

Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers, Inc.

Volunteer Counselor

Training Packet

INTRODUCTION

The camp counselor plays a very important role during a week of camp. They proclaim, clarify, embody and make real the claims of Christ. Experiencing how a Christian lives is infinitely more convincing than simply hearing a Christian talk. Volunteer counselors are central to the proclamation process. They make the truths of the Gospel real and personal. Campers see in their counselors the possibility and validity of a life committed to Christ.

The fundamental purpose of the camp counselor is to lovingly help campers develop a relationship with Christ. Christ is the one that campers need to know, love and follow. All counseling should point toward this objective.

The purpose of this document is to give each person involved in the camp counseling process some basic tools to help them in their task. Most people do not have to be highly skilled or professionally trained to be excellent camp counselors. God has equipped many of us to do an outstanding job in loving campers and leading them toward Christ. Solid preparation, a life of devotion to Christ and a sincere love for campers are the basic essentials needed. This manual, we trust, will provide you with the fundamentals in your preparation process.

PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY OF CAMP

In a world that is full of hostility and brokenness, we offer hope and healing. We do this by creating a safe environment in the midst of God's beautiful creation, which allows campers to step away from their daily routines and be part of a loving community, which seeks an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. We claim no special powers of our own, we simply help people connect with God, by modeling the teachings of Christ, and the Holy Spirit does the rest. PCCCI's program will focus on the four primary ways God speaks to us: 1) Prayer/worship, 2) community/ relationships with each other, 3) Nature/Creation, and 4) The Word of God. The vision of PCCCI is to come along side the local church in ministry by offering retreats and camping experiences that will encourage spiritual growth in Christ and enhance the Church's ministry.

Once at camp, the campers are separated by gender and divided into small groups of eight, who live together in a cabin. Each cabin has a volunteer "Cabin Counselor", whose sole responsibility is to unconditionally love the campers in their cabin. By not burdening the counselor with program responsibilities, they are free to focus all of their energy and attention on their particular campers. The counselor is called upon to play with their campers, to talk with

them, share their life with them and most importantly listen to them. By building strong relationships with the campers, counselors will earn the right to be heard, which will open the door for honest and open discussions. As the week progresses, campers will begin to ask questions, (many of them will be faith related). This presents a wonderful learning opportunity, as they will be intent on hearing the answers to their questions. As campers both learn and experience God's great love for them, there is a much greater chance they will embrace Christ as their Lord, and live a life transformed by the Holy Spirit. For each camper, this process of growing in a relationship with Christ is different. Some campers may respond immediately and for others it may take years before they are ready for a relationship with Christ. To take advantage of the bond which is developed between the camper and counselor during a week of camp, we strongly encourage all counselors to come from the same church their campers come from, in order to continue the mentoring relationship when the camper returns home. Our calling is not to force or manipulate this process, we are here to model and present the Gospel of Christ only.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNSELORS AT CAMP

