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CHURCH GROUP TIME GUIDE

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CHURCH GROUP TIME GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Group Leader,

Welcome to FUGE Camps! We appreciate your partnership and pray that your group will have a great camp experience!

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. Allow 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.

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 your group. 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 this time will give you a chance 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. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.

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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 designate prayer partners** (same gender, 2 to 3 people) **and small family groups** (same or mixed gender, 4 to 6 people—include 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.

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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Night 1: MATCHLESS ONE

Supplies:

- White paper or note cards and pens

Prepare:

- Gather supplies, assign students and adults to family groups, and designate same-gender prayer partners.
- Consider asking students to write thank you/appreciation notes to your adult sponsors before the session. If they do, lead them to hand those to the adults after prayer time.

Welcome your group to Church Group Time. Allow time for your church host to share briefly and pray over your group.

Explain to your students that this time will be a vital part of their camp experience and that they will have the opportunity to share stories, pray together, and celebrate what God is doing over the course of the week. Encourage students to bring their Bibles and pens to this time each night.

Expectations for Camp

Give each student a sheet of paper or note card and a pen. Below are some question prompts to encourage sharing and conversation. Read each question one at a time, allowing time in between for students to respond on their cards.

- **What expectations do you have for your time at camp?**
- **How do you want the Lord to work in your life over the next few days?**
- **What might be a distraction(s) this week that you need to put aside?**

Lead everyone to gather with their smaller family groups. Instruct students to share and discuss their responses with the students in their group. Prompt them to complete their discussion and then choose a student from their group to pray for camp in general and that the Lord will exceed expectations.

Reflections on the Theme

Say: **“The camp theme this summer is Matchless One.”** Ask: **“What comes to mind when you think of the words, Matchless One?”**

Share: The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people God used in extraordinary ways to teach character and truth. Through Isaac’s life, we learn about sacrifice. Joseph’s life shows us the hard-fought beauty of forgiveness and reconciliation.



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Abraham's story teaches us about obedience and forgiveness. From Esther, we learn how to be bold and courageous and take risks. One person in Scripture is the full and complete embodiment of every good trait any other character ever displayed—Jesus. He is the MATCHLESS ONE. This week, we will be studying the lives of these well-known Old Testament characters and how the story of Jesus is foreshadowed in their lives.

Ask: **“How does it make you feel knowing that God used ordinary people in extraordinary ways? Do you believe He still does that today?”** Ask students to reflect on ways God may be wanting to use them.

Lead students and adults within their family groups to turn to **John 1:1-5** and read those verses aloud. Lead a student in each group to put those verses in their own words. Instruct the group to discuss how these verses address Jesus's supremacy.

Say: **“These verses in John 1 point to the divine nature of Jesus. They emphasize His role as the messenger of the Father, highlight that He is the only way to the Father, and stress the impact of personal testimony in bringing others to follow Jesus. He is life and light. He is the Matchless One.”**

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

Prayer — Adult Sponsors

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

Invite students to get with their prayer partners and spend a few minutes praying specifically for one another.

Announcements

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

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 2: MATCHLESS SACRIFICE

Supplies:

- None

Prepare:

- Before the session, ask one of your adults to be prepared to share a personal story of sacrifice for the Lord.

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

The Grand Narrative:	Isaac and Jesus
Scripture:	Genesis 22:1-14; Leviticus 4:27-35; Mark 15:21-37
Life Questions:	How does Jesus's death on the cross for your sins impact your life? What does living sacrificially for Christ mean and how can I live it out?
Key Verse:	Hebrews 9:12

Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son, Isaac, but God provided a ram. The priests were required to make sacrifices for the sins of the people. These were foreshadowing of the sacrifice God provided in Jesus's death on the cross for the sins of humankind. We must live sacrificially for Christ.

Welcome your group to Church Group Time.

Reflections on the Day

Instruct students to get together with their grade groups (6-8th, 9-10th, 11-12th) for Centrifuge and ministry track groups (children's, GAR, PCY and social) for MFuge. Encourage groups to discuss one way they each saw the Lord move today during Bible Study, Hang Time, Worship, and on Ministry Site or at Recreation.

