



SUMMER 2024
ACCESS

CAMPER PREPARATION PACKET

**WHAT INFORMATION
WILL YOU RECEIVE?**

+ STUFF TO BRING

+ WEEK WALK-THROUGH

+ MEDICAL INFORMATION

+ FAQs

+ CCC RULES

+ GROUP DEVOTIONS

+ 2024 FORMS

+ SUMMER THEME



WHAT TO BRING

REQUIRED

- Bible
- Access Experience Worksite Clothes and Shoes
 - Enough for four days. They will get dirty and possibly ruined. Long pants must be worn on the work site; jeans or scrubs are preferred. Shirts must have sleeves. Clothes must have no questionable graphics or text (e.g., tobacco/beer ads). Ensure there are no rips or holes in the clothing in areas others may find offensive.
 - Shoes need to be sneakers or work boots. Crocs, Keens, Chacos, etc, do not qualify as work site shoes. No open toed shoes are allowed on work sites.
- In-Camp Clothes & Shoes
 - Enough for six days. Steer clear of clothing that others could find offensive or inappropriate. Remember: it can be cooler in the evenings, so we suggest bringing a few warmer clothes and a lightweight jacket.
 - Open-toed shoes may be worn around camp.
- Spending money
 - You may make a few stops after the work day to get a drink, and we will have a camp “store” open every night with camp shirts, drinks, & candy. Friday afternoon will also be a “free day” and you’ll be responsible for purchasing your own lunch and anything you want to buy in the community!
- Toiletries & Towels: For bathing and sitting on the ground outside.
- Bedding: Sheets and a blanket for a single bed or a sleeping bag. Don’t forget a pillow!
- Reusable water bottle - Hydration is key! (So is saving the planet!)
- Backpack to take essentials to the worksite
- Hammer: Bring your own hammer, preferably a 16-oz. claw hammer.
- Safety goggles: Bring your own pair of safety goggles (ordinary sunglasses or prescription glasses don’t count).
- Work gloves: Bring your own pair of work gloves, preferably tough and durable.

ACCESS PROGRAM

WHAT TO BRING

RECOMMENDED

- Flashlight
- Bathing suit
- Sunscreen
- Sandals for the shower
- Insect repellent
- Insurance card
- Guitar or other instruments
- Lawn Chair: Great for free time and outdoor activities.
- Ear Plugs: If you're sensitive to people snoring.
- Journal
- Trash bag for dirty clothes
- Hat
- Surge Protector/Extension Cord
- Letters or packages from family or church members (there will not be mail throughout the week)

SUMMER 2024

ACCESS EXPERIENCE WEEK WALK-TROUGH

Sunday

On Sunday, all groups arrive and settle in, and we spend the rest of the afternoon/evening getting to know one another and prepping for our week.

1:30 - 3:30 - All campers arrive and settle in

4:00 - Orientation

- Team Building & Work Group
- Breakdown

6:00 - Dinner

- Adult Meeting with Camp Admin

7:00 - Work Site Prep

- Tool Tutorial/Project Information

8:30 - Worship/Small Group

10:00 - Quiet Time

10:30 - Lights Out

OUR WORK GROUPS (WE CALL THEM **CMGS**)
STAY THE SAME AND WORK TOGETHER ON
2-3 PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

Monday - Thursday

These days look similar. Daily projects and nightly activities will vary, but the overall schedule will remain the same.

7:00 - Wake Up

7:30 - Breakfast

Morning Watch

Major Group Meeting

9:00 - 4:00 - Serving in the community doing safe access projects and building relationships with homeowners!

5:00 - 5:30 Arrive back in camp, shower, rest, and get ready for evening activities!

6:00 - Dinner

- Adult meeting

Evening Activity times will vary but we will do the following things each night:

- Small group with church
- Worship
- Sharing
- Camp Activity/Free time
- Canteen (Camp "store" will be open)

10:30 - Quiet Time

11:00 - Lights Out

SUMMER 2024

ACCESS EXPERIENCE WEEK WALK-TROUGH

ON FRIDAYS, CMGS WORK WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY IN A WAY THAT SUPPORTS WHAT IS HAPPENING ON A LONG-TERM BASIS. GROUPS MIGHT SERVE AT FOOD PANTRIES, CLOTHING CLOSETS, NURSING HOMES, ETC. AFTER YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT IN THE MORNING, YOUR GROUP WILL HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER AT THE PLACE OF YOUR CHOOSING AND HAVE THE AFTERNOON TO EXPLORE!