1. *Counselors make the message of Christ personal.* We live in an impersonal world. People are crying out for identity — for someone to know them and care enough to pray for them intelligently. Since we have become a faceless society it is most important to note, in contrast, that Jesus sees everyone in a crowd. Everyone is important. We are to follow Christ's example in our camping ministry. Above all, we must be "people centered". Facilities and program are certainly an integral part, but the key, the focal point, must always be qualified, vital, loving counselors! This will become increasingly important as society becomes more dehumanized.
2. *Counselors are the "key" to an effective camp.* Some campers will go home talking about all the new friends they made and the fun they had at camp. But the lasting impact of the Gospel on their lives usually is because of the example of their counselor. Counselors have seven days of creative living together with them to demonstrate the love and personal concern of Christ. As the Scripture states, the counselor is standing "in the place of Christ." They are personal ambassadors, personal representative of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. This is not a job! It is a strategic mission — and there is quite a difference.
3. *Counselors help clarify the truths of God.* In the view of the fact that whole generations have grown up in a society that believes there is no such thing as truth, that everything is relative, it is imperative that trained, loving counselors be on hand with the knowledge and ability to help these campers see the reality and love of God. There has never been a time in history when skillful, dedicated counselors have been so desperately needed. Patient listening, careful questioning and personal directions are areas where counselors can be extremely helpful to campers searching for the truth.
4. *Counselors participate in the redemptive process.* The astounding reality of the evangelization process is that God invites us to participate with Him in the changing of lives! God asks us to partner with Him as He calls campers to Himself. What a sacred task! What a unique and priceless privilege. God works His miracle of new life in each campers heart, but includes us. We do not "produce" the kingdom of God. We are not ultimately responsible for the work of the Holy Spirit, but God chooses people to be the vehicle through which the work gets done!
5. *Counseling provides one of the greatest opportunities to help campers see the total picture of the good news of Christ.* You will have 5 full days to help them put together the beautiful story of God's love. As the week progresses, they will hear about Christ (who is He?), themselves (condition of humanity), the Cross (why Christ died), how to allow God to become part of their daily life, etc., and you will be right in the middle of it with them. It may be your experience to observe the power of the Holy Spirit as He changes lives right before your eyes. There is no greater privilege than somehow being involved as an intimate part of the redemptive process. It's where the action is! God has placed you in the middle of the most important thing going on in the world — lives being changed.

ATTRIBUTES OF A COUNSELOR

1. *Genuine love for Christ* — **2 Corinthians 5:14** “For Christ’s love compels us. . . .” No other motivation is sufficient to carry you through the rigors of working with these campers over a long period of time. Christ’s “agape” love just gives and gives and gives without expecting a response.
2. *Sincere love for campers* — **Romans 12:9** “Love must be sincere.” Not everyone can tolerate junior campers! If you are uncomfortable with their music, language and style of life, it could be an indication you will have difficulty in relating to them. Do not fake it - they can spot a phony a mile off.
3. *Flexibility — ability to hang loose* — **2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.” This, of course, does not mean you do not have a plan or purpose and direction in your counseling. It just means that you will be involved in unstructured situations. Each day and each week is a different set of circumstances. If you can’t flex, you will be totally frustrated.
4. *Enthusiasm* — **Colossians 3:23** “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” Gloom and negativism is catching — so is enthusiasm! You must encourage campers in everything; food, speakers, accommodations, program and of course, the Lord. Ask questions positively! Get campers in the habit of saying “yes” and you will be surprised how catching this attitude is.
5. *Loyalty* — **John 13:35** “All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” If the leadership team (the Body of Christ) functions in harmony and genuine love, evangelism takes place as a logical result. This means we support one another, empathize with one another and encourage one another. We esteem others better than ourselves. If someone on the leadership team makes what you deem an error in judgment or does something that you feel is wrong, or something with which you disagree, still it is your responsibility to support that person. The right thing to do is to go to the one in charge and state your case. Individuality plus conformity equals harmony, which results in community! The Body of Christ in action is God’s primary way of communication.
6. *Dependability* — **2 Corinthians 4:2** “Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. . . .” The greatest ability is dependability! If you fulfill all your responsibilities to the best of your ability, we will see a camp that “clicks” and is effective.
7. *Confidential* — **Ephesians 5:15** “Be very careful, then how you live — not as unwise but as wise.” It is imperative that we keep personal information confidential. If a young person confides in us we are duty-bound to share the matter with no one, except your lead counselor if his/her counsel is needed. In extreme cases of abuse, violence, etc., we are legally required to report what we hear. The lead counselors should definitely be involved if this kind of situation comes up.

