

Maranatha Cabin Leader Manual

INTRODUCTION:	SPECIFIC CAMP WEEK INFORMATION
SECTION ONE:	CABIN LEADING 101
SECTION TWO:	CAMP DISCIPLINE
SECTION THREE:	AGE GROUP CHARACTERISTICS
SECTION FOUR:	CROWD BREAKERS & OTHER ACTIVITIES
SECTION FIVE:	FOLLOW-UP
SECTION SIX:	GENERAL GUIDELINES
SECTION SEVEN:	APPENDIX

SECTION ONE: CABIN LEADING 101

Five Perspectives on Cabin Leading

Here you are, about to begin your term as a cabin leader at Maranatha , and there are a hundred thoughts swirling around in your head. *Why did I say yes? I hope the kids like me. What if the routine and rules are more than I bargained for? They better have a phone I can use... and a decent shower! I wish I knew which Bible verses to brush up on. I can think of three kids who better not end up in my cabin. Who can I turn to if things get out of hand?* And on and on.

Relax. This adventure will be completely survivable and tremendously rewarding. In the future you may even look back on this as a turning point in someone's life. . .maybe even your own. Below you will find five different perspectives on camp from five different people. Take the time to carefully read through these perspectives:

The Camper's Perspective

I'm the reason this camp program is taking place. You might find me high-strung, low-keyed, confused or totally on track. I could be spontaneous or spoiled. No matter my age, disposition or social status, here's what I expect of you:

HAVE FUN: I will get excited about things that excite you, but I must sense your genuine desire to be involved with me. If I perceive that, I will be much more responsive to what you have to say. In other words, you have to earn the right to be heard by demonstrating that you enjoy spending time with me.

SET LIMITS: I might not seem like I want limits (especially the first few hours after my arrival) but if you do not set limits, I will not respect you. When you do set them -- like lights out, deference toward others, following guidelines -- I will expect you to be a consistent and impartial enforcer.

DISCIPLINE WITH LOVE: Remember, I am not as old as you and I will make mistakes, sometimes not understanding what I've done. Give me reasons for the discipline. When you correct me, be reasonable, gentle and firm. If you grab, shake or hit me you will hear from the authorities and my father's lawyer.

LISTEN: One thing I usually don't get at home is an opportunity to express myself -- my fears, my joys, my dreams. By carefully listening, you will earn a chance to get next to me. Take it one step further; ask to clarify something you do not understand and I'll be your friend for life. . . Maybe literally.

KEEP THINGS IN CONFIDENCE: You will earn my respect and trust if you keep the personal things I tell you just between you and me. However, if I tell you something that indicates I'm in danger of being harmed -- physically or emotionally -- you will need to report that to the camp administration.

OFFER PRAISE: Catch me doing something good and make a big deal out of it. You'll raise my self esteem to the sky. All of us need to be affirmed, and the camp setting provides so many opportunities to make it happen.

BE A GOOD EXAMPLE: You cannot say one thing and do another. If you do, you've lost your credibility. In other words, I'm looking to see what being a Christian is all about and how real God's Word is in your life.

The Director's Perspective

I'm ultimately the one responsible for people and property, and to see that the camp's spiritual objectives are fulfilled in the lives of campers and staff. With so many people on the grounds and so much going on, there is no way that I can do my job alone. Therefore I am counting on you to demonstrate the following:

A GOOD ATTITUDE: How do you respond to challenging and difficult situations? It is important to me and the overall program that you have a positive approach to everything. For the sake of this ministry, I'm counting on you to be supportive when it comes to (1) leadership during a strenuous or seemingly juvenile activity. (2) food that is not your favorite; (3) other staff who rub you the wrong way; (4) regulations and procedures that you don't fully understand; and (5) the speaker whose message might not be as relevant as you'd like. Camp is for the camper and you have to keep this in mind at all times.

A RESPECT FOR PROPERTY: The building and grounds represent my life's work. They are paid for by donations of many faithful friends. Please take care of the place. Conserve energy whenever possible. Help the staff keep the place clean and in good order by picking up garbage and reporting any damage.

APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT: Be careful and cautious about being physical with other campers, especially those of the opposite sex. In a one-to-one situation with a camper – or even with a fellow cabin leader – always stay in view of others. You should have nothing to hide. Only counsel campers of your same gender. Remember, back rubs and even hugs can be misinterpreted. We all need touches in our lives, but be extremely discriminating. Side hugs are great!

CHILD ABUSE: Unfortunately this is a topic of crucial concern. Your campers might share with you instances of sexual, emotional or physical abuse. There might be evidence to substantiate their stories – bruises, unusual interest in sexual activity, peculiar sleep habits or other behavioral patterns. If you do have reason to suspect abuse of any kind, you have both a moral and a legal responsibility to report it to the camp administration. You may feel uncomfortable with this, but it is for the well-being of the camper. Remember, confidentiality is crucial. Do not discuss this with others.

KNOWLEDGE OF EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: Safety of everyone on the property is the highest priority. There are certain things that you need to know right away:

- Where do campers go if there is a fire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster?
- What do you do if someone needs medical attention?
- What are the waterfront guidelines?
- What are other hazards?

The Nurse's Perspective

I'm charged with caring for injuries and keeping campers and staff healthy. Some of my procedures may seem annoying, but they are critical to the process. I cannot do my job alone. I need your help related to the following items:

MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS: These are documents with important notations about each camper's medical needs and allergies. They also give parental authorization for treatment, should there be a need. We will make you aware of any special needs that your campers may have. I may ask you to help me by making sure your campers come to see me at certain times of the day, especially meal or bed times.

MEDICATIONS: A list of medications that a camper must take are listed on the medical release form. I keep these record under lock. For this reason, *YOU MUST NOT GIVE YOUR CAMPER'S ANY MEDICATION WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CAMP'S HEALTH CARE TECHNICIAN.* Please make sure your campers come to me to take their medications on schedule. In the hectic pace of the camp's program, there is a tendency to forget. Also, please keep any medical information confidential.

FIRST AID: Prevention of injuries should be a first concern, but they do happen. When an accident occurs, I don't expect you to respond as an EMT, but I do expect you to respond with maturity. If you are dealing with a minor scrape, cut or bruise and can apply simple first aid, go ahead. Then bring the camper to see me so that I can give additional treatment and record the injury in the medical log. If the injury appears more serious or you don't know what to do, keep the victim calm and comfortable and send someone to get me immediately. I can be reached by dialing "0" from one of the many camp phones located throughout the camp ground. Do not make a diagnosis and do not leave the victim alone without a staff member.

The Parent's Perspective

I'm the person who looks at one particular camper in your care as "flesh and blood." For a few days you are taking my place as provider and protector. I am counting on you – no, exhorting you – to be all of these and more:

CONSCIENTIOUS: As a parent, my first concern is for safety. Never place my child – or yourself – in harm's way. I understand the concept of reasonable risk. I do not understand the concept of foolishness.

ENCOURAGING: Inspire my child to try new and challenging experiences, both in fun and spiritual contexts. Like all parents, I hope you will be a facilitator during this incredible time of memory making. I want my child to come home saying, "You'll never guess what I learned to do!"

SENSITIVE: Recognize and be responsive to my child's personal needs. There will be some camper's you can stretch or push; my child may not be one of those. Know his tolerance level when it comes to kidding or playing a joke or prank. Discover her insecurities. Always include my child in your group conversations and activities. His self esteem depends on it.

AVAILABLE: Be sure to spend a significant of one-on-one time with my child. My child needs the attention of a caring adult ... and a new perspective on traditional values. It is my hope that you will become a friend and be available throughout the year., following up on any significant decision make during her time at camp. In fact it would be wonderful if you took the time to make a phone call or wrote a note to my child after his week of camp and even in the middle of the year. It may not mean much to you in December, but it will make my child's year!

God's Perspective

The points made by these important players will help you understand the psychology and logistics of cabin leading, but let's not forget God's viewpoint. Understanding and applying His perspective is what turns activity into ministry. The following is really what this challenge is all about:

A DIVINE CALLING: Your being accepted as a cabin lead is no accident. God knows what He is doing. He has chosen you! He will also equip you for this task. Are you ready to listen, learn and grow? You have an awesome responsibility and an incredible privilege.

LOVING THE UNLOVABLE: Do you remember what Jesus did as recorded in Matthew 18:4-6? Welcome the children in His name, all of them. Some of them will seem unlovable. It will be easy for you to love those who respond well to you, but there will be others who will seem difficult to love. They need attention too. Be prepared to go the second mile.

RENEWED PERSONAL COMMITMENT: Spend time with God daily. His Word is where you'll find strength in times of weakness when you are running on empty. Prayer, for yourself and for your camper, is a vital ingredient in a fruitful ministry. You'll be surprised at the spiritual growth that you'll get from this experience...if you are disciplined and totally dependent on Him. Remember, you are never to busy to spend time in the Word and to pray. Your campers will be watching you and they need to see that these things are a priority in your life. Besides, these are good to do together and as a group in your cabin at

night or in the morning.

UNDERTANDING OF SPIRITUAL SUCCESS: Often we think of spirituality in terms of big decisions: salvation, rededication and so on. In reality it is made up of little ones, such as deciding to get along with parents or a sibling, helping at home, remaining sexually pure until marriage, submitting to authority, maintaining personal integrity or spending time daily in God's Word. Yes, salvation is the first step toward spiritual growth, but do not judge your success as a cabin leader on how many campers you lead to Christ, rather by your faithfulness to Him.

What Does it Mean to be a Cabin Leader?

Leadership Overview

You may be asking yourself, "What is the difference between a *counselor* and a *cabin leader*? Typically a counselor refers to someone who has professional training in the area of counseling. In your experience here you will be in many different counseling situations and we hope that you will provide each camper with solid, biblical advice. However, we do not assume that you have been through extensive and specific training in counseling situations. For this reason we call you a cabin leader. And a leader is what you are. We have every confidence that God will provide wisdom and give you discernment as you truly *lead* your campers and as you provide good *counsel*. Do not get caught up with titles. Counselor, cabin leader or cook, you are here as a part of a team, that God has put together in order to serve others – campers.

