Whatever way you choose, we suggest you prepare this time before camp. **If you follow this plan, you will want to**



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designate small family groups (same or mixed gender, four to six people, including adult sponsors in these groups).

Please dismiss your group in time for them to get to the next program element or to their rooms by curfew.

Church Group Host

Your group will have a staff host during your time at camp. This host will escort you and your group from Worship to your Church Group Time location. Make sure your students get to know your host. Give time for your host to introduce himself to your group on Opening Night. The staffer will check in with you daily and may sit in on one of your Church Group Times. She will eat meals and sit with your group during Worship periodically, as possible, throughout the camp session.

We hope this material will help you get the most out of your Church Group Time at the end of each day at camp.

The FUGE Camps Team

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Opening Night

In His Image

Supplies:

- Index card and pen for each person

Prepare:

- Assign students and adults to family groups.

Welcome

Welcome your group to Church Group Time. Explain to your students that this time will be an opportunity for your group to share stories, pray together, and celebrate what God is doing over the course of camp.

Allow time for your church host to share briefly and pray over your group.

Hopes and Fears

Ask students to share from their experience so far, such as how their time was in Bible Study, Worship, and so forth.

Distribute an index card and pen to each person. Give students and adults time to write their hopes for camp on one side of their card and their fears on the other side. Allow them to share their answers in family groups (if you choose to assign these groups) or as one large group. Ask students and adults to place their index cards on the floor in the center of the room, and then instruct everyone to stand in a circle around them to pray over these hopes and fears.

Say: **“The fact that each of us is at camp this week is no accident. God wants to stir your heart and move you. Let’s live undistracted this week, let go of our fears, and focus on God, expecting Him to work in big ways in our lives.”**

Theme Interpretation

Say: **“As you have heard in your Bible Study group and in Worship tonight, the camp theme this summer is In His Image.”** Ask: **“What is an image?”**

Accept varied answers and then say: **“Dictionary.com defines image as a physical likeness or representation of a person, animal, or thing, photographed, painted, sculptured, or otherwise made visible.”**

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Show a photo from your phone of someone most everyone in the group will recognize, such as your pastor or a special member of your congregation. Ask students if the photo or image is actually that person. Say: **“Of course, this photo is not the real person. The image can’t speak, think, act, and so forth, but it does show much about the person and what they are like.”**

Say: **“Over these next few days, we will be learning about how we are created in the image of God. We are NOT God, but we are created to be like Him and to reflect His attributes. God created us in His image to be perfect, but sin distorted that image. God, however, sent His perfect image, Jesus Christ, to restore God’s image in us as we accept Him as our Savior and Lord.**

Read aloud the theme verse, **2 Corinthians 3:18:**

“We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

Within their family groups or small groups, lead everyone to discuss this question: **How can we as a youth group be a reflection of Christ at camp and when we get back home?**

After everyone has had a time to share, invite groups to pray together.

Mission Focus

Say: **“Over the next few days, we will see and hear about missions and the emphasis for this summer. We will also collect money for a mission offering that will be a part of Worship on the last night of camp. FUGE Camps is partnering with the International Mission Board to minister to and reach the Embera people group of South America with the gospel and the North American Mission Board to assist missionaries in Portland, Oregon, in reaching that city for Christ.”**

Challenge students not to spend all their money on snacks and other items but to save some to give to missions. Consider setting a church group goal. Pray for the mission emphasis and the offering and your group’s part in it.

Prayer – First-Time Campers

Recognize those students who are attending FUGE Camps for the first time. Invite those students who have been to camp in the past to speak encouragement to these students. As you lead students to stand in one large circle, ask the first-time campers to step into the middle of that circle. Call on a student who has been to camp several times to pray for these first-time campers.



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Announcements

Walk through the daily schedule, make announcements, share rules, and cover any other administrative items as needed.

Parent Check-In

Lead students to send a text to their parents letting them know that they made it to camp and are having a great time. Dismiss students to Hang Time and remind them that they must be in their rooms at 11:00 p.m.