8. *Strength and firmness* — **Ephesians 6:10** “Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” Remember you are a son or daughter of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords with all the rights and privileges that go with it. Therefore act like one, in royal humility. Most campers will respond to strong, consistent leadership. Respect and friendship is usually strengthened, not lost, with a counselor in firm leading of a camper or a cabin time.
9. *Cheerfulness* — **Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always. . . .” A good sense of humor will get you through many difficult circumstances and add to the enjoyment of all. Campers need to laugh. They need to be around positive, upbeat people. They will feel welcome in an atmosphere of love and laughter. The constant reminder of what Christ has done and is continuing to do for us should always cause us to rejoice.
10. *Sensitivity* — **Philippians 2:4-5** “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Compassion is to feel the need of others to the point that you do something about it. Biblical love is not passive — it is always active. It reaches out. It emphasizes. It is personal. Ask yourself, what would Christ do? Be very tender with kid’s feelings. They need to be treated with compassion.
11. *Patience* — **Romans 12:12** “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” To be in a cabin with a bunch of 4-6 graders is not easy. We want to be judges when we need to remember to be patient friends. The Lord is patient with us. Many of the most important spiritual breakthroughs happen with campers long after the week is over. Patience will help not depend on your expectations.
12. *Consistency of Spiritual Life* — **John 15:5** “I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.” **Philippians 4:6** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” There is no other way to be an effective counselor apart from a daily vital personal walk with Christ. Make time for prayer and Bible reading. Seek out someone with you share your discoveries.

COUNSELOR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER CAMP PERSONNEL

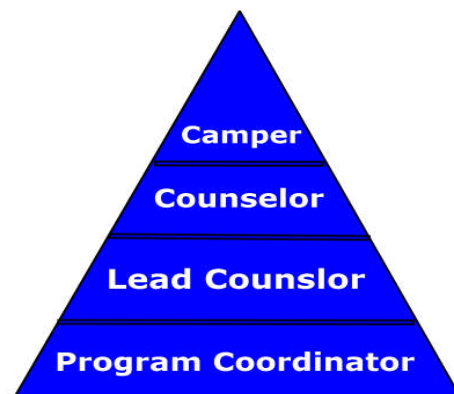
1. **Lead Counselor** — Bring any problem to your Lead Counselor. It is their responsibility to help you in any counseling matter. The Lead Counselor exists not only to develop relationships with your campers, but even more so, to facilitate *your* relationships with your campers.

Sometime during each day you should report to him/her concerning your campers' reactions, both pro and con, regarding messages, group meetings, programs and your own personal feelings. They will pass the information on to the Program Coordinator and other necessary personnel.

Counselor's meeting should not be used for reporting reactions. They should be a time for sharing Christ and our lives together. Lead counselors will work out the time and place for daily reporting.

2. **Program Coordinator** - Whatever he/she says goes! They are the person in charge. Once a decision is made, support them with enthusiasm. Pray for the responsibility of making the message clear. Encourage your campers to interact with him/her. Demonstrate that you support the director and lead your campers to do the same. Pray for him/her.
3. **Other Counselors** - Colossians 4:5 "*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*" Keep in mind that we are engaged in a spiritual conflict. Most of your time should be given enthusiastically to your campers. We are not there for each other. This is not the time or place to "make points" with the opposite sex. Certainly we should take minimum time to share our lives with each other. However, you campers are a sacred trust and any time taken from them should be carefully guarded. Ask God to give you a love and respect for your fellow counselors. Our attitude and actions toward each other will communicate more clearly than anything else.

Below is a flow chart of relational responsibilities. The Program Coordinator supports the whole camp and mainly relates to the Lead Counselors. The Lead Counselors relate to the Volunteer Counselors and the Volunteer Counselors relate to the Campers.



COUNSELOR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CAMPERS IN YOUR CABIN

1. When the campers arrive, please be in your cabin to greet them and their parents (if they come). Introduce yourself to them as their counselor and make them feel welcome. First impressions make a big difference your, friendliness and enthusiasm in the beginning will determine how fast you build a relationship. Try and learn your camper's names quickly. Your Lead Counselor will present you with the materials to make nametags during this time.
2. You will have the sole responsibility of those assigned to you. See that they are enjoying camp. See that they are entering into the activities of the camp. Their good time may depend upon your seeing that they get in on things all of the time and upon your enthusiasm for each activity.

3. Discipline

**It is your responsibility to see that your campers are in all the meeting and activities.* Quickly check and see if they are present. If not, find them and encourage them to participate. Solicit the help of your Lead counselors to locate your campers if necessary.