When groups have completed their discussions, open the floor for any person to share a meaningful experience from the day. You may need to place a time limit on each person sharing.

Reflections on the Theme

Ask: **"What is the theme of today?"** (*sacrifice*)

Within their groups, lead students to discuss: **What did you learn about sacrifice from Isaac? From Jesus?** Call on each group to share one thing they discussed.

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Ask students to share a definition of sacrifice that they learned or studied in Bible Study or heard in Worship. Remind students of these four things about sacrifice: 1) it's a choice; 2) it takes a willing heart; 3) it has a cost; 4) it often results in reward.

Lead groups to think of as many things as they can that they have in common. After a short time, ask students to share some examples. Point out that we all have sin in common. Say: **"We are all broken and sinful. Because of our sin, we are separated from God. In order to receive atonement for our sins, there must be a blood sacrifice. Back in Bible days, this was handled through animal sacrifice."**

Read aloud **John 3:16**. Point out that God was willing to give us His only Son for the sins of the world to become the ultimate sacrifice and atonement for our sins. Discuss how each of the four items outlined above were true for Jesus, too. Help students to see the significance of Jesus's death on the cross and sacrifice for all of us.

Call on a student to share a personal story of sacrifice. This could be relating to school or sports or relationships.

Call on the adult volunteer to share their story, and then open the floor for questions.

Invite students who have not made the decision to make Jesus Lord and Savior of their lives to talk to you or an adult and consider making that important decision this week.

Ask: **"As a youth group, how can we make small sacrifices this week for the common good and for the gospel? What sacrifices can we make back home to make a difference for the gospel in our church and community?"** Make two lists of these as they are noted and be sure to refer to them this week and in the future to challenge students to make sacrifices.

Say: **"One way you can sacrifice individually is to save money instead of spending it on snacks and items from the store to give to the mission offering."** Share the mission emphasis this summer. Refer to your Group Leader Folder for this information. Say: **"We will be collecting our mission offering later in the week."** Challenge your group to set a goal for how much they will give to missions.

Share Decisions

Open the floor to students who have made decisions and want to share with the group to do so at this time.

Prayer — Middle School Night

Recognize your middle school students by leading a time of prayer for them. Instruct middle school students to sit in a circle on the floor, and then invite the high school

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students to stand directly behind a student and to pray silently for them. Ask one high school student to pray out loud over all the middle schoolers at the end.

Note: If your group is only middle schoolers, lead adult sponsors to stand behind and pray over them. If your group is only high schoolers, pray for your middle schoolers back home.

If your church host left a prayer box in the room, allow students a chance to leave a note card with a prayer request written on it.

Announcements

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

Night 3: MATCHLESS FORGIVENESS**Supplies:**

- Note cards and pens— 1 per student/adult

Prepare:

- None

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

The Grand Narrative:	Joseph and Jesus
Scripture:	Genesis 37:3-4,18-28; 39:1-6; 41:46-49,53-57; 42:1-26; 45:1-14; John 20:1-18
Life Questions:	When were you reconciled to God through Christ, receiving forgiveness for your sins? Who needs the forgiveness of Christ in his or her life? With whom do you need forgiveness and reconciliation?
Key Verse:	2 Corinthians 5:18

Joseph was abandoned and sold into slavery by his brothers, but God used that to provide for His people and worked through Joseph to show forgiveness to and reconcile with his brothers. Jesus came to earth to bring forgiveness. Through His resurrection from the dead, Jesus reconciled us to the Father, covering our sin and redeeming us so that we can have a relationship with the Father.

Welcome your group to Church Group Time.

Reflections on the Day

Lead students to get with their family group. Give each prompt below one at a time for a brief discussion.

