

NetWorks

Day One: Te Tereraa...Journey

Leave All, Answer the Call

Yesterday we celebrated coming together for camp, happy to see old friends and make new ones. We began the path of peace on the beach, but we know our path does not end here. We are called to walk the path and so we begin our journey. This morning we watched our two explorers try to decide what to take with them and what needs left behind.

This same decision is placed in front of people all the time. Let's take the next little while to listen and learn from four people who were faced with that decision a long time ago.

Sacred Story

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22

Context: Written near the end of the first century, the book of Matthew is the first of the four Gospels and concentrates on the words and actions, teaching and preaching of Jesus. In today's scripture, Jesus has traveled to Capernaum. On the banks of the Sea of Galilee he called to Peter and Andrew and said to them "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

Focus: Answering the call of Christ in our lives

Materials

tape or CD of ocean and sea sounds

fish shaped crackers for everyone

piece of net used for fishing

Have CD of sea sounds playing and invite students to listen quietly as you read Matthew 4:18-22 aloud.

Ask students to imagine how the four men must have felt when Jesus called them away from their normal lives. Ask them to imagine the concerns and questions each one must have considered while deciding.

Peter, Andrew and John had spent time with Jesus and had some feelings about him. Only James was new to him. However, on this day, Jesus was calling them to a new level of commitment.

Ask students to share when they have heard Christ calling them. Ask when they chose to become a follower. Pass around the fish net. Explain that in Jesus' day, the nets would require mending every day to prevent tears and holes. Ask students how their lives are like the nets. How do they need to be mended? Pass out fish crackers and discuss what it means to be a "fisher" for Jesus. Who do the fish represent? Who are they called to touch with the 'good news' of Jesus? Give students time to journal about how this scripture touches them. Close with prayer for courage to answer Christ's call.

Making the Point through Play

Objective: In groups of eight to ten, campers will determine what elements of their life they need to leave behind and what they need to gather or take with them on the journey this week.

Age Group: upper elementary to senior high

Materials: approximately 4'x5' plastic tarp for each 10-12 campers (you can use a larger piece for younger age campers, a few large permanent marker.

Procedure: Remind campers of the morning drama in which the two participants had to choose what they left behind and what they kept. Tell them that they now will need to decide what they

need to leave behind that might keep them from making the journey this week on the Path of Peace. Ask them to write on one side of the tarp the things they decided needed to stay. Now invite them to think about where they want to go and what they hope happens this week on the journey. Have them write those things on the opposite side. Turn the tarp so the things to leave behind are face up.

Next have campers all get on the tarp. Tell them the objective is to turn the tarp over so that the side representing what they hope for is up. Here is the catch: they all must be in contact with the tarp at all times. While there is room for creative solutions, at no time should campers elevate one another in any way.

Debrief: How well did you work together? What worked, what didn't? What kind of things will you leave behind? What do you hope for? Will you do it?

If there is room on your campground, hang tarps so the side with things hoped for is face out.

Tales of Tahiti

Those Who Said Yes!

Earlier we heard the story of Peter and Andrew, James and John who left all to answer the call. People have responded in the same way ever since. In the fall of 1843, four nineteenth century men were asked to accept the challenge of spreading the gospel to the Sandwich Islands. Each was asked to leave behind the life they had. Each realized the cost would be high. Each had a decision to make. Each of these men said yes!

Sometimes when we say yes, we end up someplace other than where we thought we were going. We are going to follow the early part of the journey of these courageous men.

Depending on time available, choose one of the following options:

- provide each of the island groups with information about one of the missionaries found below. Have them read about and briefly discuss the assigned missionary. With poster board or chart papers, have each group create a poster that describes the missionary. Have each group briefly introduce the assigned missionary to the larger group. When each group has shared, tell the story of the call and response of these men and the beginning of their journey. Place the posters around camp.
- read or tell the story of the four missionaries based on the information found below.

Addison Pratt

Addison Pratt had been at sea since his youth and in 1822 had stopped at Oahu for six months. He was familiar to some degree with both the Polynesian language and culture. He had a large family, so leaving his wife, Louisa, with four teen-age daughters would be difficult, but he was a pioneer who seldom refused a challenge. Addison was short and stocky with thick, dark hair that blended into shaggy sideburns connecting Quaker-fashion under his square chin.

Benjamin F. Grouard

Benjamin F. Grouard, master seaman, shipbuilder, and mechanic, had helped build the first ironclad vessel in America. His knowledge of the sea and ship construction would be invaluable. Admittedly 'wild and unruly' in his youth, Grouard had been at sea since he was fourteen. He had, however, settled down to family life in Nauvoo, at the insistence of his wife, Caroline. News of his mission to the Sandwich Islands would come as a shock to her and possibly create problems between them. Benjamin was a tall quiet man with smooth-shaven features.