Servanthood

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." Mark 10:43-44

Perhaps one of the greatest lessons to learn about leadership, and usually one cannot learn this without experience, is that successful leadership equals effective service. True servant leadership begins when the leader humbles himself to carry out the mission entrusted to them rather than his own personal agenda. If you think about those whom you looked up to in the past, what made that person so influential? More often than not, the reason we look up to people is because of their servant attitude. The author of the book *The Christian Camp Counselor* shared this fact in recounting the story of his unforgettable encounter with his favorite cabin leader "Counselor Bob". He writes, "If you want to become like the Counselor Bob of your past, you will need to become like this other counselor. They called him Jesus." Below are some practical steps to effective servant leadership:

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR CAMPERS' NEEDS BEFORE YOUR OWN

You are not doing your campers a huge favor when you make a personal sacrifice, you are simply doing your job as it should be done. Jesus taught that we are to deny ourselves daily. This will be a key for you. Our natural bent is to be self-serving. There will be many times when you do not "feel" like serving anyone other than yourself. It is natural to feel this way, yet we have a new nature given to us by Christ and we have been empowered to live according to this new nature.

PLACE YOURSELF IN A POSITION OF HUMILITY

You will need to make deliberate choices that no one else may ever see to do things that will mean the world to a kid who feels neglected and worthless. Choices such as hanging around with the unpopular, smelly, and obnoxious camper. Choices such as giving your dessert to the one who was last in line and missed all the good pieces. Choices that communicate the campers' well being above your own. You will most likely never know the impact your decisions will have on your campers' future, but they most likely will not forget your sacrificial example for years to come.

BE READY TO SACRIFICE

Christ made the biggest sacrifice of all – He gave of His life so we might experience all that life entails. What you give to your campers will have a direct impact on what their life will become. Your self sacrifice,

as small as you think it is, may be the impetus for future service in any one camper's life.

Compassion

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things." Mark 6:33-34

Everyone has moments when he just needs to get away by himself. It appears as Jesus was no exception. Pressed by the crowds of sick, curious and desperate people all wanting his attention, Jesus told his disciples that they had best get away and take a little break. You may feel the same after a few days with sick, curious and desperate campers all wanting your attention! Cabin leading is indeed a tiring position and if you have a chance for a break in the day, do try and take it. The key here is how you SEE your campers. Are they an interruption? A job? A pain? To answer this question you need only look to Jesus and study how he responded to the crowds when He was on a break. We are told that when He saw the crowds, Jesus *had compassion on them*. But notice that He did not stop there. Jesus not only had compassion on them, but He took ACTION. After being moved, He responded accordingly. You see, compassion is an emotion which requires a response. When you see a camper sitting all alone, you *feel* compassion and pity for her. Yet, compassion must not only move your insides, but your outside as well!

The Christian Camp Counselor outlines some areas of your life to develop to make sure that compassion moves you to initiative and action on behalf of your campers: (p.46-48):

BECOME MORE OBSERVANT

Someone once said, "We don't need to worry about what others think of us, because they seldom do." It is much easier for most to think of themselves rather than others. This is why the Bible tells us to *not only* look to our own interests but *also* to the interest of others. Paying attention to others and recognizing their needs is something that we must learn. As you go through your day, take the time to look around you and really *see* other people. And when you do notice a need, remember the example that Jesus gave us.

ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE MOVED

Remember the story of the Good Samaritan? The difference between his response and the two previous passers-by was that what he saw *moved him* to compassion. All three individuals saw the same thing. The difference was that one responded appropriately. But what will keep you from "passing by" the wounded camper. The injury may not show on the outside, which is why you need to be observant. But when do see the need, what will motivate you to respond with love rather than indifference? When it is the last day of camp the tears will undoubtedly flow, but what about the camper who appears hard, cold and obstinate? Will you take the time to sit and discover the hurt behind the facade? Unless you can see people through the eyes of Jesus you will walk right by those who need you most.

BE THOUGHTFUL

Here is a scenario for you: You've all just showered and are entering the chapel. You're early, which means you're going to get the good seats that your campers have wanted all week. That's when Kenny suddenly stops and confesses, ". . . I left my Bible back in the cabin!" You have a choice to make at this point. You can tell him that it is not important whether or not he has his Bible with him (which is not true), you can send him back to the cabin to get it, OR you can take the opportunity to walk back with Kenny, get his Bible and have a good talk with him in the process. You have to put yourself in the place of others and ask yourself what it would be like to be the other person. And when you recognize the need, do not procrastinate. If you do not act right away, you most likely never will.

Encouragement

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29

Tips For Becoming An Encourager

BE SLOW TO SPEAK (Proverbs 12:18; 13:3; James 1:19)

A great way to encourage campers is to listen to their stories with attentiveness and caring. Do not try to fix things quickly or give pat answers to their problems or issues. You may need to ask leading questions, but the majority of the time a camper will just have things to get off his chest. Simply listen. Avoid giving answers before having investigated the situation. Advice-giving can be patronizing and can shut down communication.

EXERCISE SENSITIVITY

The Bible reminds us that our speech should be seasoned with salt. Our words should be filled with grace and should mimic those of Jesus who came in grace and truth. Sometimes we think it is fun to mock a camper for a silly mistake. Be careful what you say even jokingly. Sometimes sarcasm gets out of hand. A careless remark can carry long and lasting scars.

SHOW KINDNESS WHEN YOU SPEAK

Words of gentleness are soothing and tender. Truth does not always have to be delivered from a rifle barrel. Truth spoken gently is more readily heard and more easily obeyed. Do not be afraid to share your own weaknesses and mistakes. Campers need to realize (and they will after a few days of seeing a cabin leader with sleep deprivation) that you are human too. The key is to realize that we are *all* human. Don't tell campers that their feelings are wrong or inaccurate. The way they feel is really the way they feel whether or not you view it as exaggeration or childish. You need to listen and determine *why* they feel the things they are experiencing.

What Are Your Motives for Cabin Leading?

An Examination of the Heart

You may be wondering what you are doing at Maranatha and why you ever signed up for this! Like others you may have joined the team here at camp for all the wrong reasons. Or you may have carefully thought through your reasons for coming and know that you're in the right place. Whatever the case, it is crucial that you understand from the beginning that God has brought you here and He will see you through this experience. Yet careful heart examination is needed: Let's look at both wrong and appropriate reasons for wanting to lead:

WRONG MOTIVES FOR CABIN LEADING

- Self-exaltation
- To feel important
- To be viewed as important
- Pressure from others
- Your friends all signed up
- The money (if that's the case you got some *wrong information*)

All of these reasons may be wrong, but if you are open, God can use you right where you are at this time *if* you are willing to look at God's plan and begin to see the appropriate motives.

APPROPRIATE MOTIVES FOR CABIN LEADING

- You want to glorify God
- To bear fruit
- To be an example
- To use your gifts to serve others
- You believe God can use you
- To share the message of reconciliation
- To make a lasting difference in a kid's life

How Do I Share my Faith?

Evangelism Basics

Imagine that you've just discovered the cure for cancer. What would you do? Would you tell your friends? Would you call the local news station? How would you get the word out? Whatever you did, you would certainly do everything in your power to let people know that the cure was available.

You most likely will not be the one to invent the cure for cancer, but God has given you the cure for something even more deadly than cancer. It is called sin. Sin separates us from God. Sin is the reason why Jesus died on the cross. Your campers need to know the cure for this deadly spiritual disease. You do not need to have all of the answers nor is it necessary to have been a Christian for a long time. Your job is to simply share your faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God. In order for you to communicate the Gospel, the following principles may be helpful:

EVANGELISM SHOULD BE NATURAL

Some people think you need the gift of evangelism in order to share your faith. The Scriptures are clear that we all are *evangelists*. Jesus commanded us all to make disciples, not just a few of us. It is not the style that matters, but that we simply obey.

EVANGELISM IS RELATIONAL

You must first earn the trust and respect of your campers. Find out as much as you can about them. Ask them what their interests are, about their family, their spiritual background and how they got to where they are today. You want to show that you are interested in them just as they are. A doctor who has a cure first needs to understand what the disease is. This is investigation.

EVANGELISM MUST BE VERBAL

Someone once said, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words." The point is that our lives must be a reflection of our inward belief. However, it will always be necessary to use words. Chances are someone will not approach you and say, "You know you seem so nice. I'll bet that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins in order that I may have a personal relationship with Him!" It just won't happen that way. Good people are not necessarily Christians. Buddhists, Mormons, Hindus can all be good people who love their neighbors, but they do not have the message that gives life. Only Jesus can offer salvation and people need to hear about Him, not simply see us.

There is not a right way or a wrong way to share your faith. A witness who is called to testify at a trial has only one basic requirement – to truthfully tell what she has seen and heard. As a witness of Jesus Christ your mandate is the same. All you need to do is to tell people what Jesus Christ has done in your life. And while there are a number of ways to communicate this, only you can tell your story. All our stories point to the same Savior – Jesus Christ.

USE TOOLS TO HELP PRESENT CHRIST CLEARLY

God draws people unto Himself. A tool only helps us communicate and remember the basics. The words in a tract or booklet will not change someone's life, only God can do that. But a tool can help *us* remember the words we want to communicate and can act as a simple outline to help *people* understand and remember the words we are communicating. Regardless of which tool you use, the key is to have a

method of communicating Christ that you can present clearly and that others can understand.

SECTION TWO: CAMP DISCIPLINE

The Cabin Leader's Role in Camper Discipline

Practical Tips for Effective Discipline

One of the key factors in disciplining is not so much what you say, but how you say it. The following are practical tips to help you make disciplinary encounters more positive:

DISCIPLINE IN THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING

Communicate that you understand the situation as well as the camper's feelings. Discipline will be effective to the degree that it is based on a substantial understanding of the other person.

BE TENTATIVE

As you make statements during a discussion with your camper, avoid saying things that seem fixed in concrete. Realize that there might be additional factors that haven't been seen or taken into consideration. This leaves an opening for campers to clarify any misconceptions on the part of the cabin leader. Being tentative should be viewed as perception checking, making sure you're right about the behavior to which you are responding.

KNOWING WHY YOU ARE DISCIPLINING

What is your motivation to discipline? If your disciplining is done well, it shows your care for campers. However, if you discipline to get back at others, your campers will quickly detect that you are out to punish them and thereby destroy any relationship you might have with them.

DISCIPLINE SHOWS INVOLVEMENT

In order to help your campers work through a negative behavior, a commitment beyond the disciplinary encounter may be required. It could extend for the rest of camp or even beyond the camp experience. Do campers sense that you are there to love and support them at all times? Or do disciplinary encounters become nothing more than a hit and run experience?

BE GRADUAL

It is not good to discipline campers for many offensive behaviors at the same time. Don't save up all of their negative experiences and then cash them in all at the same time.

TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL STATE OF THE CAMPERS

It is important to discipline campers while they have full control of their faculties. If they are very tired or have just gone through an emotionally draining experience not related to the disciplinary action, you may have to wait for a more opportune time.

BE SPECIFIC

In the disciplinary process, be specific as you outline the reasons for your discipline. To talk in generalities would be a disservice to your campers and only confuse them. Give them ideas on how they can improve.

A 4-Step Approach to Discipline

STEP ONE: There is a general announcement of the camp rule or tradition. It is important there be an understanding of what a rule or tradition is, as well as giving time for campers to absorb it. For example, do not announce that there is one more minute to lights out. Most campers need more time than that to realize there are things they need to do to get ready for bed. Try not to surprise them too often.

STEP TWO: Be sure to call the violator's name. "Ryan, we asked that all flashlights be out by 9 o'clock. Could you please do this?" This helps campers realize where you are directing your discipline – at a particular individual and not all of the campers.

STEP THREE: If the violators continue use not only personal names, but walk over to the individual, get down to eye level, and remind them of what has been previously asked.

STEP FOUR: If they continue to defy the rules, the final step in this approach is to isolate the offending individuals, using the appropriate principles in the manner of disciplining as mentioned above.

The Significance of Discipline

There are many facets to discipline. Cabin leaders who gain experience will discover other helpful hints that will greatly enhance their ministry. These basic principles are put forth to help you realize the significance of discipline. It can be a very productive endeavor that helps campers become the kind of people God would have them to be.

An elderly gentleman was once talking with a young man who told him that discipline was an unnecessary process in raising his children. His theory was that his children should be free to express themselves in the way they were naturally inclined, and that they need not be stifled in any way by the infringement of others. The elderly gentleman said nothing, but after a while asked if the young man wanted to come see his garden. The man agreed and so the two walked to where the garden was growing. When the man saw the garden he looked at his host quite surprised and said, "This is not much of a garden! There are mostly weeds here and very few small plants." "Well, you see," said the elderly man, "I did not want to infringe upon the liberty of my garden in any way. I wanted to give all the plants the freedom to express themselves in a way that was natural for them."

The Bible tells us to train up a child in the way he should go, and then go along with them. This will always mean that we need to 'infringe' upon them. The campers parents are sending them to camp, trusting that we are going to take care of them. Taking care means having the interests of your campers ahead of your own. It means being willing to get involved in the tough stuff. Avoiding discipline will not win you the friendship of your campers. They will respect you more if they know that you care enough to get involved.

The Camp's Role in Discipline

When the Going Gets Tough. . .

You need to understand that the leadership here at Maranatha is here to serve you. We want to do all we can to be there to answer your questions, give advice and just listen to your concerns. We believe that you are capable of doing a great job and we want to give you freedom to do your job. The policies and guidelines of the camp are set in place for your benefit as well as for the campers. Understanding your role in disciplinary action is essential. You must however understand the Camp's role in discipline.

You must first realize that you are the model the campers look up to. If they see you doing something, they will want to emulate you. Always be aware of the example you are setting. However, even if you are setting the best example and if everything seems smooth and easy, something eventually will go wrong. Like weeds, we have a natural bent. The weeds in our lives do eventually come up and the only way to get rid of them is to uproot them. For a weed, this is not a pleasant experience. If things get to a point with your campers that you cannot control, or if circumstances begin to get out of hand, you need to call for back up. Sometimes, a fellow cabin leader can step in to remedy the situation. Other times you may need

to call one of the dean's, or another member of the Camp staff. They will not be offended or agitated if this happens. We fully expect your week to be a normal week of camp where there are highs and lows. We want to help you through those lows. The Camp administration has been through a number of tough times and their experience will be helpful to you.

SECTION THREE: AGE GROUP CHARACTERISTICS

Keys To Understanding Your Campers

What's So Important About Age Group Characteristics?

Luke 2:52 says, "and Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." This Scripture suggests that God created people to progress through certain developmental stages that affect every area of growth – physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual.

Age Group Divisions

THE PRIMARY CAMPER: AGE 6 TO 8

Each age group has its uniqueness. Primary campers will need constant care. The things that you take for granted will be struggles for this age group. Get used to walking to the bathroom with them, helping them rinse their hair, washing before meals and getting ready for bed. You will be with your campers ALL OF THE TIME!

Rest is critical. They will seem to have all the energy in the world, but will tire much more quickly. 'Quiet times' will be necessary. These can be either quick naps, or quiet activities such as specific crafts. Getting ready for bed is best done as a group activity. A story and lots of affection and prayer are a good recipe. They will be tired from an action packed day.

In this day of alarm about sexual abuse, caution is needed when showing affection to campers of this age. Most will crave the attention that they receive from parents. Some will be resistant and cautious. Affection can be shown through brief acknowledgements such as verbal affirmation, pats on the back and quick hugs. Avoid prolonged contact of any kind, even if your campers encourage it.

Primary campers are very eager to please. One of the best ways to express love to these little people is through enthusiasm. Get excited about the rock they've found, laugh when they tell silly jokes, and get excited about the next activity that they are about to participate in.

Campers of this age develop at different rates, both physically and intellectually. Keep these varying rates in mind as you participate in different activities. Simple is better and easy is fun. Campers of this age will be stimulated by enthusiasm rather than by a challenge. Be reasonable with your expectations.

Spiritually, do not underestimate a primary child's ability to make significant decisions. Some children are not yet able to understand the seriousness of sin and their need for Christ, but some are and you should not hinder them. Be supportive of new believers at this age, but do not offer so much special attention that the whole cabin wants in for the wrong reasons. Be as accepting of the child who is not ready to respond as you are of the one who does.

THE JUNIOR CAMPER: AGE 9 TO 11

This age group is incredibly responsive to almost anything, but tends to see the world from a very subjective point of view. How many junior campers does it take to change a light bulb? Just one – he holds the light bulb and the whole world revolves around him. They talk all the time, they can be very critical, fairness is very important, they have a great capacity to memorize and learn, and left to their own devices, they can draw some very false conclusions. As the cabin leader, you have the potential to be a positive influence in a dangerous and confusing world.

Same-sex friends of the same age are important to junior campers, but their primary relationships are still with parents, teachers and other adults. At camp, their primary relationship will be with YOU. You will be their biggest hero, they will want to hold your attention and their sense of self-worth may need to be built up. What an opportunity! These kids want to spend time with you, they desire your attention and they are ready to learn from you. Make the most of this time you have been given with them.

Junior campers will be well aware of their rights, but will need to be reminded of their responsibilities. They may not respect adults and may not have learned the value of hard work. They are growing up in an increasingly stressful world where they are being pushed into more things at an earlier age. Watch for inappropriate sexual conversation, and encourage this age to have group friendships. There is a great pressure to succeed – usually from parents. Camp should be a place where kids can relax from this pressure, where they do not feel the need to perform.

THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF CAMPERS COMING TO KNOW CHRIST AT CAMP ISI IN THIS AGE GROUP. They want reality in their faith, they need to hear the gospel message clearly and they need assurance of their faith. Junior campers will have a lot of questions and your growing influence will give you an audience when it comes to answering these questions. Do not feel like you have to have all of the answers. Realize your limits, admit them and use them to communicate that learning never ends.

THE JUNIOR HIGH CAMPER: AGE 12 TO 14

For a society preoccupied with sex, we do not talk openly about the transition known as puberty. It is the subject of crude jokes and insensitive remarks about cracking voices, racing hormones and emerging body hair. Except in the case of a few conscientious parents, most do not provide much instruction and counsel for emerging adolescents, leaving it for who-know-who to take care of this responsibility. It is important to realize that not all kids mature at the same rate. You can have junior high boys who like to burp and make other rude noises together with those who are ready to shave and sing bass. Likewise it is possible to have a group of giggly girls who stink after the third day of camp mixed in with those who have full figures and are ready to break hearts. Remember that difficulties with this age group are opportunities to see God perform miracles, and you get to see it all take place!

Friendship with peers takes priority over friendships with parents. It has been said regarding junior high aged kids that it does not matter what you are doing, rather who is there. Friendships at this level can be an all-powerful force that cause kids to do things they would not otherwise do on their own. They can be committed to each other one minute and drop each other the next. Reason for behavior (or lack thereof) at this level are a mystery. So how do you impact this group?

A counselor is someone who “comes alongside” another. You need to relate to each junior higher as a part of a group. Be careful not to show favoritism and do not separate friendships as a form of punishment. Treat them with respect. They may seem embarrassed to be seen with you at first. Take the time to get to know them. This is not Junior Camp! Be patient and give them some space. You cannot push yourself on them. Rather, act as a guide or a brother or sister. You will need to earn their respect not just their approval.

There are many forces that bring junior highers together. Athletics, music, immorality – all are factors that influence these kids. And they will tend to hang around with like-minded people. There are also kids who do not seem to fit in anywhere and are easy to spot. Take extra time with these kids.

Sin has lost its sting for many of these kids. Their sense of right and wrong is blurred and boundaries are unclear. Doubt and apparent unbelief are natural at this age. Encourage questioning while offering your testimony to the absoluteness of God’s Word. Be willing to give them room to find reasons for their faith. Challenge them as to what they believe and how they are living out that belief. And pray hard. This stage of life is confusing and precarious. Choices at this point will affect them for years to come.

THE SENIOR HIGH CAMPER: AGE 15 TO 18

If a junior high camper can be described as one who had dropped a glass ball and is trying desperately to pick up the pieces again, a senior high camper can be described as one who has picked up most of the pieces, arranged them according to his own tastes and is now having the ball re-glazed. Choices made at this point are much more serious and lasting than ever. This age group is capable of great things and knows it. These kids can get frustrated if they feel they are being held back. Here are some things to watch for:

Friendships are as important if not more important than a couple of years ago. Rather than interests and priorities being formed by friends, friendships are now determined according to personal interests and priorities. Guy-girl relationships are common and you will need to watch out that they do not wander off together. Do not be afraid to confront.

Options are increasing for them. The majority will have part-time jobs. They are dealing with multiple decisions and are not often seeking the advice of others more experienced. Do not attempt to tell them what to think or do. They want people to listen to them and be given advice when asked. Let them make their own decisions. Give them freedom, but do not let them get out of range. They want freedom, but need boundaries. They are still young and will need guidance. Understand that they want independence but cannot make it on their own. Be the person who takes the time to listen to their concerns and interests. They feel life has dealt them a bad hand and they will need to be reassured that they will make it through. Challenge them to consider what impact they can have on the world around them.

