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Donna Thurston

WWJD day camp

kids at work
in the
real world



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We are grateful to Donna Thurston for developing the WWJD Day Camp concept and writing this resource. Donna is the former assistant for discipleship and family ministry at Chatham Presbyterian Church in Chatham, Illinois. She works as a licensed clinical professional counselor at Crossroads Counseling Center, a ministry of Chatham Presbyterian.

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INTRODUCTION



Editor's Note: WWJD Day Camp is an innovative summer program for grades 1-6. In five action-packed days it gives kids a wonderful opportunity to serve their community and learn about Jesus. Kids can work at soup kitchens, help landscape Habitat for Humanity homes, make sack lunches for homeless shelters, clean local parks, give baby showers at a local crisis nursery, bake cookies for shut-ins, and much more. They learn how they can make a difference, not just during camp but every day of their lives, as they obey Christ's command to "love your neighbor."

In addition to the morning service projects, the day camp offers singing, stories from God's Word, skits, crafts, recreation, and cooking. Kids love it! And so do their leaders, including teen-aged team leaders and adult volunteers who donate meals, serve as drivers, and give of their time and gifts. It's a "whole church" program that will excite and bless your congregation.

Everything you need to know to launch and run the day camp is in this resource, written by Donna Thurston, the originator of the program. Her comments follow.

PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED!

WWJD Day Camp started more than seven years ago, just after my family moved to a new city and joined Chatham Presbyterian Church in Chatham, Illinois. One of the blessings of this church is a beautiful yard with large grassy areas and trees. As I prepared for a summer with two kids at home, I looked at the church yard and thought what a waste it was for it to go unused all summer. In my mind I saw children running, playing, and throwing water balloons in that yard. It was the perfect place for a "day camp" of some kind.

WWJD bracelets were popular at that time. When my pastor asked me what kind of camp I was dreaming up, I asked myself (or maybe God asked me), What would a WWJD day camp look like? What would we do with the kids? What would we teach?

I had a history of working in social service agencies, and that, combined with a desire to teach my own children about the importance of serving others, lay heavy on my heart. I knew about "service project" camps for older youth, but I knew of nothing similar for younger kids. I also knew how important it is to instill early the values you want kids to keep for a lifetime.

So that's how we began. The first year 20 kids signed up for day camp. The second year 30 kids signed up, and every year after that more than 60 kids, teens, and adults have been involved. It grew to the point where families were planning their summer vacations around

day camp. Children who attended camp as second- or third-graders came back to serve as teen team leaders. The excitement that day camp generated was overwhelming and heartwarming at the same time.

Most amazing of all were the red, sweaty faces of children who worked so hard to help others. Their gentle, faithful hearts did as much good to those they served as the actual work they performed. From collecting food for local food pantries to washing cars and landscaping projects, the kids were learning about mission work, helping their neighbor, and being Jesus' hands and feet.

The children were also seeing how blessed they were to have families who love them, houses to live in, enough food to eat, and such mundane things as toothbrushes! They felt a new-found gratitude in their hearts.

I believe the time to teach kids about service to others and mission work is when they are young. If they start thinking about the needs of others at a young age, and if they sense they can have a real impact through their service, then caring about others and serving will be a lifelong habit.

WWJD Day Camp will warm your hearts as you give children the opportunity to work hard and to show Christ's love to others through kindness and generosity. It is amazing what God can do with willing hearts and hands.

ORGANIZATION

Camp is held Monday through Friday, typically from 9:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon. You'll find detailed schedules and activities for each day on pages ** - ** of this book. Remember to adapt our suggested schedules to your needs. Some days you may need more time at the beginning of the day, some days at the end, so be flexible.

However, the time kids spend on service projects is the first priority. Protect that time period (usually about an hour and a half each day). If you need to shorten other activities to accommodate your service project, do that. The service aspect of this program should be front and center at all times.

Mornings include a gathering time for singing and hearing the Bible story for the day, a short break, and a trip to the various service projects.

Kids and their team leaders return to the church for lunch (kids usually bring their own sack lunch and you supply punch or other drinks). After lunch, kids "rotate" between three stations: crafts, recreation, and cooking. The afternoon concludes with a brief gathering of the entire camp.

Parents pick up their kids at 3:00. For safety's sake, they *must* check in with team leaders inside the church before leaving with their children. Emphasize throughout the week that curbside pickups are not allowed.

On Friday evening, consider inviting families for an ice cream social. The kids can sing some of the songs they learned at camp, tell about their work projects, and recite their memory verses. You can give kids WWJD necklaces or other items as mementos of their week at camp, if you wish.

At your Sunday morning worship service, campers can again perform their songs and give "testimonies" of their experiences in the service projects. This keeps church members informed, excites them about day camp, and reinforces to the children the importance of their accomplishments. It also extends a warm invitation to community families to attend the service and see what their kids have been doing all week.

Making a short video (five minutes or less) of the week's activities is a wonderful way to share camp memories with the campers and with their families, especially at the ice cream social and Sunday worship service. Most congregations include someone with the skills and equipment necessary for this—just ask for their help with filming and editing.

GETTING STARTED

First of all, don't be overwhelmed by the details of finding appropriate service projects, lining up team leaders, getting kids signed up, and all the rest. If God can use me (someone not educated in camp administration or Christian education) and the hands of little children to make an impact on a community, he can certainly use you and the children of your church.

Decide Who's in Charge

A key to the camp's success is delegation. I've found that breaking up tasks into small, manageable parts works well. That way, more people will be involved and more people will take responsibility for making camp a success. However, you do need a camp director (or possibly two co-directors) to take the helm and chart the course.

Recruit Adult Volunteers

I found it helpful to assign adults specific roles. For example, I recruited a crafts director, a recreation director, a music director, and a cooking director. You may also find it helpful to recruit a drama director for the three dramas that are part of this material. Finding a person or two to help organize the Friday night ice cream social will relieve you (the director) of details such as getting families signed up, ordering ice cream and toppings, finding servers, and so on.

Filling these positions was appealing to the adults because it meant they didn't have to be at camp all day every day—they could just come for the part they were involved in. It was also nice when fresh faces showed up to relieve those of us who were growing weary.

Look for parents who enjoy the tasks you are assigning. My recreation director was a physical therapist who enjoyed "large motor activities," and my cooking director was a cake decorator. If your church has a drama team, ask the director if he or she can help you out. Tap your praise team leader or Sunday school music director for the music position. You get the idea, I'm sure.

Recruit Team Leaders

Pick your team leaders carefully. Look for teenagers with leadership skills who love kids and enjoy helping others. Patience and a sense of humor or a zany streak are also good qualities!

Check with your local school district to see if your teens can earn community service hours for serving as day camp team leaders.

You might enlist the aid of your youth pastor to encourage teens to try this ministry. But a personal call

from you—telling these kids how much you need them and want them to be leaders—is often most effective.

Once a teen agrees to serve, send out a letter reminding them of a team leader meeting that you've set up. My letter goes something like this:

WWJD Team Leader Information

Hey, there! Thanks for agreeing to serve as a team leader for our WWJD Day Camp. I know you'll love it and you'll be a good leader.

Here are the dates and times of our camp, just so there's no misunderstanding:

Monday - Friday
(insert your day camp dates here)
8:40 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Please note that it's important to be at church twenty minutes *before* the kids arrive. If you need help with transportation, let me know. Don't be late!

Don't miss the team leader meeting on *(insert meeting time here)* **at the church.** It won't last more than an hour, it will give you all the information you need. If you can't make the meeting, it's your responsibility to contact me ASAP and set up another time to meet with me.

Each morning of camp we will have a team leader meeting before the kids arrive. I'll go over the daily schedule with you to help everything go smoothly. Basically, your job each day is to love kids, hang with them, keep close track of them, get them back on track when they get off—you know, the parental thing.

Don't forget that we've added three "crazy days." The team with the "craziest" leaders will get special prizes, so don't let your team down! Tuesday is backwards day, Wednesday is mismatched day, and Thursday is crazy hat day. *[Editor's note: this is an option you may or may not want to use.]*

Day Camp is super fun but it's also serious business. We'll have about *(insert number here)* kids attending camp, so we'll need to be organized. You are a critical part of helping the week go well. It is so important to stay focused on keeping the kids safe, helping them when they need it, and loving them the whole time.

It's a hard job, I know. I *guarantee* you will be totally exhausted by the end of the week, but you will also be totally glad that you touched the lives of kids who are trying to live the way Jesus wants them to. What could be cooler than that?

At our team leader meeting we'll go over all the rest of the stuff. Don't worry—everything will be fine! I'm looking forward to a great week teaching kids about Jesus, and you're a key part of that!

Loving God, loving kids,

At the team meeting, I go over the tip sheet with them (see page **), explain about their role in the skits, and cover any other details that are important for them to know.