Noah Rogers

Seventy Noah Rogers, one of the prophet's bodyguards during the Missouri troubles, was a man Joseph had complete confidence could lead the difficult missionary venture. He and his wife, Eda, had nine children. It would be a great sacrifice for the family if he accepted this assignment. Noah was the oldest of the group.

Knowlton Hanks

Knowlton Hanks had requested a sea voyage. Normally a sick man, he hoped that a sea journey would do him good. He had no wife or family. He was regarded as a good man, but little else is known about Knowlton Hanks.

In the spring of 1843, these four courageous men were asked to leave all and answer the call. Each said yes! There was a special setting apart ceremony in June presided over by Joseph Smith Jr. When the congregation of over 1000 Saints sang "The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning" all who were in attendance were blessed.

After gathering on the East Coast, they spent some time raising money with the Saints and by the fall they had about \$480. They booked passage on the *Whaler Timelon* and left Boston on October 9. When they were about thirty days out Kowlton Hanks died. His friends buried him at sea and continued their journey. Saddened, yet determined, they pressed on.

Journaling Moments

Use reflective music of your choosing and provide journaling books (spiral notebooks work well and usually inexpensive) pens or pencils. It is often better to pick them up and keep them so campers will have them the next day, although some campers really get into journaling and want their journal with them all day. So find what ever works best for your group.

Questions

Have you heard the call? Where is it taking you? What would be hard to leave? Who would be hard to leave? How do you feel about your call? How do you define "sacrifice"? What sacrifices are you willing to make in your life today to answer Christ's call?

Closing

If your campers are in close proximity at the end of the journaling time, simply have someone offer a closing prayer.

Day Two: Te ite Matamuara's ..Discover Enjoy the View

Today we continue our journey on Te E'a O Te Hau and, like our actors today we are called to risk and discover what God is calling us to. One of the ways we discover God is to learn from the scriptures. God through Jesus helps us discover truths about living our lives. Let's start by discovering what Jesus taught one day on the hill.

Sacred Story

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-13

Context: This chapter in Matthew begins the story of Jesus' most famous sermon. However, the sermon probably represents several days of preaching on the mount near Capernaum. In today's scripture, the Beatitudes are presented for study. The Sermon on the Mount has been interpreted and analyzed from points of view including the legalist, idealist, socialist and Zionist. What most do agree on is that within the framework of the Beatitudes, there exists.

- standard of ethics and behaviors for all believers.
- contrast between the values of the world and the values of the kingdom.
- understanding of the kind of faith Christ wants.
- explanation of how the kingdom fulfills Old Testament expectations.

Focus: Comparing the values of the world to the values expressed in the Beatitudes.

Materials: Bibles, large posters with one Beatitude and one worldly value on each.

- place large poster with "poor in spirit" on one side of room and "pride and independence" on the other side of room.
- discuss what is meant by "poor in spirit." (one who understands the need to depend upon God versus someone who relies upon themselves.)
- ask students to create a continuum by placing themselves between the two posters representing where they fall in this value.

Repeat for each Beatitude.

Blessed Are

mourning
meekness
righteousness
mercy
pure in Heart
peacemaker
persecuted

Worldly Values

happiness at all costs
power
pursue personal Needs
strength, revenge
acceptable deception
self-centered concern
non-commitments

Give students time to journal about how their personal values could be brought into line with the values presented in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Making the Point through Play

Objective: In groups of eight to ten, campers will create a picture of Zion using only their hands and feet.

Caution-this activity can get out of hand if not supervised closely. Even though tempera paints should be used, they can still stain in some cases. Consider having campers wear clothes that are not valuable.

Age Group: upper elementary to senior high

Materials: flat twin sheet, five tempera colors without paintbrushes or sponges for each group, plenty of water (and soap) for cleanup.

Procedure: together we can discover what Zion might look like. Often that glimpse comes from our creative nature. As we consider Zion today, we do so from the context of the kind of kingdom Jesus wants us to discover from the Sermon on the Mount.

Give each group a sheet and paint. Encourage them to create images of Zion using their hands and feet.

Be sure to have plenty of water and soap for clean up.

Try to hang as many of the “Murals of Zion” as you can. Encourage groups to check out each others work to see what they can discover about their friends’ ideas of Zion.

Tales of Tahiti

Discovery! Mahu, Tubuai

Today we will look at the route the missionaries took. Enduring many hardships and trials (don’t forget the death of Knowlton Hanks), they were ready to discover the land God had sent them to. Let’s look at the journey they took and what it was like for them. Provide poster or flip chart paper, markers and the map and dates diagram found below to each group. Instruct each group to draw a world map, chart the course and place dates for the journey. Hang the maps around the camp. Create a list of the things the campers would have taken with them on a journey likely to last for years. Remind them that space and weight would be limited.

