

Turning the Tables

Spiritual Journey Through the Many Tables of our Life

(Adapted from the Vision Statement of
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest)

“Sharing the Fullness of God’s Table”



Turning the Tables

Spiritual Journey Through the Many Tables of our Life

Welcome and Purpose

Note: As much as we teach and mentor them, we must be open to learning from them as well. After all, Jesus learned from his students/campers. (Mark 7:24-31)

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS FOR ALL INVOLVED IN OUR CAMPING MINISTRY

- 1) Emphasize the unique ministry and value of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with a focus upon the God-given call to be a community that encourages diversity in thought, culture and faith.
- 2) Counselors and Directors are encouraged to share their personal faith stories, particularly as they relate to their faith journey in the DOC tradition.
- 3) Identify and articulate the unique and critical ministry and purposes of our faith tradition as both relate to the biblical studies.
- 4) Both youth and adults are encouraged to discover and articulate their own beliefs with passion while remaining humble enough to embrace and welcome others to the “table.”
- 5) Encourage and develop leadership for the church through specific emphasis and support of youth who are beginning to realize a call into ministry.

(These basic assumptions were developed by the Association of Disciples in Outdoor Ministry, 2002)

This Curriculum has been approved by the Outdoor Ministry Unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest – 2006
Please add your creativity but maintain the intent and purpose of the material.

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2006

General Supply List for Curriculum

Picnic Basket
Blankets for Picnic
Bibles
Matches
Wood Tablets
Carving Tools
Table Clothes
Candles
Pop-cycle Sticks
Journaling Tablets
Pencils
Glue
"Tree" Paper
Water Color Paints
Markers
Colored Pencils
Bread/Chalice/Grape Juice
Amazing Grace Handouts
Ribbons for Cow Game
Dishes
Decks of Cards

Camp Schedule Chi Rho Rustic (Suggested only)

This is proposed only as a guideline. Be flexible and allow the flow of your camp to evolve. Several camps have done their own tweaking to the schedule; such as combining vespers and campfire, and that is great. The only thing we ask is that you keep the food run times the same for the interns, as this directly relates to the lodge's time schedule.

Monday

8:00 am	Breakfast at lodge
9:00 am	Check out village, (making sure you have enough of all utensils, etc.) make schedules and basically get ready for arrival of campers
11:30 am	Lunch at lodge
12-1:00	Final prep for campers' arrival
1-2:00 pm	Campers Check-in
2-4:00 pm	Picture/Orientation/Keynote/Total Group Time
4:00-5:15	Village time
5:15-7 pm	Old Fashion Picnic and Games
7-8:30 pm	Swimming (total group)
9-9:45	Vespers/Campfire
9:45-11 pm	Village Time (snacks, showers, bedtime discussions, etc)
11:00 pm	LIGHTS OUT & QUIET

Tuesday-Wednesday

6:30-7 am	Counselor shower time
7-7:30 am	Campers wake up/shower
7:30-8:30	Breakfast preparation
8:30-9:30	Breakfast & Cleanup
9:30-10 am	Gathering at Shelter/Announcements for day, work/interest group assignments, etc
10-11:30 am	Work Project/Interest Groups (See Resource Section for Ideas)
11:30-12:00	Prepare for lunch/Village time
12-12:45 pm	Lunch/cleanup
12:45-1:45	FOB (food run at 1:45)
2-2:15 pm	Keynote at Shelter
2:15-3:25	Study/Village time/afternoon snack
3:25-3:30	Walk to pool
3:30-5 pm	Swimming (daily request runs at 5:10)
5-7:00 pm	Prepare Supper/Eat/Cleanup (trash run at 7:00)
7-7:30 pm	Village Planning Time
7:30-9 pm	Total Group time (Game night/Movie/carnival/county fair)
9:15-10 pm	Vespers/Campfire
10-10:30 pm	Village time (snack, showers, etc)
10:45 pm	Lights out & Quiet

Thursday

6:30-7 am	Counselors only shower time
7-7:30 am	Campers wake up/shower
7:30-8:30	Breakfast preparation
8:30-9:30	Breakfast & Cleanup
9:30-10 am	Gathering at Shelter/Announcements for day, etc
10-11:30 am	Work Project/Interest Groups
11:30-12 am	Prepare for lunch/Village time
12-12:45 pm	Lunch/cleanup
12:45-1:45	FOB (food run at 1:30)
2-2:15 pm	Keynote at Shelter

2:15-3:25	Study/Village time/afternoon snack
3:25-3:30	Walk to pool
3:30-5 pm	Swimming (daily request runs at 5:10)
5-5:45 pm	Village planning time
5:45-6 pm	Walk to lodge for supper
6-7:00 pm	Supper/walk back
7-7:30 pm	Village planning time
7:30-9 pm	Total Group time
9:15-10 pm	Vespers/Campfire
10-10:30	Village time (snacks, showers, etc)
10:45 pm	Lights out & Quiet

Friday

6:30-7 am	Counselor shower time
7-7:30 am	Campers wake up/shower
7:30-8:30	Breakfast preparation
8:30-9:30	Breakfast & Cleanup
9:30-10 am	Gathering at Shelter/Announcements for day, etc
10-11:30 am	Work Project/Interest Groups/Prepare shelter for Celebration
11:30-12 am	Prepare for lunch/Village time
12-12:45 pm	Lunch/cleanup
12:45-1:45	FOB (food run at 1:45)
2:00-2:30	Keynote Gathering at Old Victory Chapel
2:30-3:25	Study/Village time/afternoon snack
3:25-3:30	Walk to pool
3:30-5 pm	Swimming (daily request run at 5:10)
5-6:30 pm	Bar-B-Q prep/Supper/Cleanup (trash run at 7:00)
6:30-7 pm	Village prep time of worship site
7-7:30 pm	Travel to individual vespers/worship sites (See Worship Center's in Resource section)
7:45-8:15	Campfire
8:15-8:30	Celebration Prep
8:30-10:30	Celebration/Dance
10:30-11 pm	Village time (snacks, showers, etc)
11:00 pm	Lights out & Quiet

Saturday

7-8:00 am	Wake up/showers
8-8:30 am	Breakfast at shelter house
8:30-10 am	Village/camp cleanup
10-11:00 am	Closing Circle
11:00 am	CHECKOUT TIME!

Schedule

CYF Conference (Suggested only)

MONDAY

- 1:00 Campers Arrive
- 2:00 Welcome/Orientation/Picture/Keynote
- 3:00 Family Group
- 4:30 Cabin Time
- 5:30 Dinner & Old Fashion Picnic Games or other Activity
- 7:00 Vespers
- 7:30 Community Time:
- 9:00 Snack
- 9:30 Campfire
- 10:30 Cabins and God's Time
- 11:30 Light's Out

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

- 7:00 The Body Awakes
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:30 Morning Watch
- 9:00 Keynote
- 9:30 Family Time
- 11:30 Break & Prepare for Lunch
- Noon Lunch
- 12:45 FOB
- 1:45 Interest Groups: Creative Gifts
- 2:45 Pool (Open until 3:30) Free time begins
- 5:15 Porch
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:15 Family Time
- 7:15 Vespers
- 7:45 Community Time:
- 9:15 Snack
- 9:45 Campfire
- 10:45 Cabins and God's Time
- 11:30 Lights Out

SATURDAY

- 7:00 Awake
- 8:00 Cabin clean-up
- 9:00 Morning Watch
- 9:30 Breakfast at Lodge
- 10:00 Closing
- 11:00 Everyone Leaves!

Week at a Glance

Monday

Theme: Picnic Table of Life (The Casual Gathering Time)

Text :Luke 14:10 - But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you.

Purpose: How we treat each other during the casual times relates to how we treat each other during the rest of life... Today we want to welcome campers to the week at camp. In our small group time we will be exploring the introduction of our theme and working together to set our expectations of the week. Use the casual gathering times to slowly develop a few individuals into the beginnings of a "Family Group." A good portion of this day is earning and developing trust between each other. Perhaps a picnic on the lawn would be a great way to start the week with an old fashion feel to the evening activities. – Sack races, Three Legged races, Friendly competition games, etc...

Tuesday

Theme Sharing Space at the Family Table

Text(s) Mark 2:15 - And as he sat at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were sitting with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him.

John 12:2 - There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Laz'arus was one of those at table with him.

Purpose Today we will begin with exploring the gifts of the individual and learn a little more about each person and their family backgrounds. As the day progresses we will begin to explore each persons gifts and talents as they relate to this new family group beginning to be formed as part of camp. We will learn to serve one another at table and beyond.

Wednesday

Theme Communion Tables and other places in which God gathers with us!

Text(s): Matthew 26:18-20 - ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover. ²⁰ When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples;

Hebrews 9:2 - For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place.