They will not lack spirituality or a belief in God. There has never been a more open group than this. In fact they are so open that absolute truth will be offensive to some. About 80% agree that the Bible is clear and accurate, but they would say the same about books like the Koran. They can be disappointed with God and feel let down by unanswered prayers or discouraging circumstances. Focus on Jesus Christ and avoid topics that deal nebulously with God. They are drowning and they need a rescuer.

FAMILY CAMPERS

The word family today is a very different picture than a few decades ago. Let's not assume that the family unit consists of a mom, dad and two-and-a-half kids. More and more single parents are coming to family camps. Broken homes, failed marriages, and hurting kids are becoming the norm. The pace of life is at warp speed and it will take families time to adjust to the relaxed atmosphere of Camp.

Spending time with kids is still a priority. Put your heart into the children and youth programs and do not let the relaxed pace bring lethargy. Be available to listen to hurting kids and show genuine interest in them. You will also need to be aware that families are coming to Camp together and encourage kids to spend time with parents.

Be sensitive to hurting families. Your role at Family Camp may require you to function in a different role than normal. View your service in any department as a service provided for the entire family so that they can experience a positive atmosphere and have a chance to slow down and reconnect with one another. Your attitude and actions have a big impact (either good or bad) on families. They will be looking at your life-witness. Be above all reasonable suspicion in your dealings with other staff members. Your witness and testimony may be what campers remember most about their week at camp.

Other Statistics

While the behavior of children is greatly influenced by their innate, God-given developmental stages, there are other societal factors that also influence behavior. According to a recent study, of the 65 million Americans under the age of 18:

- 20% live in poverty
- Over 1,400 teenage girls a day – two-thirds of them unmarried – become mothers. Only 60% of these teen moms will earn a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- 22% live in single-parent homes; parents of nearly 2750 children separate or divorce each day. More than half of all white kids and three-quarters of black children will spend some part of their childhood in a single parent household.
- Working mothers of children under 6 struggle to find childcare solutions for their 11 million children. Some 1.3 million latchkey kids ages 5 to 14 are left to fend for themselves much of the day.
- Every day more than three children die of injuries inflicted by abusive parents. Nearly 90 kids a day are taken from their parents custody and added to an already-burdened foster care system.
- The typical 14-year-old watches three hours of television daily, but does just one hour of homework. During the average school day, more than 2200 kids drop out.
- Every day over 500 children ages 10 to 14 begin using illegal drugs, and more than 1000 start drinking alcohol.

SECTION FOUR: CROWD BREAKERS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tips To Break the Silence Without Breaking Things

For The First Night

Here are some suggestions for things to do the first night during cabin time. Notice that each involves an opportunity for campers to share about their spiritual journey to this point in life. This will provide a better understanding of where they are with the Lord and will allow you to better meet their needs as the week progresses. Use 'em, adapt 'em or toss 'em, just remember to communicate your availability and willingness to help your campers during the time together this week.

Have each camper write down responses to (some or all of) the questions off the "Camper information" sheet in back of this manual (as you read them). Then collect their papers and read clues (from "About My Interests") seeing if they can guess who is who. (Be sure to ask the Spiritual Journey questions but do not use these in the guessing game.) Ask for 2 volunteers to pray for the week you are about to have together, then you close in prayer as well...OR

Go around your cabin and have each camper respond to these questions: Who am I? (Little personal background). Why am I here? (Give a brief outline of the SPIRITUAL journey you have taken to this point in your life.) Then have 2 volunteers as well as yourself close in prayer...OR

Try one of the cheesy "Get-Acquainted" games below...like introductions by "Pairs" or "Who's it?" Then have each camper share a brief personal and spiritual background sketch outlining their journey to this point in life and what they hope to get out of camp this year. After this have 2 volunteers as well as yourself close in prayer.

From the start you may also want to discuss a couple of group ground rules for the week, such as:

1. We'll listen when someone else is talking.
2. We'll give everyone an opportunity for input in discussions.
3. We'll help one another be on time for meetings and meals.

You might even ask specific campers to be in charge of enforcing a particular ground rule so that as a group you don't forget what you've agreed to.

Whole-Group Activities

LINE-UP GAME

Get in groups of five to ten people each. First group that gets itself into order according to the category you name, wins. For example first letter of middle name, shoe size, height, birth date, etc. Just be sure to pick subjects that people can line up easily.

COUNTING GAME

Have everyone in your group pair up and face each other. Each person holds up zero to ten fingers behind their back. On the count of three, have them pull their hands from behind their backs. The first person to yell out the correct sum of all the fingers wins. Do best two of three. Then the winners play each other until you have a champion.

VARIATION: THE MATH GAME

Competitors hold just one hand behind their back, revealing the number of fingers at the signal. Whoever yells out the sum of the fingers wins the first round. For Round 2, multiply the fingers. Round 3 is the difference between the two numbers. Rotate through as many rounds as you want, but for the championship round (between the two survivors) have them square the total of the two sets of fingers. for example, Person A shows three fingers, Person B shows four, so the winning answer is $3+4=7$ $7 \times 7=49$.

APE-MAN-GIRL GAME

This is a variation of the “Rock, Scissors, Paper” game. Ask people to pair off, Then, when the signal is given each person strikes a pose like an ape, man, or girl. Be sure to demonstrate what each looks like ahead of time. The ape beats the girl, the girl gets the man. Eliminate the losers and pair the winners until you get a champion.

INSTANT ID

Divide into two teams. Have two people hold a large, thick blanket up like a curtain. Have a person from each team stand facing each other with the blanket between, then quickly drop the blanket. The first one to correctly say the other person’s name earns a point for his team. This game often produces hilarious results.

BALLOON GAME

Tie a balloon on a string (at least two feet long) to each person’s ankle. The objective of the game is to be the last person with an unpped balloon around her/his ankle. Note: This game takes some prep work. Balloons must be blown up and string cut in advance. It is a fun game, though. Don’t try this in someone’s living room if you want to be invited back!

I’VE NEVER

This game works kind of like musical chairs. Start with a person standing in the middle, and everyone else seated in a circle with no extra chairs. The middle person makes an “I’ve never...”statement; for instance, “I’ve never been to the beach.” Everyone who also has never been to the beach needs to jump up and get to a new chair. Whoever gets stuck without a seat takes over the middle spot and makes the next “I’ve never” statement.

SHOE PILE

This activity provides a good way to have students meet new people. Have everyone take off one of his/her shoes and throw it into a big pile. Then everyone needs to go pick up a shoe from the pile and proceed to find the person who belongs to that shoe. This works well for a large group.

WHO AM I

Write out names of famous people on name tags. As people enter the room, place one on each person’s back without them knowing who it is. They then go around and ask people to look at their name tag and ask them yes or no questions to figure out who they are.

COMMUNICATING GAME

Give everyone a number. They have to arrange themselves in numerical order by communicating with each other without speaking or holding up fingers. They make up their own sub-language or sign-language and it often is pretty amusing. Round two. Have people arrange themselves in order of birth or in calendar months.

M&M GAME

Pass around a bag of M&M’s and have each person take as many as they want. For each color of the M&M’s have question that they have to answer. For instance, red can be “Describe your first crush.” You can play this with Skittles or other colored candies.

HUMAN FOOSBAL

If the audience is situated in rows, either on chairs or on the floor, every other row turns around and faces the opposite direction. Use a balloon to bat around like a volleyball. A point is scored when a team gets the balloon past all of the opposing team and hits the wall (indoors) or beyond a boundary (outdoors).

STRING TOSS GAME

Get a spool of string or yarn. Have each person answer a question of some sort when they have the string in their possession. They then hold on to the string and throw the ball/spool to another so they can answer the question. You eventually create a web of some sort. In the end, describe how the web is analogous to the group in that we all play a part in creating the web, and that if one person was gone it would look different. Likewise, it is important that we all take part to make the group what it is, unique and special.

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Have each person write two truths and a lie about themselves. They then share it with the group and have others guess which is the lie.

AURA

Get into pairs and face each other. Place your palms on other's palms between you a little above shoulder height. Both should close their eyes, (pull apart approx. 12 inches) and turn around in your spot three times together at the same time. The goal is to reconnect palms after spinning while keeping your eyes closed.

ELBOW TAG

Get into pairs standing side by side and lock elbows. Leave one person to be "It" and one or two to be unattached. "It" chases unattached people, who can lock elbows with a member of any pair. The person on the other side of the pair must then break off and run away. This can be done with longer chains if the numbers warrant it.

SQUIRT GAME

Everyone sits in a circle. Designate one person as the "squirter" for first round and put a spray bottle of water in his hand. This student names a topic, such as "Rides to Disney", and secretly thinks of one item in that category. Squirter goes around the inside of the circle, pointing the spray bottle right in the face of each person, who must quickly name an item fitting the topic. Squirter lets them have it if they don't name one right away. OR duplicate something already said, OR name the item chosen by the squirter. The person who got squirted becomes the new topic selector and bottle holder. I like this game because you can make it fit any group of students you are working with: Runners (topic: running shoes), football players (topic: NFL terms), and so on.

Get-Acquainted/ Name Games

FIRST LETTER DESCRIPTIONS

Have each person describe him/herself by using the first letter of his/her name. for example: My name is Steve and I like spaghetti, my favorite candy is Snickers and my favorite animal is a snake.

CATALOG COMPARRISION

Say your name and what object in a Sears/J.C. Penney catalog that you are most like and describe why. (I.e., My name is Jeni and I am most like a pair of work boots because I like to be comfortable and don't really care about whether others like the fashion statement I make with them.)

INTRODUCTIONS BY PAIRS

Split the group up into pairs. Give them a few minutes to interview each other and then have them introduce one another to the group. This allows two people to get to know each other quickly and form a friendship. It's often easier for people to talk about others than themselves.

WHO'S IT

This is best for smaller groups. Each student writes down on a scrap of paper a little-known fact about him or herself (the more unusual, the better). These are then read and everyone tries to guess who it is. A prize can be given to the person who guesses the most correctly.

NAME ACTION

Have your group stand in a circle. Start with yourself and say, "My name is _____ and I like to _____" while doing the action that goes with what you like to do. The next person does the same thing and then repeats yours. This continues around the circle until it comes back to you and you have to repeat everyone's. Have the entire group do all the actions with the person whose turn it is to keep everyone involved.

