

rerouting

Psalm 119.33-40

PURPOSE OF THE BREAKOUT GROUP TIME:

Breakout Group is a time in the afternoon where your church group comes together to apply what your students have been learning in a different way. This may include games, large group activities, individual introspective activities, and other methods. The goal for the Breakout Group is to get your students back together after their Power Group and continue processing what they are learning. Some students are great at learning in the classroom, but others need a more hands on approach. You know your students better than anyone else, so do what is best for them to get the most out of camp.

HOW TO USE THE MATERIAL:

Each day you will have three different activities to choose from. Some people may choose to do one and others may choose to do all three. We do ask that your group do at least one of these activities. They have been written and cultivated to allow your students to begin to look at our main teaching point of the day from a different angle. Some of these activities may need to be adapted to work in the space that you have been provided by Pineywoods, but we believe that each one of these activities can be a great resource for your ministry.

Breakout Session 1

Main Teaching: I'm lost and do not know where to go.

OPTION 1 - LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

Find My Voice

[Purpose] Feeling lost and not knowing who to listen to.

[Set Up] A large enough space for half of your group to form a circle.

[Instructions] Tell everyone to find a partner. Once they have a partner, they will need to decide who will be inside the circle and who will be forming the circle. All of the individuals that are forming the circles will need to grab hands and form a large circle around everyone that is in the middle. The individuals that are in the middle do not need to do anything, but just stand still wherever they would like. The way the activity works is the people in the middle will close their eyes and try to accomplish the task that their partner is asking them to do. The difficult part will be that their partner will be moving, along with everyone else in the circle, in a clockwise direction. They will have to be able to discern their partners voice and navigate everyone else trying to do the same in order to accomplish each task. This can be a competitive game where you give prizes out or just for fun.

[See appendix for Find My Voice Tasks]

[Spiritual Application] Have everyone sit down after the game and discuss the difficulties in accomplishing each task. Make sure that you spend time discussing how not being able to see and/or hear made it difficult to know exactly what to do and how to do it. Talk with your group about how often this happens back home and how easy it is to find ourself listening to someone/something other than God and how over time the more we listen to anything other than God the more we find ourselves distant from Him. This is what we discussed in our PowerGroups today. That is why it is important to know the voice of God. This can only be found in spending time in the Word of God, the Bible. Challenge your group to spend some time today before Church Group Time reading through Psalm 119.33-40.

Breakout Session 1

Main Teaching: I'm lost and do not know where to go.

OPTION 2 - SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

3 Person Navigation

[Purpose] Learning to trust the voice of God.

[Set Up] A large enough space for your group. Set up obstacles. Something that can be picked up at the end of the obstacle course.

[Instructions] Tell everyone to get in groups of three. Once they are in their groups, explain that we are going to be playing a game where you will have to trust the people on your team. Each member of the group will have a part in getting to the end goal. This is a simple one person talks, one person looks, and one person uses their teammates eyes and voice to maneuver through the obstacle course.

At the starting point, there will be the first member of the team who will have their back facing the obstacle course. This person is the only person on the team that can talk. There will be a second team member that will be blind folded facing the obstacle course, head-on with the first teammate, ready to walk through it. The third team member will remain at the starting point, facing the obstacle course, and will be able to see what's ahead of their team mates to explain it to them how to navigate, but without talking. Their job is to communicate without words to the teammate walking backwards on how to get through the obstacle course. The person walking backwards maneuvers through the path by watching the teammate at the starting line and then verbally communicates to the person blind folded in front of them how to move forward in the course. The person walking backwards is not allowed to look behind them to see where they're going. They have to trust the instructions given by their teammate who is standing at the starting line. The person blind folded is only allowed to listen and follow directions. They are not allowed to talk. Whichever team gets their blind folded player to retrieve the winning object first, is the winner. In the next rounds, the members of each team can switch roles so that everyone has a chance to participate in each role.

Notes for making the game interesting. If you are able, move the obstacles around in between each round, so that they have to navigate a different path each time. Also, move your object around and if they are doing a really great job, then don't put the object out for a little bit and make them work to get it.

