

SHRMP

South Hampton Roads Mission Project



5-day

CHURCH GROUP TIME GUIDE

CREDITS PAGE

WRITER: Kyle Cravens

EDITOR: Anna Miller

THEOLOGICAL REVIEWER: Dr. Paul Kelly

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Ross Funderbunk, Stacey Sapp

INTRODUCTION

Dear Group Leader,

Welcome to camp and Church Group Time!

Church Group Time

During the designated church group time, your students and adults will spend time together as a group. You have freedom to lead this time however you feel is best for your group. We have provided a guide for you to use, if you desire and need help structuring this time.

Purposes for Church Group Time:

- 1. Continue worship.** The Lord may have really stirred the hearts of your students during Worship, which may mean you need to continue in this spirit. Some of your students may have made decisions that they need to make public to your group. Perhaps you will want to continue the discussion of the sermon.
- 2. Reflect on the daily theme and what the Lord has done.** Time for reflection is critical at camp, especially since so much happens with a busy schedule throughout the day. One of the best ways to help students experience transformation is by creating space to process the day's events and acknowledge God's presence in their lives. Reflection allows time for everyone to slow down enough for their hearts to catch up with their minds or their thoughts.
- 3. Pray together as a group.** One of the deepest connections we can make as human beings is through praying together. Praying with and for someone is one of the most meaningful ways to care for them. Students may not remember what you say, but they do remember how you made them feel.

4. Share important information and announcements. Some administrative items will need to be shared such as walking through the schedule, sharing details about the mission's emphasis, and so forth.

You may lead each of these sessions yourself, involve the adult sponsors from your group, or ask students to help lead. You may choose to use this material, use your own plan, or allow this to be a reflection and share time. Whatever way you choose, we suggest you prepare this time before camp. If you follow this plan, you will want to designate prayer partners (same gender, 2 to 3 people).

Please be time conscious and dismiss your group in time for them to get to the next program element.

We appreciate your partnership and pray that your group will have a great experience. We hope this material will help you get the most out of your Church Group Time on each day at camp.

The SHRMP Team

DAY 1

REFUGE

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

In the middle of difficult and overwhelming times, we can trust God to carry us through even the darkest of days and to guide our future. He is our Refuge.

Life Question: Where do you turn when life gets tough?

Scriptures:

Psalm 46:1-3; Mark 4:35-41

Key Verse:

Psalm 46:1

Welcome your group to Church Group Time. Explain to your students that this time will be a vital part of their camp experience and that they will have the opportunity to share stories, pray together, and celebrate what God is doing over the course of the week. Allow time for your church host to share briefly and pray over your group.

Expectations/Reflections on the Day

- Allow students to share expectations and reflect on their day. If you have a large group, consider forming small groups for sharing. Below are some question prompts to encourage conversation and sharing. Print these and the ones in the next section ahead of time or read them one at time, allowing time in between for discussion.
 - **What expectations do you have, in general, for these days at camp?**
 - **How do you want the Lord to work in your life over the next few days?**
 - **What is your favorite part about today?**
 - **What was one thing you learned in Devotional Time?**

Reflections on the Theme

Next, reflect on today's theme and how it applies to your youth group as a whole. Below are some prompts and questions to encourage conversation and sharing.

DWELL

Say: “A definition of dwell is ‘to remain or live with your attention directed on a single focus.’”

- How does your daily schedule at home and this definition of dwell conflict?
- How can you focus on dwelling with the Lord at camp and at home?

Say: “A refuge is a person, place, or thing that offers comfort, protection, or relief; a safe place, a shelter from danger or hardship; a place that provides shelter or protection from danger or distress. Today’s Scripture refers to God as Refuge.”

- How has God been a Refuge for you in the past?
- Where do you need Him as a Refuge now?
- How have you seen God as a Refuge for your youth group in the past?

Say: “When we have a relationship with Christ, we can trust God to carry us through the good times and even the darkest of days and to guide our future. He is our Refuge. When we spend time with Him, things change.”

