



## More Activities

- Community Building and Recreation
- Nature Study and Creation Care
- Outreach and Mission
- Creative Arts
- Spiritual Practices

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### ■ Community Building and Recreation

#### Group Covenants

Place a large piece of newsprint on the floor. Have the campers each place one hand palm down side by side with other campers to make a circle of hands on the paper. Then have each camper trace around his/her hand. If all campers do not fit into one circle, have remaining campers overlap the circle of hands on the paper. Ask the campers what they think are some ways they should treat each other at camp. Ask: "What do you want to happen at camp?" Record their responses on the outside of the circle. Invite the campers to sign their names within their palm prints as a way of showing they agree to follow the covenant. Hang the covenant somewhere the group can see it throughout their time at camp.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Intrapersonal

**MATERIALS:** Newsprint, markers

#### Play Introductions

Give each camper a small cup of assorted colored pony beads. Explain they are to trade the beads with each other until they each have only one color in their cups. Each time they trade beads with other campers, they must introduce themselves to each other and find out one thing about each other, such as where they go to school, if they have pets, etc. The game continues until several campers have accomplished the task of having mostly same-

colored beads in their cups, or when the leader calls time.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Small cups, assorted colored pony beads

#### Describe Your Name

Have the campers sit in a circle. Explain that they are to introduce themselves by saying their names and adjectives that describe them and that begin with the same letter as their names. For example, "I am beautiful Beth." After everyone has participated once, go around the circle again and have campers add other information about themselves. For example, "I am beautiful Beth, and I have a brown baboon; my favorite food is broccoli, etc."

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** None

#### Play Name Jumble

Prior to the activity, create a grid with six blocks across and six blocks down. Divide campers into groups of five to seven. Have each small group write their names inside the block one letter after another. Explain to the campers that the group is to find as many words in the jumble of letters as possible. In order to form a word, the letters must touch, as in the game "Boggle."

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Linguistic, Logical/Mathematical

**MATERIALS:** Paper and pencils

## Make a Name Puzzle

There are two ways to have campers make a puzzle with their names.

*Acrostic:* Have each camper write his/her name vertically down the side of his/her paper. Then have him/her write a word or phrase about him/herself beginning with each letter of his/her name. For example: Beth: B=*bold*, e=*energetic*, t=*talkative*, h=*happy*.

*Acronym:* Have each camper write his/her name vertically down the side of the paper. Then have them write a sentence using the letters of their names. For example: Beth = "*Bats enter the house.*"

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** Paper and pencils

## Play Name Juggle

Have the campers stand in a circle. Explain that you will call out the name of a camper and throw a ball to him/her. That camper will reply, "Thank you, (*the name of the thrower*)!" The thrower will reply by saying, "You're welcome, (*the individual's name*)!" Tell campers they are to continue in this pattern until everyone in the circle has thrown the ball. Once a camper has tossed the object, have him/her cross his/her arms to prevent repetition. The last person returns the ball to you. You may then continue the pattern, adding additional balls or soft objects, and campers will no longer be required to cross their arms after throwing.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** Balls of varying sizes and/or other soft objects

## Make a Circle of Introductions

Have the campers stand in two circles, one inside the other and both facing inward, with the same number of people in each circle. Explain that the circles are to move in opposite directions as music plays or campers sing a song. When the music stops, the campers in the inside circle turn to face the outside circle and vice versa. Tell each camper

to introduce him/herself to the person he/she is facing. Repeat.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** CD and player if you are using recorded music

## Make an Appointment

Prior to the activity, prepare index cards with the times noted on them, perhaps in one- to five-minute intervals. Pass out the appointment cards and have the campers sign up for appointments with each other. To do this, each pair of campers should put their names beside the same time on each other's cards. Let the campers mingle until all the slots are filled. Explain that when you call out a time from the cards, the pairs are to find each other and introduce themselves. Continue to call out the time slots until all the camper pairs have talked to each other.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Intrapersonal

**MATERIALS:** Index cards, pencils

## Do a Breakthrough Exercise

Have all but two campers stand in a tight circle shoulder to shoulder facing into the circle. Explain that the two campers left out of the circle will try to break into the circle, and those in the circle will try to keep them out. Let the campers take turns trying to break into the circle. After several rounds, gather the group together to discuss the experience. Ask: "What did it feel like to be excluded from the group? What did it feel like not to be able to break through? What are some experiences you have had of being left out of the 'in' group? How did that feel? What did it feel like to break through into the circle?"