Friday

7:00 - Wake Up

7:30 - Breakfast

- Morning Watch
- Major Group Meeting

9:00 - 5:00 - Community Service Projects, Lunch, Free Time

6:00 - Dinner, CMG Celebration

7:30 - Small group with church

8:30 - Campfire, Sharing, Worship

Saturday

Wake up, clean camp, head home by 10 AM

MEDICAL INFORMATION

SAFETY FIRST!

We strongly emphasize safety on our work sites and in camp. Our staff people visit and check work sites several times a day to ensure the safety of participants. We never anticipate accidents, but we are prepared to handle them. All CCC staff members are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR. We strongly recommend each participant have an up-to-date tetanus shot.

ACTIVITY PERMISSION & MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

Carolina Cross Connection requires all its participants (students and adults) to complete an Activity Permission and Medical Consent Form before we allow them to participate in any camp activities. **Of course, adults do not need parental consent, but they still need to fill out a form.** The most critical part of these forms is the participant's insurance information.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CCC PARTICIPANTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. PRIMARY Insurance Carrier:

The Participant's Insurance — Your insurance information MUST be provided on the Activity Permission and Medical Consent Form. Should an accident occur, in or out of camp, the camper's family insurance will be the primary carrier. In other words, during the initial visit to the hospital, the camper's insurance will be given to hospital personnel. If possible, everyone should carry their personal insurance card.

2. SECONDARY Insurance Carrier:

CCC and/or Camp Insurance — Each participant at Carolina Cross Connection is also covered under our insurance policy and a policy at the camp location they attend. Should an accident occur in-camp, on a worksite, or in transit to or from a worksite, CCC's insurance covers any costs not covered by the primary carrier (your insurance policy).

3. The participant and their family must pay any medical costs not covered by this participant's, CCC's, or camp insurance.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY

1. We will take the injured person to the hospital or, if need be, call for an ambulance. Whenever possible, we ensure that the victim is accompanied by at least two people: a CCC staff member and an adult from that person's church. If the emergency occurs on a worksite, the entire work team will accompany the victim to the hospital.
2. We will contact parents/guardians as soon as possible. If parents/guardians are not available, we will contact an emergency contact person, as listed on the Activity Permission, and Medical Consent Form.
3. We will give the insurance information of the injured person to hospital personnel to file the initial claim.
4. Following the camp week, we will send parents/guardians the proper claim form and the information needed to complete that form.
5. Parents/guardians will complete the form entirely.
6. Parents/guardians will attach itemized bills showing the patient's name, diagnosed condition, treatment date (s), nature of treatment, and charge per treatment. Statements from the primary carrier showing payment or rejection of the claim should also be included. If there is no coverage other than CCC insurance, a written statement from the parents/guardian's employer(s) verifying no coverage must be provided.

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IN THE EVENT OF A SERIOUS ILLNESS

Our staff will keep that person in camp to supervise them, attend to their needs, and help them to feel comfortable. If their condition worsens and needs medical attention, we will follow the same steps as above. Depending on the seriousness of the illness, the sick person may have to return home for the sake of their health and the health of other participants.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Carolina Cross Connection is a non-denominational organization. Members of ALL youth groups are encouraged to attend CCC! Students who have completed sixth grade through adults are welcome to attend.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Price varies depending on location, and all participation fees must be paid before campers arrive. The cost is all-inclusive, covering food and lodging for a week. All meals are covered from Sunday dinner to Saturday breakfast. We recommend bringing some extra spending money for snacks and CCC merchandise. You may also want to bring extra spending money for Friday, as we'll spend some time in the community and may have lunch at a local establishment.

DO I HAVE TO HAVE CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE?

Nope! It's always helpful when participants have experience in construction, painting, etc. But we are also eager to have people who are new to such skills! Our staff does an excellent job of drawing up plans, teaching people how to do projects, and ensuring projects are going well.

CAN I LEAVE CAMP EARLY, ARRIVE LATE, OR LEAVE AND THEN RETURN DURING THE WEEK?

We require ALL participants, students and adults, to remain at CCC for the entire week! The experience is based on a tightly-knit community that serves, plays, and worships together. Arriving late, leaving early, and going to and fro are disruptions and can rob people of valuable experiences. If a person cannot commit to a whole CCC week, then they are not quite ready and should wait until they can commit to the time required.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW ARE WE DIVIDED INTO WORK TEAMS?