After seven months they finally discovered the Island of Tubuai in a group of islands called the Austral Islands. They landed on the beach at the village of Mahu. There they discovered native Polynesians and a ship that had become grounded. What happened next is for another day.

Journal: Describe what you saw at the conclusion of the skit. What discoveries have you made? How do the images from the Sermon on the Mount shape your vision?

Journaling Moments

Use reflective music if you’re choosing and provide journaling books (spiral bound notebooks work well and usually inexpensive) pens or pencils. It is usually better to pick them up and keep them so campers will have them the next day. Some campers really get into journaling and want their journal with them all day. So find what ever works best for your group.

Questions

Describe what you saw at the conclusion of the skit during Island Awakenings. What discoveries have you made? How did your group come to consensus regarding your vision of Zion? Or did it? How was your view changed through that activity? How do the images from the Sermon on the Mount shape your vision?

Day Three: Oraraa Varua...SpiritualQuest

Voice Stream

Today we take a deeper look at ourselves and our relationship to God. In the skit this morning, God interrupts one of the actors during prayer. The actor then looks deeper at the meaning of the prayer and examine the motivation behind the prayer. As we journey down Te E'a 0 Te Hau, we too must look deeper. What is it that will lift us up when times are hard? Where do we draw our strength? Let's travel to Tubuai and hear what Addison Pratt had to face then we will look at the Lord's Prayer and if it has meaning for our lives today.

Sacred Story Making the Point through Play

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-13

Context: Within these verses, Jesus counsels his disciples prayer. Beginning with a plea to be genuine in when and where to pray. Prayer should be a daily discipline, one that is private and spoken to the living God. Jesus gave specific instruction in how to pray condemning the babbling prayer of the pagans or the self-righteous, public prayers of the Pharisees. Verses nine through thirteen make up what we know as the Lord's Prayer. Contained within the lords prayer are four basic elements:

- Praise, an acknowledgement of God's goodness
- Purpose, a desire for God's will to be done on Earth
- Provision, asking God to meet our basic living needs
- Perseverance, asking for God's help in times of struggle

Focus: to deepen campers' knowledge and understanding of prayer

Materials: Bibles, copies of the Lord's Prayer, poster with the words, "Praise, Purpose, Provision, Perseverance"

1. As a group, read Matthew 6:5-13.
2. Discuss context of scripture.
3. Introduce the four basic elements:
 - Praise Matthew 6:9
 - Purpose Matthew 6:10
 - Provision Matthew 6:11
 - Perseverance Matthew 6:12-13
4. Have campers underline those sections in the scripture.
5. Ask campers in groups of three to write a new prayer using the same four elements but using language they are comfortable with.
6. Share the new prayers with the class.
7. Close with everyone reciting the Lord's Prayer in whatever style they choose.

Tales of Tahiti

Each of us senses God's call in our lives in different ways. While those calls may contain many similarities about the kind of life we should lead, they are also distinct and individual. While the traveler's goal was to go to Tahiti, Addison Pratt heard God's call to stay in Tubuai. There he responded even in the face of ridicule. He found he could make a difference.

Addison Pratt stayed on Tubuai and offered to help the men of the grounded ship. Knowing he

was a minister, they questioned him often. While the questioning was sometimes sarcastic, he always responded patiently. His patience paid off. Soon he baptized most of the crew of the ship and a short time later, the family of three who were hosting him, the head chief, and his wife.

Pratt organized the first church in French Polynesia near the beach at Mataura on the Island of Tubuai. That organizational meeting ended with a Communion service in which they used coconut milk in place of grape juice.

- If you were serving God in a culture different from your own, what would you do to keep your spiritual life on track?

Many responded because of the dedication of these missionaries. The story is filled with individuals who were willing to lay their lives on the line for their beliefs. History tells of persecution and people being driven from their homes, imprisoned and even put to death for their beliefs. The Saints spreading the gospel in North America faced many of the same trials. We often find that what we share with brothers and sisters is greater than our differences!

Journaling Moments

Use reflective music of your choosing and provide journaling books (spiral bound notebooks work well and usually inexpensive) pens or pencils. It is usually better to pick them up and keep them so campers will have them the next day. Some campers really get into journaling and want their journal with them all day. So find what works best for your group

Questions

Describe your prayer life. When do you experience God's presence? What do you seek from God? Write your prayer.

Closing

If your campers are in close proximity at the end of the journaling time, simply have someone offer a closing prayer.

Day 4: Te Amuiraa Taata. - .Community

All or Most Things in Common

Welcome! How did we eat breakfast this morning? When we gather for NetWorks, do we come alone? Do we attend class alone? No, we come as a group and we eat meals together, not alone. This is part of what it means to be community. In Doctrine and Covenants 161:6a. we are told *"Stand firm in the name of the One you proclaim and create diverse communities of disciples and seekers, rejoicing in the continuing fulfillment of the call to this people to prophetically witness in the name of Jesus Christ."* In fact the call to community is mentioned five times in Doctrine and Covenants 161. Let's dive into the community created by the early church.