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Spatial

**MATERIALS:** None

## Play Mime Game

Choose four campers for each round and have three of the four go far enough away from the group they can't see or hear. Tell the fourth camper to mime a profession/action,

such as a basketball player, a ballerina, a musician, etc. Call one of the other campers back and ask him/her to watch the miming camper. After the first demonstration, the miming camper sits down and the next camper is brought into the circle. The camper who has just seen the demonstration mimes the action. Then he/she sits down, and the process is repeated for the final camper, who comes over. This last camper gets three chances to guess the mimed profession/action. This game is like "Telephone," but is accomplished through acting. Invite the group to talk about how the mimes changed.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** None

### Play a Sock Game

Have the campers sit in a circle, and choose two campers at a time to play, while the others cheer them on. Ask the two campers to take their shoes off, and point out the pile of tube socks between them. Explain that they will be blindfolded and will need to then find and put on as many socks on one foot as they can during the allotted time of thirty seconds. Tell them they can each choose one sock and have it ready to pull on before being blindfolded. Say "Go" and time them for thirty seconds. At the end of the time, see how many socks the pair has been able to put on. Continue until all the campers have had a turn. See which pair of campers have put on the most socks.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Two blindfolds, clean tube socks, digital watch or stopwatch

### Play "A What?"

Have campers sit in a circle. Explain that you will pass an object around the circle. Hand an object to the person on your right, and say: "This is a spoon." The receiver replies: "'A What?'" The passer says: "A spoon." Receiver: "Oh, a spoon!" That person then passes the object to the person on his/her right, repeating the dialogue. However, this

time the question of "A What?" is repeated by the person passing the object, asking it again of the person who started the game. That person will respond, again, "A spoon." The person now passing the object will then repeat it to the person he/she is currently passing the object to, who will reply, "Oh, a spoon!" He/she will then pass it to the next person and repeat the process, with the questioning and repeating growing longer and longer. At the same time, pass another object in the opposite direction.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Spatial

**MATERIALS:** Two objects

### Enjoy a Human Maze

Choose a pair of campers to begin and explain that one of them will be blindfolded and the other will be the guide. Have everyone else spread out and get into odd positions/postures, creating a human maze standing fairly close together. The guide is the only one who can speak to his/her partner, giving directions for getting through the maze. Then have the pair switch places and repeat the process. Let all the campers work in pairs to complete an obstacle course. Each time the maze should change slightly.

After all the campers have had a turn, encourage them to talk about the experience. Ask: "How did it feel to be led around by someone else? In what way were you completely dependent on your guide? In what way did you need to trust your guide? How did it feel to have the responsibility of leading someone safely through this maze? For whom did you feel most responsible, those creating the maze or the one blindfolded?"

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Blindfold

## Use the Earth Ball

Show the group the earth ball or large beach ball. Explain that the group must work together to keep the ball in the air without letting it touch the ground, and that no one can touch the ball twice in a row. Let the group play for a while.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Spatial

**MATERIALS:** Earth ball or large beach ball

## ■ Nature Study and Creation Care

### Discover Trees

Walk around camp and visit several different trees. Ask the campers to identify the general characteristics of a tree, such as: tall, has roots, has leaves, etc. Now have the campers imagine being a tree, using their arms as branches and legs as the trunk. Invite them to move following suggestions about how different seasons or kinds of weather might affect trees, such as: during a storm, a tree bearing lots of fruit, a young tree, a tree in snow, etc.

After imagining being a tree, give the campers construction paper, paints, and brushes. Invite the campers each to choose a kind of tree or a tree in a certain season and paint it. Invite campers to talk about trees as they are painting. Ask: "What do trees provide in our world? How do trees help the environment? What would happen if we lost all our trees?"

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Construction paper, paints, brushes

### Collect Trash

Have this discussion about trash in the morning of one of your camp days. Talk about what you know about the relationship between natural resources and manufactured products. Remind campers of the time it takes for a tree to grow to maturity, and the

time it takes to produce paper. Encourage campers to think about how quickly we are using our natural resources in order to make our lives more comfortable. Ask: "Do we need everything that we produce? What do we do with what is left over after we use it? How much waste do you produce each day?" After this discussion, give each camper a used shopping bag to carry with them the rest of the day. Explain they are to put all their personal trash into the bag—excluding toilet paper and sanitary products—such as: snack wrappers, soda cans, meal leftovers, program material waste, and craft waste. Remove or cover all trashcans to remind them to use their personal trash bags. At the end of the day, weigh the bags for your group to see how much trash has been collected. Invite each camper to look inside his/her trash bag. Ask: "How much of your trash is recyclable? Biodegradable? What is the relationship between your trash and the earth's natural resources? What can you do to preserve God's natural resources?" Be sure to properly dispose of the collected trash. If the whole camp participates in this activity, at an assembly compare the total weight of each group's collected trash and give an award to the group with the least amount of trash. Invite the campers to hold each other accountable for not littering the campground all week. This can also include avoiding the unneeded use of other resources by turning off lights and making sure water faucets are completely turned off.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Used shopping bags, scale, award