[Spiritual Application] Have everyone sit down after the game and discuss the difficulties in succeeding at this game. Why were some people successful and others not? How much did trust and knowing the people on your team play a factor in your success? Take some time to talk about how distracting it was to try to tune out the other voices and bad information in order to clearly hear from their teammates. Make a parallel to how this is just like the Christian life. There are times when we have to trust God, but find it difficult because it is difficult to know which voice is His. Explain that the more time you spend in His presence and in His Word, the easier it is to discern His voice. Challenge your group to spend some time today before Church Group Time reading through Psalm 119.33-40.

Breakout Session 1

Main Teaching: I'm lost and do not know where to go.

OPTION 3 - INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY

Meditate on the Teaching of Jesus

[Purpose] Learning the teachings of Jesus.

[Set Up] Space where each student can find their own space and not be distracted. Try to not let them go back to their dorms, because they will just fall asleep.

[Instructions] Each student will open their Bible to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. They will spend a significant amount of time reading through each section, pausing to reflect on each section, and then using God's Word and their reflection to say a prayer about each section. Most Bibles have bold headings that break up these sections, so if they do not have a bible with those natural breaks, you may want to assist them with where to pause. There are approximately 20 sections in these 3 chapters. Encourage your students to go through all of them during this meditative activity.

[Spiritual Application] When they are done, you can come back together and discuss what God said to them through this experience. If time does not allow this, then you can tell them to find an adult from your group and share with them 1 or 2 things that stuck out to them about the Teachings of Jesus and how they want to begin to apply these things to their lives.

Breakout Session 2

Main Teaching: I may be ashamed, but I am not going to let that stop me.

OPTION 1 - LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

Walk the Line

[Purpose] Seeing that they are not alone in their shame.

[Set Up] Space where your entire group can form 2 long lines. Possibly some worship music in the background so that it is not completely silent.

[Instructions] Split your group in half and get them to form two long lines facing each other forming an aisle to walk down. Identify one end of the lines as the end point that everyone will walk down towards (preferably the end that you will be standing while reading the prompts). Explain that you are going to read some prompts and if what you say applies to them, then they will “walk the line” by entering the aisle created by the two lines and then walking to the end of the line. After you walk down the middle of the line, you’ll just go the end of the line and whoever didn’t walk will just move to the front of the line. It will be a pretty consistent shuffle. Let them know that some of the prompts may be pretty heavy and that this activity is one where they are to remain silent the entire time. Tell them, “Some of these prompt statements may be things that you have never told anyone and have caused you a great amount of guilt and shame, but today is the day that you will take the leap of faith and boldly walk the line.”

[See Appendix for Walk the Line prompts]

[Spiritual Application] This is a sobering activity, but one that has the possibility to have a great impact on this week of camp. When you are done, split them up into groups so that they can process what just happened. Encourage them to ask these 2 questions. 1. What was the biggest thing that stuck out to you? 2. How can we pray for one another? After they discuss these things, then each group should pray for one another.

Breakout Session 2

Main Teaching: I may be ashamed, but I am not going to let that stop me.

OPTION 2 - SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Ebenezer

[Purpose] Capitalizing on the discussion they had in their Power Group about finding their Ebenezer.

[Set Up] Space where your group can split up into groups of 6 to 8.

[Instructions] Split your groups up into groups of 6 to 8, depending on how many adults you have. Explain to them that you will be building on one of the things that they discussed in their Power Group. They should have already discussed the concept of an Ebenezer and began to work on finding one for themselves. Remind them that this comes from 1 Samuel 7 where God delivers the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines and Samuel took a stone and set it up for all of God's people to see and remember what God had done. We are so prone to forget the good things and only remember the bad. Send everyone to their groups and have them use these questions to prompt them.

Questions:

- What is one prayer that you have prayed that God has answered?
- What is one thing that God has done in your life that your only response is "God did that"?
- How often do you think about the things that God has done in your life?
- God is doing something in your life this week. What is something that you could take or do that will remind you of what God is doing in you at camp?
- How can you display this in a place of prominence so that you can always remember?

[Spiritual Application] At camp we find ourselves in a lot of small group discussions. For some, that is amazing, but for others, it can be a time that they dread. Encourage your students and leaders to have fun with finding or making these Ebenezers with their small groups, even if that means they take a walk around camp together to get some inspiration.