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Night of First Full Day

Image of God

Supplies:

- Index card, sticky note, and pen for each person

Prepare:

- Assign five students one of the noted Scripture passages and ask them to be ready to read it aloud (Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 3:1; 1 Peter 2:9; Isaiah 64:8; and Genesis 1:27).

Welcome

Welcome everyone to Church Group Time.

Reflections on the Day

Invite students and adults to gather in their family groups (or small groups) and to share highlights of the day, such as new experiences, things that stood out or made an impact, how God has spoken to them, and so forth. After 10-12 minutes, lead groups to pray together, thanking God for a great day.

Reflections on the Daily Theme

Give each student an index card and a pen. Ask them to number their card 1-8. Then, ask the following questions and instruct students to write their answers on their card.

1. What is your favorite dessert?
2. What is your middle name?
3. How many pets do you have? What are your pets?
4. How many sisters and brothers do you have?
5. What is one of your hobbies?
6. What is your favorite television show or movie?
7. What is your favorite Bible verse or story?
8. What do you want to be when you grow up?

Once students have had time to answer these questions, lead them to find a partner and share their answers to the first two questions. Then, instruct them to find another partner and share answers to questions 3-4. Continue this for two more rounds.

Ask a few students to share something they learned about another student. Say: **"I hope this activity has helped us get to know each other better tonight. In Bible Study today,**

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you learned that you were created in God's image, were wondrously and intricately made, and were formed and are known by God. God knows all there is to know about you, and He loves you deeply."

Call on a student to read aloud Psalm 139:13-16. Say: **"As we think about the intricate details that went into our lives being created, our response should be to worship God."** If you have students who lead worship back home for your youth group or a student who plays guitar and sings, invite them to lead in a couple songs.

Invite the five students you asked before the session to read aloud their verses, one at a time: Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 3:1; 1 Peter 2:9; Isaiah 64:8; and Genesis 1:27.

Say: **"The truth of knowing that we are created uniquely and loved by God should impact how we see ourselves and others. This should help us to change our perspective to see ourselves and others as Christ does."**

Give each student another index card or a sticky note and ask them to write a word of encouragement to another student or adult in the group. Once they are done, challenge them to pass their encouragement note to their person after you break.

Prayer – Adult Sponsors

Recognize those adults who are at camp with the group. Allow students to share encouraging words to these adults. Make a big deal out of saying thank you and appreciating these adults. Invite an older student to pray for these adults.

Announcements

Share any announcements and dismiss for Night Life – At the Movies. Remind students to be in their rooms by 11:00 p.m.

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Night of Second Full Day of Camp

Image Distorted

Supplies:

- Index card and pen for each person

Prepare:

- None

Welcome

Welcome everyone to Church Group Time.

Reflections of the Day

Invite students and adults to gather in their family groups (or small groups) and to share highlights of the day such as new experiences, things that stood out or made an impact, how God has spoken to them, and so forth. After 10-12 minutes, lead groups to pray together, thanking God for a great day.

Reflections on the Daily Theme

Ask: **“What comes to mind when you hear the word, ‘distorted’?”** Allow responses.

Ask by a show of hands if anyone in the group has ever been to a house of mirrors or looked into a fun mirror at a carnival. Call on some of those who raised their hands and ask them to describe what they saw or experienced.

Say: **“A house of mirrors and a fun mirror cause distortions in their reflections that are confusing and disorienting. The definition of distort is to alter, change, or twist out of the natural, original state.”**

Read aloud **Genesis 3:1-7**.