### Make a Natural Mobile

Instruct the campers to take five minutes to walk around outside near your meeting area and collect branches of various sizes and several other natural objects, such as pinecones, acorns, leaves, berries, flowers, and so on. Remind them not to take anything from living plants. Invite the campers to make mobiles out of their collected treasures. Tightly string several strands of twine across

the room and tie strings to hang down. Invite the campers to take a string hanging down and tie it to the middle of one of their larger branches. Loosely tie other strings to each side of the branch to hang down from it. Then have campers tie an object to one side of the branch and a smaller branch to the other side. Loosely tie strings to each side of this branch and connect objects to other ends of the string. Move the strings on the branches until the objects are balanced by moving the strings and varying the size of the objects. Once complete, tighten the knots on the branches. Lead a discussion on the beauty of God's creation and how campers can remind others at home to care for creation by giving them these mobiles.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Branches, nature objects, string, tape, glue

### Nature's Mosaic

Take the campers outside to an area where there are lots of small natural objects. Explain to the campers that they are going to make a Nature Mosaic using small objects of nature. Encourage campers to think about the picture they want to create together, such as: illustration of the day's scripture, a view of the camp site, etc. Once the picture is chosen, place a poster board in the center of the group and have someone spread glue over the whole piece. Now invite the campers to use objects they find in nature around them to work together to create the picture. The design might start in the corners and work to the center, or start in the center and work to the edges. Be sure they use a variety of colors to enhance the picture. When all the objects have been glued down to cover the entire poster board, use an acrylic spray to cover the entire mosaic picture to preserve and protect the natural materials and the beauty of the final work of art. Lead a discussion about the many beauties and uses of God's creation and ask the campers to share why they chose their picture.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Poster board, nature objects, glue, acrylic spray

### Make a Shopping Bag

Remind the campers that each year, billions of plastic store bags wind up in landfills and cause damage to our planet. These so-called "free" bags actually cost both consumers and the environment. Invite the campers to name some of the ways the bags do damage to creation, such as: the bags end up as ugly litter; the bags break down into tiny toxic bits, polluting our soil, rivers, lakes, and oceans; production of the bags requires vast amounts of oil; countless animals needlessly die each year by ingesting pieces of these bags.

Explain to campers they can create their own reusable shopping bags. Prior to camp, you can order bags from: [www.reusablebags.com](http://www.reusablebags.com), or buy them locally. Or you could ask a local group to sew white cotton shopping bags for your campers. Give each camper a bag and colored permanent markers to decorate his/her bag. While the campers are decorating, talk about how they and their families can use the bags when they get home, and other ways they can reduce contributing to the landfills.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Reusable bags, colored permanent markers

### Take Hike with a Purpose

Gather the campers for a hike and explain that this hike has a purpose. Plan the route of the hike so the group will see many different kinds of God's creation. Give the campers index cards and pens, assigning different natural elements to each camper to look or listen for during the hike, such as: insects, birds, sounds made in nature, the color red or yellow, flowers, or trees. Take the hike and encourage the campers to write down everything they see or hear that relates to their assigned subjects. When you return to your meeting space, ask the campers to share the different items in God's creation they found. Use identification books to find out the names of trees, flowers, birds, or insects.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Index cards, pens

### Travel to God Places

Late in the week, invite the campers to name places at camp they feel particularly close to God. Explain that although God is everywhere, there are special places where we feel particularly close to God. Take a walk as a group to each of these places. Spend about ten minutes at each place in silence. While campers are in their own special place, invite them to find a small, not living object in nature that reminds them of God. When the campers return from the walk, ask them to share their objects and why they chose them. Now invite the campers to think about their home communities and identify places they can go after camp to feel close to God. Give them each an index card to write a short prayer to use when he/she gets home and visits his/her special place.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Index cards, pens

### Be a Neighbor of Creation

Ask the camp director ahead of time if there are any work projects around camp that could be done by campers (painting, tending trails, cleaning equipment, etc.). Present the list to campers and allow them to choose which project they would like to work on. Explain to campers that they can care for creation both far away and right where they are. Ask campers to brainstorm a list of tools that they will need in order to complete the project. Gather tools and set to work. After the project is finished, ask campers: "How was what we did for camp mission work? Where did you experience God in our mission project?"