Purpose: Today we focus on those Scriptures and Spiritual practices that help bring purpose and meaning to our Journey. The communion table for members of the Christian Church can be one of the major defining spiritual experiences of their life. However, it is not the only one. We will focus on prayers at table and other spiritual practices that will hopefully be taken to their tables back home.

Thursday

Theme Turning the Tables

Texts: Mark 11:15 - And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons;

Mark 7:28 - But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Purpose: Today we will explore those Scriptures that challenge us as Followers of the Christ who Turned over the Tables in the Temple and often spoke against the status quo of his day. We will focus on Scriptures in which Jesus addresses the inequities of the world and thereby challenging us today to do the same. Let us be bold in our witness this day so that the Body of Christ and all its members can indeed eat at one Table!

Friday

Theme The Inviting Table (Preparation for Ministry around their Home Tables)

Text: John 1:16 - And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Purpose Today we will review the week and the experiences and the things we have learned together. We will seek to affirm them as "Disciples Of Christ" (in both senses of the phrase) and send them forth with an urgency that how they live out their own God-Given ministry can and will change the world. May all the tables they break bread around help all of us to continue to serve the Christ who makes us one.

Monday: The Picnic Table!



Purpose: How we treat each other during the casual times relates to how we treat each other during the rest of life... Today we want to welcome campers to the week at camp. In our small group time we will be exploring the introduction of our theme and working together to set our expectations of the week. Use the casual gathering times to slowly develop a few individuals into the beginnings of a "Family Group." A good portion of this day is earning and developing trust between each other. Perhaps a picnic on the lawn would be a great way to start the week with an old fashion feel to the evening activities. – Sack races, Three Legged races, Friendly competition games, etc...

Keynote:

Day One: Introduction of the Carpenter

(During this conversation, "Silas" will be looking at pieces of wood, checking out his tools, picking up a board and seeing how straight it looks, etc.)

Hi, my name is Silas T. Able, and I make tables. "There is nothing more stable, than a Silas Able Table." That's my motto. I'm a carpenter by trade, but I specialize in all kinds of tables. Kitchen tables, Picnic tables, coffee tables, end tables, ...I've made them all over the years. This table I am working on right now is a special table. I will have it done for you by the end of the week.

I think the reason I love making tables, is that I love to tell stories. And some of the best stories are told around tables. I'll bet you have heard or told some great stories around a table. Maybe today you will get to sit around a table and tell some stories about your life to some new friends.

Since this is camp, I would wager that you will spend some time around picnic tables. I remember a story that involves a picnic table. I had taken my family up into the Yosemite National Park for a camping trip. While we were sitting around the picnic table, a Park Ranger came by. He told us to make sure that we kept all of our food sealed in containers, because the smell could attract bears or mountain lions. Well, that scared the dickens out of my daughter, and she made sure that every scrap of food was put away and sealed before we all crawled into the big tent for the night.

While we were trying to fall asleep in the dark tent...I heard a crunching noise. I slowly turned on my flashlight, and that is when I saw my oldest boy eating potato chips. And the only thing between those potato chips and a possible bear was me and a zipper screen on the front of the tent. I didn't sleep too well that night.

I encourage you today to share some stories around a table. Maybe you could talk about places you have been, or things you like to do. We all come from different places, so we all have a story to share.

Well, I better get busy on this table if it is going to be ready for you at the end of the week. And don't forget: "There is nothing more stable, than a Silas Able table!"

Study Group (Table Time)



Setting the Table: Select a picnic table (Yes-outside!). You may use this table all week or you may want to move around from spot to spot.

Set (prepare) your Table in the following way:

1. Place your tablecloth on your picnic table.
2. Place your candle in the middle of the table.
3. Around the candle place the following Items
 - a. Bible
 - b. Matches
 - c. Wood Tablet to carve your covenant
 - d. Carving tools
 - e. Popcycle sticks and wood glue
 - f. Journaling Tablets
 - g. Pencils



Blessing the Table: Take your time and be intentional with these moments.

1. Invite one camper to light the candle
2. Lead a prayer that acknowledges that God has Gathered with you all in this place – Around this table!
3. Invite one camper to read the Scripture for the day.
4. Bless the table through Conversation
 - A. Build a mini-picnic Table
 - a. See Picture below
 - b. Give each person a popcycle Stick and a pencil
 - c. Ask each person to write on their stick the answers to the following questions:
 1. What name do your friends call you?
 2. What town are you from?
 3. How many years have you gone to this camp?
 - d. Invite each person share these answers with the group.

- e. Assemble the internal structure of your table by connecting the slots. (These kits will be provided for you)
- f. With glue add each person's stick to the table.
- g. Allow your table to dry while you continue with the rest of your family group. (Bring this table to each of family groups and place on your table during "Setting Your Table" time.



- B. Picnic Name Game:** Play a name game in which one person begins by giving their name and an item that they would take on a picnic. Example: "My name is Bill and I'm taking a banana on the picnic." Then the next person would say, "My name is Haley and I'm taking a napkin on the picnic and this is Bill and he is taking a banana on the picnic." This continues all around the circle.



Playing around the Table: Activities that help teach the lesson!

1. Play a no-rule game!
 - A. Move away from the table for this game.
 - B. Establish two teams
 - C. Place the teams about 15 feet apart
 - D. Find a rock or a stick and place it in the middle of the two groups
 - E. Begin the game like a race: "On your Mark, get set, Go!"
 - F. Chaos may occur or just confusion. As it does ask what kinds of things would help the game work better.
 - i. Examples: Rules, Goals, instructions etc...
 - G. Add these rules into the game
 - H. Play the game again with the addition of the these rules
2. Goals and Rules for your family Time this week
 - A. Ask the group what goals or rules would help them to be a productive, healthy, "Holy" Family this week.
 - B. Condense each of these "Goals/Rules" to one word.
 - C. Once you have agreed on the "Goals/Rules" use pencils to write them on your wooden tablet.

- D. Use your carving tools to carve your “Goals/Rules” into your tablet.
- E. Find a way to display your tablet in your family group area or some other place that it can be seen everyday.



Living the Table: Take what you have learned and commit to it.

1. Choose someone to read the scripture again
2. Ask: “What do you hear this scripture saying to you or what can it say to us as we live together this week as a village/family group?”
 - a. Listen to their answers but attempt to guide and direct them to see the “serving one another” or “Not understanding anyone of ourselves as greater than another” or “humility with one another” theme in this text.
 - b. Affirm everyone at the table by using their names saying, “I am glad that all of you are here this week, God is with us, may we have fun, support each other and may we create an intentional community of Christ on Holy Ground.”



The End-Table: Unset your table (Be intentional about this.)

1. Place all your supplies back in your picnic basket.
2. Blow out your candle and place it in your picnic basket.
3. Fold up your tablecloth and place it in your picnic basket.
4. Stand up and Circle up around the table and close in prayer.

Vespers Ideas (Traditionally this one is done by counselors/director)

Campfire Ideas: Keep this time upbeat with songs and energy. Eventually slow the mood down and end the day with a counselor or director sharing their own story of how they understand God around the campfire. This will help set a model for future campfires.

Tuesday: Sharing Space at the Family Table



Purpose: Today we will begin with exploring the gifts of the individual and learn a little more about each person and their family backgrounds. As the day progresses we will begin to explore each persons gifts and talents as they relate to this new family group beginning to be formed as part of camp. We will learn to serve one another at the table and beyond.

Keynote:

Day 2 The Family Table

(This time Silas has the table top, and he can be sanding it to make it smooth. As he is doing this, he talks about the Family Table)

Well, hello again. Its me, Silas T Able. Today Im working on the part of the table that everyone sees the most....the table top. I try to sand it down really good, so that is brings out the best of the wood, and it will have a smooth finish.

Of course, every table top has little imperfections in the wood. You can't sand those out...and to tell you the truth, I wouldn't want to if I could. After all, it is those imperfections that make the table special and bring out different colors of the wood. If the truth be told, the people sitting around the table have their own imperfections as well. It's called being human.

I can remember as a boy, we always sat around the family table for meals. It was a special time, because we would talk about our day, maybe share some of the wants or wishes for the future, and tell a good joke or two. There was always a lot of laughter around our family table.

I know here at camp you eat family style. You sit down, share a blessing, and enjoy some good food and great fellowship. I think that is great. We need more time like that, don't we. If you ask me, too much time is spent nowadays sharing our meals with pretend people on TV, rather than with the real people we live with in our homes.

Heh heh. I noticed something the other day when I was reading my Bible. It is amazing to me how many times Jesus is sitting at a family table with people, enjoying a meal and good conversation. I mean, if Jesus spent so much time at the family table, that must mean it is important to us too, don't you think?

