



Grace Church Elementary

# Camp Grace

## PROMOTION WEEKEND

All Grades



**Personal Preparation:** Welcome to a new year in Camp Grace! Whether you are

new or a returning volunteer, know that we are glad to have your leadership and partnership in Grace Church Kids! Your role is huge part of carrying out our mission.

The mission of Grace Church Kids is to **ASSIST PARENTS** in leading their children toward a Gospel-centered life, to equip volunteers to **SHEPHERD CHILDREN**, and **ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO GROW IN CHRIST BY TEACHING THEM BIBLICAL TRUTHS IN MEANINGFUL WAYS**.

Spend some time in prayerful preparation for the new year in Camp Grace. Like the Psalm of David, pray, “Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways...” Psalm 51:10-13.

Ask the Lord to give you a consistent desire to connect with parents – to pursue a relationship with them and to truly partner with them in leading their children toward a Gospel-centered life. Commit our new campers to the Lord. Ask for His overflowing spirit, wisdom, and direction to help you shepherd the children he has entrusted to our care. Just as a shepherd tends, feeds, and guards his flock, you have an opportunity to care for and give spiritual nourishment and instruction to these children – take time to reflect on that opportunity. Ask the Lord to help you honor Him through your weekly teaching of His Word in Big Group – that you will be fully invested in communicating the truths in a way that our campers will hear and understand.

In final preparations for the weekend, read through the activities below and choose a couple to use as a means to know your campers better! We look forward to kicking off the new year in Camp Grace with you soon!

### **PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive**

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today’s principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

## Introductions / Getting to Know You

### Supplies:

“Getting to Know You” worksheet (1 per camper)

Welcome your campers to your cabin and spend a few minutes introducing yourself. Collect information about your campers using the “Getting to Know You Worksheet.”

If you share a cabin (on a rotation), please give the worksheets to your coach so copies can be made for each teacher in the cabin.

## Cabin Flag

### Supplies:

Piece of canvas cut to size for cabin flag (1 per session)

Bag of fabric markers or sharpies (various colors) (1 bag per bin)

Before you come to Big Group, have your campers decorate your cabin’s flag. Help create excitement for your cabin identity. Be sure to carry this into Big Group each week. Additional time can be spent on this at the end of class if needed.



## BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

\*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.



## SMALL GROUP TIME - 25-30 minutes

## Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

This Camp Grace language has been created in an effort to come alongside you and our Big Group volunteers to more clearly communicate our expectations of children. Please begin to utilize this acrostic in leading your children, managing your cabin, and correcting behavioral issues.

Talk about these expectations to your campers and ask children to give examples of how they can live out each element of GRACE in the classroom. Be prepared to give some positive and negative examples of each.

In Camp Grace - We live out G.R.A.C.E.

G - Glorify God  
R - Respect all Leaders  
A - Accept Responsibility  
C - Celebrate Christ

## E - Encourage Others

Now, what does this all mean? How do we use or live out G-R-A-C-E? In Big Group, we glorify God by participating in worship with attentive hearts and minds. In the classroom, we glorify God by listening to our leaders, contributing to conversation, etc. When we celebrate Christ and all He has done for us, we are kind to others. Christ has been patient with us, so we are patient with others. (Teachers, if someone is being unkind to a classmate, you can use the corrective question, "are you encouraging others?" and remind the child of the "E" in GRACE.)

## Spider Web Name Toss

### Supplies:

Spool of yarn (1 per bin)

Have the campers sit in a circle and emphasize that they must remain in their seats or seated on ground. Start the game by calling out the name of someone else in the circle. While holding on to the end of the yarn, throw the ball of yarn to the person you called (a string should be linking the two of you together). The receiver then does the same (calls out the name of someone in the circle, then while holding on to a piece of the yarn, throws the ball of yarn to that person.)

As this continues, a web begins to be formed by the crisscrossing string. The fun really starts when the group has to undo the web by calling names and rewinding the ball of yarn! Check out this link for a demo: [www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activity/web-of-names.html](http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activity/web-of-names.html).

Teachers – please wind the yarn back into a ball/spool at the end of the activity for the next class/storage.

## Getting To Know Your Campers

### Supplies:

Colored pieces of cardstock (green, orange, blue, yellow, pink) (1 per color per bin)

Let each camper choose a color. Next, tell them that you will go around the room and say their favorite \_\_\_\_\_ based on what color they have. After everyone has shared, let them choose a different color and repeat the game.

Pink – Favorite sport

Green – Favorite color

Orange – Wildcard (favorite anything)

Blue – Favorite flavor of ice cream

Yellow – Favorite animal

## The Line-Up Game

The goal of this activity is for kids to line themselves up in order, according to pre-determined criteria. For example: shortest to tallest, alphabetically by last name, chronologically in order of birth date, etc. Start with the easiest ones first to help alleviate any hesitancy to participate and to give kids a sense of success. This game gives kids the chance to utilize communication, cooperation, and problem-solving skills. You might also want to watch carefully to see which students seem to

take charge, and which need prompting to get involved. For a real challenge, have students perform tasks without verbal communication.

## Elimination

All students begin the game standing. The leader calls out a characteristic, and all students who possess that characteristic remain standing while the others sit down. For example: has an older sibling, has a dog, likes math, has toast for breakfast this morning. Get creative. The last person standing gets to run the next round. This game is a great way for students to learn about each other in a fun way.

## Tied in Knots

1. Have everyone stand in a circle.
2. Reach out with their left hand, and grasp someone's hand.
3. Reach out with the right hand, and grasp someone else's hand. Each player must be holding hands with two different people.
4. Challenge them to undo themselves into a circle.

It can work with any size group, but small to medium size groups work best. Once you get over 9 people, split them into two groups. The groups must always have an even number so the leader may have to get involved too.

If you have extra time, repeat some of the previous games, or play your own game with your campers. This time is for you to get to know them better!



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