Each participant is placed in a Christian Mission Group (CMG) of 7-8 people. Each CMG will have 1-2 adults. We form CMGs by mixing up ages, gender, and experience. We will work together with your Group Leader to form these groups and groups will stay with members from their own churches. You will be a member of the same CMG for the entire week. We do not allow participants to “float” between groups.

WILL WE ALWAYS FINISH OUR HOME REPAIR PROJECTS?

We urge groups to work hard to complete their assigned tasks, but we understand that sometimes things just don't get done for whatever reason. Our staff and other CCC volunteers are always standing by to complete any unfinished work; we will not leave a summer without completing ALL projects we begin.

ARE THE WORKSITES SAFE?

All of our work sites are visited and overseen by our trained staff people ahead of time and during the week, and all of our volunteers are taught basic safety precautions. All CMGs will have at least one adult leader. We will ensure that all participants are comfortable and confident in any situation.

WHERE DOES CCC FIND PEOPLE TO SERVE?

We work closely with local social service agencies to make connections with neighbors in the community. We never assume people are in need of service, but strive to build lasting relationships with them and create a space where everyone feels loved, safe, and valued.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO IS IN CHARGE OF CCC?

CCC is a non-profit organization run by a Board of Directors and a full-time office staff. However, CCC is operated by a summer staff at each camp location during the summer. These staff are made up of fun, energetic, college-aged people who love Jesus and one Camp Admin. They look forward to getting to know you, leading you, and serving alongside you!

CAN I SHARE MY CELL PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS, MAILING ADDRESS, SOCIAL MEDIA INFO WITH PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY?

While we understand the purpose of this week is to build relationships, we ask that you take extreme caution when sharing personal information. We have found it best to wait up to a year or two years of knowing someone before sharing personal information. Students are not allowed to share personal contact information under any circumstances. Adults 25 years and older may share information with the understanding that conversations or responses from the community cannot be controlled.

HOW DEMANDING IS THE PHYSICAL ASPECT?

Some of our projects can be more physically involved than others, and often, heavy lifting is required. Regardless of how much you can offer physically, we have found there is always something for everyone to do!

WHAT IS THE WEEK LIKE EMOTIONALLY?

Seeing material poverty up close is emotionally intense. Processing these emotions back at camp is one of the week's focuses. Encourage one another to be open and ready to learn/ask questions to help process the experience.

ACCESS PROGRAM


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WE ROLL WITH IT

We roll with it. In life, teens change, adapt, and grow every day. Camp should be no different. Every group of campers has different needs, and we pride ourselves on being flexible and adaptable based on what our campers tell us they need.

YOU HAVE A QUESTION THAT HASN'T BEEN ANSWERED?

Feel free to contact Haley in the CCC office with further questions or concerns.

 704-721-0033

 haley@carolinacrossconnection.org

CCC RULES

PHONES

Participants can bring their phones but should limit usage during camp activities, on the worksite, and in the vans on the way to and from camp. If phone usage becomes a problem our staff will ask the Group Leader, or another adult from the group, to keep the phone in a safe place so it doesn't distract from the camp community.

WEAPONS & OTHER DANGEROUS ITEMS

We do NOT permit blades (e.g. knives, pocket knives, Leathermans), firearms, paint guns, air rifles, air pistols, BB guns, replicas of weapons, fireworks, water balloons, or water guns in camp. In the past, we have had some accidents attributed to horseplay with such objects. Help us keep our camps as safe and non-threatening as possible. Do not bring these dangerous items!

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

We strongly prefer that no tobacco products be brought or used during the camp week. Smoking/vaping is allowed only in a designated "smoking/vaping area" and is prohibited in all other areas of camp. Cigarette butts and spit cups should be disposed of properly. North Carolina law states that a person under the age of 21 cannot purchase tobacco products. Anyone under the age of 21 should also not be using these products. We expect full compliance with this law, and our logical extension of it: all individuals under the age of 21 are prohibited to use tobacco products at CCC. **CCC PROHIBITS ALL PARTICIPANTS USING TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON OUR WORKSITES, OR EN ROUTE TO AND FROM WORKSITES, INCLUDING PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE 21 & OLDER.**

CCC RULES

ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

POSSESSION OR USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL AT CCC IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED! ANYONE WHO VIOLATES THIS RULE WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY!

SNACKS

Food in sleeping quarters may attract pests and insects. Food in the cabins/sleeping area is strongly discouraged.

NEGATIVE ATTITUDES

No closed-mindedness or attitudes unwilling to experience, grow, and change.