Well, if I don't get busy I never will get this table done. Don't forget: "There is nothing more stable, than a Silas Able table."

Study Group (Table Time)



Setting the Table: Select a table, the one you used yesterday or a different one.

Set (prepare) your Table in the following way:

1. Place your tablecloth on the table
2. Place your candle in the middle of the table
3. Around the candle place the following items:
 - a. Bible
 - b. Matches
 - c. Wood tablet from yesterday
 - d. Carving tools
 - e. Journaling tablets
 - f. Pencils
 - g. Paper w/trees
 - h. Water colors/markers/colored pencils



Blessing the Table: Take your time and be purposeful with this.

1. Invite one camper to light the candle
2. Lead a prayer that recognizes that God has brought you all to this place and that he is in your midst – around this table!
3. Bless the table through your conversations
 - a. On a large sheet of paper, have the campers list the characteristics of a family. (remember their answers will be coming from their perspective and their answers may or may not be what you think of when you think of family) There are no wrong answers!
 - b. What do they do as a family?
 - i. Ex: vacations, family dinners, reunions
 - ii. Have them share a favorite vacation, or a tradition that they have during the holiday or family gathering
 1. Are their traditions all alike? Ex: do they have turkey with all the trimmings for Thanksgiving Dinner and ham at Christmas? Do they always go to house on Easter? Etc.
4. Where do you gather when you get together? Is it around a table? If so, what do you do or talk about around that table?
5. Do you like all your family members? Do some of their habits or traditions really irritate you?
6. We all come with our little idiosyncrasies or blemishes (things that may irritate others) But we are still family.

7. This week we are going to live as a family unit, together with all of our different blemishes and irritabilities



Playing around the Table: Activities that will help teach the lesson

1. Play the Human Machine Game!
 - a. Break your group into groups of no smaller than 5 and no bigger than 10. Each person in the group must become one of the following body parts—eye, ear, mouth, brain, leg, arm, hand, etc. These can be in plural. Add or take away parts according to size of your group. Be sure to keep the important ones.
 - b. Instruct each group to do their best to perform a simple task, with each body part doing only its function.
 - c. Here is a simple task: place a bible across the room/space and have each human machine attempt to “walk” over to the bible, find Romans 12:4-6 and read it aloud.
 - d. Remind the machines that each body part can only perform its function. For example, the legs cannot go to the bible until the eye tells the brain where they are and the brain tells the legs how many steps to take and in which direction.

2. Read or have a volunteer read Matthew 1:1-16.
 - a. Talk about names and family trees
 - b. Using the “tree” sheet provided, have the campers fill out as best they can. Once they have the names penciled in, they may use water color, etc to create their special family tree. (would be good to have an example made up, perhaps your family tree)
 - c. As they are working on their trees, you may ask questions such as: who influenced you to come to camp? Who in your family is the spiritual guidance person? Is there one? There may not be. Are there family members who are more prominent in your faith journey? Let them share these stories as they create their family tree.



Living the Table: Take what you have learned and put it to use

1. Read Mark 2:15 aloud
2. Ask, “How do you think this scripture relates to our families or those we sit at table with?
 - a. Listen to their thoughts. Reinforce the thought that we all have blemishes, we all have things that irritate others. Jesus sat with people just like us.

- b. Remind them of the game that we played, where all parts need each other to complete a task. That is what we are this week; a family, living and working together for a common goal and the good of the whole group.
- c. Take another look at the tablet from yesterday. Re-read your “Goals/Rules”. Then ask everybody to sign it as a way to solidify the covenant to become family.



The End-Table: Unset your table

1. Place all your supplies back in your picnic basket
2. Blow out your candle and place it in your basket
3. Fold up your tablecloth and place it in your basket
4. Close with prayer

Vespers:

1. Tonight begin by having the campers tell you stories of families in the Bible. Here are a few stories you may get:
 - i. Adam & Eve
 - ii. Cain & Abel
 - iii. Abraham, Sarah and Isaac
 1. what about Ishmael?
 2. the 12 tribes of Israel
 - iv. Noah’s family
 - v. Moses & his sister Miriam
 - vi. Moses’ family with Pharoah
 - vii. Ruth and Naomi
 - viii. Jacob & Joseph (his 11 brothers)
 - ix. Mary & Martha & Lazarus
 - x. Did Jesus have siblings
 - xi. The Disciples as family
 - xii. James & John were brothers, sons of Zebedee

If they do not give you a variety of families in the stories they come up with, you might have to name some to jog their memories. Focus on the fact that while we are all different, with our own quirks, we can still come together, loving and listening to each other, working and living together as Disciples.

Campfire: Director or Counselor share their story



Wednesday: Communion Tables

and other places in which God gathers with us!

Purpose: Today we focus on those Scriptures and Spiritual practices that help bring purpose and meaning to our Journey. The communion table for members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) can be one of the major defining spiritual experiences of their life. However, it is not the only one. We will focus on prayers at table and other spiritual practices that will hopefully be taken to their tables back home.

Keynote:

The Communion Table and other Holy Experiences

(Silas will be working on the table legs today)

Well, hi everyone. Silas T. Able here again. And today I'm working on the legs of the table. The table I am building for you has 4 legs, because we want it to be a sturdy and stable table. The stronger the foundation under the table, the better the table will be able to complete its purpose.

Kind of like people, isn't it?

The more of a foundation we have, the better we are able to accomplish the things we have in life. Kind of like these table legs. These old legs will help hold up the table and keep it balanced so that it can always do what it is that I am making it to do. I guess with us human beings our foundation or legs might be remembering our creator and purpose too. Now-a-days my memory is not the best so I often need some tools to help me out. (scratches head and looks around for a tool) Now what did I do with that whatsamajig? Sometimes I have to leave myself notes just so I can find my own thoughts.

These Tables I make are kind of like notes – Little reminders of why I got started spending so many hours in my shop sawing and hammering. These tables, well they speak to me loud and clear! Now ol' Silas is not losing his mind yet. I don't really believe that table talk but you know what I mean. They have a way of reconnecting me to the wondrous beauty imbedded in the grain of the wood. They help me touch the "Holy." Boy now I know I need to get back to work cuz Im starting to sound like those "feel losa firs" and not the carpenter I was created to be!

Any way, I hope you find some tools today to help you reconnect and find your purpose. I hope you find the "Holy" today. As for me, I'll keep working. (Takes

hold of a leg) Mmmmm-Heh, a nice strong foundation makes for a well-built table. And as I have said before, "There is nothing more stable, than a Silas Able table."

Study Group: (Table Time)



Setting the Table Begin at the same table as yesterday or move around but start a Table (Yes-outside!). You may use this table all week or you may want to move around from spot to spot.

Set (prepare) your Table in the following way:

1. Place your tablecloth on your picnic table.
2. Place your candle in the middle of the table.
3. Around the candle place the following Items
 - a. Bible
 - b. Matches
 - c. Journaling Tablets
 - d. Pencils
 - e. Mini Picnic Table
 - f. Bread and Chalice (with Juice)



Blessing the Table Today you will need as much time as possible for your "Playing around the Table" portion of small groups but pause here and open your group time with the following"

1. Invite one camper to light the candle
2. Hold hands while seated at your table and go around the circle and ask for any prayer concerns or joys. Offer a prayer to God for those issues raised at the table today.
3. Invite one camper to read the Scriptures for the day:

Matthew 26:18-20 - ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover. ²⁰ When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples;

Hebrews 9:2 - For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place.



Playing around the Table: Arrange your family groups as to allow everyone the ability to experience each of the following or depending on time restrictions you may only be able to experience one or two of them. These could also be done as learning centers:

1. Communion Table Experience (Around your Table)
2. Experience of Amazing Grace (An Experience of God just when we feel the least deserving of sitting at God's Table)
3. Prayer Path (Trail Walks can also be used but if at all possible use the prayer path. Instructions are given away from the path and then individuals are invited to walk the path at their own pace. Leave about 20 paces between individuals. Stagger the groups as needed but more than one group can be on the path at any given time.
4. Lord's Prayer: This time will involve a more in depth look at the Lords Prayer and what it can teach us about our own prayer life. Campers will also have the chance to write their own prayers in their journal and share them with the group.

Communion Service

Opening Exploration: "As you prepare to celebrate communion begin with some questions about what they believe about communion.

Ask the following Questions:

1. Have you ever taken communion?
2. What do you think Communion means?
3. When you take communion how does it make you feel?
4. Can anyone re-tell in your own words the "Last Supper" that Jesus had with his Disciples? Take time to listen to these stories
5. Only after hearing their stories and answers should you share your own feelings, stories and understandings of communion. However please share your stories before moving on to the next part.