Determine Your Goals

Decide on your goals for WWJD Day Camp. Here are some ideas to get you started:

SERVANTHOOD

- help kids sense the importance of showing God's love to people
- give kids opportunities to help people in need
- encourage and equip kids to become lifelong servants

COMPASSION

- sensitize kids to the needs of people in their community
- develop in kids the beginning of lifelong Christ-like concern for others

GRATITUDE

- help kids see how much God has blessed them and their families
- encourage kids to respond to God's blessings by living lives of gratitude and service
- be thankful for God's blessings and enjoy them (have fun!)

LEADERSHIP

- help teens use their gifts to lead and teach younger children
- develop leadership gifts in teens

EVANGELISM

- bring in kids who might be looking for summer activities
- show the love of Christ to all those we serve at camp

Brainstorm Projects

A few months before your day camp starts, sit down and brainstorm a list of possible service projects. See the list on page ** for some ideas. If someone in your congregation works in a social service agency, he or she might have some ideas/contacts for you to try. Your pastor and your deacons may also know of local programs in need of assistance.

Contact Service Sites/Agencies

Calling agencies to set up service projects can be intimidating, but relax—it's not that big a deal! Most social service agencies rely heavily on volunteers and donations, and many employ a volunteer coordinator who is used to receiving calls from folks like you. The

only unusual part is that in your case children will be the volunteers. Agencies often have groups of children tour their facilities but are less likely to have children actually working with them.

Begin contacting service sites at least 45-60 days before camp starts. The agencies will need time to get approval, think about what kind of help they need, and get back to you.

Here's an example of what I might say when calling an agency I've not contacted before:

Hi, my name is Donna Thurston from Chatham Presbyterian Church. I'm directing a day camp for kids this summer called "What Would Jesus Do Day Camp." We're trying to teach kids about serving others. I'm calling to see if there's anything we can do for your facility/agency.

Be ready to give examples of the kinds of things the kids could do: "We can collect donations, make a meal for residents, clean yards or plant flowers, or just visit and learn about what you do." If we're invited to come and visit, I always ask if there's anything they especially need. If not, I ask if we could bring cookies to the residents (or are there restrictions on what we could bring?). Then I listen to the ideas they suggest. We usually talk for a few minutes about what their needs are and what kind of service project would be practical.

It's important to stress that the campers will be well-supervised and well-behaved. Some facilities may limit the number of kids you can bring, but I have *never* had an organization turn away our help. Most organizations are glad to offer children the opportunity to serve in whatever way they can. Be creative—there are many things little hands can do if given the opportunity.

If the children's role is limited to collecting money or supplies for the agency, try to make arrangements to tour the agency so the campers can see how their efforts will help real people. If a visit isn't possible, arrange for someone from the agency to talk to the children at church (it helps if pictures or a video accompany the talk).

Consider Transportation Needs

Early in the planning process, decide how you'll transport kids to service project sites. Will it be in a church bus or van, or in a family-owned vehicle driven by adult church members? If your church doesn't own a bus or van, you may be able to borrow one from another church for the week. Renting a van or bus is another possibility. If you're using family-owned vehicles (we did this for the first few years of our camp), make sure they're properly equipped with seat belts and/or car seats.

It's very important to check with your church office about legal requirements and safety policies for transporting kids offsite. Some churches require parents to fill out an emergency contact form that includes medical and insurance information. Be sure to check the car seat laws in your state or province—most impose an age or weight limit below which children must be in car seats or boosters. Make sure that all drivers have a valid license.

Do the Numbers

Determine how many kids you can manage the first year. Key to this will be determining how many work sites are available and how many kids each one can accept. The number of team leaders available will also help determine the total number of kids in the program. **I suggest six to eight children and two team leaders per team if possible.**

When registration begins, make parents aware of the cut-off point for enrollment—this helps avoid disappointment and encourages early registrations.

Order Supplies

Make sure all your supplies are on hand before camp week begins. (Tip: appoint one or two persons to be in charge of obtaining the items you need.)

Here's a general list to get you started, but check the daily sessions for other specific items:

- T-shirts and/or WWJD bracelets. It's a great idea to start the week by giving each camper a cool WWJD T-shirt to wear. (This requires finding inexpensive T-shirts and a local screen printer. See our sample pattern on page **. Allow at least two weeks for printing.) You may also want to give campers a WWJD bracelet or necklace at the end of camp. You can order these from your local Christian bookstore or online (see supplier list below)
- name tags for kids, team leaders, and all adults
- posterboard for each team
- markers in various colors
- music for songs selected by music director
- CD player
- copies of skits for each actor; props and simple costumes (see pages ** - **)
- supplies (if any) for service projects
- list of campers and emergency phone numbers to give to drivers
- whistle, candy (if hard candy, select something like Life-Savers™ that have a hole in middle—kids are less likely to choke on these)
- snacks and punch

- craft supplies (your craft director should check specific activities suggested for each session or supply his or her own crafts and lists of materials needed)
- recreation supplies (your recreation director should check specific activities suggested for each session or supply his or her own activities and lists of materials needed)
- cooking supplies (your cooking director can provide ingredients for recipes or ask parents to bring them).
- WWJD crosses or necklaces for closing Friday night award ceremony (optional)

For WWJD bracelets, crosses, necklaces, and other items, check your local Christian bookstore or order online. Following are a few online sources available at the time of publication (do a Google search for "WWJD" to find other suppliers):

- www.reminderband.com
- www.whatwouldjesusdo.com (has T-shirts and many other items)
- www.rainbowsandpromises.com
- www.onlinesports.com
- www.churchsupply.com
- www.makingfriends.com. (great for WWJD craft supplies)

Remember: if you're ordering online allow plenty of time for delivery, and check for discounts on large quantities.



SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

Most communities offer many opportunities to serve. Also check with the pastor, deacons, and social workers in your congregation. Here are some of the projects that worked best for us:

Care USA (www.careusa.org) For general information, please call 1-800-521-CARE. One year proceeds from our yard sale went to a camp for kids in Croatia. CARE sent us a video of the project that helped make the experience more real for the kids.

Christian radio. We traveled to a local Christian radio station to learn about their ministry. We brought flowers to the people at the station. Some of the children got to be on the air to tell about their experiences at camp.

Contact Ministries. This is a temporary shelter for homeless mothers and children. We collected personal care items (toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo, etc.) and delivered them. We toured the facility and learned about the people it serves. We also made a big pot of Saturday Night Soup and garlic bread for their evening meal.

Food pantry. We collected and delivered canned goods for local food pantries.

Habitat for Humanity. We did yard work at completed homes (planted shrubs, flowers, and trees; spread mulch). We also cleaned up vacant lots to prepare them for construction.

Heifer Project International

www.heifer.org
P.O. Box 8085, Little Rock AR, USA 72203
Tel: (800) 422-0474

Heifer Project International allows you to purchase animals for families in other parts of the world to help nourish them with milk, eggs, etc. Families who for generations knew only poverty are building new homes and starting businesses because of this project. It's fun for the children to raise money to "buy a cow" or "buy a flock of chickens." Once you set a goal, hold a car wash or yard sale to raise the funds.

Home for the Blind. We brought ice cream sundae supplies and served the residents. We also sang several camp songs.

Helping Hands Homeless Shelter. We made sack lunches (peanut butter and jelly sandwich, chips, apple, cookie, and drink) and delivered them to the shelter.

Kumler Neighborhood Ministries. We collected Happy Meal toys and gently-used clothing. We toured the

facility and learned about the people this organization serves. We bagged sugar and tea bags to be distributed to people in need. I explained to the campers that many of the children who come with their families have no toys at home. The shelter keeps a toy table for them to choose from when they visit.

Local park. We cleaned up a local park, picked up trash, and planted flowers.

Mercy House. This organization provides temporary apartments for single mothers and children. We cleaned their playroom and its toys, washed their van, moved furniture, and collected cleaning supplies.

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery. The kids gave a baby shower, donating items such as diapers, wipes, socks, outfits, bibs, blankets. They wrapped the items one day as part of the afternoon rotations and we delivered them along with a cake made by a member of our congregation. Older campers went to the nursery and spent time playing with the toddlers and babies.

Mission project in Brazil. We collected supplies for a school in Brazil, packed the supplies in a suitcase, and presented everything to a missionary who was traveling to Brazil.

Nursing homes. We baked cookies and delivered them—with smiling faces and songs—to the residents.

Ronald McDonald House. We cooked a meal for the families staying there, delivered it, and toured the facility. (See Saturday Night Soup recipe on **)

Five Dollar Project One year we gave each sixth grader an envelope with five dollars in it. Their assignment was to use the money to help someone during the week of camp and report back to us on Friday. Each camper did something different. One bought brownie mixes, baked the brownies, sold them for a profit in the neighborhood, and donated the profits to the Red Cross. Another camper saw a mother with an infant at a local food pantry being turned away because the pantry was out of baby formula; the camper handed the mother her five dollars, telling her to buy the formula she needed. Try it—you'll be amazed at what your campers do!

Shut-ins. We sent groups of kids to several local shut-ins to visit, sing, wash their cars, paint fences, pull weeds, rake leaves, and do other odd jobs.