**Cabin — Enforce lights out rule.* When a certain time is given to be quiet, cooperate by seeing that your campers are in your quarters and lights are out. This will have its effect on other cabins if lights are not out on time. The campers need their rest.

**Clean-up* is usually several mornings of the week. It is the counselor's responsibility to see that the jobs are assigned and performed to meet the individual camp requirements. (This does not mean that you have to do all the work, but see that it is done.)

**Cleanliness.* After each meal the campers will have time to wash their hands and brush their teeth. Also, each day the campers are given time to take a shower. Not all campers will take advantage of these times; it is your responsibility to make sure the campers maintain a clean and healthy life style. If you are counseling campers between the ages of 8 and 11 it is important to check each campers bedding (when the campers are out of the cabin) to see if any of your campers may have wet the bed. This is a common occurrence for children of this age especially if they are nervous due to a new environment. If you discover a wet bed please bring this to the attention of your lead counselor immediately, they will know what to do.

**Camper's respect* is gained by being positive and consistent with your disciplinary actions.

**Punishments of a camper or campers* must be handled very carefully. It is a good idea to involve your Lead Counselor when it comes to disciplining your campers. At no time is it appropriate for a counselor to strike or yell at campers. However, when mild punishment is needed to get the campers attention or control a situation, make sure you do it fairly and not out of anger. Once you commit yourself, then keep your word regarding the punishment.

4. You will have the responsibility for leading them in their discussion time at night. This is a very important part of the camp experience. Please take this time very seriously and use it to glorify God. Campers may tempt you to tell ghost stories during this time. Do not give in to

this temptation turn the discussion in another direction. Ghost stories can be fun for some campers but can be terrifying to others. The last thing you want to do is scare a camper so they can't sleep at night.

5. You must seek to lead them concerning the things of the Lord, not only in the discussions at night, but as you are with them during the week. Most of the time the initiative must be taken by the counselor in such a conversation. Short, quality cabin discussions are usually better than long, drawn-out ones.

6. General responsibilities.

**Know where your campers are at all times.* You are responsible for them. You are the camp director for your campers. We want them to be in all activities, meetings and meals.

**No cutting of meals or meetings unless they see the head counselor, nurse or doctor.* Encourage them to get their "moneys worth" and experience the entire camp.

**Campers are not to leave camp unless they first check with the Program Coordinator.*

Please, do not clue campers in on the whole schedule ahead of time.* You will be better able to see one thing at a time. Let the Program Coordinator unfold each new day. The joy of anticipation and discovery is half the fun. **Please don't show this manual to the campers.

5. To Your Own Spiritual Life

1. Make time to be alone with the Lord each day. True it is strenuous! That is all the more reason for spiritual resources.
2. Seek out someone with whom you can spontaneously share your life! Someone who just lifts you naturally to the Lord. Schedule time to share with them your joys and concerns.
3. Expect God to teach you and surprise you with His goodness. You are not ultimately responsible for your campers responding to the Gospel. Enjoy loving them and look for God to reveal Himself to you as well as them.

COUNSELING SITUATIONS

A. Friendship with campers

This important part of counseling must not be under-emphasized or the effectiveness of solid counseling will be undermined. No camper will open up to a counselor who has not taken the time to be a friend. This is winning the right to be heard for we will always value the advice of a friend.

Ways to build genuine friendships:

1. *Be a good listener.* Find out the interest of the various campers and do what you can to promote their interests. Ask good questions, which show you are really interested in their lives.
2. *Be available.* Let the campers know that you are looking forward to being with them for the week. The availability is best shown in attitude, not mere words. Set specific times to swim, play basketball, hike, etc. with your campers.
3. *Be interested in what interests them.* Take the time to find out what each of your campers are interested in and listen to what they have to say. For example if they like airplanes, ask them airplane questions, find out what they know. You will be surprised at how much they will share with you.
4. *Exercise tough love.* Campers want to look at you as their leader. They expect you to act like a leader and not “one of the gang.” This is sometimes hard for young leaders.
5. *Be positive.* When you live before these campers, let the love of the Lord Jesus shine brightly through you. A spirit of cheerfulness is so important.
6. *Be yourself.* Do not try to copy another’s personality. Let the Holy Spirit individually direct your abilities to be used to present the Savior. You are uniquely gifted and qualified to love campers in your cabin.