Gift to God and Group offering:

1. In the ancient tradition of communion people would bring their offerings to the Table before partaking of the elements. We too will do something similar at this table. Invite each of the campers to take out their journals and write down one gift or talent that they can offer to both their family group

and to God to make this world better. (I.E. Listening, Athletic, Music Talent, Artist, Good with Numbers, etc...)

2. Invite everyone to share these aloud with the group if they wish.
3. Prayer for the Gifts offered.

A Reading of Communion (choose one or have 3 youth read each version)

1. **Matthew 26** ²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
2. **Mark 14:** ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹ For the Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
3. **Luke 22:** ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." ²¹

Sharing with one another the Bread and Cup:

1. Lift up bread and the cup and say the following or introduce the elements in your own way: "As has been done by so many before and passed on to us let us share together in "Holy Communion." The bread is broken as the Body of Christ was broken for all of us and the cup of "new promise" is poured out so that we may start again and know that we are forgiven. Let us share with one another the gifts of God for the people of God."
2. Invite each person to share the Bread and the Cup with their neighbor until it has been passed around the table.
3. Pray a closing blessing upon those gathered at your table, all tables at camp this week and the wider body of Christ.

Amazing Grace

1. Begin at your table by sharing the story of John Newton and the song “Amazing Grace.” – (See Resource Section)
2. Ask if they have ever done something wrong and needed Grace and Forgiveness? Listen to their stories. Share your own story.
3. Ask what they understand is meant by “Grace?” Grace: “The underserved forgiveness of a God who loves us so much that God cannot let us go!”
4. Let them know that God is about Grace and Acceptance now and for the rest of their lives. Sometimes the way we encounter God is just when we think we deserve God’s love the least but still God is there like a good parent who loves us and cannot let us go!
5. Have them write a letter to God on a piece of paper (that will not be seen by anyone but them). Encourage them to remember the song Amazing Grace and think of it as a letter to God. What kinds of things would they ask God for forgiveness?
6. Let them know that when they have finished they should crumple it up and hold it tight in their hand. Explain that sometimes we hold on to our mistakes or sins so tight that we don’t let God hear them or give God a chance to grant us Grace.
7. Take your group to a fire circle (pre-arranged to be burning). Invite everyone to release their sins and letters into the fire as a sign that they are releasing them to God. Sing Amazing Grace (Bring Copies if needed).
8. Conclude with a prayer.

Prayer Path

Preparations and Introductions to a prayer path:

When we first thought about adding the prayer path to the Conference Center Grounds it was thought that this ancient spiritual tool would be a nice addition for adults. However, the first group to walk the prayer path was the Chi Rho Group from the University Christian Church in Fort Worth Texas. They spent 5 full days making this prayer path and at the end of the week they walked the path and it became clear that this Spiritual Walking Path was also something that could help youth of all ages experience God. At the third meditation bench a Rose Bush was planted in memory of the father of one of those UCC youth. Her Father died shortly before the youth group set out for their long drive to Iowa. I pray that your experience enriches your spiritual journey.

Instructions before you get to the prayer path:

1. Take time to explain that a Prayer Path is like any other spiritual tool or discipline (i.e. Journaling, Worship, Praise Singing, Camp Fire etc.). These are human ways to focus more intentionally on God. By focusing on a simple thing like walking, breathing and praying we can open ourselves to God’s presence.
2. There are many things that you can focus on when walking.

- a. Friends and Family (Praying slowly for each one of them)
- b. Ask for forgiveness and God will hear you because God never gives up on any of us.
- c. Listen to the wind or feel the warmth of the Sun and just experience the touch and presence of God.
- d. Ask God for help and direction for your life.
- e. Invite God to walk along side you on the prayer path and in the rest of your life.
- f. Or even use the time to clear your heart and mind and just listen for God to speak.

Take a few minutes at your table to explain some basic edict for walking the Prayer Path.

Edict for Walking the Path:

1. No unnecessary talking in the prayer path.
2. Take the time to reflect, contemplate and pray for people and situations in your life.
3. At the first bench Site there is a container of rocks. You can use these as a tool/symbol for individual people or concerns you have in your life. Take a rock in your hands, roll it over, noticing its unique shapes and curves. As you finish praying for one person place it back in the container and choose another rock and prayer.
4. You can rest at any of the three benches; catch your breath; smell the earth; even cry, tears falling into the earth. In the labyrinths of old Europe, there were benches in the hairpin turns for people to stop and contemplate.
5. Once you enter the prayer path, never cross lines; there are no clocks, no shortcuts.
6. Walk at your own pace but give others enough space. Allow about 20 paces between you and the next person. If some are moving slower than others the bench areas are an acceptable place to pass.

When your group is ready ask them to walk over to the prayer path and invite them to take a few intentional steps in the prayer path and be open to God's presence.

After everyone is through avoid a "heady" debrief section about what they felt and experienced. Maybe ask them later in the day but don't over analyze their experience. Let it be an experience rather than a workshop.

Lord's Prayer

Gather around your Table and invite them to experience prayer with you.

1. Begin by inviting them to pray the Lords prayer together. (Pause for the different versions to finish)
2. Ask if anyone has ever prayed that prayer? If so when and where? How old were they when they first recited the "Lords Prayer?"

3. Read the context of the Lords Prayer from Matthew 6. Choose one person or read it with one person reading one verse and so on:

¹ "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² "Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread; ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors; ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. ¹⁴ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

4. Ask campers if they heard something new or different in the "Lords Prayer" when hearing it in the context of Matthew?
5. Ask: "What do you think might have been the purpose of teaching us the "Lords Prayer?"
6. Help them look at each phrase of the Lords Prayer and what it means. (See Appendix Article on Lords Prayer for help) OR
7. Have them read the Lords Prayer Slowly and ask them what it means to them. Have them write these "meanings" down in their Journals.
8. After this sharing on the Lords Prayer invite them to put the "Lords Prayer" in their own words or Write down their own prayer using the pattern taught to us in the Lord's Prayer.
9. Invite everyone to share their prayers with the group (but don't force anyone to share).
10. When everyone has shared close with a "Thank You" and an "AMEN."



Living the Table

1. Sitting at your table or in the grass around your table ask them to pause and listen for God's Voice in their life today.
2. After a few minutes of quiet meditation read the Scriptures slowly again asking them to listen for a particular word or phrase that means something to them. Repeat this 3 times.
3. Invite them to share their words and phrases with the group.
4. Ask: "Is there is anything in these words and phrases that can help us better listen and experience God together during the rest of this week?"

5. Close with a simple “May it all be so as we continue to come together at “TABLE” on this Holy Ground.”



The End-Table

1. Place all your supplies back in your picnic basket.
2. Blow out your candle and place it in your picnic basket.
3. Fold up your tablecloth and place it in your picnic basket.
4. Stand up and Circle up around the table and close in prayer.

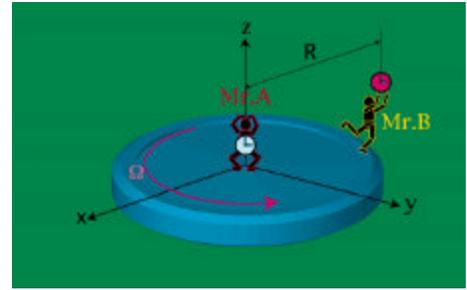
Vespers Ideas: One idea would be to share some of the prayers created in small group! A second idea would be to create a progressive worship experience that incorporated all the ways of experiencing God or add your own. And remember vespers itself is another way of helping others reconnect with God.

Campfire: Of all the moments and places at camp, campfire is often one of the most mentioned events at which camper’s experienced the presence of God. Perhaps your stories tonight should incorporate a sharing of where people experienced God today or stories from your oldest camper’s about their most powerful-life changing moment with God.

Thursday: Turning the Tables

Purpose: Today we will explore those Scriptures that challenge us as Followers of the Christ who Turned over the Tables in the Temple and often spoke against the status quo of his day.

We will focus on Scriptures in which Jesus addresses the inequities of the world and thereby challenging us today to do the same. Let us be bold in our witness this day so that the Body of Christ and all its members can indeed eat at one Table!



Keynote:

(Silas will be looking over “Blue Prints”)

Oh, well hi everyone. Silas T. Able here again, and today I am putting the finishing touches on your table. Yet, something is not looking right. The plans are telling me that I should have another piece to make this table complete but I can't seem to find it. I know it has to be around here somewhere because the plans show that I should have that part. And to make this table complete I need every single part – without even one part it would not and could not be a Silas Able Table! I'm gonna have to find that part. (Silas looks around turning things over and finally turns the table upside down and finds the part stuck up under the table. He smiles and holds the part in his hand.)