Say: **“God created man and woman and gave them the perfect place to reside. He gave them instructions not to eat the fruit of one particular tree. The serpent deceived them and as a result, they disobeyed God and ate of that tree. When they did, sin entered the world, and we were separated from God. Sin distorted God’s image in us.”** Ask: **“What does it mean for the image of God to be distorted in us due to sin?”**

Ask: **“How did the devil deceive Adam and Eve?”** (*He caused Eve to question what God really said and meant. He told her that she would not die. She wanted the wisdom that came with eating from the tree.*)

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Say: **“The devil wants nothing more than to destroy what God is doing in our lives. The Bible warns us not to give the devil any part of our lives. Even now, he is creating so many opportunities for us to give him what is called a foothold. Maybe he has distracted you tonight so that you cannot hear what the Lord may be saying to you. Maybe you are worried or fearful of something back home. Maybe you have opened yourself up to media or the influence of others who are not believers. Maybe the devil is tempting you in a big way. We must be careful and be on our guard.”**

Ask if anyone has heard the phrase, “give an inch and he’ll take a mile.” Explain that when we open ourselves up to the ways of the devil, even if it is in a small way, we are opening ourselves up to the potential of total destruction. He often starts small and goes bigger.

Give each student and adult an index card and pen and ask them to respond to the following: **“How have you allowed the devil to have a foothold and distort the image of God in your life?”**

Challenge them to spend some reflection time on that question and list anything that the Holy Spirit may reveal. After a minute or so, invite students to pray over what they listed, confessing and asking God to help them overcome and not allow the devil to have any part in their lives.

Discuss the following as a large group:

- **How does the sin of individuals affect the entirety of our youth group?**
- **What impact does it have on students outside the walls of the church when they see us do things during the week or on the weekend that do not bring God glory and then go to church on Sunday?**

Say: **“We were created to be image bearers of God. Sin distorts God’s image in us. Because of our sin, our relationship with God and with each other is impacted. That is not the end of the story! Tomorrow in Bible study, we will see how God had a plan of redemption and renewal.”** Lead students to go back to their index card and to write the name “Jesus” on top of the strongholds they listed there.

Prayer - Church Back Home (Including Parents)

Within family groups, spend time praying for your pastor and church staff, ministries of your church and church members who need specific prayers. Be sure to pray for parents, that the Lord has spoken to them this week, too.

Announcements

Share any announcements. Remind students to be in their rooms by 11:00 p.m. Dismiss to Hang Time.

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Night of Third Full Day of Camp

Note: Tonight's Church Group Time is different because it will be a continuation of and reflection on Night Life.

Supplies:

- Index card and pen for each person

Prepare:

- Ask an adult sponsor or older student to share a personal story of sharing the gospel with someone (optional).

Welcome

Welcome everyone to Church Group Time. Say: **"Tonight will be a time to think about others, about missions, and continue our Night Life focus."** Ask students to share their thoughts of the Night Life that they just experienced and some things they learned.

Read aloud **Genesis 1:27**.

Say: **"We are learning this week that everyone is created in the image of God, so what does this mean for how we treat other people?"** Allow time for students to respond.

Say: **"We should treat people as image bearers, and if they don't know they are created to be an image bearer, we need to help them know. We have talked about the Embera people this week, and while you may not be able to go overseas just yet to share Jesus, you can share Him right where you are."**

Share a personal story with your students of a time when you have shared the gospel with someone. Ask if there is an adult sponsor or older student who also wants to share their story.

Lead students to discuss the following questions. You can do this in family groups or as a large group.

1. **Have you ever shared the gospel with someone?**
2. **What has kept you from sharing the gospel with others?**
3. **How can you live out the gospel to others?**

Pass out index cards and pens and give the students time to write down their answers to this question: **"What is your next step in sharing the gospel?"** (Here are some examples you may want to share: start a Christian club at school; tell someone at your

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ministry site about Jesus; tell a family member about what Jesus has done in your life while at camp; be a good neighbor and start gospel conversations, etc.)

Once you have allowed some time, ask if anyone wants to share. Challenge students to share with at least one person what they wrote on their card.

Collect cards and follow up with students to help them follow through with what is on their cards.

Mission Offering

Say: **“Now that we have learned more about the Embera people, missions, and sharing Jesus with others, we can take the next step of giving money to help with sharing the gospel with this people group.”**

Collect any mission offering money and tell students and adults that this will be given during worship the next night so there is time to give later if they don't have their money with them. Remind students of the goal your group set on Opening Night (if you set one).