CAMP BOUNDARIES

Each camp location has boundaries that participants are expected to stay in during the week. Camp Admin will explain these on Sunday.

VISITORS

We ask that visitation be limited, as it can interfere with the forming community. Unannounced visitors can also disrupt an evening's activities and the amount of food served at dinner. If someone from home wants to visit, you **MUST** inform the Camp Admin for approval in advance. Mail is always a welcomed way for families and friends.

CMG SWITCHING

All youth and adults are divided into work teams of 7 or 8 called Christian Mission Groups (CMGs). Once you are placed in a CMG, you will remain in that CMG for the

CCC RULES

GENDER-RELATED RULES

CCC also does not tolerate sexual harassment or abuse in any form. Offenders are sent home immediately and possibly reported to authorities based on the offense. Participants are separated by gender identity for designated sleeping areas. We are happy to accommodate any participant requiring extra privacy, etc. Please speak with our administrators before arriving at camp so we can make appropriate arrangements.

VIOLENCE

Participants are prohibited from threatening, fighting with, or intentionally harming others – physically, emotionally, or mentally. Intentionally harming oneself is prohibited.

PRANKS

CCC does not tolerate or encourage pranks from youth or adults. There are plenty of opportunities to build community and have fun in positive, healthy ways. Please be respectful of how pranks can disrupt a community and be a burden on our staff. The staff are working long hours and need to get as much rest as possible and not be concerned with pranks being played on them or others in camp. They are also juggling many responsibilities and need to focus on ensuring everything is taken care of – we appreciate you working WITH US and not against us!

LIGHTS OUT

All participants will go to bed between 10:30 and 11:30 in a time called “Lights Out,” no exceptions. You will be working long hours, and we want everyone to have energy to function safely during the day. Drivers especially need their rest. So, when the lights go out, EVERYONE must go to bed.

ACCESS PROGRAM

CCC RULES

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Students are not allowed to share personal contact information under any circumstances. Adults 25 years and older may share information with the understanding that conversations or responses from the community cannot be controlled. This includes phone numbers, email addresses, social media accounts, and mailing addresses. An alternative is to share the church's information to correspond through this method. Exceptions can be made with companions of local organizations that we partner with. Although this rule can be challenging, please understand we have all participant's best interests in mind.

ACCESS PROGRAM

RELEASE OF RIGHTS

We live in a world that is full of rights. Our particular culture is one where we take pride in our rights. As a matter of fact, the rights of individuals are constitutional. Still, as the demand for individual rights increases, we see much of the moral fiber of our society decrease. Jesus laid down His rights and all His glory, to the heavens, to become a man and to serve, not to be served. (Phil 2:5-11 and Mark 10:45)

We ask you to consider laying down your rights this week. Not to lay them down for better or for worse, but to entrust them to the Lord or transfer the responsibility of them to a place of safekeeping. These rights may seem unreasonable but in a week of mission work could cause dissension. Would you take time to search your heart and willingness to surrender your rights

ACCESS PROGRAM

RELEASE OF RIGHTS

I GIVE UP MY RIGHT TO	I ENTRUST TO GOD
A comfortable bed	My strength and endurance
Dressing fashionably	My security in God
Seeing results	God's purpose and fruit in God's timing
Control of others	His workmanship in others
Control of circumstances	My circumstances to His purpose in making me Christ-like
Having pleasant circumstances	The privilege of suffering for His sake
Making decisions	His sovereign hand in my life
Taking up offense	My deepest needs
Being succesful	My security in His love
Being understood	My reputation
Being heard	My need for recognition
Being right	My need for his righteousness

ACCESS PROGRAM

RELEASE OF RIGHTS

Which "right" do you give up for the week which will allow God to step in and provide in a new and exciting way? List three!

Which one will be the hardest for you?

How do you think giving these things up will help you have a better experience at CCC?

4 TYPES OF GUESTS

When we visit these people, we are their guests. We don't have all of the answers to their problems, we are not better than them in any way, we are guests entering their space. What type of guest are you? If you are in one of the first three categories, what is it going to take to get you to the fourth?