Breakout Session 2

Main Teaching: I may be ashamed, but I am not going to let that stop me.

OPTION 3 - GROUP ACTIVITY

Note of Encouragement

[Purpose] Shame can cripple us, but encouragement can motivate people to move past that shame.

[Set Up] Space where each student can sit in a circle or some sort of continuous shape. They will need paper (card stock works best) and a writing utensil. If your group is larger than 25-30, you may want to split into groups that are max 30 people.

[Instructions] Explain to everyone that one of the things that the church is called to do is to exhort one another and this helps us from falling further into sin and shame (Hebrews 3.12-13). Many of us carry a lot of guilt and shame around with us, especially after what we talked about in our Power Groups. We are going to spend time together encouraging one another. Everyone needs to write their name on the top of their paper. When I tell you to, everyone will pass their paper to their left. You will then have a minute to write an encouraging note to the person who's name is at the top of the paper. You will continue passing the paper to your left until you get your paper back. Make sure that everyone knows that we are to be encouraging and if they can't say something nice, then don't write on the paper.

[Spiritual Application] When you are done and everyone has their paper, encourage them to read what people have said about them. Many students are curious as to who wrote what, but part of the exercise is to do this anonymously. Encourage your students to not go around asking what everyone wrote, but just to accept their exhortation. This is something that they can keep to remember that they are loved by God and by His people.

Breakout Session 3

Main Teaching: I am done playing games. I desire life and not death.

OPTION 1 - GROUP ACTIVITY

Skits

[Purpose] To physically illustrate what life will be like when they go back home and attempt to apply what they learned this week.

[Set Up] You will need some sort of stage of space for your skits to be performed. You will need separate space for each group to split up and come up with their skit. Find a way to split up your group for the skits so that they are not too big, but also so that you don't have 100 skits to watch.

[Instructions] Each group will have 15 minutes to come up with a skit that involves everyone in your group. It can be funny or serious and can depict failures or successes. The goal of your skit is to illustrate what your life will be like when you go back home and attempt to apply what God has done in your life this week. Each group will be 100% student led. Once your group comes up with the skit, each group will perform and our adults will be the judges.

[Spiritual Application] Sometimes when we take a look at something from a different perspective it can help us to understand what we are getting ourselves into. When you go back home, life will get real. Recognizing this fact can help you to prepare for what will be coming your way and allow you to make a game plan to stay walking with God.

Breakout Session 3

Main Teaching: I am done playing games. I desire life and not death.

OPTION 2 - GROUP ACTIVITY

Worship

[Purpose] Cultivate a desire to be in the presence of God

[Set Up] Space where your entire group can gather together and sing. You don't need instruments, but if you have someone who can lead you and feel like that would be helpful, by all means do that. Select 3-5 songs that your students know and spend some time singing together.

[Instructions] Students love to sing and camp is a great place to do that. God has broken some chains in your students lives and now is a time for them to sit back and worship Him for being amazing. Create, as best you can, an environment where everyone can eliminate the distractions around them and truly worship God together. Spend as much time as you need cultivating this idea of worship with your students and then begin to sing and pray together.

[Spiritual Application] The people of God have and will always be a singing people. This is one of the things that separates us from so many other religions. We can sing because we have hope. We can sing because our God reigns. We will be singing for eternity. Help instill in your students these truths.

Breakout Session 3

Main Teaching: I am done playing games. I desire life and not death.

OPTION 3 - INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY

Character of God

[Purpose] The better you know the character of God, the better you know God.

[Set Up] Space where each student can find their own space and not be distracted.

[Instructions] Make sure each student has the Attributes of God handout in the Appendix. Pass out the sheet and make sure everyone has their Bible. Encourage them to look up each of the passages and attempt to fill out the blanks on the sheet. After they fill out one of the blanks tell them to think about how they have taken that aspect of who God is for granted and then pray that they can be more aware of that attribute of God.

[Spiritual Application] Spending time learning about who God is has been the theme of the week. The Psalmist knew that the more he knew God and His ways that better he would be at walking with God. These are just a few of the attributes about God. The great thing about God is that we could spend the rest of our night talking about Him and would not run out of things to say. The problem with most people is that their view of God is so small that they run out of things to say very quickly. The more we study about Him and spend time in His Word, the better at this we will be.