- **Share one lesson learned at Recreation or on Ministry Site that directly relates to our theme and Bible Study.**
- **What was your favorite activity of Bible Study and why?**
- **Share about an opportunity you had to talk about the gospel with another student at camp or a child, student, or adult on ministry sites.**
- **What is something the pastor said in his sermon that shed new light on Christ, yourself, or a truth of the Bible?**
- **Share a song lyric that stood out to you and convicted you of your need to spend more time with Christ.**

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Reflections on the Theme

Ask: **“What is today’s theme?”** (*forgiveness*)

Within their groups, lead students to discuss: **What did you learn from Joseph about forgiveness? From Jesus?**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud **Colossians 1:14**. Ask for a definition of forgiveness. Say: **“Redemption is an act of grace where a person is rescued and restored.”** Discuss the concept of grace. Use the acronym God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.

Lead students to repeat each of these statements in unison after you: **1. I will remember that Jesus forgives. 2. I will forgive others. 3. I will forgive myself.**

Give each student a note card and pen. Lead them to respond to these three statements on their card. For the first one, ask them to list sins or areas of their lives where they need Jesus’s forgiveness. For the second one, instruct them to write the name(s) of people they need to forgive and those to whom they need to apologize. For the last one, which is often the hardest, direct students to make note of things they need to let go of, forgive themselves of, and move on.

After a time of reflection and making notes, give students time to spend in prayer, turning all of these things over to the Lord.

Say: **“Because Jesus forgives us, we need to forgive one another. And, we need to look beyond forgiveness to reconciliation. Forgiveness takes care of the issue at hand but reconciliation restores the relationship. With the resurrection, Jesus defeated death and the grave and made it possible for our relationship with God to be restored.”**

Open a time of forgiveness and reconciliation for anyone who has been at odds or estranged with another person in the group. Challenge students to say they are sorry and seek to reconcile. Allow this to be a time of growth and bonding for your group. Maybe you need to set the example as their leader and make right any strained relationship.

Share Decisions

Open the floor for students who have made decisions since last night to share publicly.

Prayer — High School Night (Not including seniors)

Recognize students who were freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in the past school year. Lead a time of prayer for high schoolers. Instruct middle schoolers to stand, form a circle, and hold hands. Tell high schoolers to stand in the middle of the circle, and

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then lead your middle schoolers to choose a high schooler to pray for silently. At the end, ask a middle school student to pray for all of the high schoolers out loud.

Note: If your group is only high schoolers, ask adult sponsors to pray over them.

Announcements

Share any important information that students need to know. Dismiss them to Night Life (5-Day Camps) and remind them to be in their rooms by 11:00 p.m. Encourage students and adults to pray for and with their prayer partner as possible.

Note: If you are attending a 5-day camp, this is the night you will need to collect your mission offering. Remind students of the goal your group set on opening night.

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Night 4: MATCHLESS OBEDIENCE

Supplies:

- None

Prepare:

- None

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

The Grand Narrative: Abraham and Jesus

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9; Genesis 15:1-21; Luke 4:1-13

Life Questions: How have you been obedient to God's leading in your life?
How can you remain faithful to Him in the future?

Key Verse: John 14:23

Abraham followed God's plan and left his life as he knew it to relocate his family to Canaan. Even though Abraham was old with no children, because of his obedience, God established a covenant with him that his descendants would become a great nation. Jesus was obedient to God's leading in His life. When Satan tempted Him in the desert, He remained true to God. And, He resolved to live a perfect life on earth, to die on the cross, and to be raised again for the salvation of all mankind. We must be obedient and remain faithful to God's work in our lives.

Welcome your group to the last night of Church Group Time.

Reflections on the Day

Form gender-specific groups. You may want to do younger girls, older girls, younger guys and older guys. These groups need to be about the size of your family groups.

Give groups a few minutes to reflect on and share about their day. This should be about how the Lord has worked, new lessons learned, and so forth. Encourage participation from everyone and caution against anyone monopolizing the time. Then, open the floor for one student from each group to share.

Reflections on the Theme

Ask: **"What is today's theme?"** (*obedience*)

Call on students to share that they learned about Abraham and Jesus today.

Within their groups, ask students to discuss the following. Read each of these aloud as prompts, giving a brief time in between for discussion.

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- Give a definition of obey/obedience.
- Share about specific opportunities they have had to obey today.
- Share about specific authority figures in their life today at camp.
- Why is obedience important as a follower of Christ?
- What does obedience to Christ look like?

