

Camps with Meaning Summer 2015 Update Video and Worship Resources



Dear Pastors, Worship Planners, Mission and Life Co-ordinators and Camp Supporters,

We have created a <2 minute video to: a) inform your congregation about the ministry of Camps with Meaning this summer, and, b) invite your congregation to pray for camping ministry.

Ideas on how to use this video:

- in worship: opening announcements, sharing, summer staff commissioning, instead of sermon (just kidding)
- in adult sunday school, missions and life gatherings
- email to your church members so they can watch at home

Technical Info:

1. The video can be viewed online. Click here to get to the video on our Vimeo account.

Or visit www.vimeo.com/mennochurch

2. It's always safer to show video from your hard drive than the internet. To download a Standard Definition version to your hard drive, click here to go to www.mennochurch.mb.ca/campvideo. Click on the file name and it will ask to save the file.

Worship Resources

Feel free to use or adapt any of these resources to help commission camp workers, or simply pray for the mission of camps.

Prayer

Lord we are grateful for the ways you reveal yourself to us through the world you created. There are many things in our lives that insulate us from creation and from each other. We pray for new openness to your presence in the world, and in our lives. We pray for the campers and staff at Camps With Meaning this summer. We hope for new understandings of your Love, and deepening of commitments to follow Jesus' example.

We pray for camp staff...for energy, creativity and endurance. We pray that they may have the humility to learn from others and willingness to make changes in their life as they grow in knowledge of your highest hope for their lives. We pray for Grace in relationships and patience in times of frustration. May your wisdom be evident in staff as they lead campers and serve as role models.

We pray for campers, that they might come to know you in a new way. We pray for fun, excitement, and Joy that shows campers a glimpse of your goodness. And we pray that camp would be a safe place, where all campers will sense that this is a place that staff can be trusted, and that you also can be trusted.

For the gift of camp, we give you thanks.

Amen.

Litany: God's Kingdom is like a mustard seed

All: But what is the kingdom of God like? What parable shall we use to express it?

Reader 1: It is like this: A person takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground.

Reader 2: In time it sprouts and grows. It becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out large branches and the birds make their nests in its shade.

Reader 1: The kingdom of God is like this: A person scatters seed in their field.

Reader 2: They sleep at night and are up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing.

All: All the while, the seeds are sprouting and growing! Yet we do not know how it happens.

Reader 1: We participate in the mystery of growth and rebirth.

Reader 2: God can move through us.

Reader 1: Through us, the sowers of God's seed.

Reader 2: We pray. But the mystery of rebirth - the mystery of the relationship between soil and seed - is in God's hands.

Group: We wait - in joy and expectation. For some of the seed will sprout, grow and bear grain, and we are thankful for the Christ's capacity to awaken, restore, and renew.

[call all Camp Staff and Volunteers— those serving with Camps with Meaning and those serving at other camps—to the front]

A Blessing for Camp Staff

Leader: In a busy, fragmented world, camp offers people an opportunity to pause, to experience the meaning of living the church of Christ in a holistic way.

Congregation: We support this valuable and unique ministry.

All: We want our camps to be places where people seek and find God's face in creation, receive God's love in Christ, and radiate God's Spirit in the world.

Leader: To this end, we offer a blessing on those who serve as Summer Staff.

Congregation: God, bless these staff as they model Jesus' life and teachings in every dimension of everyday life.

Camp Staff: As best we can, we will be Christ-like companions to all our campers, and we will care for God's earth as an extension of Jesus' ministry.

Congregation: We will pray for you in your ministry of care-giving for all of God's creation.

Leader: God has called these young people before us into camp ministry to guide, nurture & shepherd those around them.

Camp Staff: We offer ourselves to God's purpose; to be God's eyes and hands and feet in our camps, so that God's love and grace may be made known to others on their journey.

Congregation: Give these camp staff wisdom as they discern the spiritual, emotional and social needs of the campers they work with. By your grace, may these relationships and their relationships with each other be transformative.

Camp Staff: We offer our gifts and talents, our energy and enthusiasm at God's altar. We too are on journeys of transformation. As we walk we will invite others to walk with us, serving as your disciples.

Congregation: Bless these women and men as they accept your call to camping ministry. May your love be magnified through the work of their hands. May they lead and be led in the journey that awaits them.

(Modified from: Eleanor Snyder & Jim Penner, Mennonite Camping Association)

The NEW 2015 Camps with Meaning Song

Every year, CwM staff gather to write a new song or two for the summer. We think we have a pretty good one this year.

Find a demo mp3 and a pdf with words and chords on our website: www.campswithmeaning.org.

Go to "Summer", "Memories of Camp", "Music". Scroll down past the audio player to get to the file downloads.

[Or click here.](#)

Prayer of Benediction

As we leave this place of worship, we know that You have gently called us by name to camp ministry. Your voice signals an abundant life of healing and hope for weary souls. May our spirit be continually renewed as we trust and rely on your strength and steadfast love. Let us go out into the world and share the gift and ministry of camp with others, scattering seeds both liberally and intentionally, knowing that we are not alone! Amen.