FUN FRED

Have your group stand in a circle. Starting with you, each person gives his/her name preceded by a positive adjective describing himself/herself that begins with the same letter as his/her first name.; For example, "Fun Fred." As play continues around the circle, it becomes harder as each person must repeat everyone that went before him/her. You should take the last turn and repeat everyone's adjectives and names.

CHRONO LINE UP

This is a game where the group must work together without talking. You tell the group how you want them to line up—in an order of some kind—and they must do so as quickly as possible without talking (or mouthing words, either!) For instance, they could line up by birthdays, shoe size, number of siblings, years at camp, whatever! Try increasingly more difficult ones, and if they're really good have them try one with eyes closed. When the order is complete, have each person tell his/her name and birthday, shoe size, or whatever criteria you used.

SECTION FIVE: FOLLOW-UP

The Cabin Leader's Role In Follow Up

How to Follow-Up New Christians

What a rush! One of your campers received Christ with you at breakfast. So now what? How do you respond to a camper who has just received Christ? How do you follow up his decision to trust Christ? What can you do to get him started in walking with Christ and understanding the basic foundations of the Christian faith?

THE CHURCH'S ROLE

Our goal for follow-up is for all of our campers to become active in a local church when they leave here and go back home. Rather than create a new level of follow-up our desire is to partner with an existing structure. The local church is set up to minister to these kids.

THE CAMP'S ROLE

The follow-up process begins with you. This has to start with a few basics. Filling in the *Camper Information Sheet* at the end of this section is a good start. Any information you record will be vital to you later on as you make contact with your campers.

What is Follow-Up?

Follow-up is the crucial step in the process of helping new Christians take their first steps in their walk with God, helping them to grow up in their relationship with Christ and multiply their faith to others. It is important to help them transition to a new life of faith and establish a solid relationship with Christ.

Imagine bringing your newborn baby home from the hospital. Suppose you set her in the crib and say, "Okay, Sweetie, milk is in the fridge, the bathroom's over there, and here's the stereo if you want to hear some tunes." Absurd! So why should we do the same to a brand new Christian, who is referred to as a "baby" in the Bible? No, it's our responsibility to help cultivate the faith of that newborn believer. And as mentioned above, we are counting on the local church to be a key in this follow-up process. Yet there are basic principles outlined here that you can begin this week of camp.

- Begin by praying for your camper that they would want to begin to solidify the decision she made to trust Christ.
- Satan will be attempting to discourage her by causing doubts. Talk with them and explain that you would like to share some things that will help them in her new relationship with Christ.
- Share with him how excited you are about the choice he has made to trust Christ and to want to begin growing spiritually. Ask if he has any questions or doubts about the decision he has made. Tell him that you are looking forward to seeing him grow and encourage them by asking him to keep in contact throughout the year (this is a good time to give your campers your email or other contact information).
- Assure your camper that you are going to be praying for her.
- Every young Christian needs to start and build his understanding of the Scriptures. Don't try to teach everything all at once! It will overwhelm him. Remember, follow-up is a process that takes lots of time. Taking care of a newborn is a lot of work! But if you have done your job well, by God's grace your newborn friend will soon be walking, talking, feeding himself, and on his way to becoming a mature disciple of Christ.
- For your information and future use as a resource, we have included six Bible studies that you could use with a new believer. If you are interested and if your camper would like, we can make these available for you. You also will find some of the most important truths a new Christian needs to know.

Camper Information Sheet

PERSONAL INFORMATION

The name I use is: _____
My birthday is: _____ 19____
My family phone is: _____
My personal phone is: _____
I am going into the _____ grade at _____ School.
I came here with: _____
My e-mail address is: _____

ABOUT MY FAMILY

My father's name is: _____
My mother's name is: _____
I have _____ brothers and _____ sisters.
My pets include: _____

ABOUT MY INTERESTS

Things I'm good at include: _____
Hobbies and interests: _____
Other activities I enjoy are: _____
School involvements: _____
The reason I came this week is: _____
What I most enjoyed about this week? _____

ABOUT MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Do you have a church that you attend? _____ The name of it is _____
Would you consider yourself to be a Christian? _____ Why _____

Did you make any significant decisions or commitments this week? _____

Is there anything that I can pray for you about? _____

SECTION SIX: GENERAL GUIDELINES

Policies and Procedures

WHY ARE YOU HERE? Summer Missionaries and volunteers are here to serve campers and grow in their love for Jesus Christ. These are the top priorities of the summer.

SERIOUS STUFF: In every way possible you are to be examples of Christian character and conduct. There is to be no use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at any time, on or off the campgrounds. Boys and girls are not allowed in each others dorms. Summer Missionaries and volunteers are expected to obey the rules as set out by the Camp administration. Camp administration reserves the right to adjust the rules as deemed necessary.

TV, MUSIC: You may not bring a television, music or video device into the cabin or dorm rooms.

SIGN GIFTS: We believe that the sign gifts (healings, tongues, prophecies) have been discontinued and should not be expected in this age. We further believe that for every believer in Christ there is but one baptism by the Spirit. Therefore, Maranatha will not be a place for teaching or seeking sign gifts, whether for campers or for staff members. If you cannot wholeheartedly agree to and abide by these statements for your time with us here at Maranatha, we believe that God may be leading you to serve Him at another place where your particular beliefs will not be frustrated.

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT: Your character and conduct are to be of the highest possible standard at all times. You are a representative of Maranatha Camp and of Jesus Christ. In all activities and in all your thoughts, actions, and speech please remember to act according to your new nature in Christ. The guidelines outlined above are for your benefit as well as the benefit of those around you. Please keep this in mind throughout your time here at camp.

PHONE CALLS: All calls off camp grounds (other than to Maxwell) are long distance calls which will require either a credit or calling card, or that you call collect. Calling cards can be purchased in the Gift Shop.

LAST DAY OF CAMP: All cabin leaders must ensure that their cabin or dorm room is cleaned out and that the trash around the building is picked up before leaving the grounds or going off duty. Please be sure to turn in your *Camper Information Sheets* to the Information Center before leaving.

LOST AND FOUND: Lost items may be located in the Information Center. If you find something that does not belong to you it should be returned there as well. We are not responsible to locate your lost items, so please be responsible with your stuff.

OUT OF BOUNDS: The south side of the lake is off limits to all campers unless accompanied by a cabin leader. Likewise the extreme west end (past the archery field) and east end (past the end of the lake) are off limits for campers. (It is a good idea to stay off of Interstate-80 as well).

NO GUYS IN GIRLS' ROOMS AND NO GIRLS IN GUYS' ROOMS!

Other Important Camp Information

Orientation Information

First of all we just want to thank you for serving here at Maranatha Camp! We are so glad that you've come to join the team. There are a few things that we do want to make you aware of so that you are up to speed with and so that we are all operating on the same page.

The Maranatha Leadership Team

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:	George Cheek
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	Scot Cockson
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING:	Rodney Thiessen
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING:	Tad Stryker
DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE CENTER:	Ron Prohaska
DIRECTOR OF PROPERTIES:	Bruce Stucky

Maranatha Support Staff

We have approximately 10 other full-time staff members that work year-round to keep Maranatha Camp operating for other adult camps and guest groups. These many jobs include office and administrative personnel, a grounds crew, as well as other housekeeping and conference center employees. We also have approximately 60 people who are here for our Summer Missions Program. These people help us run all of the many summer activities, prepare meals, clean the facilities and take care of the property.

Volunteers

Numerous people come through Maranatha each year to serve in many different capacities. Approximately 200 of these volunteers come as cabin leaders. We could not run the many different camps we do without your help. Thanks you so much!

Where Do I Fit In?

You are an indispensable part of a much larger team of people who dedicate many hours, weeks and months in order to seeing this particular week of camp take place. I hope you can see the larger picture of what you are involved with. As a cabin leader you have the opportunity of serving on the front lines. This is a demanding job as you are aware, but the rewards are even greater. You have the chance to see lives reborn!

As a cabin leader, you are responsible first to the program director of your specific camp week. While you may not be involved with many of the full time camp leadership team, but you do need to be aware that Maranatha operates year-round and we need to have consistency in how our staff conducts itself. A few of the policies and guidelines have been listed in this section and we appreciate your cooperation following these for your time with us here at camp.

How Do I Find My Way?

Any of the staff would be more than happy to answer your questions. We have included a handy Camp map on the following page so that you will be able to find your way from place to place. If you need help or advice, please ask!

Camp Map

Emergency Procedures

Tornado/Severe Weather Plan

The following process will be used in the event of a tornado warning or other severe weather at Maranatha Camp:

The Camp Manager On Duty will monitor all severe weather throughout its duration and will keep the program/or rental group director updated on its status. The most effective technologies available should be used to monitor the storm. The Camp Manager On Duty, in conjunction with the program director/or rental group director and other departmental directors on hand, will use this information to decide what action, if any, should be taken to protect the campers and other residents. The levels of action are as follows:

NOTE TO INFORMATION CENTER OPERATOR ON DUTY: *At each stage below, contact all Maranatha departmental directors by telephone or pager.*

Stage 1	All staff should be alert, with radios on, aware of the weather situation.
Stage 2	Weather is deteriorating in the Maxwell/Maranatha Camp region; Information Center will be manned (regardless of time of day or night) and program director/or rental group director should be informed and await further directions.
Stage 3	A severe weather warning has been given for the Maxwell/Maranatha Camp Region. If there is time to take action, all campers, staff and residents will be instructed to go immediately to the dining hall. Once in the dining hall, they will be given further instructions as needed.
Stage 4	If a tornado is approaching the Camp, the people in the dining hall will be moved into the gym locker rooms and gym stairwell areas. If people are still outside and there is no time to move them to the dining hall, the announcement "Shelter In Place" will be given over the Camp PA system and by telephone and pager. Everyone should take shelter inside the nearest building, staying away from windows and covering themselves as best they can. Recommended locations are: RV Park Bathhouse: bathrooms; Needham Hall: kitchen; Clark, Becker and Lott: crawl space underneath each building or hallways with doors shut; Rawson and Yeutter: hallways with doors shut; Other cabins/buildings: underneath beds, mattresses or tables; Mobile Home Occupants: THIS IS ONE OF THE WORST PLACES TO BE DURING A TORNADO. ALL OCCUPANTS SEEK SHELTER ELSEWHERE. West Camp mobile homes go to Needham kitchen; East Camp mobile homes go to the Conference Center.

