

Thoughts for Leaders...

1. **SEEK THE LORD.** Pray that the Lord would make you sensitive to what he is doing in the lives of the kids he has entrusted to you.
2. **SEEK TRUST.** Ask the kids for honest answers. Give permission for kids to “pass” if they cannot answer honestly.
3. **SEEK CONFIDENTIALITY.** Insist that what is discussed in the group stays in the group.
4. **SEEK DISCUSSION.** Do not be afraid of silence and use this time to springboard off something Matt said that spoke to your group.

Cabin Time

A Cabin time is:

- An opportunity for the counselor to get some feedback from kids.
- A chance for kids to think out loud about what they are experiencing: to question, disagree, investigate, etc.
- A time for kids to hear the thoughts of their peers.
- A chance for the counselor to share his/her own experiences regarding the quest for personal commitment.

A Cabin time is not:

- A devotional hour.
- A captive audience to practice “sermonettes.”
- A time for theological argument.

Setting Up a Cabin Time

- Set up cabin time as a relaxed, informal rap session. Doing so from the first night is the key to a good cabin time throughout the week.
- Arrange to have everyone sitting comfortably on the same eye level. Don’t have kids on the top bunk and the others on the floor.
- Make introductions, if necessary, or allow kids to introduce themselves and where they are from, etc.
- Lay the ground rules, i.e., everyone should listen respectfully, no making fun of questions or things others say, answer questions MOST honestly –pass on a question if you can’t answer MOST honestly.
- Make sure kids get in the habit of talking to each other. Throw out a non-threatening question such as, “What do you think of the trip so far?” or “What do you think the people in your high school would think about what the speaker had to say tonight?”
- Give each person an opportunity to talk; hopefully this will open doors for them to contribute again later in the discussion. Once a high school student sees that this is fun and safe, they’ll want to talk and the leader’s job will be to simply steer the conversation.

Role of the Leader: You are a facilitator

- Start the meeting in as non-threatening a manner as possible. “So, what are your first impressions of Southwind?” or, “What did you think about...”
- Tell them what this time is for... “This is your time every night to recap the day – a chance for you to tell us what you think or ask a question.” If kids know what to expect, they will be less defensive.
- Anticipate their questions. Be prepared!
- Stay away from comparisons of speakers.
- Don’t talk too long. Kids get impatient. Get to the point!
- Keep discussion going. Stay away from problem areas that may cloud the Gospel. (“What about the pygmies in Africa?”) Do not let one kid’s personal smoke screen confuse your whole cabin. Offer to talk to the one kid one-on-one and then follow up.
- Make sure that the main point of the talk is re-emphasized.

What to do:

- Use the questions that you were given.
- Ask your students to recount as much of the talk as they can.
- As they are explaining, see how much of it they agree with, believe in, or live by. (“Come on, can that really be true?”)
- Clarify the illustration and/or use other illustrations.
- Use the testimonies from the story time.
- PRAY, PRAY, PRAY for each kid in your cabin, that the Holy Spirit will bind Satan from your cabin. Pray for wisdom, boldness and sensitivity.

Win the right to be heard:

- Be a good listener
- Be available
- Bear with the kids in their idiosyncrasies
- Be firm
- Be prayerful
- Be positive
- Be yourself

Enjoy the cabin time. The responsibility for the campers coming to faith is not on *your* shoulders, it is up to *God*. Feel privileged to be a part of the process!

Hear Me Out

Your first cabin time should be used to set the tone for the rest of your times together. Be sure to explain to them what cabin time is and is not. The ice breakers are simply suggestions to help lead into discussion. Feel free to be creative or change them as you see fit for your group. If your group is moving through the questions quickly and you feel they are ready to go to a deeper level, use the “Going Deeper” questions as a tool to spark more conversation.

Cabin Time Goal:

Hear your kids out! Learn everything you can about them and where they are with God.

Scripture:

Psalms 23

Ice Breakers:

- Finish the sentence:
My trip to camp was...
This week I am most excited about...
This week it was hard to leave... in order to be here.
One “storm” in my life right now is...
- Give each student a piece of paper and a pen/pencil. Have them draw a timeline marking the highs and lows (significant events) in their lives up to this point and share with the group.
- Two truths and a lie: Share two truths about yourself and one lie. Have everyone guess which one is the lie.

Small Group Questions:

1. What are you most looking forward to at camp?
2. What or who will you miss most from home?
3. If your heart was a cup, how full of love would you be? Dry? Half-full? Overflowing? Why did you answer the way you did?

Going Deeper:

Describe what home is like for you.

You can use any of these questions if you need to be more specific:

- Who do you live with?
- Do you get along with your parents, siblings?
- Tell me about your best friend. Why are they your best friend?
What makes them different from your other friends?