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** As needed

### Create a Commercial about Creation Care

Divide campers into small groups. Explain that each group will create a skit/commercial about caring for creation. Assign a period of time for the campers to work on the presentation. Have the campers share their presentations with the larger group.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Naturalist, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** As needed

### Take a Bent-over Nature Walk

Ask all of the campers to walk bent over. Take a walk in the bent-over position. After the walk, invite the campers to describe what they saw on the walk. After the conversation about what the campers saw while walking bent over, walk the same path again, this time in a comfortable/usual position. After the walk, invite the campers to compare the two experiences.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Naturalist, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** None

## ■ Outreach and Mission

### Greet One Another in Many Languages

Ask campers to share the ways they know how to say "hello" in different languages. Put these all on newsprint and see how many languages are represented. If your camp has international staff who speak other languages, ask them to share as well. If possible, locate the countries in which these languages are spoken on a map. Have campers pick a new way to say "hello" and greet each other throughout the day in that language.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** Newsprint, marker, world map (optional)

## Think about Our Global Connections

For this activity you will need a large world map that campers may mark with either pushpins or stickers. Remind campers that many of the things that they use, including their clothing, come from around the world. Invite campers to guess how many countries the clothes being worn by the group represent. Have campers help each other find clothing tags and see where their clothes and shoes were made. Have campers find these countries on the map and mark them with a pushpin or sticker and count the marks. Ask: "What does this map tell us about global connections? What does this map tell you about the world in which you live?" Pray for the people of the countries that you marked.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Spatial

**MATERIALS:** World map, pushpins or stickers

## Thank Camp Staff

Invite campers to create a "thank you" skit or song for the camp staff (kitchen staff, lifeguards, groundskeepers, etc.) for the various ways they minister to campers throughout the summer. Hold a "thank you" performance on the last day at camp that honors these staff members.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Musical, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** As needed

## Connect with the Community

Reach out to a local community organization or agency with whom campers could have a personal interaction, such as a retirement community, soup kitchen, hospital, or day care center. Contact the group to find out in which ways campers may serve the organization. Projects might include making greeting cards, visiting with people, hosting or assisting with a party, teaching a simple camp activity or camp song, or worshiping with the community. After the activity, ask campers: "What were we able to give? What do you feel we received?"

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** As needed

## Share Your Camp Experience

Encourage campers to think about ways they can share their camp experiences with their home congregation. Remind campers that one of the things missionaries do is to share with others about God's movement in their own lives. Have campers write letters to their churches or families. Encourage campers to tell stories in the letters about when they experienced God's presence during their times at camp. Take a photo of each camper at a special place at camp or doing his/her favorite activity to include with his/her letter. If possible, help campers address and send the letters before they leave camp.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** Paper, pens, envelopes, camera and a means of printing photos

## Encourage Mission at the Camp Store

Before campers arrive, connect with a local shelter or church that may be in need of personal care kits. Ask for a list of items that should be included in the kits and stock the camp store with these items. On the first day of camp, perhaps during opening worship, tell campers that they may use their camp store money to help others by buying the items. During camp, campers may purchase items to put in the personal care kits. At the end of camp, have campers assemble the kits into freezer bags. Plan to dedicate the kits in an evening worship service. If possible, bring along several campers to deliver the kits.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** Items for personal care kits, freezer bags

## Share Your Gifts Day

Ask campers to each make a list of the gifts that they feel that God has given to them. Have campers share these lists in small groups of three or four people. Encourage each camper to choose one of these gifts to share today with the rest of camp. In their

small groups, encourage campers to help each other consider ways to share their gifts. Meet the next day to ask how campers were able to share their gifts and how they experienced God in the sharing.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** As needed

### Invite a Missionary

Invite a missionary to come to camp to share about his/her work in missions. Prepare the missionary by telling him/her about the day's theme. Encourage him/her to bring photos and objects from the place he/she works.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** Missionary, and items that he/she will need to make presentation

### Hear about Ministry

Invite the camp pastor or director/minister to talk about his/her ministry. Suggest that he/she bring pictures of her/himself as a child or youth to show the campers. Invite him/her to share the story of his/her call with the campers. Remind campers that a call to ministry is not only reserved for pastors but can also be for other forms of ministry. Encourage the campers to ask questions.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** Minister, picture of the minister as a child or young person