INSULATED	INTERESTED	INVOLVED	INTEGRATED
Stays by self/group	Only interacting with very few	Open and friendly to all	Having conversations where they share openly and listen well
Laughs at differences	Polite in new situations; Is sensitive	Asks good questions	Ask good questions and seeks to fully understand the situation
Hangs out close to leaders and uses hand sanitizer often	Will learn names and take pictures	Learns about the lives of our hosts and is in the middle of whatever we are doing	Dirt all over at end of day from working; Has deep conversations; Prays with those hurting
Does devotions but never shares	Does devotions and shares thoughts	Participates in group discussions and seeks to add value to talks; prays for teammates and new friends	Begins to ask questions not posed in devotions; seeks to see what God may want them to see in the everyday interactions

ACCESS PROGRAM

4 TYPES OF GUEST

Based on your past experiences, what type of guest have you been? Is it easier to be an Insulated guest or an Integrated guest?

What are some ways you can push yourself each day to go from insulated to integrated?

How do you think each of these 4 types of guests make the people we're working for feel?

Consider the commitment below and what it means to be a part of this mission team!

COMMITMENT:

I give God permission to do anything He wishes to me, with me, in me, or through me that would glorify Him. I am also committing to faithfully participate on a CCC team. I understand that requirements of serving on this team will be to help with team development and preparation for departure. This will involve completing the requested Bible Study, raising costs or personal expenses, and other activities. I also understand that throughout the time of our camp, I will be supportive of leadership and other team members, assume the best about others, remain flexible and be a blessing.

EMPOWERING OTHERS & THE FAMILIES WE WORK WITH

One of our core values at CCC is empowering others and the families we work with. When we go out each day, we want to treat everyone with respect and care. Anything we can do to involve everyone in the work we are doing will give them a feeling of worth. It will be empowering! On the other hand, if we ignore the people we are visiting and do not listen to their suggestions, we will overpower them.

This same idea is true for the members of your work group for the week. Treating everyone in the CMG in a way that will empower them is essential. Below are some examples of overpowering and empowering. Please review these and model the example of empowering in camp and on work sites as much as possible. It will make a much more enriching service experience for everyone.

OVERPOWERING	EMPOWERING
Those with special skills doing all the work themselves because they can do it better and faster than others in the CMG.	Those with special skills in the CMG patiently teach and share their skills with others in the team.
Ignoring the person you are working with and their input and suggestion on how and what is to be done at their home.	Making sure that person you're working with has input into the work and how it is done. If members of the neighbor are willing and physically able, maybe inviting them to help with the project.
Project decisions made by one or a few CMG members and imposed on the whole team.	All CMG members share ideas about how to approach a project.
CMG members buy materials they feel are best for a project and discard those made available by the person you are working with or by the community.	Using materials provided by the person you work for, even if they're not the very best quality. (CCC's philosophy is that campers provide labor and tools. The community and the people we work with provide materials.)
Only letting girls or younger members of the CMG do certain tasks like cleaning or bringing things for the boys or older members.	No difference made between sex or age when dividing up tasks that the CMG team should do. All members should have the opportunity to help with all tasks, from simple chores to complex work.
CMG interacting only with each other. Over-working so that you can get done early and get back to camp with more free time and a shower.	Interacting with people we work with on a personal level with real interest and care. Not strictly task oriented.

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23 NRSVUE

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, [a] hear!"

The Purpose of the Parable

10 Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets [b] of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 13 The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' 14 With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen but never understand, and you will indeed look but never perceive. 15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, so that they might not look with their eyes, and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.' 16 "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

The Parable of the Sower Explained

18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. [c] 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this [d] age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:1-2; 10-17

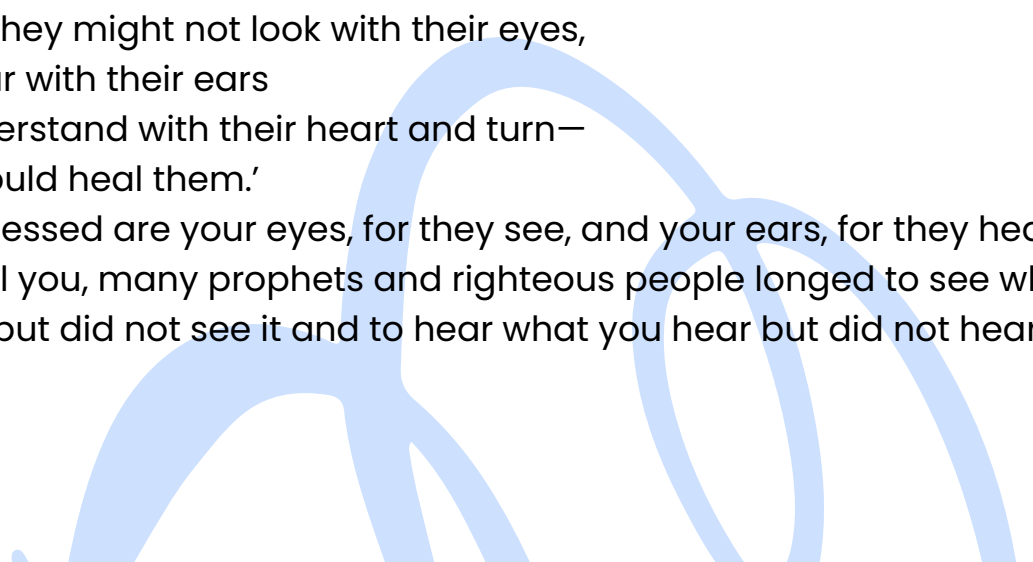
1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