Yard sale. The children brought in their outgrown clothes and toys to be sold at a church yard sale on Friday of camp week. Proceeds benefited Send International.

In addition to the above sources, you could check with your denominational agencies for information on specific projects for which the kids could raise money. For example:

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), www.crwrc.org; 800-552-7972 in the US; 800-730-3490 in Canada

Reformed Church World Service (RCWS), www.rca.org; 800-968-3943

PCUSA Worldwide Ministries Division (WMD), www.pcusa.org/wmd; 888-728-7228



ATTRACTING MEDIA ATTENTION

Over the years we've been blessed with excellent media coverage of our camp at Chatham Presbyterian. The coverage raises awareness about the camp, helps us solicit donations when necessary, and contributes to the kids' sense of accomplishment.

Initiate your contacts with local media a few days before your camp begins, especially if your projects involve soliciting donations from the community for a food or toy drive.

Call your local newspaper or TV stations and ask how to get on their list of potential news coverage. Ask which

assignment editor you should contact, then call that person to discuss the details of your projects. Ask if you can fax or email information—if assignment editors have a hard copy of your information they are more likely to assign a reporter or photographer to the story. Be creative—you could even make your own WWJD Day Camp letterhead.

While calling a few days ahead is usually best, sometimes it's wise to call the TV station the morning of the event to get on their news list for the day (this will prevent assignment editors from "forgetting" about your earlier information).

Sample media advisory:

Date: June 10, 2005

To: Assignment Editor at Springfield *Journal-Register*

Re: Media Advisory

No Summer Break for These Hard Workers

Work teams made up of children ages 7-13 from Chatham Presbyterian Church's *What Would Jesus Do Day Camp* will be working at the following job sites this week:

- Monday/Tuesday mornings: landscaping for the Habitat for Humanity house at 313 West Franklin, Chatham
- Wednesday afternoon: stocking shelves and boxing kits for the Food Pantry, 400 South Locust, Springfield
- Thursday/Friday mornings: yard work for seniors in and around Chatham. Call for addresses.
- Friday morning: providing meals for Ronald McDonald House, Springfield.

Please call _____ at _____ for more details about the WWJD Day Camp or work schedule.

Sample press release:

Following is a sample press release to send out *after* the camp week is over.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2005

AREA KIDS GO THE EXTRA MILE TO HELP OTHERS

Chatham, IL. More than 25 children, ages 7-13, attended Chatham Presbyterian's weeklong *What Would Jesus Do (WWJD) Day Camp* this past week. The camp focuses on helping people in need.

The campers worked at job sites throughout the Chatham and Springfield areas. Their tasks included landscaping at Habitat for Humanity homes and helping area senior citizens with yard work, window washing, and clean-up. They also cooked meals for Ronald McDonald House, Contact Ministries, and the Illinois Presbyterian Home.

"The kids were exhausted by the end of each day, but they were thrilled with what they accomplished," program director Jane Smith said. "Not only did they work hard at each job site, but they also collected a variety of supplies and delivered them to needy families."

Dates for next year's WWJD Day Camp have not been set, but information about the program is available from Chatham Presbyterian Church, phone _____.

OTHER PRACTICAL POINTERS

Communicate with Campers and Parents

Before camp begins, I send out a letter addressed to the campers but also meant to be read by the parents. The letter tells the campers what to expect at camp. It also lists our service sites for each day and tells what items are needed at the sites. Campers are invited to donate some items and asked to bring others (such as one of the ingredients for a meal we're preparing). My letter goes something like this:

Dear camper,

I am so glad you have signed up to attend WWJD Day Camp! We are planning lots of fun stuff for you to do and many ways for you to serve. By the end of the week you're going to be pretty worn out—but in a good way. You'll be feeling great because you've done some great things to serve Jesus by helping others.

You are assigned to _____'s team. Look for them when you get to the church on Monday. These are the people you need to report to every day at camp. They will be in charge of keeping you safe, so don't lose track of them!

I want to remind you of a few details before we get started. Make sure you're there by 9:00 each morning, but please tell your mom or dad not to drop you off more than a few minutes early, OK?

You need to wear tennis shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or wet. Don't forget to bring your lunch. We will have punch and water for you to drink for lunch and during the day. You can put your lunch in one of the refrigerators in the kitchen if you need to.

Each day we have service projects planned (check out the list below). There's going to be a lot going on and many of us will be going in different directions! **Not every camper will be going to every location. Some groups will stay at the church to prepare meals.** If your parents want more details about where your particular group is going, please have them ask your team leader each morning.

Please tell your parents that they *must* come into the church to pick you up each day—no curbside pick-ups are allowed. We also want you to check out with your team leader before you leave each day.

Each day you will be receiving a memory verse to learn for the next day. There will be prizes (cool coupons from area restaurants) for those who can say their verses.

If you ordered a T-shirt, it should be ready on the first day of camp. So get ready, and get excited for a super-awesome week of asking yourself WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

Can't wait to see you!

Your Camp Director, _____

P.S. Please share this letter with your mom or dad, OK? They want to know what's going on too!

Sample Schedule of Service Projects (to accompany above letter to campers)

Service Project Schedule

Most service sites have long lists of things they need. Please read this list carefully and talk with your parents about what you can bring to help. All the lists are “suggested” items to donate. Nothing is required, except we do need everyone to pitch in with the yard sale and with meal ingredients. If you’re unable to help with your assigned meal ingredient, please let us know.

We’ll be having a huge yard sale of children’s clothes and toys on Friday. Please bring gently-used items early in the week so we can get them ready for Friday. *[Editor’s note: yard sale is an option you may want to consider]*

Monday’s Projects

We’ll be doing landscaping and planting at two Habitat for Humanity houses in Springfield. Please bring a pair of work gloves. Chatham Food Pantry needs canned vegetables and canned pasta (like Spaghettios). We’ll also be making a meal in the afternoon to take to Ronald McDonald House on Tuesday. Please bring _____ to help make that meal.

Tuesday’s Projects

The Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery needs diapers, baby wipes, baby supplies, etc.

Kumler Neighborhood Ministries needs school supplies and small Happy Meal-type toys. The Central Illinois Food Bank needs boxes of cereal. We’ll be baking cookies for Wednesday. Please bring _____ to help.

Wednesday’s Projects

We’ll be doing cleanup work at the homes of several senior members of the congregation in or around Chatham. We’ll also be making a meal for Contact Ministries—please bring _____ to help.

Thursday’s Projects

Contact Ministries needs personal care items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.) Mercy House Ministries needs cleaning supplies such as Lysol, Tidy-Bowl, Soft-Scrub, Windex, etc. We’ll be making cookies to take to the Illinois Presbyterian Home on Friday. Please bring _____ to help.

Friday’s Projects

We’ll be visiting the Illinois Presbyterian Home to sing and serve cookies. Friday is also the day of the yard sale. You don’t need to bring anything on Friday if you’ve already brought donations for the yard sale.

Please place your donations in the boxes in the church foyer. Thank you!

Preparing the Kids for Service Projects

Before the kids go to a site, be sure to tell them to be courteous and respectful and to listen to their team leader. Prepare the campers as best you can for what they will be doing and what they may see or hear. They will behave best if they are not caught off guard. (For example, before we went to a home for persons who are blind, a member of the congregation who has a sight-impaired child came and talked to the campers during lunch to tell them what to expect when they visited the home). Explain to the kids that they shouldn't stare or make faces if they see something disturbing or smell something unusual.

During the opening session of the day you could call a child up front to model good manners when meeting someone for the first time: maintaining good eye contact, shaking hands firmly, smiling. Tell the kids that if they see something on site that bothers them, they should go stand next to their team leader.

Depending on the size of your community, confidentiality may be an issue. You may need to explain to campers that if they see someone they know using the services of a shelter, food pantry, or crisis center, they should be friendly but they should also keep that information to themselves. Be sure to ask the person you talk to at the facility if there are other rules or expectations you should pass along to the children and their team leader.

Before Everyone Heads Out...

Go to www.mapquest.com or a similar website to get good driving directions. Give each driver a copy of the directions. Drivers should also carry cell phones, and you (the director) should keep a list of their numbers in case someone gets separated from the group. Drivers should also have a list of all the campers on a particular job site, along with emergency numbers for contacting parents. Give drivers a first-aid kit and bottled water to take to the work site. Give teams an opportunity to use the restroom before leaving for a work site.

Call Before You Dig!

Call your local "Call Before You Dig" number if you are doing any landscape planting—you don't want to hit a gas or electric or phone line. Most states and provinces have a toll-free number you can call. They usually require two to seven days' notice to mark the property for safe digging.

Get Free Rewards

Ask local restaurants such as McDonald's, Hardees, Pizza Hut, and Dairy Queen to donate gift certificates you can use for Bible verse memorization rewards.

A Habitat Welcome

If kids are working on a Habitat house, take a poster and markers with you to the site. Have the kids sign and decorate a welcome card to leave for the new owner.

Meanwhile, Back at the Church...

