

Crossings Kids Camp 2024

Connect Time

We are thankful that you chose to come to Crossings this summer! We know that Connect time is an important time for your group to spend together. With that in mind, we have created Connect curriculum that you can use at your leisure with what best fits your group.

This is a time created to give you, as the leader, an opportunity to learn and grow your group and help the camp connection continue after you return home. We believe this time can be used in many ways.

Four ways we believe this time can grow your group:

1. Teach your group about how to spend time alone with God each day. Use the first part of Connect time for kids to complete their TAWG and have your adults available to help answer questions.

Establishing a quiet time is sometimes difficult for kids. This is a great opportunity to teach how important time alone with God is every day. Talking about how we learn at camp (when there are no distractions versus at home when life is busy) is always a good place to start. Many times at camp, VBS, and retreats, our faith has a growth spurt. Everything is intentional and fun, but when we get home, we get back into a routine and forget that those times with God helped us.

Have students think about what it would be like if we were as intentional about spending time with God at home as we are here.

- What do you think would change?
- Would you grow more in your relationship with Jesus?
- Would you know more Bible verses?
- Would you know more about God?
- How do you think you would react to hard things if you were spending time with God every day?

Here are a few tips on how to help kids establish a quiet time, see the importance, and follow through:

- A. Pray, Read, Write
- B. Study a Book of the Bible
- C. Five Finger Prayer method (can be found at the end of packet)

- D. Teaching the “Why.” Being connected to God helps us to get to know Him. Reading His Word helps us understand even more about Him, how He loves us, and how He helps us to grow in our faith as we learn to trust Him more.
 - E. Memorize a verse and discover what it means.
2. Build relationships in your group. Team building activities are a great way to help kids learn about one another and work together. This breaks down boundaries and distractions from home that prevent kids from really having deep relationships with others. And let’s be honest, they need one another and their leaders. We were designed to be in relationships: first, the vertical one with the Father, and second, all the horizontal ones that help us each day to be encouraged and loved.

Here are a few team building games/activities to try with your group:

Storytelling Circle

Sit in a circle and start a story with a sentence. Each player adds a sentence to continue the story. The aim is to make the story as funny or creative as possible.

Statue Dance

Play some music and have the kids dance around. When the music stops, they freeze like statues. The last one to freeze is out. Repeat until one player remains.

20 Questions

One player thinks of an object, and the other players take turns asking yes or no questions to guess what it is. They have 20 questions to figure it out.

Reverse Charades

Setup: Gather all players in a group. Have a set of prompts or phrases written on pieces of paper, folded, and placed in a bowl or hat.

Choosing the Actor: One player (the “explainer”) randomly selects a prompt from the bowl without revealing it to the other players.

Explaining the Prompt: The explainer reads the prompt silently and then explains it aloud to the rest of the group without using any words from the prompt itself.

Acting Out: Meanwhile, another player (the “actor”) listens carefully to the explanation and tries to act out what they think the prompt is. They have to rely solely on the explanation provided by the explainer.

Time Limit: Set a time limit for the actor to guess the prompt, typically around one minute.

Rotation: Rotate roles so that each player gets a chance to be the explainer/guesser.

Spider Web

This team-building game will teach your students that even though they may be different in many ways, they are still connected to one another. Gather in a circle, standing or sitting. The game begins when the first person, holding a large ball of twine, tells the group a funny or embarrassing story about themselves. Once they finish, they will hold onto the end of the twine and throw the ball to someone else in the circle. That person grabs hold and tells a funny or embarrassing story about themselves and then passes it on to another student. Play continues until the twine has been passed to each person. The end result will produce a “spider web” out of the twine, connecting each student to all of the others.