B. Opportunities for counseling

Several opportunities for discussion will be structured during the camp experience. These are not times for messages or lectures, but for discussions designed to allow those being counseled to crystallize and modify his/her thinking and feelings. Initially, it will be important for you, the counselor, to create an atmosphere of openness and to establish a trust. During this phase you should work at understanding your campers, showing warmth and acceptance and being a real person yourself. In light of this, you must make sure that you listen and understand clearly what each camper is saying. You must also show respect for each person even though their behavior might be questionable, and you must share openly your own thinking and feelings.

1. *Cabin times* — Since you will be living in a cabin with several campers this becomes one natural setting for dialogue. It would seem important to devote your first time together as a cabin getting to know each other. This is especially important for those individuals who did not travel to camp together. During this time a few observations by the counselor as people tell about themselves can both show an interest in each person and help to relax the group. Though these comments or observations can be of a humorous nature, genuine interest might

be accomplished more quickly by asking clarifying questions or by noting significant experiences. This will probably be your first structured opportunity for discussion and it will be an important time for developing your trusting atmosphere.

2. *Individual time with each camper.* Through out the week plan one on one time with each of your campers. You will need to start this early in the week, it is extremely important if you start this process that you don't leave any one out. This is a very special time, use it wisely by discussing things that matter not just fill time with small talk. If the camper is comfortable praying with you ask them how you can pray for them.

Here are some thoughts on listening.

1. Reflect back what you hear the person saying in order to be sure that you understand him/her. For example, "Do I hear you saying that you. . . ." "Not exactly, what I really meant was" In this way you clear up misconceptions and learn to read your camper more accurately.
2. A question can be restated to clarify the meaning. Example: "How do you know there is a God?" Rephrase: "What evidence might you give to indicate there is a God?" Always be aware of the option that your question might only be relevant to you or that your group needs time to formulate their thoughts. Hopefully an open atmosphere will allow and encourage them to express their feeling and thoughts. You might even suggest some answers, but above all be sure that you are reading their needs and feelings accurately and are asking questions accordingly.
3. Be specific when you ask questions during cabin discussion. General, vague questions directed at the group are not as effective as asking individuals within the group, Example: "John, what were you feeling when the speaker mentioned _____?"

Attitudes such as resentment or hostility during the discussion might be best dealt with on an individual basis at another time. It is too easy for a counselor to use the group against one person who is antagonistic rather than to give that person the opportunity of working through his/her feelings. The counselor's resentment, hostility or guilt also might be best handled at another time with the lead counselor. The primary purpose of the discussion is to give the campers an opportunity to express their own lifestyle within the context of the Christian message.

Inform your campers on the first night that you will be having nightly cabin talks. You will have an easier time getting your campers to buy into this if they expect it to happen. If you mention that it will be a short time each night stick to that. Your credibility as a person reflects your respect for them.

THE BASICS OF THE GOSPEL HELPING CAMPERS BEGIN TO FOLLOW CHRIST

The sacred opportunity for counselors in many cases will be to help a camper take that first step toward saying yes to Jesus Christ. Ultimately, this is a divine transaction between the Holy Spirit and the heart of the camper. To “over-counsel” at this point would be a mistake. Effective counselors will know how to assist campers in beginning their walk with Christ but will not try and control the words, emotions and response. God has been building His family since the dawn of human history, using various methods, styles and people. PCCCI does not have a “corner on truth” when it comes to leading someone to Christ.