Assign each team to a room in the church so that you can "send the kids to their room." They can work on a bag skit (see page **) or Bible verses. This gives you a few quiet minutes to get organized during the day.

Give Your Team Leaders a Break

On Friday, order pizza for the team leaders and let them eat in a room away from the kids. The adults can take over lunchtime duties at that time to give team leaders a well-deserved break.

Pomp and Circumstance

On the last day of camp or at the Friday night ice cream social, have a "graduation" ceremony. Call each camper forward to shake hands with the director and receive a WWJD cross, fish, or necklace as a reminder of their work that week.

Send Them Off and Analyze Your Results

Make a list at the end of camp of what worked and what didn't. Include any press clips and write up special comments. Add these to your WWJD day camp folder to help with planning next year.

SAMPLE BUDGET

Budgets will vary greatly from one camp to another, but here's one of my recent camp budgets that may be helpful in determining your own:

Expenses

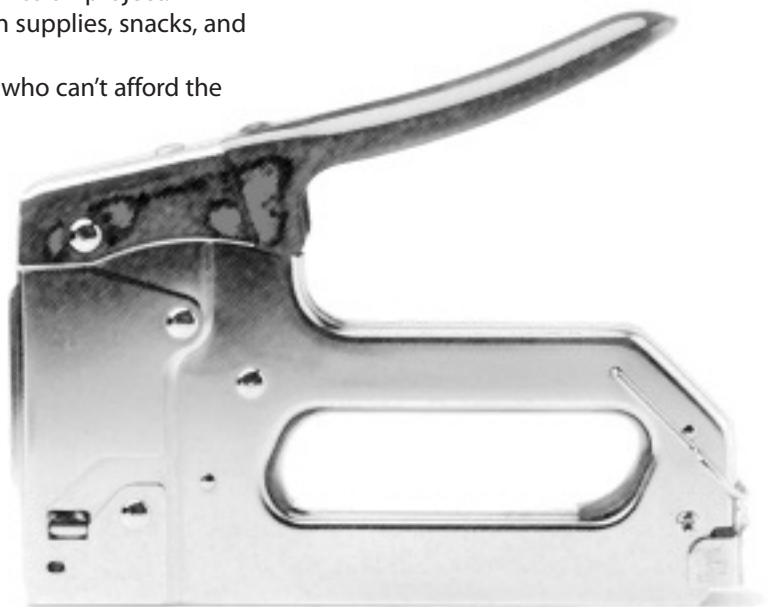
WWJD bracelets (\$3.00 each)	\$75.00
WWJD necklaces for closing ceremony (\$8.95 each)	223.75
Name tags and badge holders	153.75
T-shirts (\$7 each)	175.00
Snacks	50.00
Crafts	200.00
Recreation	50.00
Candy and pop for prizes	40.00
Landscaping supplies	200.00
Miscellaneous (first aid kits, etc.)	82.50
	<hr/>
	TOTAL: \$1,250.00

Income

25 kids at \$35 per child:	\$875.00
T-shirts at \$7 per child	175.00
Church contribution	200.00
	<hr/>
	TOTAL: \$1,250.00

Cost-saving Tips

- Local landscaping companies will often donate plants if they know you'll be planting them at a Habitat for Humanity house or mission project.
- Ask church members to donate craft and recreation supplies, snacks, and drink mixes.
- Church members may be willing to sponsor a child who can't afford the registration fee.



CHOOSING MUSIC

Songs are vital to the WWJD day camp experience because they set the mood, motivate, energize, and focus the kids on the “service” theme of our camp. Following is a list of CDs you may want to use for your “gathering song” or for other parts of your daily schedule:

- “Let the Praises Ring” by Lincoln Brewster. Available on *Integrity Worship Kids!* and *Shout Praises! Kids* 3 CDs.
- “If We Are the Body” by Casting Crowns. Available on *Casting Crowns*, *WOW #1’s*, and *Absolute Smash Hits for Kids* CDs.
- “He Reigns” by the Newsboys. Available on *WOW # 1’s*, *Dove 2004*, and *Here Am I to Worship (for Kids)* CDs.
- “Jesus to the World” by Newsong (*Arise My Love* CD)
- “Hands and Feet” by Audio Adrenaline (*Underdog* CD)
- “Go!” by Mercy Me (*Spoken For* CD)

On pages **.** is the music for the songs included in WWJD Day Camp session plans. Your music director should feel free to substitute songs the kids already know or songs that fit the general “service” theme of the camp.

NOTE: Check with your church secretary or music director for information on how to obtain permission to copy the music in this book. Your church may already have a copyright license. Copying this music without permission is a violation of copyright law.

MEMORY VERSES FOR EACH DAY

If you are asking the campers to memorize Scripture, photocopy and cut apart these memory verses for each day. Hand out the "memory slip" to campers at the end of each day just before dismissal. Monday's verse will be recited on Tuesday, Tuesday's verse on Wednesday, and so on.

Be sure team leaders are clear about whose responsibility it is to listen to kids say their verses and give them prizes. Distribute prizes to team leaders and/or to your designated adult early in the week.

Following are the verses for each day:

.....

Monday

Matthew 22:39

[Jesus said:] "Love your neighbor as yourself."

.....

Tuesday

Matthew 28:20b

[Jesus said:] "I am with you always."

.....

Wednesday

Matthew 26:41

[Jesus said:] "Watch and pray so that you do not fall into temptation."

.....

Thursday

Matthew 25:35

[Jesus said:] "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat."

.....

Friday

Matthew 5:13a, 14a

[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth....

You are the light of the world."

.....

RECIPES

Cooking is one of the suggested afternoon activities. Kids can help prepare a meal for a Ronald McDonald House or a shelter or make a snack for their fellow campers. No doubt your cooking director will have his or her own favorite recipes, but we've listed a few here that we've used in our camp. Most of these can be doubled or tripled for larger quantities. A special thanks to Danita, Linda, Chris, and Grandma Rachel for their contributions to this section. Have fun cooking (and eating!).

NOTE: Do be aware that many children have serious food allergies, especially to nuts and peanut butter. Do not let children handle or eat foods to which they are allergic, or a serious reaction could result.

Saturday Night Soup

- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 1 pound (450 g) ground beef
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1 large green pepper
- 11-oz. (300 g) can chopped tomatoes
- 3 cups water
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped celery
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 package dry onion soup mix
- 80 oz. (2.5 l) V-8 juice
- 8-oz. (230 g) can sliced mushrooms
- 16 oz. (450 g) frozen vegetables
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon thyme
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon garlic powder
- 4-6 oz. (130 g) spaghetti, broken into pieces

In large saucepan cook oil, onions, green pepper, and ground beef until beef is well browned. Drain.

In large stockpot combine ground beef mixture, tomatoes, water, bouillon cubes, salt, pepper, bay leaf, celery, Worcestershire sauce, onion soup mix, V-8 juice, and mushrooms.

Bring to boil; simmer 30 minutes. Add frozen vegetables, spices, and spaghetti. Return to boil, simmer another 30 minutes. Remove bay leaf. Serves 8-10.

Garlic Bread *(goes well with Saturday Night Soup)*

- 1 large loaf of French or Italian bread
- butter or margarine
- garlic salt
- aluminum foil

Cut bread lengthwise; spread with butter or margarine. Sprinkle with garlic salt. Close bread, wrap in foil, and bake at 350° F (175° C) for 15 minutes.



Chinese Chicken Casserole

- 2-3 chicken breasts
- 3 stalks celery
- 1 large onion
- 3 tablespoons butter or vegetable oil
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- chow mein noodles
- cashews (be alert to nut allergies)
- mushrooms, pimento (optional)

Simmer chicken in water to cover until tender. Cool, remove bones, cut into bite-size pieces. Chop celery and onion and sauté in butter or oil. Combine chicken, celery/onion mixture, and soup (add mushrooms and pimento if desired). Arrange layer of chow mein noodles on bottom of 9" x 13" baking dish. Add chicken mixture and cover with more noodles and cashews. Bake for 30 minutes in 350° F (175° C) oven. Serves 8-10.

Sloppy Joes

- 2 pounds (1 kg) ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup ketchup
- 1 small can tomato paste
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Brown ground beef; drain. Sauté onions and garlic in oil until tender. Add ketchup, tomato paste, brown sugar, chili powder, and salt. Combine well, add ground beef, heat through. Serve on kaiser rolls or hamburger buns. Serves about 18.

Corn Pudding *(goes well with Sloppy Joes)*

- 1 box Jiffy corn muffin mix
- 1 can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can cream style-corn, not drained
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 cup sour cream

Mix all ingredients together. Pour into ungreased 9" x 13" casserole dish. Bake at 350° F (175° C) for 35 minutes. Serves 10-12.

Gladys Rivera's *Surullitos de harina de maiz* (little cornmeal rolls)

You could make this bread—or a similar bread recipe—during Thursday's cooking activity as a way of reminding the campers of how Jesus fed 5,000 people, and of the many times that the Bible mentions bread.

- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese
- 1¼ cups fine cornmeal
- corn oil
- grated cheddar cheese
- (sugar can be added if desired)

Note: This recipe calls for boiling water and for cooking dough in hot oil. Be extremely cautious with young children around! Have plenty of adult or team leader supervision and let adults or team leaders do the actual frying. Keep hot items well out of reach of younger children.

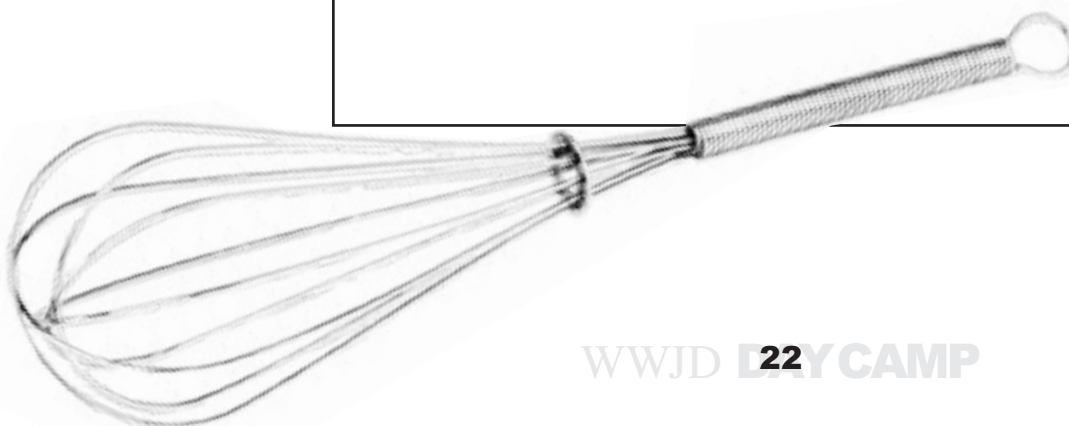
Boil the water with the salt and butter. Combine the Parmesan cheese and cornmeal in a bowl. Add the water mixture and stir until all the cornmeal is moist. Add another teaspoon of water if needed. Put about 1" of corn oil in a frying pan and heat on medium high. Take a tablespoon of the mixture and roll it in your hands to make a roll the size and shape of a finger. Put it in the palm of your hand and press it lengthwise with a finger to create a pocket (it will look like an open hot dog bun). Add some grated cheese in the middle of the pocket. Close the opening and pinch edges to seal. Carefully place several of the dough fingers into the frying pan at a time. Gently nudge dough loose if it sticks to the bottom. Put on paper toweling to soak up excess oil. Makes about 20 surullitos.

—from *Hand in Hand*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 1997, p. 88.

Chicken and Rice Casserole

- ¾ cup uncooked rice
- 2 cups water
- 1 can cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine

Grease a 9" x 13" baking dish. Combine together rice, water, and cream of chicken soup. Pour into prepared pan. Lay chicken breasts on top of rice mixture. Add salt and pepper, dot with butter. Bake at 350° F (175° C) for 1 hour. Serves 4-6.



Chocolate Chip Cake

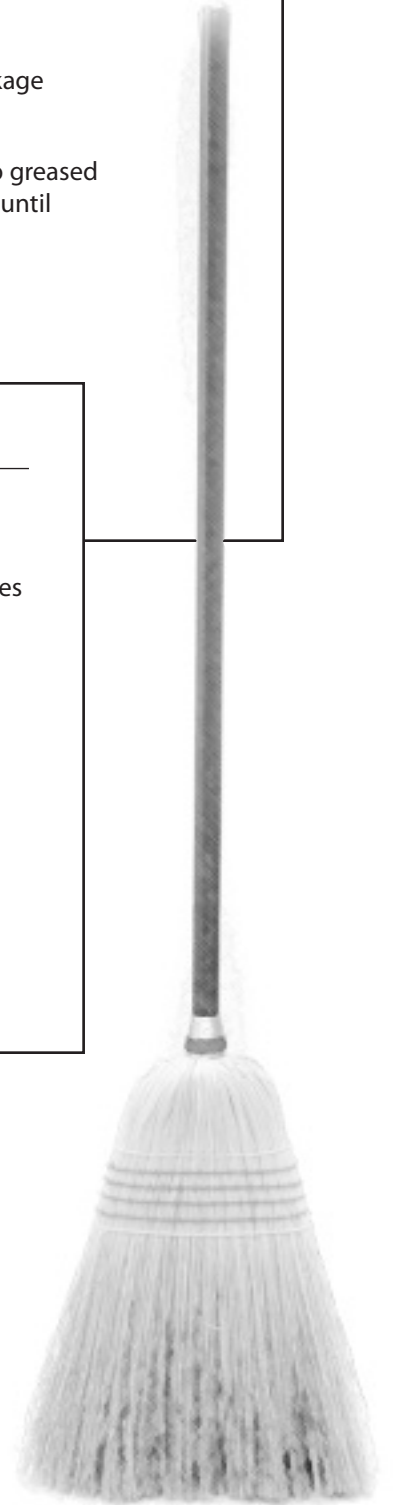
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 small package instant chocolate pudding
- 1 small package instant vanilla pudding
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups water
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 6-oz. (170 g) package chocolate chips

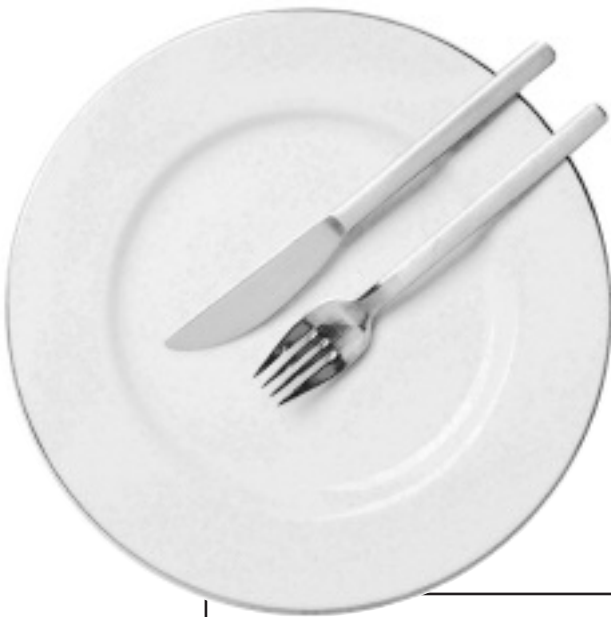
Blend all ingredients except chips until smooth. Add chips, pour into greased and floured bundt pan. Bake at 325° F (160° C) for 50-60 minutes, or until knife inserted into middle of cake comes out clean. Serves 12.

Cookies from Cake Mix

- 1 box cake mix
- 2 eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil
- chocolate chips, raisins, nuts, etc.

Combine first 3 ingredients, add other ingredients of your choice. Mix well. Bake cookies at 350° F (175° C) for 8-10 minutes.





Chocolate Chip Treasure Cookies

- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- ½ - ¾ cup flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 14-oz. (396 g) can sweetened condensed milk
- ½ cup butter
- 1⅓ cups coconut, optional
- chopped walnuts, optional
- 12 oz. (340 g) Hershey's Mega Morsels chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375° F (190° C). Combine all ingredients, adding chips last. Drop tablespoonfuls of batter onto greased baking sheet. Bake 6-9 minutes until golden brown. Do not overbake—better to take them out early and let them finish baking on the cookie sheet.

Pretzels

You could make this on Friday as a way of reminding the campers of the Scripture for the day ("You are the salt of the earth") and the skit that was performed.

- 6-7 oz. (30 mL) water
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups bread flour
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons active dry yeast
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1-2 tablespoons coarse salt

Mix first five ingredients together. Form into a smooth ball, knead dough, and allow to rise. Preheat oven to 450° F (230° C). Divide dough into 12 pieces. Roll each into an 8" (20 cm) rope. Form into pretzel shape. Place on greased cookie sheet. Brush with beaten egg. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake in preheated oven for 12-15 minutes. Makes 12 pretzels.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND REGISTRATION FORM

Here's a sample announcement and registration form. You can stuff it in church bulletins, place it on information tables, send it to area churches, or even post it at local supermarkets and libraries.

WWJD DAY CAMP

FOR KIDS ENTERING GRADES 1-6

When: _____ Where: _____

Cost: \$ _____ per first child
\$ _____ per second child in same family
\$ _____ per third child in same family

Scholarships are available for those unable to pay. Please contact (camp director's name and phone number).

DAILY ACTIVITIES:

- local service project
- arts and crafts
- Bible stories
- cooking
- music and much more!

Kids should bring a sack lunch each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Snack donations are always welcome.

Registration is limited. Please return forms—with payment—to church office by _____.
(List church address here)

.....