Prayer – Missions

Spend time praying for missions, specifically for IMB missionaries Kenny and Cheryl Morris as they minister to the Embera people, and NAMB missionaries Vergel and Kelsey Brown as they minister to the people of Portland. Also pray for the missions offering.

Announcements

Share any announcements. Remind students to be in their rooms by 11:00 p.m. Dismiss to Hang Time.

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Night of Four Full Day of Camp

Image Shared

Supplies:

- Sheets of paper and pens

Prepare:

- None

Welcome

Welcome everyone to Church Group Time.

Reflections of the Day

Invite students and adults to gather in their family groups (or small groups) and to share highlights of the day such as new experiences, things that stood out or made an impact, how God has spoken to them, and so forth. After 10-12 minutes, lead groups to pray together, thanking God for a great day.

Reflections on the Daily Theme

Say: **“Once we surrender our lives to Jesus, we are called to share His love and the gospel with others. Last night, we focused on missions and the Embera people, so tonight we are going to focus on our own community.”**

Say: **“Jesus saw people in their current situation. He acknowledged their needs. And, He met them, both physically and spiritually. We must do the same.”**

Lead students and adults to move into their family groups. Ask them to find, read, and discuss one example in the New Testament where Jesus had compassion and met the needs of people. After a short time, allow groups to briefly share.

Give each group a sheet of paper and pen. Lead groups to choose a student to trace her hand on the sheet of paper. Ask groups to make a list of ways the youth group can minister to and make a difference within the walls of the church, to the church members. After some time, allow groups to share.

Invite groups to choose another student to trace their footprint (with shoe on) on the back of the sheet of paper. Ask them to make a list of ways the youth group can minister to and make a difference outside the church walls, in the community. Allow time for groups to share after a few minutes.

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Collect these sheets and use them to plan mission/service projects for the future for your group. Ask the group to stand in a circle. Place the sheets you collected on the floor in the middle. Invite a student to pray for your church and for the youth group to step up and minister to church members in need. Invite another student to pray for your community and for opportunities to reach it for Christ.

Say: **“We are to share our personal story of our initial encounter with Jesus and the gospel with lost people in our schools, our neighborhoods, our city, and around the world. We must be prepared when the opportunity arises.”**

Within groups, allow students and adults to share briefly about their testimony (when they accepted Christ, how old they were, where they were, who was there). Challenge them, in the days ahead, to formulate this into a concise story to tell others. Note: If there are students who have not surrendered to Christ, ask them to describe the time they first remember being aware of God.

Ask groups to read together **John 3:16** and discuss how this verse is the gospel in a nutshell. Make sure students are aware of the three circles diagram in their Camp Guide, which is a method for sharing the gospel. Recall the exercise from last night where they listed next steps for sharing the gospel.

Encourage students to be open to opportunities to share with those who do not know Christ when they get home and to follow through with the steps they noted last night. Make yourself available to those students who have not accepted Christ and do not have a testimony to share.

Share Decisions

Open the floor for students to share any decisions made at camp the last couple of days. Celebrate with these students.

Prayer Time – Seniors Shout-Out and Send-Off

Recognize your seniors who have just graduated high school. Invite them to give a shout-out and a challenge to underclassmen. This should be a time for seniors to encourage the rest of the group.

Then, lead seniors to gather in a circle in the center of the room. Encourage the rest of your group to gather around them, laying hands on them. Pray specifically for the seniors by name. Pray for this next season of life—for them to find biblical community, mentors, and strong Christian friends. Pray that they wouldn’t waver from their faith, but that they would grow deeper in their knowledge of truth and grace.



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Announcements

Share any announcements about loading up and leaving in the morning. Challenge students to be ready to share with people back home about their camp experience and to make it more than “it was fun” or “Mega Relay was the coolest.”

Parent Check-In

Encourage students to text or call their parents to check in and let them know how they are doing. Challenge students to talk with and share with their parents about their camp experience when they get home, especially any decisions made.

Dismiss to either Mega Relay (if your location holds a nighttime Mega Relay) or Hang Time.