Below are some guidelines to consider:

1. *Help your campers comprehend the centrality of Christ in the salvation process.* Help them understand that the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ is real and personal. He came, lived, died and rose for them! Use stories and verses from Scriptures to underscore the importance of Christ. Colossians 1:15-20, Philippians 2:12.
2. *Allow campers to grapple with the reality and severity of the problem of sin.* Help them see how wide is the gap and vast is the division between God and people not united by Christ. Emphasize relational separation from God more than personal “behavioral mistakes.” Being lost (far) from God is more devastating than being “bad”. Both, of course, are sin, but God fundamentally wants to restore a broken relationship not simply improve one’s behavior. Kids need to know how lost they are before they will appreciate how loved they are. Scripture texts in Romans 1-3 & 7, Ephesians 2, Colossians 1:21-23 and the Gospels emphasize the truth.
3. *Encourage the process of salvation more than the experience.* Quite often overzealous counselors will press kids to feel something, say something or do something to make sure the camper can point back to a conscious moment, feeling or place, etc. which will validate the exact time when God entered their life. Though the intentions of this type of counseling are usually noble, this has the tendency of reducing the mystery and sacredness of how God is working in a person’s heart. Long before camp, God has been bringing people, experiences, attitudes and questions, etc. into a camper’s life shaping them to respond to Him. And long after the camp is over God will continue to love, lead and mold the life of that camper. We have the privilege to participate in the process, but we do not have the responsibility to produce the experience.

Allow kids to feel, question and doubt. Encourage them to move at their own pace. Challenge them to entrust their life into Christ’s care, but do not rely on a particular formula to make it happen. God’s spirit is quite capable of drawing kids to Himself. Encourage kids to spend time alone in quiet reflection. Ask them hard and challenging questions about Christ and spiritual things. Help them to know the implications of being a follower of Christ. But do not tell them exactly how to become a Christian or try to explain to them how to feel. We simply do not fully know. Ephesians 1:3-14

4. *Emphasize God’s commitment to them as stronger than their initial commitment to God.* Kids need to know and feel confident that God, not them, is really the author and creator of the salvation process. It is God’s good decision about them that takes precedence over a camper’s decision about God. Yes, the relationship is mutual, but campers need to know that

God is actively working to draw them close to His heart and He will not run away if a camper stumbles, falls, doubts, sins, etc. Roman 8 and John 17 are good places to direct campers in this issue.

5. *Help campers to understand developing a relationship with Christ is a long and vast journey.* They need to know that maturity and development will be gradual. Birth is important, but it is only a starting point. Many factors will contribute to strengthening one's relationship with Christ. Below are aspects of the journey of faith.
 - A. *The importance of Church* (the larger body of Christ). Help young Christians get started in some form of regular worship in their local community. Introduce them to people who could assist them in building an active and consistent love and worship and service.
 - B. *The necessity of Scripture.* Point campers toward effective ways of making the Bible and its truths a regular part of their Christian growth. Personal reading, Bible study groups, verse memory and personal discipleship are some of the ways to help make Scripture central for kids.
 - C. *The joy of service.* Very early in the faith journey of a young Christian the challenge of service should be taught. The body of Christ is a giving, sharing and serving body. There are numerous ways to help campers begin to serve, but let them know that life in Christ will mean working with Him in His world.
 - D. *The privilege and purpose of prayer.* Teach young Christians to pray! Let them know how vital a regular communication link is with God. Make sure they learn that prayer is more than figuring out our wants and needs and then putting together a request list. Teach them the joy and necessity of regular intimate communion with God.
 - E. *The membership responsibilities in the Christian family.* Faith in Christ, though personal, is not a private experience. Fellowship, learning and sharing our life in Christ is a corporate experience. Provide environments or help campers find groups where authenticity, vulnerability, compassion and commitment are expressed between group members. Campers need Christian communities to grow and stay healthy.