3. Recap what you are learning at camp and let kids talk and support one another. Use Connect time as a safe place to debrief Bible study as a group. Ask each child to share. They may want their TAWG books to help them recall some of the main points.
 - Day 1: Soil- Matthew 13:1-9
 - Day 2: Root- Acts 9:1-19
 - Day 3: Shoot- Judges 6:11-7:25
 - Day 4: Fruit- 1 Samuel 16:1-23, Colossians 2:6-7

Some questions to ask:

- a. What is one thing you learned today that you did not know?
 - b. Tell us an activity you did that helped you understand the lesson better.
 - c. How will you apply what you learned today when you get home?
 - d. Is there anything you didn't understand? If so, would you share so we can help one another.
4. Play. Another way you can use Connect time is for kids to play. This can be card games, board games, or Minute-To-Win-It games, but mostly use the time to just have fun together. This is also a great way for adults to play with kids, something many kids don't get otherwise. Natural conversations will happen here strengthening relationships that will make impact, both kid-to-kid relationships and adult-to-kid relationships.
 5. Rest. If your kids are exhausted by day three of camp, use your time to have everyone rest and/or take some time to begin to pack up.

Most importantly, we want this time to be used for your group to have what they need. There are no strict rules here. As the group leader, take some time to pray about the best way to use this time and go for it. We'd love to hear how your time was spent and how it benefited your group upon returning home!

Five Finger Prayer Method

THUMB

Pray for those closest to you, closest to your heart, your loved ones.

COLOSSIANS 4:2

When the hands are folded to pray, the thumb is the closest finger to us and our hearts. “Those closest to you” can be your parents, siblings, grandparents, classmates/friends, or the first person who comes to your mind. Pray for them first; they are the easiest ones to remember! Encourage kids to begin their prayer by thanking God for this person. As Paul instructs in the book of Colossians, chapter 4, to the people of Colossae, “Devote yourselves to prayer....”, and he further instructs us to be watchful and thankful. The person who comes to our mind first, when we begin to think of who we should be praying for, will usually be the person we are being “watchful” or “thankful” for.

POINTER FINGER

Pray for those who instruct/teach you, the people who point the way.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

Just like our teachers and instructors use their pointer finger to show us things, so we should use that same finger to remember to pray for them! Teaching is a big job, and the Bible tells us that they are judged more strictly as they are given more responsibility in this world. It is no easy job to teach people, so our teachers and instructors need all the prayer they can get. Remind kids to use this time to pray for pastors, teachers, and anyone who helps to educate, train, or teach them. Paul, as a teacher, writes to the people of Thessalonica, asking them to pray for him at the end of chapter 5 in 1 Thessalonians. Whoever is teaching you things in and throughout your life, pray for them during the Five Finger Prayer.

TALLEST FINGER

Pray for those who stand tall for us and lead us.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

The tallest finger reminds us to pray for those who stand tall for us. This could be our presidents or our leaders in life, such as the police, military, or government leaders too. You can remind kids that when they grow up and get jobs, this could also refer to their supervisor or boss at the job they work at. In the book of 1 Timothy, Paul is writing to Timothy and giving him instruction on how to do the important work that he is doing. Chapter 2, which is an entire chapter for instruction on worship, Paul writes to pray for “kings and all those in authority...”.

RING FINGER

Pray for those who are weak or in pain.

JAMES 5:15

The ring finger is known to be the weakest finger. Try to open a drawer handle with it, and it will be noticeably weaker than all the other fingers. This finger should remind kids to pray for those they know who are sick, hurt, in trouble. As James, the brother of Jesus writes in his book in the Bible, James 5, “prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well....” Having the faith that if our prayers are offered in faith can make a sick person well, is truly life-changing. It is important that children understand that their prayers are important and that they mean something to God.

LITTLE FINGER

Pray for ourselves.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

The last and smallest finger of the Five Finger Prayer should remind us that we need to pray for ourselves too. We should be placing ourselves last before God and His greatness and others and their needs. After praying for everyone else before yourself, kids should take a moment to recognize the good things they have and give thanks for those things. Paul writes a great and very well-known verse to the people of Philippi in the book in the Bible called Philippians. In Philippians 4:6, he says that we should pray instead of being anxious about “anything.” We should pray about what is worrying us and what is on our hearts and give it to God, for He is in complete control.