### Learn about Fair Trade Products

Explain that "Fair Trade" means an equitable and fair partnership between consumers (especially in affluent countries) and producers (especially in poorer countries). The Fair Trade movement attempts to organize poor farmers into cooperatives around the world so they can achieve a living wage. Encourage campers to think about why it is important to use these products and encourage others to do the same. If your camp provides computer access for

campers, let them search the Internet for "fair trade products." Have them interview camp staff to find out if the campsite uses these products. Invite campers to share ideas about how they can tell their parents, and their church and community leaders, about "fair trade products." Close with a prayer for the producers of fair trade items and others in need.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Linguistic, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Computers or list of fair trade retailers

### Find out about Green Energy

Explain that "green energy" comes from sources that are renewable and produced in ways that have little lasting impact on God's creation. Green energy includes solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact hydroelectric, and landfill gases. Have campers interview camp staff about uses of green energy at camp and take a walk to see these examples. If your camp has access to computers for camper use, have them research green energy on the Internet. Have someone from the local electric company come and talk about local energy sources and energy sharing. Invite campers to think about what they can do to encourage green energy at home, and in schools and churches near their homes. Discuss how green energy helps us to be good stewards of God's creation.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Linguistic, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Computers, list of green energy possibilities in your area, electrical company representative

## ■ Creative Arts

### Try African Mud Painting

This mud painting technique comes from West Africa and is a perfect way to bring nature and art together. Explain that the Senufo people use this technique to decorate their clothes, often with images of plants or animals. Place a cup of dirt in a strainer over a plastic container and pour

about 1 cup of water over the dirt. Force the rest of the dirt through the strainer into the container. Remove the strainer and pour off any excess water. Mix a small amount of acrylic or powdered tempera paint into the mud to make the colors you want. Next, have campers create simple images on cloth squares or plain white T-shirts using a pencil, and then retrace the lines using fabric markers. Place newspaper inside T-shirts to be certain the ink and mud do not bleed through. Using a variety of brushes, paint the colored mud over the design and leave the cloth to dry overnight. Finally, shake off excess mud, rinse with cold water, and hang to dry.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Naturalist

**MATERIALS:** Dirt, strainer, plastic container, water, acrylic or powdered paint, pencils, fabric markers, cloth quilt squares or white T-shirts, brushes

### Write Concrete Poems

Invite campers to create “concrete poems” that take the shape of the poem’s subject or theme. For example, a poem about an owl might be shaped like a tree, or a poem about fishing might be shaped like a boat. The subject of the poem could be something campers are thankful for, an important person in their lives, a prayer of praise to God, a retelling of a biblical story, or a meditation on some part of nature. Have each camper write a poem and then decide on a shape for the poem to represent the theme of the writing. Encourage campers to use a pencil to lightly sketch the chosen shapes onto sheets of paper and then to write the words of the poems, fitting them into the shapes. Have them finish by erasing the pencils lines.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Intrapersonal

**MATERIALS:** Paper, pencils, erasers

### Create a Mural with Feet

The stories of Bartimaeus and the bent-over woman tell about people who responded to their breakthrough encounter with Jesus with movements of praise. Challenge campers

to create a mural that represents their own interpretations of the joyful movements of these characters. Lay a white tarp or sheet on the ground, pinning or taping the corners so that it remains flat. Set out paint roller trays with various colors of tempera paint. Once they are barefooted, invite campers to dip their feet into the paint and then work together to create a mural depicting joyful movement and praise. Consider playing music that will evoke feelings of joy and praise while the group paints. Obviously, the finished project will be quite abstract and maybe even a little messy, but the process here is more important than the final product. Hang the tarp or sheet somewhere to dry.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Tarp or sheet, paint roller pans, various colors of tempera paint, water, and towels

### Perform a Modern-Day Parable

Challenge campers to rethink the parables of the good Samaritan or the great banquet. Ask: “How would you recast the characters if the story were set in the modern world, in a high school, or at a church camp? What alternate or extended endings can you imagine?” Encourage campers to translate their ideas into a script or pantomime and perform their version of the parable at worship or some other camp gathering.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Interpersonal, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** As needed for skits

### Make a Transformed Collage

Those who encountered Jesus often began to see the world around them in a whole new way. Invite campers to create their own visions of a different world. Make available a variety of magazines with colorful images and allow campers to search through the magazines and cut out interesting images, such as people, animals, trees, and mechanical devices. In some cases, campers may want to cut the original backgrounds away from the images. Next, campers should experiment

with laying the various images together on sheets of paper in an artistic arrangement. Encourage them to play with different size relationships—such as a small elephant image next to a big mouse image—and to juxtapose objects we don't often see together—such as a lamppost growing out of a lake. When they are satisfied with the arrangement, have campers glue the images down to their papers and brainstorm creative names for their collages.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Bodily/  
Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Sheets of paper, magazines, scissors, glue

