

## Two sets of 2016 Camp Sunday Worship Resources

1. The first is based on this year's very powerful camp curriculum used across the country.
2. The second is general Camp Sunday resources to help you design your Camp Sunday.

### 1. Fearless Faith: Courage in Community

In this year of increasing fear in the media, this curriculum will be used by many of our camps. The theme for the first day of camp would make a good Camp Sunday theme. It is **Fearless Faith: Together the Courage to Show Up**. The scripture story is **Genesis 12:1-8**, the call of Abram and Sarai. God called Abram out of his comfortable life to create community, and when Abram and Sarai showed up, God met them there and blessed them and their community. Often we interpret the blessings Abram receives as land and money (things he already had) but this story is about receiving spiritual blessings, a new life, a new adventure, new people and the foundation of a whole new faith that overcomes fear with community.

As you are planning your Camp Sunday, **Fearless Faith: Together the Courage to Show Up** is a message for potential campers highlighting the blessings of **showing up** for camp, but it equally is a message about the blessings of **showing up** in your congregation too.

#### SONG IDEAS

- "Gather us In"
- "Here I Am, Lord"
- "Amazing Grace"
- "Father Abraham" (traditional)
- "Stand by Me" (Ben E. King, 1961)

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Abram and Sarai were old people when God tapped them to go out and start a new faith community.

All: They likely had old feelings and family, and friends all saying, "don't go."

One: What kind of courage does it take to show up when God calls?

All: Abram used a strong community and a fearless faith to become the father of nations.

One: On this Camp Sunday we wonder what God may be calling us to do?

All: We come to listen, to worship, to send people to camp, to show up for God and build this community.

#### WORSHIP SERVICE PRAYER

O God, in these days of uncertainty and messages of fear, we want to say that we are listening that you might speak to us. We hope that when the time comes that you ask us to make a move or do a new thing, that we answer. We hope that we will be brave enough to show up, for you, O God. Bless our worship of you today. Help us to be the supportive community you envisioned when you called Abram and Sarai to begin the new community.

#### WORSHIP SERVICE PRAYER or BENEDICTION

Create a joyful call and response prayer. Have the congregation respond with "WE WILL SHOW UP!" Write the leader part with a series of statements that relate to scripture, Christian practice and your congregation. Examples: "When we are asked to travel to a new land...", "When someone is in need of food...", "When someone needs a friend...", "When a child needs to go to camp...", "When it is time to worship God..."

## 2. 2016 General Camp Sunday resources

### SONG IDEAS

#### United Methodist Hymnal

62 All Creatures of Our God and King	84 Thank You, Lord
122 God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale	145 Morning Has Broken
333 Sing, When the Spirit says, "Sing"	378 Amazing Grace
393 Spirit of the Living God	405 Seek Ye First
454 Open My Eyes, That I May See	512 Stand By Me
572 Pass It On	707 The Hymn of Promise

#### The Faith we Sing

2023 Oh Lord, our Lord, How Majestic is Your Name  
2040 Awesome God  
2071 Jesus Name Above All Names  
2074 Shout to the Lord  
2088 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High  
2107 Wade in the Water  
2120 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness  
2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center  
2158 Just a Closer Walk with Thee  
2173 Shine, Jesus, Shine  
2164 Sanctuary  
2190 Bring Forth the Kingdom of God  
2223 They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love  
2235b We Are Marching (Siyahamba/Caminando)  
2258 Sing Alleluia to the Lord  
2279 The Trees of the Field

### CALLS TO WORSHIP

1. One: We witness in scripture how God meets us in the wilderness.  
All: God led the Israelites out of Egypt into the wilderness.  
One: Getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city.  
All: Elijah heard the still small voice.  
One: Sometimes, it is the wilderness of the heart where God speaks to people.  
All: It is where Jacob wrestled with his problems all night long and where Jesus went to prepare for his ministry.  
One: Camp takes us out of our busy lives and delivers us to a place of reflection.  
All: God speaks and calls us back into the wilderness again and again.
2. One: God has set up camp in our hearts.  
All: In God's love, we find community.  
One: God has made community part of our nature.  
All: In God's love, we find peace.  
One: God gives us peace and a calling.  
All: In God's love, we find purpose.
3. One: We are here because God's Spirit calls us to worship  
All: We are here to offer praise for God's presence in our lives.  
One: Camp is one of the special places God speaks to us.  
All: Away from distractions and surrounded by community it is ideal.  
One: Life changing experiences help us understand the power of God's love.  
All: We are here to claim God's love is all around us.  
One: Let us worship God.

## **WORSHIP SERVICE PRAYERS**

1. We call out to you, God who continues to create, and thank you for the gift of experiencing you in camp. You offer us time apart, a sweet respite, a way to get to know you better. You invite us to a space apart, a peaceful clearing, a way to reflect on how we know you. May an experience at a camp or retreat help bring your people new joy and greater awareness of your love. Amen.
2. In the midst of the woods, O God, there is a small clearing where you meet with us. Your gentle breeze fills up our lungs. Your warm sunlight cascades upon our hearts. Your footsteps are on the worn path. You create gifts of time and space set apart so that we might reflect and grow. May we hear you clearly in camp and retreat experiences, may we feel you in these times and spaces, and may we know you walk with us back into the everyday world, rejuvenated by your compassion. Amen.
3. Loving God, you know how much camp and retreats have meant in our Methodist heritage. So many people feel your touch when they are able to take a time apart at camp or a retreat. May they reflect and grow in love with you. Send aid to those who need a camp experience and are met with roadblocks. Seek out those who need retreat and meet them on the path. Peel away the thick forests of our lives and offer us a clearing of our heads and hearts. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

1. May God set up camp in your heart. May Christ offer you bread and fish by the fire. And may the Holy Spirit be the flame that lights your way. Amen.