Wow, I'm glad I found that part. It just wouldn't be a Table without that part. I think that's the way we Christians are supposed to be too. Every one of us is needed to be the Church, to be the family of God. Kinda reminds me of that family vacation we took some Summers ago at the State Fair when my youngest wondered off and got lost in the crowd. I was in such a panic and so focused on finding him that nothing else mattered. We finally found him chewing on a corndog over by the “Butter Cow” display.

I think that our plans can be found in the Bible here. Lots of stories about Jesus turning over tables or doing things to make things right when someone gets lost or mistreated by others. I believe we should do the same. When we notice that there is a part missing or perhaps I should just say this outright – When we see a person who is missing or mistreated we should be willing to turn over a few tables to make things right.

Well, speaking of missing parts, (Places missing part in place.) if I don't stop telling stories and get busy, I will never have this table ready by tomorrow. See ya later, and don't forget, “There is nothing more stable, than a Silas Able table”.

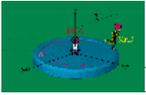
Study Group: (Table Time)



Setting the Table Begin at a table of your choice outside if at all possible.

Set (prepare) your Table in the following way:

1. Place your tablecloth on your picnic table.
2. Place your candle in the middle of the table.
3. Around the candle place the following Items
 - a. Bible
 - b. Matches
 - c. Journaling Tablets
 - d. Pencils
 - e. Ribbons for “Cow Game”
 - f. Dishes for “Cow Game”
 - g. 2 Decks of Cards



Blessing the Table:

1. Invite one camper to light the candle
2. Ask if there are any joys or concerns today. Invite them to share them aloud if and only if they want to do so.
3. Offer a prayer for the those concerns lifted up and for those that “lay too deep for words.”
4. Read Matthew 21:12-13 as you prepare for the “Playing Around the Table” time.



Playing around the Table

1. Play “Tables Turned Cow Game” in the Resource Section.
2. Read the following Scriptures (Ask different youth to read each one)
 - a. Luke 10:25-37 “Good Samaritan... Room and a Table”
 - b. Matthew 21:1-13 with emphasis on 12-13 “Palm Sunday with turning of the Tables in the Temple”
 - c. Luke 19:1-10 and Luke 5:25-32 “Zacchaeus and eating at table with Tax Collectors”
 - d. Luke 7:24-30 Syrophenician Woman and the “crumbs under the Table.”
3. Share the story of One of the Founders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Barton Stone once said, “We as Christians are

called to struggle with Scripture and the most difficult issues of our day!” – See Full Story of Barton and Slavery in the Resource Section.

4. Ask what are the important issues today? What are the issues that Jesus might need to address in your world? Who are the Zacheaus’s, Samaritans, Syrophonicians of in your daily lives? What things in your life do you think Jesus might turn over the Tables? Why?
5. Card Game: “Individual Rules Poker – Indy-Poker” (This is an alternative game to help stimulate the discussion about reasons why we need to “Turn the Tables” in our world. In particular this will address written and unwritten societal rules that are often contrary to the Kingdom of God.)

Indy-Poker plays like most other poker games but rules are determined each round by the dealer.

a. Basic playing sequence

- i. Dealer deals 5 cards to each person
- ii. Each person attempts to form the best hand they can. (see resource section for “Basic Hands in Poker.”)
- iii. There is one chance to trade in 3 cards for better ones.

b. Additional Twists to our Game

- i. We will not be betting and coins or chips – Just playing one hand rounds.
- ii. Each dealer gets to set their own rules for that hand.
- iii. They do not have to tell anyone else the rules but do have to correct people when they do not follow their rules.
- iv. Dealer determines in their own mind what will be wildcards for that hand. Only tells the rest of the people as it becomes needed. This normally only becomes needed as the dealer lays down their cards. Again, the dealer gets to determine how many wild cards there are and what cards they will be.

c. Debrief questions after Game

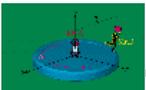
- i. Who had control in this game? Dealer? Everyone in the game?
- ii. Do we have rules in our world that determine how we behave and who is acceptable to be part of the group? What are they? Where do they come from?
- iii. Have you ever been the “dealer” and been the one setting the rules or have you ever been on the other end of the rules and been excluded by someone else rules. Listen to their stories?

- iv. How do we know what the rules are? Verbal signals? Written rules?
 - v. Are there moments when these rules should be overturned or fought against? Slavery? Women in Ministry? Dress codes for worship?
 - vi. Are there “tables” or “rules” or practices that should be called out and overturned here at camp? What are they and why do you think we should over-turn them? How would you go about that?
6. Clearly explain that you hope that what they get out of this discussion is not that all rules are bad for they help us live together but that sometimes the rules we live by need to be questioned even, as Jesus did in scripture, over turned so that we can truly be “Disciples Together – Everyone of us.”



Living the Table

Develop a contemporary skit version for your assigned Scripture. (Pick these in staff meeting). These modern day skits about “Turning the Tables” can be shared in Vespers or at Campfire. Take time to practice the skit and make sure that everyone in your group is involved in some way in the Skit.



The End-Table

1. Place all your supplies back in your picnic basket.
2. Blow out your candle and place it in your picnic basket.
3. Fold up your tablecloth and place it in your picnic basket.
4. Stand up and Circle up around the table and close in prayer.

Vespers Ideas: Incorporate the Skits from small group into whatever Vespers you put together for today.

Campfire: Include some songs about unity and inclusion. A story that reflects the theme for the day. Perhaps a re-telling of the story of Barton W. Stone. (See Resource Section)

Friday: The Inviting Coffee Table

(Preparation for Ministry around their Home Tables)



Purpose: Today we will review the week and the experiences and the things we have learned together. We will seek to affirm them as “Disciples Of Christ” (in both senses of the phrase) and send them forth with an urgency that how they live out their own God-Given ministry can and will change the world. May all the tables they break bread around help all of us to continue to serve the Christ who makes us one.

Keynote:

Hi everybody! It’s me Silas T. Able. Today I’m putting the finishing touches on your table. You know some people might look at this table and think it is just a bunch of wood. But not me. I think it is special. After all, I created it with my own hands. I put a lot of time and love into every part of this table. The legs are sturdy, the top is strong. It has a fine finish, and it is built to last a long time.

We came together on Monday as individuals each of us unique, with our own grain and imperfections, just as the pieces of my table here. But by listening to each other and sharing our thoughts, we have come together as a beautiful piece of work. Sometimes it took a little bit of carving around the rough edges or tapping into place, but we did it. And remember how sturdy this table is? How it relies on each part to do it’s part for the whole? And yet at the same time can be forgiving when a part gets a little weak from use and will hang in there until it can be reinforced. Hmmm, well, I’d better get this table finished up so it can get to work and fulfill it’s mission. Enjoy your day and remember, there is nothing more stable than a Silas Able Table. See you soon.

Study Group: (Table Time)



Setting the Table

1. Place your table cloth on the table
2. Place your candle in the middle of the table

3. Around your candle place the following items:
 - a. Bible
 - b. Matches
 - c. Journaling tablets
 - d. Pencils
 - e. notecards



Blessing the Table

1. Invite one camper to light the candle
2. Ask everyone if there are prayer concerns that need to be lifted up today
3. Offer a prayer for all concerns spoken and unspoken



Playing around the Table

1. Today I want to invite you to gather around the coffee table. Coffee tables are where friends gather, feel comfortable with each other and share life stories. As we prepare to leave this place and go to our homes, let us share stories of the past week and any other stories we feel called to share with each other. All week we have talked about different types of tables where we gather. We have shared stories around a picnic table and the family table; shared the communion table and thought about turning over the tables of injustice - making change and speaking up to right wrongs. Today I want to invite you to share stories of the week with each other and prepare to take those stories home with you. Let the campers share as many stories as you deem appropriate.
2. Play "To Tell the Truth"
 - a. Hand each camper 3 notecards.
 - b. Have each camper write down 1 fact about themselves on each card. They may try to stump the rest of the group or they may tell the absolute truth.
 - c. Have a counselor gather the cards, shuffle them and then read them aloud one at a time.
 - d. Have the campers try to guess who the card is describing. (These may be things that they have picked up in general conversation throughout the week or may have been shared during a specific time. They may be things that have not been shared but could be connected to things

that have been shared. Or they could be random and no one will be able to guess.)

- e. This will probably cause some laughter, maybe some tears as we recall the stories that have been shared throughout the week and the closeness of the group.
- f. This may be frustrating for some, that's ok, we'll talk about it in a bit.