REGISTRATION FORM

Parent(s) name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Child's name _____ Age/Grade _____ T-Shirt size (circle one): S M L XL (\$__ each)

Child's name _____ Age/Grade _____ T-Shirt size (circle one): S M L XL (\$__ each)

Child's name _____ Age/Grade _____ T-Shirt size (circle one): S M L XL (\$__ each)

Child's name _____ Age/Grade _____ T-Shirt size (circle one): S M L XL (\$__ each)

Registration fee: \$ _____

T-shirt cost: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Note: Each child MUST turn in a signed permission/emergency waiver form by the first day of camp.

Children should wear play clothes and tennis shoes (clothes might get dirty!). You will be notified of camp service project details. For questions, call _____, the camp director, at

_____.

PERMISSION/EMERGENCY WAIVER FORM

WWJD DAY CAMP

PERMISSION/EMERGENCY WAIVER FORM

Please complete a separate form for each child in your family who is attending WWJD Day Camp. Each camper must turn in this form by the first day of camp. Thanks!

Child's name _____

Birthdate _____

Parent's name(s) _____

Please list all of the numbers where we could reach you in an emergency.

Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____ Other: _____

Alternate emergency contact: _____ (name) phone: _____

Medical conditions/allergies (including food allergies) _____

_____ (name) will be transporting my child to and from camp.

Special Instructions: _____

.....

I, _____ (parent, guardian) give permission for my son or daughter

_____ to attend WWJD Day Camp at _____, on

_____. He or she may participate in all activities, including out-of-camp

travel when it is part of the program. In the event of an emergency, if neither I nor my emergency contact person

can be reached, I give my permission for emergency medical care to be provided until such time as I can be

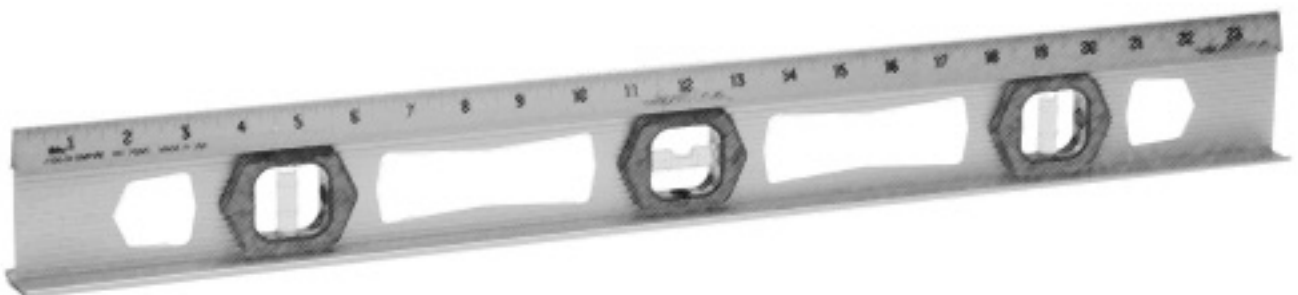
reached. I also give permission for photos of my child to appear in the local newspaper or on TV.

(parent/guardian entitled to give consent) _____

date _____

TEAM LEADER TIP SHEET

- Congrats on being chosen as a team leader! Your work this week is crucial to the success of the camp. Please be enthusiastic and caring, even though you may feel frustrated at times. You have the power and responsibility to make sure the kids on your team are learning to serve others as well as having fun. Hour by hour, your behavior sets the example for the kids on your team.
- If you have a problem with a child on your team, it's your responsibility to contact the director or another adult helper as soon as possible. It's NOT your responsibility to discipline kids or handle misbehavior on your own.
- Please arrive 15-20 minutes before camp begins so that you can check the daily schedule (who's going where, when) and pray with the other team leaders.
- Your team will be assigned to a room in the church where you can conduct daily team activities.
- To help you learn the names of the kids on your team, please plan a short get-to-know-you activity for the first day of camp. There's a sample activity on the "opening activities" pages that you will receive from the camp director.
- On the first day of camp, you should also work with your team to develop a team name and poster.
- Be sure to fill out a "Sunny Report" form for each child in your group by the end of camp. The basic idea is to catch kids doing something kind or nice or cool and briefly describe the behavior on a Sunny Report form. Copies will be available throughout the day.
- Remember to sit with your team in large group gatherings. Also, bring your own sack lunch each day and eat lunch with your team (some team members may need help opening juice boxes, etc.)
- Teach your team to listen for the whistle. One blow means "Be quiet so an announcement can be made," and two blows means "All team members line up behind your team leader." The group to line up first gets a small piece of candy (for younger children, use Life-Saver type candy with a hole in the middle).
- Help coordinate the clean-up of your team room and common areas at the end of the day. The director may give incentives for teams who finish their clean-up chores most effectively and quickly.
- Dress each day expecting to get dirty or wet—or both!
- Know where each of your team members is at all times. If the camp director asks you where a child is, you should know. This is a huge responsibility—take it seriously!
- You are responsible to monitor pick-ups at the end of the day. Parents must check in with you before they pick up their camper.
- Please be available to help with Bible verse memorization, as requested.
- If requested to do so, please help out with presenting the skits on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- If requested, you are encouraged to participate in CRAZY DAYS by wearing something unusual (backwards day, mismatch day, crazy hat day, etc.). Small prizes may be given to the team whose leader has the zaniest outfit.



Team Leader Instructions for Opening Activities

Each day of our camp, you will be asked to meet with your campers first thing in the morning, prior to our large group meeting. Your team will have its own meeting room. Please be there right on time each day (at ____ a.m.) to greet your campers.

Below is a summary of the opening activities for each day. If you have any questions, please see your camp director. He or she will go over these activities with you at your team leaders' meeting each day.

Monday

Today's theme: Jesus wants us to love our neighbors—no matter who they are—as much as we love ourselves.

Do a short "get-to-know-you" exercise with the kids. Ask kids to remove their name tags. Sit in a circle and ask one camper to say his or her name and the name of an animal that begins with the same letter (i.e. Sarah Snake, Rebekah Rabbit, Tyler Tiger, Michael Monkey). Go around the circle, with every person saying his or her name and the names of the previous people, too. When you're finished, ask kids to put their name tags back on.

Next, invent a name for your team and make a quick poster to be presented in the morning session. The poster should include your team name and some kind of illustration. Poster board and markers should already be in your team room.

Tuesday

Today's theme: Jesus wants us to trust him and not be afraid. He gives us strength and courage.

Begin by asking how kids felt about yesterday's service activity. Was anyone a bit anxious or worried or maybe even a little scared? You can be good role model, admitting your own anxieties about serving as a team leader—or you can talk about things that scared you when you were younger.

Invite your campers to mention some things that scare them. Common answers might be storms, fires, spiders, snakes, mean dogs, getting hurt, burglars, war, the dark, divorce, death of a parent. Let kids know that no fear is silly or stupid, that it's normal to be afraid of things. If a child mentions a fear involving abusive behavior ("I'm scared my dad is going to get mad and hit me or my

mom"), it's important to report this to the camp director at the end of the day. If a child has a very real fear about his or her parents' impending divorce or a death in the family, this is a good time for a hug and some reassurance. Tell the child that it's OK to be afraid, but Jesus will be with him or her no matter what bad things happen to them.

Distribute paper and pens/pencils (provided for you) and invite campers to jot down or draw one or more fears that they have, then fold the paper and place it in a basket or bowl to be brought to the large group session. Assure them that no one will read what they write down.

Conclude by saying that today we're going to learn how Jesus can help us with our fears.

If time permits, listen to kids individually recite Monday's memory work and give them a small prize if they know the verse. (Kids can say their verse to a designated adult later in the day if this is the agreed-on plan.) Prizes can consist of coupons from local restaurants such as Hardees, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Subway, and so on, as provided by your director. Monday's verse was Matthew 22:39: [Jesus said:] "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Wednesday

Today's theme: When we're tempted, Jesus wants us to make good decisions and do what he would do.

Introduce today's topic with the following "taste of temptation" exercise.

Have kids find a partner, then give each pair seven small pieces of candy, such as M&Ms or Skittles, which they may look at and smell, but not eat.

Encourage them to close their eyes and imagine how good the candy is going to taste. After a few minutes, admit you've been tempting them with candy—getting them to think about eating something good they've been told not to eat.

Ask the pairs to divide the seven pieces of candy between them, causing them to decide which partner gets the extra piece. After they (finally!) enjoy the candy, explain that today we're going to be learning about temptation—and what Jesus did when he was tempted.

If time permits, listen to kids individually recite Tuesday's memory work and give them a small prize if they know the verse. (Kids can say their verse to a designated adult later in the day if this is the agreed-on plan.) Tuesday's verse was Matthew 28:20b: [Jesus said:] "I am with you always."

ALTERNATE OPENING

As campers enter the room, pair up older kids with younger kids and ask them to pantomime a temptation that kids their age might have (you may want to give them an example from your own childhood to get them thinking). After a few minutes, have the pairs do their pantomimes while the others guess what the temptation is. Explain that today we're going to learn about what Jesus did when he was tempted—and see a fun skit about being tempted.

Thursday

Today's theme: Jesus wants us to help feed the hungry people in our world.

