



intentional evangelism initiative

A Resource for **Covenant Camps** using the BLESS intentional evangelism initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Our Covenant Camps provide a unique opportunity for evangelism. With the amount of concentrated time with campers, alongside the temporary community, trained staff, natural setting and spiritual practices – it’s as if camps were made for this!

BLESS is five simple missional practices that we can use to naturally introduce people to Jesus. More information can be found at www.covchurch.org/bless

This resource supplement was created specifically with camps in mind and will help you contextualize the BLESS initiative into your camp setting. This is designed to be used during the summer season of ministry - for staff training, or as a guide to adopt the BLESS initiative as a camp culture.



begin with prayer

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”
- Ephesians 6:18

Jesus came to find people who are lost and help those who are hurting. As we seek to join him in his mission, we begin with prayer recognizing we can only do this through God’s power.

Turn to God: Take some time to pray for every camper who will be at camp. Begin by asking God, “In what ways are you already at work? Where do you want me to join you in the work you are doing in these campers?”


Application



Pray each day, individually for campers.



On the first day of camp, pray as an entire staff for the incoming group of campers.

 Throughout each week, take note of campers and create a prayer list.

Brainstorm

What are some ways you can be praying for campers this summer?

Resources

Throughout the week at camp write a short list of campers whom you long to see commit to faith in Christ. Place the list inside your Bible, on your dashboard, or on a note in your cell phone. Commit to start every day with prayer asking God to use you to bless someone in your world who does not know him. Not sure what to pray? Here are some ideas:

1. Pray that _____ will become thirsty for God (John 7:37-39).
2. Pray that the Father will draw _____ to Jesus (John 6:44-45)
3. Pray that _____ will become open to God's truth (2 Corinthians 4:4-6).
4. Pray that _____ will become receptive to God's grace (Romans 3:23-24; Titus 3:4-7).
5. Prayer for _____'s heartfelt conviction of sin and their need for God (John 16:8-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5)
6. Pray for _____ to take genuine steps of repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10).
7. Pray that _____ will clearly experience God's love (1 John 4:7-10, 19-21).
8. Pray that _____ will develop a heartfelt and willful belief and acceptance of Jesus as King and Lord (John 10: 27-30)
9. Pray for _____ to develop deep spiritual rootedness in Christ (John 15:5; Colossians 2:6-7).
10. Pray for _____ to reproduce God's mission to others who are far from God (Matthew 28:18-20).





listen with care

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;”

- James 1:19

Trust is key when establishing a relationship with a camper. The best way you can do this is by listening to them carefully. Throughout the week, ask questions of campers and listen carefully to how they answer.

Application

Start out the week by asking questions to get to know campers better.

- ▶ Do you have siblings?
- ▶ What are some of your favorite things to do?
- ▶ What is your favorite subject in school?

When the opportunity presents itself, ask campers some more spiritually guided questions.

- ▶ Do you have a church back home?
- ▶ What have you thought about chapel so far? Is there anything that has caught your attention?
- ▶ What has your faith journey looked like so far?
- ▶ Do you consider yourself a Christian?
- ▶ Have you ever been told about the gospel? Are you interested in hearing more about it?
- ▶ What has your experience been with church? With Christians?

Brainstorm

Create a list of some questions you hope to ask your campers. Look for opportunities in your camp schedule where you think you'll be able to have these conversations.





eat together

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

- Acts 2:42

Eating meals communally is a foundation of camping ministry. Sitting around the table, sharing a meal is the truest form of hospitality, and a representation of Christ commonly sharing the table with unlikely people.

Application

While eating meals with campers at camp....

- ▶ Make intentional use of the time, continue to listen carefully and ask questions.
- ▶ Take turns serving one another by alternating bussing people’s plates, wiping down the table, etc.

Think creatively about other ways around camp to “eat together”....

- ▶ Have a conversation with a camper over a snack or drink from the canteen.
- ▶ Go for a walk with a camper with a cup of coffee.
- ▶ Plan special surprises for campers with treats.

Brainstorm

Think of some ways to intentionally use camp meal time. What are some things you hope to do? What are some creative ways you can eat together with your campers?





serve with love

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

- Galatians 5:13-14

Jesus' ministry was characterized by service (Matthew 20:28), and he showed the full extent of his love to his disciples by serving them. (John 13:1-17). Camp is rooted in service. There are so many opportunities within the context of a week of camp for staff to serve campers, and for campers to serve one another.

Application

Ideas for ways to serve with love while at camp..

▶ Start by serving your campers, be an example!

- Help them with everyday tasks.
- Offer to pray for them when they are upset.
- Encourage them throughout the week.
- Lend them something if they forgot it at home.

▶ *Encourage a spirit of service throughout your whole cabin.*

- Allow campers to serve and disciple to one another.
- Do a service project together as a cabin.
- Look for ways to serve other campers at camp!

Brainstorm

What are some ideas you have about ways you can serve with love this summer? Think of ways you can serve other staff members and campers, as well as how you can encourage campers to serve one another.





share your story

“ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

- 1 John 5:11

Camp is a great environment to share your story. Once you begin building trust with your campers, BLESS them by sharing the story of how Jesus is transforming your life and this world. Keep in mind your story is unique and special; it does not need to have a script or be dramatic.

Application

Ideas for how to share your story

- ▶ BEFORE: Your story before you committed your life to following Jesus. Share what was missing in your life.
- ▶ DURING: Your story of how you made a commitment to follow Jesus. Tell how you made that commitment and what you did.
- ▶ AFTER: Your story after you made a commitment to follow Jesus. Tell about the difference that following Jesus has made in your life.

If your story doesn't follow a before, during and after pattern, consider a time when God worked in your life and you were changed, or a time when you had a significant encounter with God.

Ideas for when to share you story

- ▶ You can share your story with your whole cabin during devotional times.
- ▶ You can share your story individually while talking to a camper.
- ▶ You can also encourage your campers to share their own stories with each other!

Brainstorm

Make sure you know your own story. Take some time to jot down your own “before, during, and after”; or any story you think you could share about how Jesus has worked in your life.