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'You will indeed listen but never understand,
and you will indeed look but never perceive.

15 For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

16 "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.



SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

SUNDAY

Main Idea:

This week at CCC is for everyone. We are using this passage to illustrate that Jesus did not have barriers. His message was for everyone. He did not check their identity on the seaside. He just got in a boat, rowed out a little ways so people could hear him. And he gave everyone the same opportunity.

Small Group Questions:

Ice Breaker. If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

1. Why do you think Jesus used a parable to explain his message? How does this relate to making his teachings accessible to everyone?
2. In what ways might the accessibility of Jesus' message in the parable of the sower impact how people from different backgrounds understand and connect with it?
3. How can we ensure that everyone, regardless of their circumstances or abilities, has the opportunity to hear and understand the message of Jesus?
4. Why is it important for us to think about accessibility when sharing stories or lessons from the Bible with others? How can we make sure that everyone feels included and able to participate in our discussions and activities?

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

MONDAY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:3

3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.

Main Idea:

Jesus wants everyone to have the opportunity to hear. It is not forced and everyone has equal opportunity to hear and receive.

Small Group Questions:

Ice Breaker. What's something you're really passionate about and why does it interest you?

1. What do you know about seeds and plants?
2. How do you think we can cultivate a community where people feel supported and encouraged in their spiritual growth, regardless of where they are on their journey?
3. What are some ways we can nurture the seeds of faith in ourselves and others, even in challenging or less-than-ideal circumstances?
4. How can we ensure that our faith community remains inclusive of everyone, particularly those who may feel marginalized or overlooked?

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:4, 19

4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

Main Idea:

Even when we don't want to absorb the love Jesus offers, he offers it anyway.

Small Group Questions:

Ice Breaker: If you could have any superpower, but it had to be a bit silly, what would it be?

1. How would you explain the type of soil/dirt on a path?
2. Have you ever felt that way when listening to someone talk about God?
3. What do you think causes us to respond like the path soil?
4. What role do you think empathy and compassion play in fostering a welcoming environment for everyone, regardless of their background?

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:5-6; 20-21

5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.

20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

Main Idea:

Rocky soil isn't turned off to love, it just doesn't allow love to root in and change their behavior.

Small Group Questions:

Ice Breaker: If you were a pizza topping, what topping would you be and why? Bonus points if you can come up with a creative pizza name for yourself!

1. Let's talk about the things in the story that made it hard for the seeds to grow. How do those same things show up in our own lives, and what can we do about them?
2. How can we help each other through the tough times when it feels hard to keep believing in what we know is true?
3. Why is it important to think about how our words and actions might affect someone else's beliefs or journey?
4. How does knowing that God loves and accepts everyone influence the way we treat each other in our group?

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:7, 22

7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

Main Idea:

You have spent almost a week hearing about love, and loving others. Tonight we will take communion. Communion is a community activity. Where collectively we receive the love of God. We have the opportunity for reflection here on who we are and what we want to become. The example is an Open Table where all belong and are accepted. How do we become more like that?

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:8-9, 23

8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, [a] hear!"

23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Main Idea:

Love produces love.

Small Group Questions:

Ice Breaker: What's something you're looking forward to in the future, whether it's a goal you want to achieve or an experience you want to have?

1. Think about the different endings for the seeds in the story. What can we learn from that about how people grow and change spiritually?
2. How can we celebrate the fact that everyone's journey with faith is unique and special?
3. Why is it important to be kind and understanding to everyone, no matter where they come from or who they are?
4. What are some things we can do as a group to make sure that everyone feels like they're important and belong with us?

SUMMER THEME 2024

CULTIVATE

CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY & SERVICE

SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:8-9, 23

8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, [a] hear!"

23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Main Idea:

Now go and tell others.