### Make a Fresco Painting

Explain to campers that they can create frescoes or paintings in wet plaster to depict a scene. Line a small aluminum or foam tray with plastic wrap and then fill with plaster, following the manufacturer's directions. With the back of a plastic spoon, smooth the surface of the plaster and wait several minutes until it has set but is still damp to the touch. Next, use watercolors to paint an image into the surface of the plaster. Once the plaster has dried, the paint pigment will be permanently set into the plaster. If campers would prefer to prepare a sketch of the image in advance, have them draw the outline of the tray or pan onto a piece of white paper and use a pencil to create a very simple line drawing inside the outline. When the plaster is set but still damp, they can transfer the drawing by placing it face down onto the plaster and use a pencil to trace over the lines of the drawing, applying enough pressure so that it is transferred onto the surface of the plaster. Remove the paper and use watercolors to paint the design. Set the fresco aside and allow it to dry completely before removing it from the tray or pan.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Bodily/  
Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Small aluminum or foam trays, pencils, paper, watercolor paints, paint brushes, plastic wrap, plaster, mixing bowl, water, mixing stick

### Retell the Story

Work as group to retell a scripture passage. Sit in a circle and have each person in turn share a single sentence to help advance the story. For example, the first person might say, "One day a man was walking down the road," and the next person might add, "It was the road between Jerusalem and Jericho." This process continues until you have retold the entire story. For an added twist, challenge the group to tell the story with each person saying only one word at a time in succession.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Linguistic,  
Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** None

### Search for the Face of God

Provide a 6-inch x 6-inch die cut cardboard mat frame for each camper. Take the campers on a hike and challenge them to look for God's "face" somewhere in nature. Have campers hold the frame out in front of their faces and look through the frame to seek out objects or patterns in nature that in some way mimic the human face (e.g., tree knotholes, flower patterns, rocks). As campers discover these natural portraits, encourage them to share their finds with the rest of the group. Conclude with a discussion of the practice of being open to noticing God's presence all around us.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** 6-inch x 6-inch die cut cardboard mat frames

### Create Yarn Pictures

This activity is inspired by the Oaxacan (pronounced *wah hocken*) folk art creations of South America. Take campers on a short nature hike and ask them each to select a natural object such as a tree, animal, or plant that he/she wants to recreate in art. Next have campers each trace the outline of the selected natural object onto a piece of heavy cardboard (at least 8½" x 11") and cut out the shape. Have campers plan what colors of yarn they want to use to fill in the outer and inner contours of the cardboard shapes. Once they

have their plans in mind, instruct campers to “draw” over the various lines with glue and lay yarn down along the lines, working over the entire shapes until they are completely filled in with lines of yarn. For added decoration, use strategically placed *faux* jewels or buttons within the designs.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Naturalist, Spatial, Bodily Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Heavy cardboard, glue, yarn, scissors, *faux* jewels, buttons

### Make a Comic Strip

Challenge campers to work in small groups to create comic strip versions of a story from scripture. First, have campers plan out a series of tableaux they can act out that will depict each stage of the story. Next, have campers photograph each part of the story and print the photos. Then glue the photos in sequence on a piece of poster board. To complete the comic strip effect, invite campers to add titles, captions, and speech bubbles to the photos using markers, paper, and glue.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Spatial

**MATERIALS:** Camera, printer, poster board, glue, markers, paper

### Create Monoprints

Monoprint is a printmaking technique that produces a unique version of an image each time it is repeated. Begin by having the campers select a variety of flat images. These might include actual leaves, photos, images from magazines, or a drawing created by the camper. Place the selected objects or images underneath a clear glass plate (approximately 8½” x 11”). Next, trace the contours and basic lines of the image onto the glass plate by “drawing” with bottles of acrylic paint—much like you might decorate a cake with a tube of icing. When the outline of the image is complete, lay a sheet of paper over the glass plate and apply pressure in order to transfer the paint to the paper. Different degrees of pressure will produce different results in the final image. Peel the paper off the glass to

reveal a reverse image of the glass painting. Multiple prints are possible from each glass drawing. Try adding different colors to the drawing to produce different monoprint effects.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Spatial

**MATERIALS:** Leaves, magazine images, glass plate, bottles of acrylic paint, paper

### Compose a Rhythmic Retelling

Challenge campers to help you retell a scripture passage through rhythm and sound. Pass out various percussion or musical instruments. Invite the group to work together to use the instruments to create a variety of sound effects that might help in retelling the story. Next, invite the group to use their instruments to create a short signature piece of rhythmic music to represent each character in the story. Perhaps campers will want to create one piece of music to represent the characters at the beginning of the story and another to represent them after their transformation at the end of story. When all the musical details are worked out, slowly read the scripture passage out loud, adding in the musical elements as you go along. For an added challenge, instead of using real musical instruments, ask campers to create their sound effects using objects they find around camp (e.g., pots and pans, sticks, rocks, buckets).