HELPING KIDS UNDERSTAND THE ROAD TO COMMITMENT AND THE NEED FOR REDEMPTION

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Purpose/Truth</u>
Creation	Genesis 1-3 Psalms 8	God's universe and God's people.
Fall (sin)	Romans 1-3 & 7 Genesis 3	God's human creation turned away to live life separate from Creator. Humankind decided to live without a relationship with God. All people being sinful are in need of God's restoration.
Christ	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John Colossians 1:15-21 Philippians 2:5-12	God, expressing Himself in human terms through His Son, Jesus Christ came to reveal God and also pay the price for sin and separation from God.
Cross/ Resurrection	Matthew 27,28 Mark 15, 16 Luke 23-25 John 19, 20	God, in Christ, gave His life on the cross as sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world. God raised Christ through the resurrection to rule and to reign eternally as Head of the new creation of all who trust and follow Him.
Response to Christ's call to His Kingdom	John 3:1-21 Ephesians 2:8-10 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Ephesians 2:19-22	God's spirit calls people to trust in Christ, to turn away from the old life of sin and separation and follow Him. The Spirit of God comes to dwell in each person's life, empowering them to live for Christ and to be a member of His family.
Christian Life & Responsibility	Colossians 3:1-17 Ephesians 4-6 Matthew 25:31-46	God calls His family to a life of truth, service and justice. Christians are responsible for living lives worthy of His call and faithful to His word.
Future/ Eternity/ Return of Christ	Revelations 20-22 Matthew 24,25	Christ will return to earth and establish His kingdom and all who have trusted and followed Him will live and serve forever with Him.

SCRIPTURE HELPS FOR COUNSELORS

A. CHRIST AS GOD — CHRIST'S CLAIM

Colossians 1:15
John 14:6
John 10:30
John 20:30, 31
John 11:25, 26
I Timothy 2:5
John 8:12

1. MAN'S NEEDS — SIN

Romans 3:22, 23
Romans 6:23
James 2:10
I John 1:8
Romans 7:18-20

2. WORK OF CHRIST

John 3:16
Romans 4:16
Romans 5: 1,2
Ephesians 2:4-10

3. APPROPRIATION

John 1:12
I John 1:8-10
Revelation 3:20
I John 5:11,12
Romans 10:9-11
II Corinthians 5:17
Like 9:23-27

4. PRAYER — PROMISES

Matthew 7:7-11
Mark 11:22-25
John 14:9-14
John 15:7
John 16:24
James 1:5-8
I Peter 5:7

F. GROWTH

John 15:1-8
Ephesians 4:14-16
Colossians 2:7
I Corinthians 9:24-27

ROLES OF A LEADER AT CAMP WITH CAMPERS FROM TROUBLED FAMILIES

Danna McClintock

1. Familiarize yourself with the family background of kids in your cabin. Ask them questions like: “What was it like to grow up in your family?” “Tell me about your parent’s relationship.” “How do you get along with your mom/dad?” “Describe your relationship with your siblings?”
2. There are three main unwritten rules in a family in which there is alcoholism and/or abuse:

Don’t talk.
Don’t trust.
Don’t feel.

So you may have a hard time getting campers from these kinds of situations to open up to you and express themselves. This will be an important signal that something may be wrong. Listed below are some suggestions to help campers get beyond each of these roles (these suggestions will also apply to death and divorce situations):

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Don’t talk . . . | It is important for your remember that campers mostly need you to draw them out and listen to what is going on with them. Let them “teach you about their lives”. This is not a time to give a lot of advice or try to fix it. (Responses such as “tell me more about . . .” will help you get more information.) |
| Don’t trust . . . | Because trust is such an issue, follow-through with kids, both during and after camp, is especially important. In a family where they probably had no adult to count on consistently, regular contact with you will help build faith that someone is going to be there for them. |
| Don’t feel . . . | Encourage expression of feelings: “Sounds like you were angry, Sad. . .” etc. Offering empathetic responses such as “That must really hurt.” or “That must have been hard for you.” will let them know you are tracking with them. |

If you have a question about a situation that a camper is dealing with (especially if it involves abuse of any kind), talk with the Lead Counselor or Program Coordinator about it. We sometimes have a tendency to minimize problems that frighten us, so do not always trust your own judgment. Check it out with someone else. If you sense that a camper is about to reveal an abuse situation, please stop the camper and politely let the camper know you are a mandatory reporter and must report any abusive situation to the authorities. (More will be explained about this when counselors arrive at camp.