Appendix

FIND MY VOICE TASKS

Tasks:

1. Take off your left shoe and give it to your partner.
2. Find your partner and trade name badges with them.
3. Find one of the partners of an individual holding your partners hand and both of you shake hands with your partners at the same time.
4. Turn in your Bible to Psalm 119 and bring it to your Youth Leader.
5. Find a pen and write your name on your partners right hand.

Optional - Create your own tasks

WALK THE LINE

1. Walk the line if you have traveled out of the country
2. Walk the line if you have ever broken a bone
3. Walk the line if you have ever told a joke and nobody laughed.
4. Walk the line if you have ever been lost and refused to ask for directions
5. Walk the line if you are the oldest sibling
6. Walk the line if you have ever bombed a test
7. Walk the line if you have ever been lied to
8. Walk the line if you have ever doubted God or have been angry at God
9. Walk the line if you are insecure about sharing the gospel with other people
10. Walk the line if you are holding on to or forgiving someone in your past.
11. Walk the line if you are having trouble forgiving yourself
12. Walk the line if you are currently in a fight with someone you are close to and haven't settled things
13. Walk the line if you have ever been made fun of for your faith
14. Walk the line if you come from a single-parent, divorced or broken home
15. Walk the line if you have been affected by alcohol or drug abuse by a family member or someone close to you
16. Walk the line if you have ever been afraid to go home
17. Walk the line if one of your family members has ever battled cancer or a life-threatening disease?
18. Walk the line if you have ever been told that you aren't smart enough to go to college or achieve something with your life.
19. Walk the line if you have lost a family member or close friend
20. Walk the line if you have ever struggled with being good enough for God
21. Walk the line if you feel like you are wearing a mask
22. Walk the line if you have ever been put down because of your weight
23. Walk the line if you have ever struggled with self-image or fitting in
24. Walk the line if you have ever felt alone
25. Walk the line if you have ever dealt with anger issues or have been the victim of someone who does.
26. Walk the line if you have been made fun of for the way that you dress
27. Walk the line if you feel like you haven't lived up to your parents standards
28. Walk the line if you have been made fun of by someone in this room
29. Walk the line if you have made fun of someone in this room
30. Walk the line if you have ever struggled with issues about your sexuality
31. Walk the line if you have ever thought about hurting yourself
32. Walk the line if you never realized how many people struggle with what you are struggling with
33. If you wanted to step across the line at some point, but chose not to out of fear, here's your chance, walk the line.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

God is _____

- We will never fully know God, but we can personally know Him (John 17.3)

God is _____

- He doesn't actually need us for anything (Romans 11.36)
- He chooses to give us value and significance (Isaiah 43.7)

God is _____

- He is the same forever (Psalm 102.27)

God is _____

- He has no beginning or end (Ephesians 1.4)

God is _____

- He is unlimited in regard to time and space (Jeremiah 23.23)

God is _____

- His being is not made of matter (John 4.24)

God is _____

- God knows everything (1 John 3.20)

God is _____

- He chooses the best possible goals and the best possible means to meet those goals (Romans 16.27)

God is _____

- All His knowledge and all His words are both true and the final standard of truth (Jeremiah 10.10)

God is _____

- There is no higher standard of goodness than God's own character (Luke 18.19)

God is _____

- God eternally gives Himself for the good of others (1 John 4.8)

God is _____

- He is separate from sin and devoted to seeking His own honor (Psalm 99.9)

God is _____ and

- God always acts in accordance with what is right (Deuteronomy 32.4)

God is _____

- He desires that worship be given only to himself and not to anyone or anything else (Exodus 20.5)

God is _____ toward Sin

- God intensely hates all sin (Romans 1.18)

God has _____

- Nothing can hinder God from doing His will (Psalm 115.3)

God is _____

- He is all powerful (Jeremiah 32.17)

God is _____

- He fully possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him (Matthew 5.48)

God is _____

- God is the sum of all desirable qualities (Psalm 27.4)

God is _____

- God is unified in all his attributes (Deuteronomy 6.4)