Fire plan

Should a fire occur on the Campground, Maranatha's Crew 13 response team will be the first on the scene. One of that crew will decide whether or not to call the fire department. As soon as possible after the fire is discovered, a Camp staff member will open the Information Center (if not staffed) to help communications go as smoothly as possible. If the fire occurs with guests on the grounds, cabin leaders/or group coordinators in or near the building where the fire occurs are responsible to account for all their guests and quickly remove them to a safe area (preferably the dining hall/chapel/gymnasium area). Crew 13 and any professional emergency staff should be on the scene. Other full-time staff will keep onlookers away from the scene. Emergency phone numbers are as follows:

1. Fire, Rescue, Life Support 911 (if using a Camp phone, remember to dial 9 first, wait for dial tone, then dial 911)
2. Sheriff's Office, North Platte 308-532-2468
3. Emergency Room, No. Platte Hospital 308-535- 7460
4. Poison Control Center, Omaha 1-800-955-9119

Chemical Spill (Shelter In Place)

In the event of a serious chemical spill, such as a semi-truck accident near the Camp on Interstate 80, this is our policy (as recommended by the Lincoln County emergency director in May 2003):

1. "Shelter In Place" is the preferred term. It refers to staying inside the building you currently are in. Do not use the word "evacuation" in descriptions, instructions or announcements. The goal is to keep people in a familiar place with their necessities.
2. It is a short-term solution (three to four hours) designed to allow first responders to get a handle on the situation and prevent the problem from getting worse.
3. It prevents casualties by keeping people away from the chemical.
4. Depending on which way the wind is blowing, how fast it is blowing and what kind of chemical is spilled, we may have less than a minute to respond.
5. **DO NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING YOU ARE IN:** If you are outside, get into the nearest building as soon as you possibly can. If you are a cabin leader, this is one instance when you should not try to spend time accounting for all the campers in your cabin (they may be scattered at various locations) Instead, take whichever campers are near you and immediately seek shelter in the nearest building.
6. Public Address System announces "Shelter in Place." Further announcements may be given at the discretion of the Executive Director or the Camp Manager on Duty.
7. Once you are inside the building, close all doors and windows. Shut off all ventilation or exhaust systems. Check every room of the building to make sure no ventilation or exhaust systems are on.
8. In the Conference Center, shut off all kitchen exhaust fans, all HVAC systems in kitchen, dining hall, chapel, gym lobby, locker rooms, hot tub, gym, meeting rooms, including pre-marked breakers.
9. If time permits, seal openings around windows and/or underneath doors with whatever is available, such as wet towels.

Flood Plan

Since the Camp is located in the Platte River valley, a dangerous flood situation could occur in the unlikely event of the failure of Kingsley Dam near Ogallala. If that happens, the Camp Manager on Duty shall use the PA and telephone systems to mobilize all Camp staff members and program personnel to help evacuate guests. Cabin leaders/or group coordinators will be responsible for accounting for all their guests. All usable vehicles on the Campground, including the Camp bus, Camp vans and any other buses or vans on the grounds at the time, will be utilized to evacuate guests. The flood evacuation route is as follows:

1. Go east on the Camp road until you come to the pavement, then turn right (south).
2. Take the paved road past Ft. McPherson National Cemetery. Follow the paved road as it turns left (east), and continue 0.2 mile.
3. Then turn right (south) onto the Cottonwood Canyon gravel road and follow it south through the Cottonwood Canyon area as far as necessary. The road leads out of the Platte Valley and eventually connects with Nebraska Highway 23 near Curtis. Emergency housing of evacuated guests at Curtis will be arranged if needed.
4. As soon as reasonably possible, the general director will be responsible for contacting radio and television stations, and parents/churches who sent guests.

General Safety

Please report any unsafe conditions right away to your immediate supervisor. Diseases are caused by pathogens, organisms that cause infections such as bacteria and viruses. Pathogens may be spread through the air or by contact with blood and other bodily fluids. Anytime any person (even a friend) has any discharge of blood or bodily fluids, you must consider them infectious and take appropriate precautions at all times. Never handle any blood or bodily fluid without wearing protective rubber gloves. This is known as taking "universal precautions." There are spill kits located in the bathrooms (under the sink) in the Dining Hall, Yeutter, Needham and Rawson halls. There are extra ones in the First Aid building and the Dining Hall, which are available 24 hours a day by contacting the Health Care Technician. Never assume that it is O.K. to clean up a spill without the proper equipment. Failure to do so can be dangerous to you and to anyone who comes in contact with what you have thrown away. There is a specific way we must dispose of any amount of blood or bodily fluid, whether wet or dry. The spill kits contain disposable gloves, disinfectant and a disposable plastic bag. The blood and any bandage, dressing, towel, paper towel, sheet or other blood-saturated item (including the disposable gloves) must be carefully and neatly put into plastic bags, which must be securely tied shut and placed inside the designated container at the dispensary.

NOTE: When removing the rubber gloves, carefully roll down and remove them without getting blood or fluid on yourself or anyone else. Under no circumstances should the spill kit bags be disposed of in the common garbage.

Crew 13 General Procedures

Crew 13 is Maranatha's on-site emergency response team. Whether the emergency be a fire, flood, severe weather, medical incident, or other wise, the Crew 13 response team will be the first ones on the scene. The Information Center Attendant will use the following procedure in the event of a Crew 13 emergency:

1. Announce twice over the PA system the Crew 13 code and location.
2. Contact Crew 13 members in order of priority, depending on the emergency.
3. Call outside help only if authorized by a member of Crew 13.

COLOR CODES: Color codes will be used when making crew 13 announcements, including over the PA system. They are RED (fire) BLUE (life support) YELLOW (lost camper/guest).

What Do I Do In a Crisis Situation

From time to time, other emergencies or crisis may occur. As their cabin leader, a camper will look to you in times of crisis.

WHEN TO GET HELP

In cases of impending physical danger, contact the camp director immediately by dialing 0 on a Camp phone. Such crises would include:

- Life-threatening situations
- Severe accidents or emergencies
- An attempted suicide *or* threatened suicide
- Present threats of violence by a person to himself or to others.

OTHER SERIOUS SITUATIONS

If you have a serious situation that may require further help or guidance to address (e.g., child abuse or neglect, sexual abuse, etc.) contact the Camp administration immediately for help in discerning the severity of the crisis and for assistance in reporting the incident to the proper authorities (if needed). Situations that may require professional help are:

- History of past abuse
- Addictions (drug, alcohol, pornography, bulimia, anorexia)
- Severe personality disorders
- Demonization
- Mental disorders or dysfunctions (hearing voices or seeing visions)
- Substance abuse

If you should encounter anything that resembles the examples above, contact your director to see what steps should be taken. Together you can determine a plan for encouraging the camper to participate in counseling or another type of help. NEVER contact other cabin leaders directly and give a camper's name to them. In such cases, it is imperative that you do not violate a camper's right to confidentiality.

Just because you think someone is in need of counseling does not mean she will be willing to participate in counseling. Work with your director to determine how to approach an individual with the suggestion of counseling or other help.

SECTION SEVEN: APPENDIX

Other Helpful Resources

How To Follow Up A New Believer

#1 How Can I Be Sure That I am a Christian

Let's suppose you're having a really bad day. You're late for school, you flunk your big test, your sweetheart breaks up with you, and the coach is all over you at practice before the "big Game." How do you know that Christ is still in your life?

1. A PROMISE OF CHRIST.

- Read John 1:12.
- Write out John 3:16

- Who is speaking? _____
- Who is being spoken to? _____
- What does Christ promise? _____
- What do you have to do? _____
- What does it mean to believe? _____
- If you believe, can you be sure of having eternal life? _____
- Do you think Christ would lie to you or mislead you? _____
- Why or why not? _____

2. TWO KINDS OF LIVES

- Read I John 5:11-13.
- What are the two types of people mentioned in verse 12?

1. _____

2. _____

- Do you know, without a doubt, that you yourself have the Son? _____
- If you have the Son, what else do you have? _____
- What kind of life do you have? (verse 11) _____
- What is eternal life? _____

(A life in relationship with Christ now on earth and with Him for eternity)

- Can you know for sure that you have eternal life? (verse 13) _____

3. THE SHEPHERD AND SHEEP

- Read John 10:27-28.
- Who is the Shepherd? _____
- Who are the sheep? _____
- Who is holding on to whom? _____

4. THE LOVE OF GOD

Read Romans 8:38-39.

- Is there anything that the author left out that could separate you from God's love? _____
 - Why is it so important that nothing can separate you from the love of God _____
-

5. RESPONDING TO HIS PROMISES

Read Hebrews 13: 5-6.

- What has God promised to Christians? (verse 5) _____
 - Because of this promise, what should your attitude be? _____
-

6. DON'T DEPEND ON FEELINGS

The promise of God's Word, the Bible—not your feelings—is your authority. The train diagram below illustrates the relationship between **fact** (God and His Word) **faith** (your trust in God and His word) and **feeling** (the result of your faith and obedience). (Read John 14:21.)

7. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- How can you know that Christ is in your life? _____
- If you have invited Christ into your heart as your Savior, you can be certain that:
 1. Christ is in your life.
 2. You have eternal life.
 3. Christ will never leave you.

How To Follow Up A New Believer

#2 How Can I Experience God's Love and Forgiveness

So now you are a Christian, but there are times when you still blow it. Like the day when you're angry at a classmate who is getting straight A's without even studying when you barely make B's, and you study all the time. After school that day, you went outside to play with your dog and while throwing a stick for him to fetch, you were so angry that you threw too hard...right into your neighbor's front glass window! Now you have to pay for your anger and bad attitude. Suddenly, you think to yourself, "I'm a Christian now. I shouldn't be so angry and upset about other's successes." Let's take a look at what to do and how you can experience God's love and forgiveness, especially when you mess up.

1. THE NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

It's helpful to understand why you need to be forgiven. Let's take a look at what God's Word says.

- Read Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6.
- According to these verses, how many people have sinned? _____
- Define sin: _____
- What is the result of sin? _____
- Read Hebrews 9:22. What is the requirement for forgiveness? _____

2. DIFFERENT BIBLICAL SACRIFICES

The Bible often talks of sacrifices. In the Old Testament, various animals were sacrificed by priests to forgive or atone for people's sins. But the New Testament describes God's perfect solution, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, to forgive people of sins. Let's look at the differences.