Living the Table

1. My coffee table is the comfort table in my house. It holds the pop cans that the kids bring home with their friends and it holds my husband's feet when he is tired from a hard day's work. My grandchildren use it for coloring or playing with playdoh> It also serves as an extra dining table for the little ones when the family all gets together and it is just the right size. But sometimes, I am frustrated with the 15 pop cans and 5 dirty glasses, the feet on the table with dirty shoes, and the marker that just won't come off! After all, this is a beautiful piece of furniture and shouldn't we treat it so?
2. Read or have someone read Ephesians 4:31-5:2x and John 1:16
3. This week we have learned of our own and other's imperfections. But we have also learned that those imperfections and flaws are what make us special and unique. We should celebrate life and live in love.
4. As we transfer our thoughts to home, we need to remember to be forgiving of one another's imperfections, be kind to each other and accept God's grace which is freely ours.
5. Hand out the journaling books, this will be the last formal entry. They may take them with them today.



The End-Table

1. Put all your supplies back into your picnic basket
2. Blow out the candle and put it away
3. Fold up your table cloth and put it back in the basket
4. End with a closing prayer for all the stories shared

Vespers Ideas: This week each person has hopefully experience love and acceptance both from God and each other. Perhaps so expression of what happens you receive so much that you cannot help but give to others and share the good news. Focus on John 1:16 - And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Campfire: Many camps have tradition campfires on Friday nights. Emotions run high and lives are changed. Include some elements that help them remember the things that you want them to take home. “May the God they have experienced here on Holy Ground be found wherever they find themselves over the next year.”

Resources

Lord's Prayer: Lord's Prayer: Common Prayer For Uncommon Wisdom

By Janina Gomes

The Lord's Prayer ("Our Father Who Art in Heaven...") is the best known and most popular prayer of Christians. Jesus taught his disciples this prayer when they asked him how to pray.

Analysing The Lord's Prayer, Gerhard Ebeling says that "Abba father", the words Jesus used to call on God, signify "My father" or "our father", which is an invocation we can use when all words fail, when we become speechless. We can approach God in the familiar confident way a child approaches a loving parent.

The word Abba is not the most precise word for father in Hebrew. It is presumably the baby talk of a child, containing all the nearness, affection and love with which the child addresses her father. Jesus taught us to address God in such familiar terms.

Ebeling points out that the phrase, "Who art in heaven" does not signify the remoteness of God but reverses the relationship of God to heaven. That is God is not where heaven is, but heaven is where God is. The next phrase, "Holy be Thy name", teaches us that first we have to concentrate exclusively on God. Only after that we should think about our daily needs, our problems and our feelings.

When we say "Thy kingdom come", we are not praying for a kingdom, which is absent, but a kingdom that has come - for, the kingdom, according to Jesus, is already present in our midst, though not yet revealed.

The phrase "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is again a reminder that we should accept world events and happenings in our lives as God-world events. The relationship of human beings to the world is an act of God's will, says Ebeling. Human beings in turn influence events through acts of will and it is these acts of will that give meaning to life.

When we pray that God's will be done, we are praying that our opposition to God be broken and that we be united with the Supreme - God's name, kingdom and will. When we pray to God: "Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us", we are praying to God to take care of us; and that we will not be condemned to depend only on our meagre resources.

When we pray for bread, we are praying not just for the most commonplace and matter-of-fact things, we are also praying for spiritual salvation. For, daily bread here refers to those physical, human and spiritual gifts that sustain us. Praying for forgiveness and forgiving others is made possible only by the grace of God. Ebeling points out that "Lead us not into temptation" is a prayer for Divine protection from human follies.

Once again when we pray to the Father "Deliver us from evil" we pray for everyone and for the world. We find ourselves in a world where people have undergone untold suffering - concentration camps, ethnic cleansing, starvation - we do not exclude any of these when we beseech God to deliver us and other human beings from evil.

And finally when we pray "For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory" we are really stating that we must let God be God; that God and his kingdom takes priority and that we do not appropriate for ourselves the things that rightly belong to God alone.

The Lord's prayer - though it sums up the teachings of Jesus - is not meant only for Christians; it is for everyone who sees and experiences God as his father or mother and for whom God is a close confidante. As someone put it, "When we pray his prayer, his spirit becomes our own".

Amazing Grace

Words by John Newton 1779

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,
And Grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far
And Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

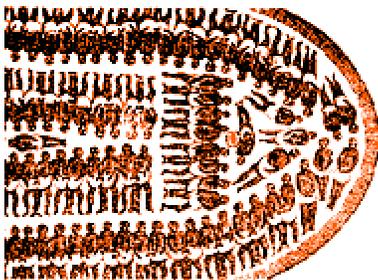
I used to think America's favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace" was a bit overdone: "... that saved a wretch like me." Really now!

But the author was a wretch, a moral pariah. While a new believer around 1750, John Newton had commanded an English slave ship.

You know what that meant. Ships would make the first leg of their voyage from England nearly empty until they would anchor off the African coast. There tribal chiefs would deliver to the Europeans stockades full of men and women, captured in raids and wars against other tribes. Buyers would select the finest specimens, which would be bartered for weapons, ammunition, metal, liquor, trinkets, and cloth. Then the captives would be loaded aboard, packed for sailing. They were chained below decks to prevent suicides, laid side by side to save space, row after row, one after another, until the vessel was laden with as many as 600 units of human cargo.



A slaveship anchored off the African coast. (Bibliothèque nationale, Paris) from Bronz, et. al, *The Challenge of America* (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1968), p. 155)



Slaves were "packed" in ships for the voyage across the Atlantic. (The Granger Collection) in Peter Wood, *The Seafarers: The Spanish Main* (Time-Life Books, 1979), p. 63)

Captains sought a fast voyage across the Atlantic's infamous "middle passage," hoping to preserve as much as their cargo as possible, yet mortality sometimes ran 20% or higher. When an outbreak of smallpox or dysentery occurred, the stricken were cast overboard. Once they arrived in the New World, blacks were traded for sugar and molasses to manufacture rum, which the ships would carry to England for the final leg of their "triangle trade." Then off to Africa for yet another round. John Newton transported more than a few shiploads of the 6 million African slaves brought to the Americas in the 18th century.

At sea by the age of eleven, he was forced to enlist on a British man-of-war seven years later. Recaptured after desertion, the disgraced sailor was exchanged to the crew of a slave ship bound for Africa.

It was a book he found on board--Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*--which sowed the seeds of his conversion. When a ship nearly foundered in a storm, he gave his life to Christ. Later he was promoted to captain of a slave ship. Commanding a slave vessel seems like a strange place to find a new Christian. But at last the inhuman aspects of the business began to pall on him, and he left the sea for good.

While working as a tide surveyor he studied for the ministry, and for the last 43 years of his life preached the gospel in Olney and London. At 82, Newton said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour." No wonder he understood so well grace--the completely undeserved mercy and favor of God.

Newton's tombstone reads, "John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy." But a far greater testimony outlives Newton in the most famous of the hundreds of hymns he wrote.

Barton W. Stone Brief Story

Barton W. Stone was one of 4 founders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He was born into an elite upper class family and attended some of the best and most expensive schools in the country. Stone's wife also came from the upper crust of society and her family owned slaves. Stone's mother-in-law insisted that Barton and her daughter should own slaves. She and many other Christians at the time believed that since slavery was discussed in the Bible as "part" of society it must be supported by God.

However, Barton could not in his conscience reconcile slavery and his understanding of God. He refused to accept the common status quo understanding that God wanted him and others to own slaves. He struggled with this issue and turned to his study of scripture. He had to admit that there were passages in scripture that normalized slavery. However he also discovered that there were many other passages that seemed to speak against treating any human being as less than an equal part of the Body.

He felt so convicted by this wider breadth of scripture that he freed his slaves. Without his slaves his wealth and status decreased but as a Christian he believed that this was the only way he could be faithful and he was willing to "Turn Over" the status quo and accepted understanding of God's desire for the way his children were to live together.

Standard Poker Hand Ranking

There are 52 cards in the pack, and the ranking of the individual cards, from high to low, is **ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2**. There is **no** ranking between the suits - so for example the king of hearts and the king of spades are **equal**.

A poker hand consists of five cards. The categories of hand, from highest to lowest, are listed below. Any hand in a higher category beats any hand in a lower category (so for example any three of a kind beats any two pairs). Between hands in the same category the rank of the individual cards decides which is better, as described in more detail below.

In games where a player has more than five cards and selects five to form a poker hand, the remaining cards do not play any part in the ranking. Poker ranks are always based on five cards only. Some readers may wonder why I deal with the case of (say) two threes of a kind of equal rank. This obviously cannot arise in standard poker, but such comparisons are needed in some other games using poker combinations - for example games with wild cards.

1. Royal Flush

This is the highest poker hand. It consists of ace, king, queen, jack, ten, all in the same suit. As all suits are equal, all royal flushes are equal.

