

One on Ones with Campers

We would like to make sure every camper has the opportunity to talk one-on-one with a counselor and have that counselor pray for them before they leave camp. This can be one of the best things we can do as counselors.

Logistics of having one on ones:

1. If there is more than one counselor in your room, talk with your co-counselor sometime Tuesday or Wednesday about what kids each of you will try to connect with.
2. One on ones can happen any time and be long or short. They can happen on the bus ride to the lake to swim, walking out to archery at free time, on a canoe ride, or sitting out on a swing by the lake.
 - Sometimes during Wednesday and Thursday small groups, one counselor stays with the kids and leads the small group while the other counselor(s) take kids one on one.
3. Please DO NOT take a camper in a room alone with you and shut the door. This is protect you both.

Starting the conversation:

Start with something like, "What has been your favorite part of camp?"

If you have a specific question or concern about a camper you could say, "I noticed _____, will you tell me about that?"

Ask, "What is something you learned about God this week? "What is something you have learned in chapel?" or "What is one way you want to follow God better when you go home from camp?"

Ask follow up questions about their answers if possible!

- "Tell me more about that"
- "Explain what you mean by _____"

Finishing up:

1. Ask what you can pray for about them.

If they ask you to pray for other things besides them that is great but try to eventually have them tell you something they can pray specifically for about them.

At this point many things can come up that they may want prayer for and it's good to talk about those things with them.

At counselor training we have an activity where we learn how to ask questions and point kids to Jesus when they bring up following topics:

- Abuse (We are mandatory reporters, if any kids brings up the topic of abuse you are required to tell Jon about it. Also it's important to remember that you cannot make promises that you won't tell anyone about something a camper wants to share with you)
- Homosexuality
- Gender Confusion
- Addiction
- Bullying
- Self-Esteem
- Self-Harm
- Depression and Suicide
- Death of a loved one or friend
- Stress
- Assurance of Salvation
- Family Problems and Divorce
- God's Will and Planning for beyond high school
- Feeling like God's not there
- Wanting to know how to grow closer to God
- Needing good friends or friend problems
- Fear

Reminders:

Listen more than you try to help!

Affirm campers who share things with you by saying things like, "I'm so glad you shared that with me" "I'm so sorry."

When you are talking with campers, the Holy Spirit will be right there with you helping you know how to listen and how to help.

Our job is not to help solve the issues camps are facing. Our job is to point them to Jesus and share truth.

We want to show campers how to find truth because we will not always be there to help, but God and His Word will always be with them.

Homework: Pick two of these topics on the list above. Write down three open-ended questions you could ask a camper, who brings up that topic, to help them share their story or issue with you. Then also write down three Bible verses that would help or encourage a camper who is facing that issue.

Topic 1: _____

Open ended questions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three Bible verses or pieces of encouragement or help:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Topic 2: _____

Open ended questions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three Bible verses or pieces of encouragement or help:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.