1. Differences in Priests

- Read Hebrews 7:23-28.
- List the differences between the Old Testament priests and Jesus.
-

	Old Testament Priests		Jesus
1.	_____	1.	_____
2.	_____	2.	_____
3.	_____	3.	_____

2. Differences in Sacrifices

- Read Hebrews 10:3-4, 11.
- How often did priests perform duties and offer sacrifices? _____
- Could this take away sins? _____
- Read Hebrews 10: 12-14.
- The priest described in these verses is Jesus Christ, our High Priest. How many times did He need to offer sacrifices?
- What was the result of Jesus' sacrifice of dying on the cross (verse 14)? _____
- What else has Jesus done since His sacrifice (verse 12)? _____

3. THE EXTENT OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS

- Read Colossians 2:13-14 and Psalm 103:12. How many of your sins did Christ die for when He died on the cross? _____
- Does this mean all sins committed in the past? _____ all the future? _____
- How many of your sins were future when Christ died on the cross? _____
- If all future sins are forgiven, can you just go out and sin all you want and take advantage of your forgiveness? _____ Why or why not? _____
- The Bible is clear that if you really understand and accept God's love and forgiveness, you won't want to

continue to sin. Do you agree with the following statement: "A God who is willing to send His Son to die for me must care deeply for me. If He did all this for me, He must want the best for me. I want to do what He wants for me." _____

4. HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Christ died for all your sins—past, present and future. Thus as a Christian, you're totally forgiven by the God of the universe. Even though this is true, you may not always feel or experience this love and forgiveness. Let's look at how you can.

1. Relationship vs. Fellowship with others.

- What is the difference between a relationship and fellowship (say with you and your father)?
- Relationship: _____
- Fellowship: _____
- Suppose you have an argument with your father, where you are wrong. what do you need to do in order to experience your father's forgiveness? _____
- Even if your fellowship changes, will your relationship (the fact of being your father's child) ever change? _____

2. Relationship vs. Fellowship with God.

Similarly, you have both a relationship and fellowship with God. Sometimes you may take the control for your life (control that belongs to God) and do what you want to do. As a Christian, your relationship is not affected because you will always belong to Him, but your disobedience and selfishness will affect your fellowship with God. Also, even though you are forgiven for your sins, your rebellion may keep you from experiencing God's love and forgiveness. It's time like these you may feel far away from God.

3. Restoring Fellowship with God

Since your relationship with God doesn't change, you must take steps to restore your fellowship with God when it is broken or strained. That involves confession and turning away from what God says is wrong and doing what's right. Remember, the reason for confession is not to satisfy God, but rather to benefit you and restore your relationship with God.

You can follow these steps:

1. Confess or agree with God that what you've done is sin. (Confession in the New Testament means to "agree with God about your sin." It's like saying, "God, I admit I was wrong.")
 2. Thank God that He has already forgiven you.
 3. Turn from your sin.
- Knowing how important it is to confess your sins, realize that God does not intend for you to spend all your time digging for your sins to confess. Rather, you are to confess those sins you know and are aware of, then you are to trust the Holy Spirit to give you the power to live as He wants you to live.

4. TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISES

As you continue to grow in your relationship with God, it's important to know and remember the promises He has given. Let's look at His promise to forgive.

Write out I John 1:9. _____

- Read Proverbs 28: 13, and Psalm 32:5. What does God promise in these verses? _____
- On your own, take some time to read God's Word and discover more of His precious promises.

How To Follow Up A New Believer

#3 I'm No Spiritual Superhero... Where's The Power?

You really want to grow in your relationship with God, but you're tired of trying in your own strength to be a Spiritual Super Hero. You find that stressful days--like test days or game days--are especially difficult times to be the person that God wants you to be. Thankfully, you don't have to live the Christian life by yourself. Rather, God provides the power for you to live a life of faith and love. That's why the Holy Spirit is so important.

1. THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

At the moment you received Christ, the Holy Spirit came into your life. Let's find out more.

- Read Ephesians 1: 13-14, Romans 8:9, and I Corinthians 3:16. According to these verses, where is the Holy Spirit in relation to the person who has received Christ? _____

2. THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit lives in you to enable you to live the Christian life. Let's find out specifically what the Holy Spirit want to do for you.

- In the space provided, write out what each verse says the Holy Spirit does.
- John 14:26 _____
- Galatians 5:22-23 _____
- John 16:8-11 _____
- Acts 1:8 _____

3. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

From the above verses, we find that Christ's Spirit lives in you to produce His qualities, to teach you, and give you the ability to be obedient. But what about experiencing His power? Follow these steps to experience the Holy Spirit's power in your life.

1. Be honest with God.

It is important to know that, as a Christian, your sin or disobedience will never separate you from God. You are His child and that will never change. But when you sin, your relationship with God is directly affected. Your sin grieves God because it robs you of the joy of your relationship with him, and limits His power in your life.

- What does I John 1:9 tell us about how to deal with our sin? _____
- What does it mean to confess? _____

2. Know and obey God's command.

As a Christian, you will continually discover more about God's desires and plans for you.

- Read Ephesians 5:18. What specific command does God have for you? _____
- What do you think it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit? _____

To be filled means to be "controlled or empowered" by the Holy Spirit. It means that you are trusting the Spirit to give you the resources you need to live the Christian life. If the Holy Spirit is not doing what Jesus said He would do, it is because you are not, by faith, letting Him control and lead your life. Instead, you (and everyone else) often want to be in charge.

3. Claim God's promise.

God promises many things. You can ignore or disbelieve those promises, but His power can be in your life if you believe and claim God's promises.

- Read I John 5:14-15. When you ask God to do something that you know He wants you to do, what does He promise? _____

4. BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is clear that God will do anything you ask that is in agreement with His desire or plan. Since you know it's God's command for you to be filled with His Spirit, it only makes sense that if you ask to be filled with the Spirit, God will respond. When you ask God to do something, He wants you to believe that He will answer. That is called asking in faith.

- Is it your desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit? _____
 - Do you want the Holy Spirit to give you the power to live the Christian life daily? _____
 - If so, write out the different areas of your life, such as grades, athletics, relationships, parents, etc.
-

- By faith, through prayer, give each of these areas over to God, one-by-one, asking Him to take control of them. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to live the Christian life on a daily, moment-by-moment basis.

How To Follow Up A New Believer

#4 How Can I Grow In My Relationship With Christ?

When you become a Christian, you enter into a personal relationship with God. This relationship is a result of what Jesus Christ did for you on the cross. So, how can you develop this relationship with God? Let's first try to get a better understanding of relationships.

1. TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS

Let's take a look at a few different relationships.

- First, let's suppose that have been dating someone for a year and neither of you talked at all. What kind of relationship would you have? _____
- Next, let's suppose the second option would be that you were in a dating relationship but just one of you did all the talking. What kind of relationship would that be? _____
- What is missing in these two dating relationships? _____
- What kind of communication is needed? _____

2. TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

As we just discussed, in order to develop a quality relationship with someone, you need two-way communication. This is also true in our relationship with God. God talks to us through the Bible, and we talk to God through prayer.

Let's look at what God's Word says about these things.

1. God's communication to us through the Bible.

- Write out Romans 8:28. _____

In your own words, explain what you think God is saying in this Scripture verse.

Read Philippians 4:19.

- What does God's Word above say to you personally? _____

2. We communicate with God through prayer.

- Prayer is simply talking to God.
- Write out Philippians 4:6-7 _____

- What does this verse say not to do? _____
- What does this verse instruct us to do? _____
- What benefit do we receive by praying? _____

3. PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD

If you want to grow in your relationship with Christ, it is vital that you spend time getting to know Him. Let's see what He says about this.

- Write out Psalm 1: 1-3 _____
-
-

- Many people refer to the time they spend getting to know God each day as their "Quiet Time" or "Personal Time with God." It's important that you make time to do this regularly. When would be a good time and place for you?

4. GETTING STARTED

When having a "Quiet Time", two important ingredients to include are:

1. Talking to God in prayer

2. Letting God speak to you from the Bible.

- For new Christians, a good place to start reading the Bible is in the Gospel of John. Begin with prayer, asking God to teach you about Himself through your time alone with Him. Then choose a verse or phrase to read and study. You might even journal your prayers and observations.
- You will learn more about this in the next study, "Spending Time with God: A Spiritual Workout."

How To Follow Up A New Believer

#5 Spending Time With God: A Spiritual Workout

In school it's important to set aside time to do your homework. In athletics, it is critical that you show up and work hard at practice. Your friends expect you to spend time with them on weekends. It's also very important that you spend time alone with God every day. You can think of it as having a "spiritual workout" which will strengthen every area of your life.

1. BENEFITS OF SPENDING TIME WITH GOD

- Read Romans 10:17. Spending regular time alone with God each day will help you grow in your faith. As a result, it will help you begin to trust God more each day with every area of your life.

2. A SEVEN-MINUTE SPIRITUAL WORKOUT

Even taking just seven minutes alone with God can make a huge difference in your attitude and well-being. Below is a suggested spiritual workout which includes three steps.

1. Pray-1 minute

- According to I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." In accordance with this verse, confess to God any known sin in your life.
- Ask God to show you something new as you read His Word.

2. Read God's Word-5 minutes

- Choose a Bible verse. Read it and ask yourself three questions:
 1. What does this say about God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit?
 2. What does this say about me (mankind)?
 3. What can I do to apply to my life what I've learned from the Bible verse?

3. Pray-1 minute

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Ask God to help you apply to your life what you have learned.
- Pray for yourself and others.

3. DOING A GROUP WORKOUT

- Now take a few minutes to complete the three steps of a "Seven-Minute Spiritual Workout" with the other members of your group. You can do this aloud and discuss it as you go.

1. Pray-1 minute

- Remember to confess your sins to God and ask Him to teach you through His Word.

2. Read God's Word-5 minutes

- Read John 13:1-17, then answer the questions below.
- What does this say about God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit? _____

- What does this say about me (mankind)? _____

- What can I do to apply to my life what I've learned from the Bible verse? _____
-

3. Pray-1 minute

- Take time to thank God for teaching you. Ask Him to help you live out what you've learned.

4. DOING A PERSONAL WORKOUT

Now take time to do a "Seven-Minute Spiritual workout" by yourself.

1. Pray-1 minute

2. Read God's Word—5 minutes

Read Mark 12:28-34

- What does this say about God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit? _____

- What does this say about me (mankind)? _____

- What can I do to apply to my life what I've learned from the Bible verse? _____

3. Pray—1 minute

Now that you've tried it a few times, you're ready to make this a daily workout! Enjoy!

How To Follow Up A New Believer

#6 Does God Have a Plan For My Life?

