



Growing
FAITH
moments

Leaving for Camp

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are the Four Key Faith Practices: **Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions.** As you prepare for camp pray the presence of God will be felt in a new and tangible way. Let this Leaving for Camp **Growing Faith Moment** be a time to prepare for a unique way to experience faith.

This moment can take place in a small group or around the family table.

Caring Conversations

Invite the young person to share their answers to one or a number of the following questions.

- What are you most excited about for camp?
- What are your expectations - what do you think you will do?
- Do you know who else is going on camp?

Devotions

In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people. Romans 8: 26-27

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. John 14: 26

Share in the excitement about what camp might mean for them and their relationship with God the father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Share your own camp experiences.

Talk about the things they will do and experience on camp - sharing stories, bible studies, small group time, camp worship and music, being part of a community of young people and praying together.

Service



Parents - Go through the camp list with them, especially if they are younger. Pray for them in the lead-up to camp, pray for them in the car on the way there.

Community - Have the congregation pray for the youth before camp. Bring the young people up to the front of the worship service and pray over them before camp. Pray for them while they are away.

It is vital that a connection is made with these young people to show them that as their church family you care about them and that their journey is important to you. Research shows us that young people are looking for authentic and caring relationships. You will be amazed at how this intentional communication will impact your congregation as your young people feel valued.

Give the young people an opportunity to reflect and share their experiences.

Rituals and Traditions



Gather the people present around the camper/s. Invite them to place their hands on their head or shoulders for the following prayer and blessing.

Pray:

Dear Lord Jesus, As (name) prepares for camp please fill him/her with your Spirit so he/she can experience your love and grace on camp. Surround him/her with faithful leaders and fellow campers who will care for him/her and show him/her your love as they worship you and learn more about you and about his/her faith. Amen.

Bless

May your eyes, ears and heart be open to the Holy Spirit this week. Amen.

Gifts:

A travel bible.