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Musical, Bodily/Kinesthetic, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** Musical instruments, various percussion objects

### Build a Nature Sculpture

Brainstorm with campers a variety of ways you might depict the theme of “breakthrough” visually. Using twine, branches, and twigs you find on the campgrounds, lash together a freestanding sculpture that either literally or abstractly represents the week’s theme. For example, the sculpture could depict a biblical character or the feelings of one of the characters. Consider building the sculpture in a part of the camp that could serve as a quiet worship space, with the sculpture at the center.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Bodily/Kinesthetic, Spatial

**MATERIALS:** Twine, branches, twigs

### Make Invitations

Create invitations to the great banquet that campers can take home and offer to friends and family. Fold sheets of 8½" x 11" colored cardstock in half to create the cards. Invite campers to decorate the fronts of the cards by tracing shapes, designs, or words onto the cards with glue and then sprinkling the glue with different types of seeds. Have them shake off the excess seeds and allow the cards to dry. On the inside of the cards, campers may write the invitation, telling where and when. Have campers share who they think most needs to hear the invitation to God's banquet and encourage them to deliver the cards to those persons when they return home.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Linguistic, Interpersonal

**MATERIALS:** Colored cardstock, glue, seeds

### Create a Faith Tapestry

Invite campers to think about their own breakthrough experiences in their journeys of faith. Ask: "What have been the significant moments and turning points? Who have been the most influential people in your faith development? When have you experienced God's love, forgiveness, and healing?" Provide each camper with a long strip of paper. Challenge campers to think of the paper as a timeline of their faith journey. Have them mark off the paper strip into equal segments and draw or write the timeline of their faith in the different segments, including names or images of people, dates of special events such as their baptisms, experiences at camp or on mission trips, or anything else they might think to include. Once the strips are completed, encourage campers to share their timelines and work together to weave all their paper strips into a large tapestry of faith. Follow up with a discussion of the way Christian community offers a way to "weave" together and share the various breakthrough experiences we have with God.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Linguistic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal

**MATERIALS:** Role of butcher paper, scissors, tape, markers

### Make Garden Stones

Prepare quick-setting concrete mix—such as Quikrete—in a bucket. Use wax paper or freezer paper as a base and have campers shape the concrete into heart shapes or write/draw into the concrete symbols and words that represent "love." Allow the concrete to set. (This may take a couple of days.) Listen to music or sing about God's love while doing this activity.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Spatial, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** Quick-setting concrete mix, bucket, water, wax paper, tools for manipulating the concrete

## ■ Spiritual Practices

The following activities are designed for encouraging spiritual practices at camp. There are many traditions we can draw from to help us in our journey of faith. As you work with your campers, set aside time to explore some of these activities. Encourage campers to become aware of their personal relationship with God. You might even find some practices you want to adopt for yourself!

### Breath Prayer

Breath Prayer is an ancient and simple form of prayer that involves repeating a single thought while breathing in and out. Encourage campers to find a comfortable sitting position and tell them they can close their eyes to pray if they would like. Explain that you will suggest some phrases to think as they breathe in and out. As they think and breathe each phrase, it will be a kind of silent prayer in which their whole body can participate. First, give them an example. Breathe in on the phrase "Lord Jesus Christ," and exhale on "Son of God." Repeat this

several times and then invite the campers to try it on their own at their own pace.

As the campers get used to this practice, you can suggest some of the following breath prayers, as well as encourage the campers to create their own.

Breathe in on “Have mercy on me”;  
breathe out on “Teach me your love.”

“Teach me patience”; “Gracious God.”

“Give me strength”; “Oh, Christ.”

“Holy Spirit”; “Fill me.”