If you're involved in sports, you know that every successful athlete or team has a game plan. Often, the team that best sticks to its game plan will win the sporting event, even when the opponents may possess better athletic ability. If you have a personal relationship with God, this same principle can apply to your life as a Christian. God has a game plan and he intends you to be a vital part of it.

1. GOD'S GAME PLAN

What a coach talks to his team about just before the "big game" is very important. He doesn't discuss things that don't really matter at that point. Instead, a good coach discusses the game plan, gives clear directions and encourages the players. Similarly, in the critical moments before Jesus left His disciples to go to Heaven, He talked about God's game plan to save people from their sins and how the disciples were to be involved in reaching the goal. In His final moments with them, Jesus covered some very important instructions and encouraged them to go out and "win"! Let's look at what He told them.

- Read Matthew 28:18-20.
- How do you know Jesus had the position to give instructions to the disciples? _____

What four things did Jesus tell His disciples to do? (Hint: Each begins with an action word.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

- Who was to be with them at all times? _____
- Read Mark 16:15.
- Where were the disciples to go? _____
- What were they told to share? _____

2. JESUS SETS THE EXAMPLE

Read Matthew 4:19.

- When Jesus was with His disciples, what did He tell them to do? _____
- Why should they follow Him? _____
- What were they to become if they obeyed Him? _____
- What does that mean? _____
- Read Acts 1:8
- Who did Jesus say would give them power? _____
- How did He describe the role they would play? _____
- Where were they to go? _____

These geographic locations could be compared to your spheres of influence. Write out what these places are for you personally:

1. Your School (Jerusalem):
2. Your City (Judea):
3. Your State (Samaria):
4. A Foreign Country (Ends of the Earth):

3. HOW TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN

- Read John 1:40-42
 - What did Andrew do to follow God's game plan?
1. _____

2. _____

How could you today bring someone to Jesus? _____

Read Mark 5: 1-19.

What did Jesus tell the man, once possessed by demons, how he could follow God's game plan?

4. YOUR ROLE IS VITAL

As a Christian, you personally know God. You also know many people who need to know God, too. Your role as a follower of Jesus and a witness of His truth is vital in winning people to God.

- Take a moment to write down six friends who need to hear how to know God personally.

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

- Brainstorm and write down some creative ways you can share Christ with your friends:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

How Do I Lead a Small Group Discussion?

Tips in Facilitating a Dynamic Discussion

Acknowledging everyone who speaks during a discussion.

Even if several people speak at once, make sure to recognize each one. Also respond to laughter or a groan or a deep sigh—remember, 90% of communication is nonverbal.

Clarifying what is being said and felt.

Say, “Let me see if I understand what you are saying.”

Taking it to the group as a means of generating discussion.

Don’t be the answer person. Ask, “What do others of you think about what was just said?”

Summarizing what has been said.

Offer statements like, “So far it seems like we have been saying...” or “Nancy, could you try to summarize the key ideas of the discussion so far?”

Kinds of Questions That Help Campers Engage in Meaningful, Challenging Discussions.

Opening questions

Use an opening question to help the group warm up to each other, get to know one another better, or to let them hear their own voices. Opening questions are speculative and thought-engaging. Broach the topic of discussion with a short, creative illustration or story that will answer the question, “Why do I want to discuss this topic tonight?”

Examples:

“What do you look forward to as you grow older?”

“What is it that often drives us to fear intimacy with one another? What can we do as a group of friends this week to diminish this anxiety??

Launching Questions

Knowing the goal of the discussion, the counselor can prepare launching questions designed to generate group interaction and feedback. These questions are typically designed to answer the question, “What do I know, what do I feel, what should I do?”

Examples:

“What do we learn from seeing the obstacles Joseph faced and how we overcome them?”

“After hearing tonight’s discussion, we all agree that we are somewhat ‘stuck’. What steps can we take to develop greater trust levels with each other?”

“What do you think was going through Peter’s mind at this time?”

Some questions do not necessarily launch a discussion, but they do solicit responses and feedback. **There are two kinds of launching questions: those that are leading and those that are limiting.**

a) Leading questions usually produce a short answer.

Examples:

“Would you be tempted in this situation?”

“Do you agree or disagree with this statement?”

b) Limiting questions indicate that you have a specific answer in mind. They do not promote much discovery. However, they can help clarify facts.

Examples:

“What three commands do we find in this passage?”

“What two things does Paul say we must do?”

Guiding Questions

Even the most well-prepared counselor will need to spontaneously guide the discussion at times.

Examples:

Rephrase the question: “You seem to be asking, ‘How can we develop trust as a group?’”

Personalize the question: “How would you respond to Jesus if He asked you that question?”

Test for consensus or decision: “Are we saying that everyone must obey this command?”

Summarizing questions

Summarizing after a series of questions allows the counselor to acknowledge each camper’s contributions while maintaining Biblical integrity and direction.

Examples:

An affirming comment can be made with good eye contact and a smile by saying, “Thanks for sharing that” or “That’s a good point” or “Okay, that is a response worth considering; are there other thoughts as well?”

Summary response might be, “So what we see in this passage is...”

Application questions

The goal of the small group discussion is not just information but transformation. The counselor can help campers apply what they have learned by asking application questions.

Examples:

“I understand this sharing is painful for you. I am feeling very sad for the way you were treated by your teacher this week.”

“Bob, I realize you want to talk, but it is important that we listen to what Steve has shared, and attempt to come alongside him during this critical time of decision for him.”

Participatory responses

These responses invite others to join in the discussion. They not only affirm a participant’s sharing, but also invite others to engage in the process. Participatory responses do not isolate group members by shaming, embarrassing, or lecturing them.

Examples:

“How have others in the group dealt with grief you have experienced?”

“Sam, that was a terrific insight; could you share how you came to that realization?”

Bob has shared some deep feelings tonight. How might others of you have responded to a similar confrontation at work?”

Going Deeper responses

Going deeper allows you to repeat the thoughts of others and enables them to share more deeply. It summarizes what has been heard and allows the group to explore personal feeling, thoughts, and actions.

Examples:

“Jen, if I heard you correctly, I believe you stated something similar to what Keri shared last week. Do you share the same feelings as Keri on this matter?”

These kind of responses—affirming, participatory, and going deeper—will enable you to value your campers while encouraging them to express feelings, thoughts and personal concerns.

How Do I Get My Campers to Open Up During Our Discussions?

Using group openers is a basic, yet essential, small group skill. Icebreaker ideas and share questions are designed to facilitate discussion about camper's personal lives and to help them open up more freely. They are not designed for simple yes and no answers. Use discretion with these questions and statements. Some will evoke deep and serious response. Others are light and funny. If your campers are new to one another, you should use questions that focus on information about people's lives (where they grew up, where they go to school, how they came to camp, what they think about certain events in our culture, etc..) As intimacy develops in your group, begin to challenge your campers with more in-depth questions that evoke feelings, thought, and insights.

Some examples of group openers you could use:

1. My favorite TV shows and movies are _____ & _____.
2. My favorite two summer activities are _____ & _____.
3. One of my biggest irritations or pet peeves is _____.
4. People might be surprised to find out that I _____.
5. You have three wishes. What would you wish for and why?
6. What is the most daring thing you have ever done? What makes it so daring?
7. What day of your life would you most like to relive? Why?
8. I am most like my mom in that I _____.
9. I am most like my dad in that I _____.
- 10 What was the best gift you ever received?
- 11 What is the nicest thing anybody ever said about you?
- 12 Where do you go or what do you do when life gets too heavy for you? Why?
- 13 If your house were on fire, what three items (not people or pets) would you try to save?
- 15 Who has been your hero growing up? How did you try to imitate him or her?
- 16 I suspect that behind my back people say I'm _____ because _____.
- 17 What things do you find yourself really getting stressed out about?
- 18 What is one of your biggest fears about the future?
- 19 A time when I was extremely embarrassed was when _____.
- 20 My biggest struggle during school this year was _____.
- 21 The event that I would like to compete in the Olympics would be _____.

How Can I Have a Meaningful Discussion Time?

All groups operate according to certain values and expectations. Often these go unspoken or unwritten. In order to foster open communication and clarity about the purpose and values of the group, it is important to discuss upfront what are going to be the expectations for all your campers during discussion time together. Some elements you might want to include during each discussion time together are the following:

Affirmation. A time to affirm and encourage one another.

Prayer. This encourages campers to be humble before God. It is a time to praise, ask, confess, and thank the Lord for all He has done.

Openness. This promotes honesty and an ease of sharing feeling, struggles, joys, and hurts.

Honesty. This is critical to establish authentic relationships.

Confidentiality. This is an agreement that what is said in your group will remain confidential, that opinions will be respected and differences will be allowed.

Sensitivity. A commitment to sensitivity to the needs, feeling, backgrounds, and current situations of other campers will help build strong relationships within the group.

Accountability. This is voluntary submission to another camper or campers for support, encouragement, and help in a particular area of your life, giving them some responsibility for assisting you in that area.

What Are Possible Problems I May Encounter During Our Group Discussions?

What Do I Do With an Overly Talkative Camper?

Establish ground rules for your group

Set the rule that no one can speak a second time unless everyone who want to talk has had a chance to speak.

No interrupting or overrunning someone else while they are speaking.

Go systematically around the group, allowing each person a chance to talk. Remember at the beginning to be sensitive with campers who are either unaccustomed to or feel uncomfortable with speaking in a group setting.

Assure the talkative camper privately that you value his or her sharing, but that you wish to hear other camper's comments as well.

Here's a creative solution: throw a football or some other object around the room. Only the camper with the object in his or her hand has the right to talk in the group.

During the discussion, simply interject and sensitively direct a question to another person.

Meet With Them Individually

Firmly and sensitively confront the camper in private. Begin with the positive contributions the person has made in the group and the need for others to be given the opportunity to make a similar impact. Use the confrontation time as an important affirmation moment as well.

Ask for the Talker's help in drawing others out. Suggest he or she end his or her comments with a question like, "So what do the rest of you think?"

How Can I Evaluate My Discussions With My Campers?

Questions to Ask Yourself:

1. Did you deal with the material?
2. Did you know your material thoroughly enough to have freedom in leading?
3. Did you keep the group from wandering?
4. Did you talk too much?
5. Did you make the discussion practical?
6. Did you draw everyone into the discussion?
7. Did you lead or were you led?
8. Did a few people monopolize the time or was participation fairly even?
9. Did you stop on time?
10. Did you prayerfully prepare ahead of time and pray as a group in the end/
11. Did you listen attentively?
12. Did you draw some principles or conclusions and then come up with ways to apply them?