Each team's assignment is to put together a short skit (three minutes or less) to perform today in the large group gathering. This is a good opportunity for your team members to think about what hunger looks like in our world and what we can do to help alleviate it.

Your director will place a sheet of instructions for the skit in your room. Look for a check in front of **one** of the scenarios on the instruction sheet. Your team may use that scenario as the basis for your skit or you may invent a scenario of your own if you prefer. Your team will have about 20 minutes to come up with your skit. Props are strictly limited to whatever you can find in the room.

If time permits, listen to kids individually recite Wednesday's memory work, giving them a small prize if they know the verse. (Kids can say their verse to a designated adult later in the day if this is the agreed-on plan.) Wednesday's verse was Matthew 26:41: [Jesus said:] "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Friday

Theme: Jesus wants us to be "salt and light" to our world and to continue to serve him after day camp.

Today we suggest you try a "Remember Me" exercise with your campers. Have campers sit in a circle. You and the entire team should try to recall the animal name each camper chose on Monday. (If you get stuck, let the person being named give the group a verbal or visual

clue— roar like a lion or flap arms like wings of a bird, etc.). Then you (the leader) can mention one positive thing you will remember about that camper. Continue until all campers have been named and attached to a positive memory. Most kids will soak this right up—they love to hear the good things someone else sees in them. It's OK to mention funny moments as well as serious moments as long as nothing you mention will hurt the person's feelings. Laughing together is a great memory and a lot of fun.

Then give each camper a sheet of paper on which to write his or her name, address, e-mail address, and phone number. Keep passing the papers around the circle until every team member has written his or her information on every sheet of paper (or, if you have a photocopier available during the day, save tons of time by photocopying a single list).

Talk to your team members about how important it is for Christian friends to stay in contact with one another. You can give your campers the list of names and information at the end of the day to take home with them.

If time permits, listen to kids individually recite Thursday's memory work, giving them a small prize if they know the verse. (Kids can say their verse to a designated adult later in the day if this is the agreed-on plan.) Thursday's verse was Matthew 25:35: [Jesus said:] "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

ALTERNATE OPENING

As an alternate opening or an add-on to the above, have each camper describe one thing he or she really enjoyed about WWJD Day Camp.



WWJD DAY CAMP

SUNNY REPORT FROM THE SUNSHINE PATROL

Name of camper: _____

Day/date _____

Reporter: _____

The "sunny" behavior/attitude I observed was:



WWJD DAY CAMP

SUNNY REPORT FROM THE SUNSHINE PATROL

Name of camper: _____

Day/date _____

Reporter: _____

The "sunny" behavior/attitude I observed was:



MONDAY

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS?

THEME

Jesus wants us to love our neighbors—no matter who they are—as much as we love ourselves.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:29-37; Matthew 22:37-39

SUPPLIES

- T-shirts and/or WWJD bracelets, if you have them
- pin-on name tags for kids, team leaders, and all adults
- labeled box for donations (of food items, items needed for service projects, cooking items, etc.)
- posterboard and markers for each team
- copies of “Team Leader Instructions for Opening Activities” (see pp. **)
- gathering song and other songs selected by music director (see our suggestions on p. 55)
- CD player
- copies of the skit “Who’s on Our Team?” for each actor; props and simple costumes (see pp **)
- copies of Monday’s memory verse for each camper (see pp **)
- supplies (if any) for service projects



- driving directions and list of campers and emergency phone numbers for each person driving to service sites
- whistle
- optional: candy, the kind with a hole in the middle, to give to teams that are first to line up
- snacks and punch
- craft supplies: small rocks, paints and brushes, clear acrylic spray paint
- recreation supplies: buckets, ice cubes
- cooking supplies (are the kids/parents bringing them or is your cooking director providing them?)

MINIMUM ADULT HELPERS NEEDED TODAY

- one or two adults to help with registration
- music director
- team leaders (I suggest two per team of 6-8 kids)
- one to four extra adults to drive kids to service project and remain at service site
- craft director, assistant if needed
- recreation director, assistant if needed
- cooking director, assistant if needed
- drama director
- optional: Ask one or two persons to organize the Friday night ice cream social for you by getting the word out to parents, making sign-up sheets, etc. (see page ** for details)

TODAY’S SCHEDULE

8:40 a.m. Leader Preparation

You (the director) should meet with Monday’s team leaders and adult helpers to make sure everyone understands his or her role in today’s activities. Distribute copies of the “Team Leader Instructions for Opening Activities” on pages **. Review today’s opening activities with team leaders (they’ll be doing a “get-to-know-you” activity, inventing a team name, and making a poster illustrating that name). Answer any questions the group has, and pray for a safe and fun day.

9:00 a.m. Arrival and Registration

As campers arrive, ask them to put any donations they’ve brought into designated boxes. Point them toward the registration table, where they’ll receive T-shirts or WWJD bracelets if you have them, nametags, and their team and room assignments. **IMPORTANT:**



Make sure you have a completed registration form and a signed permission slip for each camper.

Have team leaders meet with their teams in their assigned rooms and do a short “get-to-know-you” exercise with the kids. First, they should ask kids to remove their name tags and sit in a circle. The team leader should ask one camper to say his or her name and the name of an animal that begins with the same letter (i.e. Sarah Snake, Rebekah Rabbit, Tyler Tiger, Michael Monkey). Go around the circle, with every person saying his or her name and the names of the previous people too. (The last person has the hardest job, but the kids have fun with it. Sometimes their animal names last all week long!) When this activity is done, team leaders should ask kids to put their name tags back on.

Then leaders should ask their team to invent a name for itself and make a quick poster illustrating that name. Posters will be presented in the morning session. Poster board and markers should already be in each team room.

Note: the above instructions are written out for team leaders on page 47 of this guide. You can photocopy this page and give it to team leaders.

9:45 a.m. Gathering Song

To call the kids from their team rooms to your meeting area, we suggest playing an upbeat contemporary song on CD every day at this time and instructing teams to gather when they hear it. If you’d rather not use songs on CD, have someone belt them out on the piano or organ or guitar. Kids can start singing the song as they come into your meeting area. Songs are a wonderful way to begin and end your day together.

Here are several suggestions for a gathering song (but feel free to choose other songs that are current and popular with your campers):

- “Let the Praises Ring” by Lincoln Brewster. Available on CD by *Integrity Worship, Kids!* and *Shout Praises! Kids 3*.
- “If We Are the Body” by Casting Crowns. Available on CD by *Casting Crowns, WOW #1’s; and Absolute Smash Hits for Kids*
- “He Reigns,” by the Newsboys. Available on CD by *WOW # 1’s, Dove 2004, and Here Am I to Worship (for Kids)*
- “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” by Rick Founds (see page **)

9:45 a.m. Opening Announcements

You (the director) or another designed person should generate excitement about what’s going to happen during the week. Ask if the kids are ready to work hard,

to have fun, to earn Sunny Reports, and so on. Let them yell out their answers.

Briefly go over the schedule for Monday. Talk about the service project, and who they’re going to help. Review rules for the week—the most important of which is to know where your team leader is at all times! The “whistle rules” are also important for everyone to know: one blow means “be quiet so an announcement can be made”; two blows means “line up behind your team leader.”

Other announcements could include:

- the memory verse assignment and prizes
- a description of Sunny Reports and how they will be earned (see page **)
- an explanation of team leader “crazy days” (optional: see page **)
- a reminder to take care of the building, not misuse it.

Conclude this time by having each team come forward to present their team name and poster. Have team members say their team name in unison a couple of times: “We are the . . .”

10:00 a.m. Singing

Songs are vital to the WWJD Day Camp experience because they set the mood and motivate, energize, and focus the kids on the “service” theme of our camp. Your music director may want to select three or four songs to be repeated at each session, or introduce a new song or two at each session.

Here are some songs that are appropriate for today’s theme and the entire week:

- “Jesu, Jesu” (see page **)
- “W.W. J. D.” (see page **)
- “God Is the Rock” (see page **)
- “Make Me a Servant” (see page **)

CDs you may want to use with the campers include:

- “Jesus to the World” by Newsong
- “Hands and Feet” by Audio Adrenaline (on *Underdog* CD)
- “Go!” by Mercy Me (on *Spoken For* CD)

10:15 a.m. Skit: “Who’s on My Team?”

Rehearsing and presenting a skit can be a fun and rewarding experience—both for the actors and for the people who view the skit. There are three dramas in this course (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). Should you not want to use the skits, quick and easy alternatives are suggested for Monday and Wednesday (Friday’s skit requires only two persons and virtually no preparation).

For today's skit—"Who's on My Team?"—you will need ten readers. The narrator has a key role, so choose someone who reads and projects well (check to see if individual mikes are needed and available). We suggest having your team leaders perform the skit; however, if you judge that they already have enough to do, recruit other teens from your church—it gives them a wonderful chance to participate in day camp! Maybe your church already has a youth drama team that could help you out. All the kids in the audience can be involved as a cheering section today (see explanation with the skit on reproducible page **).