2. Straight Flush

Five cards of the same suit in sequence - such as ♣J-♣10-♣9-♣8-♣7. Between two straight flushes, the one containing the higher top card is higher. An ace can be counted as low, so ♥5-♥4-♥3-♥2-♥A is a straight flush, but its top card is the five, not the ace, so it is the lowest type of straight flush. The cards cannot "turn the corner": ♦4-♦3-♦2-♦A-♦K is not valid.

3. Four of a kind

Four cards of the same rank - such as four queens. The fifth card can be anything. This combination is sometimes known as "quads", and in some parts of Europe it is called a "poker", though this term for it is unknown in English. Between two fours of a kind, the one with the higher set of four cards is higher - so 3-3-3-3-A is beaten by 4-4-4-4-2. It can't happen in standard poker, but if in some other game you need to compare two fours of a kind where the sets of four cards are of the same rank, then the one with the higher fifth card is better.

4. Full House

This consists of three cards of one rank and two cards of another rank - for example three sevens and two tens (colloquially known as "sevens full" or more specifically "sevens on tens"). When comparing full houses, the rank of the three cards determines which is higher. For example 9-9-9-4-4 beats 8-8-8-A-A. If the threes of a kind were equal, the rank of the pairs would decide.

5. Flush

Five cards of the same suit. When comparing two flushes, the highest card determines which is higher. If the highest cards are equal then the second highest card is compared; if those are equal too, then the third highest card, and so on. For example ♠K-♠J-♠9-♠3-♠2 beats ♦K-♦J-♦7-♦6-♦5 because the nine beats the seven.

6. Straight

Five cards of mixed suits in sequence - for example ♠Q-♦J-♥10-♠9-♣8. When comparing two sequences, the one with the higher ranking top card is better. Ace can count high or low in a straight, but not both at once, so A-K-Q-J-10 and 5-4-3-2-A are valid straights, but 2-A-K-Q-J is not. 5-4-3-2-A is the lowest kind of straight, the top card being the five.

7. Three of a Kind

Three cards of the same rank plus two other cards. This combination is also known as Triplets or Trips. When comparing two threes of a kind the hand in which the three equal cards are of higher

rank is better. So for example **5-5-5-3-2** beats **4-4-4-K-Q**. If you have to compare two threes of a kind where the sets of three are of equal rank, then the higher of the two remaining cards in each hand are compared, and if those are equal, the lower odd card is compared.

8. Two Pairs

A pair is two cards of equal rank. In a hand with two pairs, the two pairs are of different ranks (otherwise you would have four of a kind), and there is an odd card to make the hand up to five cards. When comparing hands with two pairs, the hand with the highest pair wins, irrespective of the rank of the other cards - so **J-J-2-2-4** beats **10-10-9-9-8** because the jacks beat the tens. If the higher pairs are equal, the lower pairs are compared, so that for example **8-8-6-6-3** beats **8-8-5-5-K**. Finally, if both pairs are the same, the odd cards are compared, so **Q-Q-5-5-8** beats **Q-Q-5-5-4**.

9. Pair

A hand with two cards of equal rank and three other cards which do not match these or each other. When comparing two such hands, the hand with the higher pair is better - so for example **6-6-4-3-2** beats **5-5-A-K-Q**. If the pairs are equal, compare the highest ranking odd cards from each hand; if these are equal compare the second highest odd card, and if these are equal too compare the lowest odd cards. So **J-J-A-9-3** beats **J-J-A-8-7** because the 9 beats the 8.

10. High Card

Five cards which do not form any of the combinations listed above. When comparing two such hands, the one with the better highest card wins. If the highest cards are equal the second cards are compared; if they are equal too the third cards are compared, and so on. So **A-J-9-5-3** beats **A-10-9-6-4** because the jack beats the ten.

Turning the Tables Cow Game

Materials: You will need a flat piece of light weight board approximately 3 ft by 3 ft. A set of non-breakable dishes. 2 ribbons about 12 feet long and 1in wide. Rope to create course obstacles.

Set Up: Place flat board on the ground. Place ribbons beside the board. Place set of dishes on top of board-“tabletop.” Create obstacle course by stringing ropes between trees at different levels creating an up and down necessary movement. Additional obstacles can be added as desired such as need to circle the table and/or tree. See description below:

1. Tie first rope between trees about 6 feet off the ground parallel with the ground.
2. Tie Second rope between trees about 3 feet of the ground same as before.
3. Tie third rope 4 feet off the ground as before.
4. If possible keep the distance between ropes within 3 to 4 feet.
5. Adding the extra obstacles of going around the table or around a tree will add to the fun.

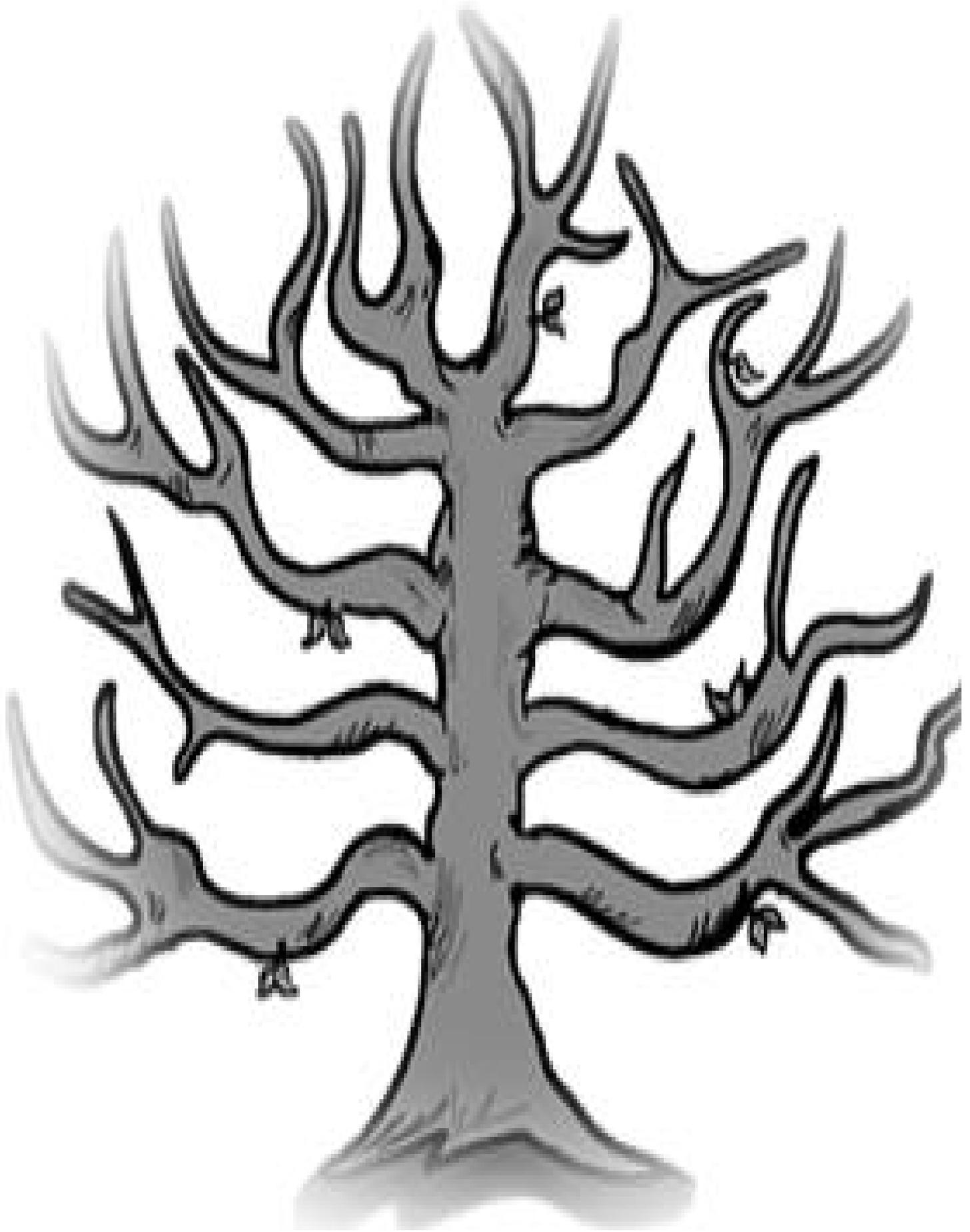
Instructions: Challenge the campers to use the ribbons alone to lift and move the “Table” through the obstacles without turning over the table. Inform them that the whole team has to be touching/holding the ribbon and only the ribbons. If one touches the table, the trees, the ropes or anything but the ribbons the team must start over. In addition the table itself and dishes cannot come in contact with a tree or rope or fall to the ground. Object is to guide this table of dishes through the obstacle course as quick as possible. (Game should take about 15 minutes).