Call on the oldest student in each group to share briefly from their discussion. Point out that our motivation for obedience to Christ is love. Read aloud **John 14:15**.

Say: **“Jesus was obedient to God’s leading in His life. When Satan tempted Him in the desert, He remained true to God. And, He resolved to live a perfect life on earth, to die on the cross, and to be raised again for the salvation of all mankind.”**

Lead groups to discuss how to approach temptation when it comes their way—how to recognize it and how to respond to it. Ask a couple of volunteers to share.

Read aloud **John 10:10**. Say: **“Satan is out to destroy what the Lord is doing in your life. After a week at camp, the temptations may be even stronger. We must resist Satan and follow the One who came to bring us a full and abundant life.”**

Say: **“Altars were built as a remembrance of what the Lord had done, as a witness of the Lord, and for worship back in Abraham’s day. Once Abraham decided to obey the Lord, he built two altars—one altar where the Lord spoke to him and one in Bethel. We are going to make our own altars now.”**

Instruct students and adults to stand, turn and face their chair, and kneel, making their chair an altar. Give students some time with the Lord to turn over areas of their lives where they have not been obedient. Encourage them to ask for help in keeping His commands and those in authority over them. End this time, praying over your group.

Challenge students to be more obedient to their parents and to the Lord in the days ahead.

Share Decisions

Open the floor for students to share any decisions made at camp since last night’s Church Group Time.

Seniors Prayer Time, Shout-Out, and Send-Off

Recognize seniors (those who just graduated high school) by inviting 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.

Lead seniors to gather in a circle in the center of the room, and then instruct 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—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.

Announcements

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.” Encourage students to text or call their parents to tell them they love them and to check in.

5-Day Camps

Share any announcements about loading up and leaving in the morning. Dismiss to either Mega Relay or Hang Time.

6-Day Camps

You will need to collect your mission offering. Remind students of the goal your group set on opening night. Dismiss to Night Life.

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Night 5: MATCHLESS RISK (6-Day Camps Only)

Supplies:

- None

Prepare:

- None

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

The Grand Narrative: Esther and Jesus

Scripture: Esther 2:5-10,15-18; 5:1-8; 8:1-13; Luke 4:31-36; Luke 19:45-48

Life Questions: What does taking a risk for Christ look like? How can you muster the courage to act when the situation is risky?

Out of boldness and courage, Esther was willing to take risks for her people, the Jews, by becoming Queen and approaching the king on behalf of her people. Jesus went against the status quo, tradition, and the religious leaders in order to spread the gospel. We must take risks to share and live out our relationship with Christ.

Welcome your group to Church Group Time.

Reflections on the Day

Invite students and adults to get into their family groups. Invite groups to share about their day and their overall experience with camp. Invite them to discuss how they can keep the momentum of camp going when they return home.

Reflections on the Theme

Ask: **"What is the theme for today?"** (*risk*)

Instruct groups to share things they learned about Esther from today's study and things they learned about Jesus. Then, lead them to share a time in their lives when they did something requiring courage, boldness, and risk on their part.

Invite a couple of students to share with the large group. If you have a personal story, this will be a good time to share.

Discuss as a large group the importance of taking risks and being bold in our faith. Why is it important? What might result if we do take risks? What if we do not?

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Call on three students to aloud **1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Timothy 1:7; Deuteronomy 31:8.**

Say: **“Esther was courageous and willing to risk her life, and God used her to save His people, the Jews. She used the authority she was given for a higher purpose and not for her own gain. Jesus was bold in His actions to go against the cultural norms and even the religious laws of the day in order to make a difference. He risked it all to save the world from sin.”**

Ask groups to brainstorm ways the Lord may be wanting to use individuals, your youth group, and your church as a way to make a difference and spread the gospel in your community and in the world. Allow groups to share. Make note of the actions shared.

Share Decisions

Celebrate decisions made today and tonight. Encourage students who have made decisions this week to find someone to keep them accountable to these decisions.

Prayer – Church Back Home (Including Parents)

Lead family groups to come together as one large group. 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 about loading up and leaving in the morning. Dismiss to either Mega Relay or Hang Time.