Read Psalm 46:1: “God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble.”

Encourage students to limit distractions and spend time alone dwelling with God at camp and when they get back home.

Prayer — New Students

Lead a time of prayer over those who are at camp for the very first time and those who are new to your youth group.

Invite a student to pray for your group.

Announcements

Share announcements and dismiss for Free Time.

DAY 2

WITH US

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

Living in a broken world, we often find ourselves searching for community and peace. When we know Christ, we can rest knowing that God is with us always, even in the midst of the chaos. He is for us and with us.

Life Question:

How does your brokenness isolate you and keep you from dwelling with God?

Scriptures:

Psalm 46:4-7; John 4:1-30

Key Verse:

Psalm 46:7

Welcome your group to Church Group Time. Your church host will be in this time with your group as long as you are OK with this. Your host can share more about themselves, talk about what being on staff is like, share their testimony, or just participate with the discussions.

Reflections on the Day

Instruct students to get together and discuss one way they each saw the Lord move today during Bible Study, on Mission Site, during Free Time, and during Worship.

When groups have completed their discussions, open the floor for any person to share a meaningful experience from the day. You may need to place a time limit on each person sharing.

Reflections on the Theme

“With Us”

Share: God dwelled in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, but sin resulted in separation and banishment from His presence. God came in various forms in Old Testament days but not to be seen by human eyes such as the burning bush and cloud and pillar. Then, Jesus came and lived among His people before He died on the cross and rose from the grave for us. Now, the Holy Spirit lives in and dwells among us, getting us another step closer to God. All of this is leading to His return to redeem us all in the future.

Within their groups, ask students and adults to discuss the following. Read these one at a time and allow time in between each one for discussion.

- Examples of how God has been with them in the past or even these past few days at camp.
- Knowing that God is with you, how does that encourage you?
- How does that scare you?

Say: “After we initially place our faith in Christ, we get to know Him more intimately by dwelling with Him, or spending time with Him. As believers, God is with us, all the time, everywhere, in every part of our lives. When the walls seem to be crumbling or when everything is going smooth, He is steady, constant, and always there. If God is not always with us all the time, we could never be sure He would be there when we need Him.”

Share Decisions

Open the floor for students to share any decisions made at camp so far.

Prayer

Share any announcements and dismiss them for free time.

DAY 3

FAITHFUL

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

Personal circumstances never exceed God's power and faithfulness. Remembering how God has provided in the past gives courage for the future. He is faithful.

Life Question:

How has God shown His faithfulness in your life and how does that give you future assurance?

Scriptures:

Psalm 46:8-9, John 11:38-44

Key Verse:

Psalm 46:8a

Reflections on the Day

Instruct students to get together and discuss one way they each saw the Lord move today during Bible Study, on Mission Site, during Free Time, and during Worship.

When groups have completed their discussions, open the floor for any person to share a meaningful experience from the day. You may need to place a time limit on each person sharing.

Reflections on the Theme

FAITHFUL

Supplies needed

- A Pack of black beads (provided)

Read today's Scripture texts.

Students and adults will be carrying dark pieces representing each of their burden, struggle, sin, darkness, and so forth. Lead everyone to sit and lay down their dark piece in front of them.

Say: "As you can see, you are not alone in dealing with your 'darkness.' We each have our own 'darkness.' And, when we share our 'darkness' with God and with each other, the light can shine through. As Christ's followers, we are called to be the light of the world, a city on a hill that

cannot be hidden (Matthew 5). If we share our 'darkness' together, we can have a bigger light to shine in the world together."

Have a large group form smaller groups. Lead students (and even adult sponsors) to take time to share their "darkness" aloud with the group. Note: You will want to caution adults ahead of time to not share too much during this time. This must be a share by choice time. If a student does not feel comfortable sharing with others, they are not to be forced to do so.

Once those students and adults share, instruct students to spend time in private prayer and encourage them to turn over their "darkness" to the Lord for restoration.

Lead them to have one person in their group pray aloud to end this time.