Jesus Notices Me (Brooke)

Cabin Time Goal:

Show your kids that they are all valuable. You notice them and so does God! By the end of cabin time, you should have a good sense of where most of them stand with the Lord. What objections do you see your kids having to the Gospel? What does each one of them need to draw closer to the Lord?

Scripture:

Jeremiah 2:13

Ice Breakers:

“Who are you?” Ask the students in your group to find one thing that they brought with them on this trip that will describe them to the rest of the group. These can be things from a wallet or purse, something they are wearing, a book, something in their suitcase, etc. Go around the circle and have each person tell why they chose this item.

Small group questions:

1. What was your “high” and “low” for yesterday (best and worst part of the day)?
2. Who is someone famous that you think has a broken cup? How do you think their cup got broken?
3. How has your cup been broken?

Going Deeper:

What are some ways people try to be noticed in our world?

Do you think you are noticed?

Who notices you?

When are you noticed? What are you doing when you are noticed?

How do you feel when you are noticed?

Do you think God notices you?

What do you think God notices/thinks about you?

Read Luke 19:1-10.

What can we learn from the story of Zacchaeus?

Jesus Sees My Mess (Greg)

Cabin Time Goal:

Life is messy, even if you can't see it. Help your students reflect on their life situation –the good and the bad. We want kids to come face to face with the things in their life they might be hiding; the sins they might not have confessed or even realized.

Scripture:

Jeremiah 2:5 & 2:10

Ice Breaker:

Go around the room and have each person share their quirkiest talent (anything strange, cool, or unique) with everyone.

Small group questions:

1. Explain in your own words James 2:10. “And the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as the person who has broken all of God’s laws.”

Going Deeper:

What would you possibly be losing and gaining by following Jesus?

If Jesus walked in here tonight, how would you react?

Possible answers: Surprise, excitement, pretend, hide, perform, get hostile, apathetic

What questions would you like to ask Him?

Restore/Respond (Chris)

Pray for your students while they are on their solo time!

Cabin Time Goal:

When they come to cabin time, allow them to share what they experienced if they feel comfortable. If they don't feel comfortable to share in front of the group, seek them out individually during the free time tonight or sometime tomorrow. Don't force students to share, but make sure they know that you are willing to listen and help.

Scripture:

Jeremiah 3:22

John 4

Ice Breaker:

Have your students break into pairs with someone they don't know very well (or go around the circle) and answer these "Would You Rather" questions:

- Hike or Bike?
- Visit the beach or mountains?
- Watch a comedy or drama?
- Own a cell phone or an iPod?
- Be a champion in a team sport or individual sport?
- Share bad news with your mom or your dad?
- Make a lot of money or have a lot of friends?
- Share a secret or keep a secret?
- Go to a movie or have food with friends?

Small group questions:

1. By dying on the cross and then raising from the dead 3 days later, Jesus took the payment you owe for your sin. Taking this step heals our broken cups. Chris gave you 3 options to choose from tonight. What was your response?
2. What keeps you from trusting Jesus with all of your life?

Going Deeper:

What are some questions you have for God?

What is holding you back from surrendering to God?

Based on the scale below, where are you in terms of trusting Jesus?

Not yet ready to trust him

Still deciding if you can trust him

Ready to start trusting him

Already follow Jesus and learning to trust him in more areas

Friday – Remain/Remember (Judy)

Help students connect with the stories they've heard throughout our time at Summer Escape. As they start thinking about going home, help them sort through their thoughts and feelings. Begin to prepare them and encourage them to go home and live out the changes they've decided to make. Help them to realize it's not about how hard we try but how much we surrender.

Scripture:

John 4

1 Timothy 1:14-15

Ice Breaker:

Go around the room and have each person share their quirkiest talent (anything strange, cool, or unique) with everyone.

Small group questions:

Going Deeper:

What has God taught you this week?

What are you going to do now to make sure you remain close to God?

Read John 15:1-17 "The Vine and the Branches"

- How are you going to step up and lead in your school and other places?
- What are ways you could practice living a pure life for Christ?
- What are some things you could get involved with when you get back home to help you pursue a life that pleases God and help others while doing so?
- Do you want to get involved?

Friday Going Home

There is no cabin time scheduled today, but here are some questions that you can use in conversation with your students on the way home.

1. What is the experience you will remember most from this past week?
2. What is going to be the hardest part about going home? Is there anything that you are nervous or scared about?
3. What is the best day of your life so far?
4. What is the worst day of your life so far?
5. What are 3 things that you know God wants you to work on in order to be a walking billboard for Him?

Challenge: Make plans right now to tell your parents how this week went for you.