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Bodily/Kinesthetic

**MATERIALS:** None

### Centering Prayer

Explain to campers that Centering Prayer is an ancient form of prayer. Have the campers find a comfortable place and way to sit. You may wish to create a low altar and place on it a Bible and cross. Tell campers that you will read a portion of the day’s scripture through twice and they are to choose silently one word that reminds them of God. Encourage them to see what comes to mind as they think of God and that one word. Invite them to close their eyes or focus on the candle flame (if you lit a candle) or look at a beautiful thing in the creation around them. Softly strike a prayer bowl (if you have one), bell, or chime to announce the end of the prayer time. Gauge the ability of your group for how long they can stay silent and focus on a word. You may wish to do it in stages so they get used to this form of prayer. Start with one minute and add a minute each time the group prays this way.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** Bible, materials for an altar, prayer bowl, bell or chime, candle (optional)

### Lectio Divina

Explain that *lectio divina* is a way of reading scripture that helps us find God and that the words literally mean “divine reading.” Tell them that this way of reading the Bible can help them to find its meaning

for them as a personal message. Invite the campers to find a comfortable place and way to sit. Each camper will need a Bible if they are going to read the passage for themselves. Or you may choose to read the passage aloud, especially with younger campers. You may want to include an altar with a candle, Bible, or cross. Give campers an overview of each of the four steps and then lead the group through them. Here are the five steps:

I. *Lectio*: Read the passage twice slowly. Encourage campers to listen for the word or phrase that leaps out of the passage for them during the two readings. Explain that this could be a word or phrase that beckons, addresses, disturbs, unnerves, stirs, or “shimmers” in some way.

II. *Meditatio*: Have campers repeat this word or phrase silently to themselves. Encourage them to pay attention to the thought about God that comes into their minds as they think of the word or words.

III. *Oratio*: Invite each person in the group to say their word or phrase one at a time. There should be enough time between each sharing to let the word or phrase sink in. Tell campers this is like sharing a prayer.

IV. *Ruminatio*: Read the passage aloud a third time. Encourage campers to pay attention to the feeling or image that comes to mind and how it relates to their lives right now.

V. *Contemplatio*: Read the passage again for a fourth time. Encourage campers to be still and try to feel God’s presence with them. Strike a prayer bowl, bell, or chime to announce the end of the reflection time.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Linguistic

**MATERIALS:** Worshipful environment—altar in center of circle, candle, etc. Bible

### Gaze into Nature

Take your campers to a natural setting within camp where there is room for them to sit separately within your view. Introduce them to the concept of icons. Tell them that by gazing at an image of God people through the centuries have found the presence of God. Explain that instead of a piece of art they are

going to choose a scene in nature and study it as if it were a painting from where they are sitting. Have them select a scene and tell them that as they sit in silence looking at the scene you will suggest some questions for them to use to study the scene in depth. When the campers are settled, ask some or all of the following questions, giving them a few minutes after each question to observe and ponder.

1. What do you see? What parts of the scene stand out to you?
2. What seems to be most important or the focal point that you notice first? Why does that seem so important?
3. What do you notice that is closest to you? What do you notice that is farther away?
4. What colors do you notice? How do shadows and light relate to each other? What are the brightest and darkest spots in the scene?
5. Close your eyes and look again. Do you notice anything new?
6. Do you feel invited to walk into the place you are observing or do you just want to keep looking? Why?
7. How does the scene make you feel?
8. Where do you see God in this scene? Does it remind you of any scripture or stories about God?
9. What do you want to say to God? Say or write a prayer or draw an image.
10. What do you think God wants to say to you? Write down or draw those ideas too.

Signal the end of the time by ringing a bell or a chime. Invite those who wish to share their thoughts about the experience and their prayer or drawing. Remind campers that this is a prayer activity they can do anytime after they go home. Tell them they can use a real place in nature or a photograph or painting.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Visual/Spatial, Intrapersonal

**MATERIALS:** Paper and pens/pencils

### Praying the Daily Office

Early in the week, explain to the campers that early in the church's history people started to set aside times during the day to stop and pray to God. Tell them that these

rhythms of prayers at specific times of day were called Daily Offices. Invite them to consider whether they would like to practice the Daily Offices one day during camp.

Explain that they would stop as a group and pray at the following times during the day.

**Lauds**—6:00 A.M. (Start of the day)

**Terce**—9:00 A.M. (Third Hour of the day)

**Sext**—12:00 Noon (Sixth Hour of the Day)

**None**—3:00 P.M. (Ninth Hour of the day)

**Vespers**—Dusk/Sunset

**Compline**—Bedtime

Encourage them to consider what kind of prayers they would like to offer at each time and whether they would like to meet in one place or go to a different place each time. Once the group has made these decisions, invite one or two campers to be responsible for leading the prayer at some of the daily offices and consider having at least one of the offices be a time of private prayer with are comfortable and meaningful to them in following this practice.

**MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** Intrapersonal, Linguistic, maybe more depending on types of prayers

**MATERIALS:** Bible, musical instruments, candle, whatever your camp uses to create a worshipful space.