Run off one copy of the skit for each of your actors. There's no need to closely memorize the lines, though if there's time, loose memorization will definitely improve the performance (the narrator's part is long and should be read). Past experience with dramas suggests that younger kids enjoy watching teens and adults acting the skit, especially when they goof up their lines!

You can also present the dramas "on the spot" without rehearsal. Choose your actors from team leaders and older campers, distribute costumes and scripts, allow a few minutes for silent read-throughs (while the others are singing), and then have the actors read and act out their parts (this will take longer than rehearsed performances). Have an adult "stage manager" assign kids to parts, distribute costumes, and, when necessary, act as a prompter to keep the action moving.

Tell the group to get ready to see a fun skit. But first, they need to listen very carefully to a Bible story that the skit is based on. Read Luke 10:29-37, preferably from a simplified children's version of the Bible such as the NIV (New International Reader's Version) or a contemporary version such as *The Message*. Consider having older campers read the Scripture passages to the group each day.

Present the skit. If the audience will act as a cheering section, explain that first.

After the skit, give the actors a big round of applause. Then you (director) or other designated person should say something like this:

Too often we look at people who are different—who have a different color skin, who wear clothing that's not like ours, who have fewer toys or less money, who worship God in a different way—and we are not nice to them. We think that because these people are "different", we can't be friends with them or help them. Jesus said we should treat all our neighbors—which means everyone we meet, not just the people who live next door—as we would like to be treated. We should

love them as we love ourselves. That's why helping others is the most important part of day camp.

If you're including a memory verse in each session, open your Bible to Matthew 22:39. Tell kids the context of this passage: the Pharisees (religious leaders who were experts in Jewish law) have just asked Jesus which of the Jewish laws is the greatest. They're trying to trip him up, but Jesus has an answer ready for them. Read the memory verse: **[Jesus said:] "Love your neighbor as yourself."** Have the kids say it with you several times. At the close of the session you can distribute memory verse slips for the kids to bring home.

Close this time with prayer, saying something like this:

Dear God, thank you for bringing us all here today to learn more about you and more about helping others. Help us to remember to treat others the way we want to be treated. Keep us safe today as we work together to show people Jesus' love, and most of all, help us to have a fun day of asking ourselves, What would Jesus do?

In your name we pray,

Amen.

TIME-SAVING ALTERNATIVE

Keep in mind that the main focus of WWJD Day Camp is on the service projects. In other words, you don't want the singing, the story presentation, and the other activities to infringe on the time you've set aside for service projects. That's why we've included options to the dramas, such as this one. To save some time today, try dramatizing the parable itself instead of using the more demanding "Who's on My Team?" drama. Have someone read the parable aloud, then read it more slowly, pausing to let team leaders or kids in grades 5-6 act out the lines.

10:45 a.m. Break

Take a 10-minute bathroom break before leaving for today's project.

10:55 - 11:00 a.m. Departure for Service Projects

Blow the whistle twice and ask teams to line up. Board buses or vans, and don't forget to take donations with you if you've collected items to use for your off-site projects.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

Team leaders, adult drivers, and kids return to the church for lunch (we suggest that kids bring their own

sack lunches, as noted on the registration form [see page **]. However, if you want to provide food for the campers, enlist the help of different parents each day). Have the campers wash their hands, get their sack lunches, and sit down at the tables. Ask the campers if someone would like to thank God for the food before we eat. Someone usually volunteers, but if not, a team leader or the camp director can pray.

1:00 p.m. Clean Up

After lunch, clean the tables and give kids a few minutes for a bathroom break.

1:15 p.m. Afternoon Rotations

We suggest three activities of 20 to 30 minutes each: crafts, cooking, and recreation. Kids rotate from station to station when you (the camp director) blow your whistle. Everyone will have a turn at all three activities.

Provide areas in your church for the three rotation activities and staff them with volunteers from your church or community.

Today's suggestions follow:

1. Craft: WWJD Rocks

Provide one clean rock 3" to 5" (7 to 12 cm) in diameter for each child. (Look for rocks outdoors or buy them from a local distributor (ask for "river rocks" because they're smooth and easy to paint on). Give the campers acrylic paint and brushes, and ask them to design a rock that will remind them to ask What would Jesus do? Suggest they include the initials WWJD somewhere on their rock. Make sure each camper puts his or her name on the rock so they'll be able to identify it later. When the paint is dry, spray-paint the rocks with clear acrylic to make them shiny and preserve the design. If campers have learned the song "Jesus Is the Rock" during the opening session, you may want to sing it while the paint is drying.

OTHER WWJD CRAFTS

Looking for a different WWJD craft? Your craft director will find lots of ideas at www.makingfriends.com, including instructions and supplies for WWJD bracelets, visors, door hangers, and key rings. Another good source for bracelets is www.reminderband.com (1-800-922-5401), or www.whatwouldJesusdo.com. An internet search for "WWJD" will turn up numerous other sites.

Do allow adequate time for delivery of any items you order online.

2. Cooking: Your Choice

Have your cooking director help the kids make one of the recipes in the recipe section (page **) or use his or her own recipe. Match the food to your needs for Tuesday's service project. Perhaps you'll want to make cookies today to take to someone tomorrow, or prepare a meal for someone who's sick, or make soup or sack lunches to take to a homeless shelter.

3. Recreation: Ice Cube Shenanigans

These games work best outside on a hot summer day.

1) Fill a small (baby-size) plastic swimming pool with cold water. Divide into two teams, and ask campers to remove their shoes and socks. Add ice cubes (at least one per person) to the water. One at a time, the campers must try to retrieve an ice cube from the water with their toes (they may use both feet). After they capture the ice cube, they must drop it into a team bucket. (Have someone keep track of how many cubes are dropped into the bucket in case the cubes melt before the game is done.) The team with the most ice cubes in its bucket after five minutes is the winner.

2) For the next activity, again divide campers into two teams. Each team has two buckets, one empty and placed about 30 feet (10 m) away, one filled with ice cubes and placed at the starting line. When the recreation director says "Go!", team members take turns, relay style, picking up an ice cube, holding it in their armpit, and running to the empty bucket to drop it in. Cubes that miss the bucket don't count. Team members must run back and tag the next person on their team, who then grabs an ice cube, puts it in his or her armpit, and runs to the empty bucket. The team with the most ice cubes in its bucket after five minutes wins.

2:30 p.m. Gathering

Play your "gathering song" to call campers back to your meeting area. Your music director may want to lead a few other songs as well.

You (camp director) should quickly review the day:

- Give lots of verbal praise for the hard work campers did and remind them of the ways they showed Jesus' love to others today. Point out the smiles and tears of joy that were generated today because of their work (be ready to explain that sometimes adults cry when they're very happy). If you have time, ask a few campers to talk about what they saw and how they felt.
- Briefly outline what campers can expect on Tuesday.
- Give out "Sunny Report" prizes.

- Distribute memory verse slips for Monday (Matthew 22:39: [Jesus said]: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”) If time permits, say the verse together a few times.
- (optional) Remind team leaders to wear something unusual for tomorrow’s “Crazy Day.”
- Tell the kids to leave their name tags with their team leaders.

Close with prayer, thanking God for all the good things that happened today. As kids leave your meeting area to wait for their parents, play one of the CDs we’ve suggested or one of the songs they’re learning. It’s a great way to end the day—kids can sing along if they wish.

3:00 p.m. Camp Dismissal

Make sure leaders stick with their kids and watch carefully who picks them up from church. For safety’s sake, no curbside pickups are allowed—parents *must* come into the church to pick campers up.

A Personal Note to the Camp Director

Whew!! You made it through the first day! Who knows how many hugs or smiles you gave out today? Thank you for loving kids enough to prepare this WWJD Day Camp for them! The lessons campers learn this week will make memories for them that will last a lifetime.

I’m sure you’re exhausted. Please take a few minutes to put your feet up and replenish yourself after all the giving you’ve done today so that you’ll have something to give tomorrow. I’m sure God will use you to do great things in the lives of others this week.

— Donna

REMINDERS ABOUT TOMORROW

- Memory Verses and Prizes: If you’re giving prizes for successful recital of memory verses, you should decide who’s going to listen to campers say those verses and hand out the prizes. Team leaders can do this in the team rooms in the morning, or designate one adult for the campers to find and recite their verse to during the day. Monday’s verse will be recited on Tuesday, Tuesday’s verse on Wednesday, and so on. Be sure team leaders are clear about whose responsibility it is to listen to kids say their verses and give them prizes. Distribute prizes to team leaders and/or to your designated adult early in the week.
- Friday Night Ice Cream Social: If you’re planning to hold this event (see page ** for details), alert families early in the week. Send a flyer home with the campers. Prepare a sign and a sign-up sheet and place it where parents drop off their kids every day. The sign-up sheet should indicate how many family members will attend so you’ll know how much ice cream and toppings to purchase. You may want to ask one or two persons to be in charge of the ice-cream social. They could get the word out to parents; make the sign and sign-up sheets; buy the ice cream, toppings, bowls, spoons, drinks, etc.; serve the ice cream; set up tables; supervise cleanup, and so on.