Possible Solution: Though this game is possible it is expected that the “Tables will turn over” at least once. Encourage them to try a couple of times and to work together making sure everyone has a piece of the ribbons. It will take lots of balanced and coordinated team work to accomplish this task. Wind and other natural ingredients may play into the outcome of the game. NOTE: This game serves three functions: 1) Helps warm up the group for conversation, 2) Helps Build team work, 3) Provides an introduction into the idea that sometimes in our life we will either turn over table or have the tables turn over on us. Have fun with this and don’t make it task but preserve the game flavor.

Debriefing Time: Have the youth sit down and relax for a moment. Ask the youth to rate themselves as a team: 1 bad - 10 great. Ask them why and encourage them to share their opinions with each other. Ask them what things helped them as a team and what things got in the way of their teamwork. End by encouraging the youth in their teamwork. After the teamwork debrief introduce the thought that “sometimes in life, just like our scripture the table have to be turned.” This will be the topic and focus for today.

Short list of Interest Group possibilities

“Tree” reading
Photography
Hiking
Crafts
Conversations w/topic specific
yoga or tai chai
debate
storytelling
cooking
Energizers
woodworking
work projects – depending on time & location of camp
CYF – repaint & seal mini golf course
Path around new Pond
Worship area Next to New Pond
Prayer path weeding
ChiRho – ampitheater
Village updates



Worship Centers

Worship Centers are a part of the Thursday experience as a way of offering the campers a more creative opportunity to express the worship theme than the traditional chapel setting allows. The structure, the theme, and the setting all contribute to this goal. Below you will find a brief description of each of these components to help illuminate the Worship Center component of Thursday's material. As always, the implementation of this component is affected by the physical setting of the camp as well as the campers and counselors involved.

STRUCTURE

The structure of the Worship Centers is very basic, and it utilizes the grouping already present in the week. For the purpose of the curriculum the small groups are used to create the Worship Centers. The objective is to create an expression of the theme that invites others into an encounter/experience, which is both worshipful and meaningful. The difference from chapel service lies in the individual experience of the Worship Center. The sites created by the campers, are visited by the entire camp during the worship "service" which means the centers are un-staffed. They need to be created in such a way that in pairs or small groups campers can enter into each center, learn, worship and be touched and leave again (to move on to another while others gather there). These Centers can be interactive as well as visual. The creativity is limited only to the setting requirements and safety issues. The small group would create these sites throughout the week as they meet together. There can be an opportunity to gather briefly at the end for a closing time together.

SETTING This is normally done with our CYF Cabin Camps but Chi Rho or Rustic camps could play with this and apply it to their situation

As mentioned above the setting can create some limitations to creativity, but setting can also enhance such work. One effective way to arrange the Worship Centers is to take the usable areas of camp and divide them up for the small groups to choose from for their worship sites (this can be facilitated by having small group leaders choose sites prior to the start of camp). Areas such as the pool, the field, the playground, the woods, the chapel are all areas, which can be used for such sites. Two elements to keep in mind when looking at setting: 1) the proximity of the sites need to be far enough away as to give some break between experiences and keep them from impinging on other Centers, 2) they need to be close enough together to keep campers from being scattered to the four winds during this time (this makes it hard to stay on time as well as keep supervision). One additional effect to the setting can be the encouragement of the campers to remain in silence throughout the time as a way to be more open to the Centers and as a way of respecting other's experiences.

THEME

The theme is intended to be a part of the overall message that Discipleship is a way of life, a process, not a single special event. As a way of exploring that concept from the start of the week the Worship Center theme needs to be fairly general compared to the week's lessons. Our theme for Thursday is "God is Bigger: Many images of God." This will tie into the various ways faith is lived and experienced, and hopefully will trigger some creative exploration on the part of the campers. It is important to note here that this would include not only how they experience faith in other people/themselves, but also how one could practice faith in the everyday, it could be strategies for including faith, it could be reminders we see or people we know. The results are truly limitless if we allow the youth to be creative. One last note on theme: Worship Centers are intended to be POSITIVE experiences, and may require counselor assistance in being uplifting for the other campers.

“Method for Discussion”

Spin 1: Get to Know the TOPIC

Topics for this approach need to be chosen directly out of the headlines or, at least, through careful observation of real life. Faith issues can be found on the front page of most newspapers, in casual conversations in the church kitchen or even in the lyrics of the latest popular song. The key for choosing the topic is in remembering that Christians are human beings and human beings live life in the real world. If our faith is to be relevant and meaningful, we need to be talking about how our faith impacts real issues and vice versa.

Spin 2: Set the FOCUS

Setting the focus is intended to help the group set some parameters and direction for the conversation. Present a current event by bringing it up in the course of normal conversation. This takes a little practice but after you've done it once or twice, it should roll right off your tongue. Remember, conversation is your goal, not lecture. After the normal talk and fellowship (5 minutes or so) try changing the conversation with something like this: "Hey, did you all see on the news last night..." or "Did you all hear about the new law passed by..." And then quickly lead into Spin 3.

PLEASE NOTE: It is not the intention of this movement to provide a time for the leader to reveal their position. Doing this would short-circuit the whole process in that youth will sense, and rightly so, that this is not really an open discussion at all. It may be difficult not to share your opinion at first, but if you really want to know what your youth believe, you will not do it. More importantly, if you want to encourage your youth to think about what they believe critically, simply place the focus event out there and ask them what they think about it.

Spin 3: Discover “WHAT” They Believe

Your sole purpose in this spin of the conversation is to help the youth articulate and clarify what they believe about the topic. It is important to allow plenty of time for this movement in the discussion. You need to discover not only what they believe but also what they do not believe. Open-ended questions are your best tools for enhancing this process. For example: What do you believe about God in light of...natural disasters, miracles, etc? You want the youth to feel that whatever answer they give is valued. This may sound easy, but it is not. It will take some practice! Do not be afraid to nudge them to struggle with what they do and do not believe; however, always urge them with a supportive voice! In other words, in those cases where you have to help them express or expand on what they believe, it is critical that you do it with a curious attitude rather than a critical or judgmental attitude.

Spin 4: Explore "WHY" They Believe It

In this spin, facilitate a critical reflection on what the youth have said are their beliefs and opinions. Push them a little to really express why they hold the beliefs they do. You will probably realize that most of us do not do a lot of this kind of reflection. So, at first, this kind of reflection may be awkward but it is crucial to the discussion. Take plenty of time here, too. To begin this process, in the midst of hearing youth state what they believe, occasionally ask:

? Why?

? Where did you learn that?

? What has led you to believe this way?

Approach these questions again with a supportive and even curious attitude but watch for defensive reactions such as: refusal to respond, angry responses, crossing of arms, sitting back in chairs, etc. If these reactions should occur, you will need to be more supportive and reassure the youth that all answers are valid and that these questions are not easy ones. Then give that person a little time to relax by moving on to someone else.

Spin 5: Introduce Sources of AUTHORITY

This spin is a time to introduce authorities or sources, which carry weight for Christians when making decisions about belief and behavior. Authorities for most Christians include but are not limited to:

- ❖ Scripture
- ❖ Church tradition
- ❖ Respected individuals
- ❖ Personal faith experience
- ❖ Congregational or denominational positions

Governmental sources, such as the Constitution of the United States of America or the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, also have an impact on Christians and may be useful. Societal authorities are often less concrete, but may have a great deal more influence on beliefs and behaviors than we realize. These include unwritten and written rules of courtesy and etiquette. Remember that in this model, authorities are not meant to create obedience, but to give guidance. Authorities are only as good as their ability to withstand the critique of experience. Share authority with bold humility. Avoid reducing the authorities to mere opinions or raising them to absolute power. Instead, present them as one voice that needs to be struggled with.

Spin 6: INTERACT With the Authorities

Encourage the youth to think seriously about what they believe and how that interacts with what the authority has said. Do not force youth to believe the authority, but help them wrestle with it. If they believe differently than a particular scripture or tradition, help them wrestle with the tension between the two. Your role is not to defend the authority. Your role is to encourage the interaction between the youth's position and the authority. If youth agree with the authority, don't be afraid to ask them why. Continue to help them really take seriously what they believe.

Spin 7: ACT on What You Learn

Taking a close look at what we do and do not believe is extremely beneficial to our growth in the faith. However, reflection that stops short of action is not productive for long term growth. Now that the youth have struggled with their beliefs, have them spend some time talking about what this means we, as people of faith, should do. You and the youth will determine possible actions.

However, sometimes these actions manifest themselves in:

- ❖ Letters to the editor
- ❖ Mission projects
- ❖ A special event held by the youth
- ❖ A change in the way the youth live their lives
- ❖ A statement from the youth in worship or to the church board