At the end of this prayer time, designate a space for students to literally lay down their dark piece. Instruct students to lay down their pieces as an act of surrender.

Share any important information that students need to know. Dismiss them for free time

Collect dark pieces and leave them in your meeting area for your church host to collect later. No one should leave with a dark piece.

DAY 4

REST

Today's Student Bible Study Overview

Stop running around looking for all the ways to find your purpose. Be still and seek Him. He is our rest.

Life Question:

What do you need to stop doing and turn over to God in order to find peace and rest?

Scripture:

Psalm 46:10-11; Luke 10:38-42

Key Verse:

Psalm 46:10

Welcome your group to the Church Group Time.

Reflections on the Day

Invite a different student to share each of the following:

- One lesson learned at Worship or on Ministry Site that directly relates to our Bible Study.
- An opportunity to share the gospel with another student at camp or a child, student, or adult on ministry sites.
- Something the pastor said in his sermon that shed new light on Christ, yourself, or a truth of the Bible.
- A song lyric that stood out to you and convicted you of your need to spend more time with Christ.

Reflections on the Theme

REST

Ask students and adults to raise their hands to show the number of hours of sleep they have gotten these last few nights at camp, on average. Ask: "Have you gotten enough? Do you feel rested?"

Say: "Our society doesn't like the thought of being still and resting. Being still is another way of surrendering to God."

Read each of these statements and allow discussion after each one.

- Rest is a spiritual act where we trust God beyond what we can accomplish for ourselves.
- Rest requires discipline on our part to stop our mind from spinning on about what needs to be done next.
- Rest allows us to focus on God and our relationships rather than on our task list.

Say: “I challenge all of us to stop being so busy and seek the Lord for peace and rest.” Lead students to think of at least one thing they can limit or stop doing in order to spend more time with the Lord when they get home. Lead them to find a partner to share this with for accountability sake.

Read Exodus 33:14: “And he replied, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’”

Say: “God is our refuge, is always with us, is faithful, and is our rest. The more time we spend with Him, the more we get to know Him, His will, and His purpose for our lives. And, when we spend time with Him, things change!”

Share Decisions

Open the floor for students to share any decisions made at camp since yesterday’s Church Group Time.

Prayer

Pray for this next step in faith—to find biblical community, mentors, and strong Christian friends. Pray that they wouldn’t waver from their faith, but that they would grow deeper in their knowledge of truth and grace.

Challenge the students to be ready to share with people back home about their camp experience and to make it more than “it was fun”. Share any announcements and dismiss to Free Time.

DAY 5

Use this time to focus your congregants on their overall experience, satisfaction with activities, leadership quality, personal growth, spiritual impact, and suggestions for improvement. This will help you to fill your Post-SHRMP survey at the end of the day.

Include:

General Satisfaction:

1. How satisfied were you with your overall experience at the mission camp? (Rating scale)
2. What did you enjoy most about the camp?
3. What aspects of the camp could be improved?

Activities and Programming:

1. How relevant and engaging were the camp activities to your mission goals?
2. Were there enough opportunities for hands-on learning and practice?
3. Which specific activities or sessions were particularly impactful for you?

Leadership and Staff:

1. How would you rate the quality of leadership provided by the camp staff?
2. Did the staff create a supportive and encouraging environment?
3. Were the camp leaders knowledgeable and prepared to address your questions about missionary work?

Personal Growth:

1. Did you feel like you gained new insights or perspectives about missionary work during the camp?
2. How did the camp help you develop your skills for sharing the gospel?
3. What personal goals did you set during the camp, and how confident are you in achieving them?

Spiritual Impact:

1. How did the camp experience strengthen your faith and commitment to your mission?
2. Did you feel a strong spiritual presence during the camp activities?
3. What spiritual lessons or insights did you gain from the camp?

Future Improvements:

1. What changes would you suggest to make the camp even more effective for future participants?
2. Are there any additional topics or skills you would like to see covered in future mission camps?
3. How can the camp better prepare you for the challenges and realities of missionary service?