

Leading a Small Group

After our evening chapels, you will help lead your cabin in discussing what the speaker talked about and encourage kids to tell how they will apply it to their lives.

Fight for this time to be the best it can be, and don't get discouraged when it doesn't go as well or as deep as you wanted. Get excited about this time, but also show your campers this is a serious time and not a goofing around time.

Location...location.....location: Pick some place with the least distractions where everyone is on the same level and can see each other's faces. Make it special. Feel free to change it up. Outside, inside, at a picnic table for more structure.

Limit distractions when possible.

In your first (and maybe all) small group time start with an icebreaker question:

- Tell everyone your name, where you are from, and your favorite icecream...
- What was your favorite part of the day so far?
- What is something new you tried today?

Ask questions and be a facilitator. Don't answer your own questions!

Ask open ended questions and try not to ask questions that have one specific answer or a yes or no answer.

Questions to use anytime:

- What stuck out to you from this chapel?
- Does anyone have any questions from what was said in chapel?
- In your own words, what is the overall message of chapel?
- Together let's re-tell the Bible story that was told or mentioned? What was the story and how does it start?
- What did you learn about God?
- Why does God want us to know this?
- Have you had someone in your life that modeled what we have just learned about? Explain.
- Can you think of a situation or circumstance in your own life where you experienced what these verses are teaching?
- What are some of the benefits of applying this verse to our life?
- So what? Now what do we do with what we have learned? How do we apply it?

*Maybe write some of these questions down so you have them to pull out when you need them

It's great to ask follow up questions like:

- "Tell us more about that."
- "Did anyone else see/notice that?"
- "What do all of you think?"

Speak to the people who participate often "Let's hear from those who haven't shared yet."

Speak to people who have not shared: "Sally, what are you thinking about?"

Set rules for your group

- Sometimes little kids might need to raise their hand or maybe tell them they don't need to raise their hand to answer.
- Sometimes you may need to have an object and whoever is holding it is the only one who can talk.
- Talk about confidentiality. "what is said in small group is a safe place and we don't need to share personal things with others"

Expect silence and let there be silence. Kids are thinking even if they don't answer out loud

Pray

It's so good to model prayer and encourage the kids to pray. You might be the only older person that they hear pray!

The first night many have everyone pray to ask God for what they want to get out of camp spiritually.

Take prayer requests on a piece of paper and then put the paper in the middle of the group and ask if anyone would like to pray for one or two of the requests.

Fill in the blank prayers. Have everyone pray " God, thank you for _____ " in a circle and then a counselor close.

After an emotional chapel or a chapel where campers were called to make decisions, don't skip over that in small group time. Maybe start by asking:

Who would like to share about what it meant to you when you went forward/raised your hand/ or _____ (whatever the participation was)?

Counselors please answer questions when they are about application or what you learned. Set an example and be honest with your campers.

What to do about disruptive kids?

- Refer back to your rules or make a new group rule.
- Ask the group or even them directly to stop what they are specifically doing wrong
- Re-seat – place a counselor beside that kid or between kids
- Remove them from the group. Have another counselor stay with the group
- Remember them – out side of small group time give them attention ask them the small group questions individually. Play with them and talk to them about small group time and respect. Encourage them.

If everything fails... haha and sometimes it might and that's okay.

Share your testimony

Ask other kids to share their testimony

Memorize the verse together maybe with actions