

Camp Sunday Worship: Longing to Be Heard

Jonah 4

Hints for in-person worship:

- Greeters and Ushers should be people who have been campers and/or have passion for camping ministry when possible.
- Wear camp shirts/themes attire
- Decorate worship space with camp imagery: sleeping bags, flashlights, life jackets, tents, canoe, campfire...

Hints for at home/Virtual Worship:

- Snuggle down in your sleeping blankets in front of the TV or computer
- Have a family “campout in your living room” the night before virtual Camp Sunday
- Prepare Camp breakfast foods and eat together while watching online church. Use your camping dishes!
- Make a cross from twigs, leaves.. nature
- Make s’mores in your fireplace - or bags of S’more mix (golden graham cereal, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips)

Welcome: (You may want to make your welcome like a welcome to camp with intentional “mixer” questions for the people to get to know their “new friends.”)

Gathering Music: (see “Song Ideas” Page 4)

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

Leader- People of God, turn your hearts toward God today.

People- Is God really listening?

Leader- God is always listening and always with us.

People- Sometimes it doesn't feel like it.

Leader- Let us gather our hearts together across distances and circumstances to lift our voices to God.

People- We come with hope.

Leader- Many of God's people have felt unheard and alone.

People- We wait upon God who loves.

Gathering Music: (see “Song Ideas” Page 4)

Invocation- God, you spoke to Jonah, use this time to speak to us. We are sometimes afraid, sometimes sad, sometimes jealous. We want you to love us the best. We want you to be as angry and frustrated with others as we are. Live within us today as we worship, grow and pray to You. Soften our hearts and wash us in your mercy and grace that we might better serve You in this time. AMEN!

Time Mostly for the Children:

Children's Book *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (1972) written by **Judith Viorst** and illustrated by **Ray Cruz**

Song- (see "Song Ideas" Page 4)

Scripture- Jonah 4

4 But Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, "Come on, LORD! Wasn't this precisely my point when I was back in my own land? This is why I fled to Tarshish earlier! I know that you are a merciful and compassionate God, very patient, full of faithful love, and willing not to destroy. ³ At this point, LORD, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live."

⁴ The LORD responded, "Is your anger a good thing?" ⁵ But Jonah went out from the city and sat down east of the city. There he made himself a hut and sat under it, in the shade, to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ Then the LORD God provided a shrub,^[a] and it grew up over Jonah, providing shade for his head and saving him from his misery. Jonah was very happy about the shrub. ⁷ But God provided a worm the next day at dawn, and it attacked the shrub so that it died. ⁸ Then as the sun rose God provided a dry east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint. He begged that he might die, saying, "It's better for me to die than to live."

⁹ God said to Jonah, "Is your anger about the shrub a good thing?"

Jonah said, "Yes, my anger is good—even to the point of death!"

¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You 'pitied' the shrub, for which you didn't work and which you didn't raise; it grew in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ Yet for my part, can't I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who can't tell their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Sermon/Message Ideas - This Is Our Prayer: Longing to Be Heard

- Camp Story of feeling unheard or undervalued
- Super quick retelling of Jonah story
- Camp is a place where all campers can be heard
 - Less "Noise"
 - Trained Staff
 - Christian Atmosphere
- Holy Spot to be heard by God
- New Friends who can be the one who will listen in hard times to come
- Our world needs people to feel like they are heard
 - Separation/Isolation
 - Political Turmoil
 - Division and systemic silencing
- Jesus Christ, God's Love, is the WAY for people to be heard

Song- (see "Song Ideas" Page 4)

Prayer

God of us all- Our negative feelings overwhelm us at times and blind us from your grace and mercy. Those who we claim as enemies, especially those who have hurt us or sat by and watched others hurt us, instead of feeling your wrath like we sometimes wish for receive your grace and mercy as their hearts experience You. We are sometimes Nineveh, sometimes Jonah, and always longing to be heard. Help us to not lose hope and continue to speak to You in all of our moods and attitudes. May we get up from our fears and frustrations and speak Your Good News to the world and unite our mission with your message for the world you so love as we unite our voices with people all over the world in a prayer that you taught us to pray ...

Lord's Prayer

Offering:

We recommend speaking to how healthy and faithful congregations support camping ministry in many ways already. Apportionments, sending campers, supplying paid and volunteer staff, encouraging your pastor to volunteer and to go and find respite at our sites, holding meetings and retreats at our sites, etc. Remind them to give faithfully to such a great church first. It is also appropriate to invite a special offering to build a local camp scholarship fund, support a camp site's programming budget, support conference camp scholarships, support a special project at a site, or sponsor a staff person by paying all or part of their compensation. Camping is an extension of your ministry and all kinds of support are helpful and appreciated.

One successful method of collecting a special offering for supporting the ministries of camp is a "noisy bucket" offering. Use metal/glass containers and ask campers to collect change (money that makes noise!) as a way to support camping programs or local church camp scholarships.

Offering Prayer:

Creator God,

We recognize that we are truly blessed to live in your wondrous Creation, to have family, friends and neighbors as our Community that we can depend upon. And we have been blessed by the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. As you have blessed us we, in turn, share a portion of that blessing with others, our time, talent, and tithes, in support of the work of your church and our camping ministries. Accept these gifts given with grateful hearts to further the growth of your Kingdom in this community, at our camp locations, and beyond. We share what we have so that the warmth and light of your love will spread to all people everywhere. Amen.

Song- (see "Song Ideas" Page 4)

Blessing and Sending

God's love grow up and protect you. God's love work in you to change your heart. God's love work through you to change your community. God's love flow from you to change the world. Let them, even your Nineveh, now that as they Long to be Heard, God hears them and you too are listening. AMEN!

Song Ideas

10,000 Reasons

All the People Said, "Amen!"

As the Deer (Sort of fits)

Flip My Attitude (Justin Graves Band)

Got a Reason for Livin' Again

Hold Us Together

I Will Call Upon the Lord

Lord, Listen to Your Children, Praying

Who Am I

Oh Lord Hear My Prayer (Taize Worship Song)