Sacred Story

Scripture: Acts 2:44-47

Context: The book of Acts reveals the First Century Church to its readers. It describes a dynamic vibrant group of witnesses whose passion at times led to conflict and disagreement. However, the spirit of community survived the contention and led to greater insight and growth. Today's

scripture reveals the qualities of the Christian community which include:

- meeting together regularly
- studying the scriptures
- worship/prayer as a priority
- taking care of its members
- growing in membership

Focus: group discussion on church and community.

Material: newsprint and markers for each group.

1. Read Acts 2:44-47 as a group.
2. Ask campers to identify aspects of the community in Acts. Create a list on newsprint.
3. Ask campers to compare and contrast that community with their home church.
4. Ask Campers to compare and contrast that community with this week's camp community.
5. Ask campers to compare and contrast that community with their school community.
6. Ask campers to share the advantages of being in a close community.

If there are specific conflicts or concerns in the camp community, this could be a time to discuss how the early church handled conflict openly with patience and love in Christ. If appropriate, you may give campers a time to discuss concerns and resolve conflicts.

Tales of Tahiti

Story of Tiona

Sometimes community is found in the midst of adversity. We need only reflect on events in our world to see how people are brought together and community created during the toughest times.

- Take a few minutes to discuss ways you have experienced people creating community in the midst of adversity.

A few years after the church had been established in Tahiti, things began to get tense. The French had taken direct control of the island and with them came the Catholic Church. They had decided to greatly restrict the growth and movement of protestant churches in the area. This put the Tahitians who had joined this movement at risk. All the American missionaries returned home and the Saints in Tahiti were on their own.

This adversity brought them together, but that was pretty risky business. So they gathered in secret. They began to move to a place called Tiona or Zion. Each morning they would rise early, leave Tiona in the dark and make their way to work. In the evening they would wait till after dark to return to Tiona in hills. There, in the midst of persecution and adversity, the Saints created community. Tiona is where the church campground is located today.

While many things have changed for the Saints in Tahiti, the sense of community has only been strengthened over the years. This is often evident in them sharing of music. While we sing most songs only focusing on the melody, Tahitians are skilled at blending many different voices into incredible harmonies.

Play track I from the CD. This is a traditional song sung by the Youth Group at the Tiona Congregation (different from the campground). Children and youth are taught early on to recognize harmonies and find their place in the song.

Play track 2 from the CD. While only one musician recorded all five parts, it demonstrates the ability to create harmonies.

Community is like music. It is easy to sing in melody or live with those who are just like us. It is more difficult to blend voices into harmonies or to learn to appreciate diversity that can lead us into true community.

Why does it seem to be easier to create community in the midst of adversity? What can we do to create community in our lives?

Making the Point through Play

Tin Pan Bang Bang

Objective: for campers to experience being pulled into a group and being pushed out of a group.

Age Group: upper elementary to senior high

Materials: large sauce pan, one durable wooden spoon.

Procedure: Instruct campers that you will beat the pan with the wooden spoon and they are to count the number of beats. Then they are to quickly form groups of people equal to the number of beats. Tell them to raise their hands when they have a group of a correct number. Have campers who do not get into a group stand to the side for the next round only, and then they can return. Theoretically a camper should only sit out one round until they are back in the action. Continue to create new groups of different sizes. Your goal is to move quickly enough that there is a sense of urgency created.

Debrief: Ask a series of questions to get campers talking.
Who was invited into a group? How did it feel?
Who was pulled into a group? What was it like?
Who was kicked out of a group? How did it feel?

Being a part of the community feels much different from being left out.

- How is this like what happens at your school? your church? here at camp?
- Do you believe you can make a difference in the places you live, work, and go to school?

Before we journal today, let's reflect on another one of the references to community in Doctrine and Covenants 161:3c.

Be patient with one another, for creating sacred community is arduous and even painful. But it is to loving community such as this that each is called. Be courageous and visionary, believing in the power of just a few vibrant witnesses to transform the world. Be assured that love will overcome the voices of fear, division, and deceit.

Journaling Moments

Use reflective music of your choosing and provide journaling books (spiral bound notebooks work well and usually inexpensive) pens or pencils. It is usually better to pick them up and keep them so campers will have them the next day. Some campers really get into journaling and want their journal with them all day. So find what ever works best for your group.

Questions

When have you felt excluded from community? When have you experienced community? What draws that community together? What stories do members of your community share? What qualities does a healthy community have?

Closing

Call campers back together and ask someone to offer a blessing on the community you have been creating.

Day Five: Te Taviniraa. - Sharing

Note: This can be modified to use as the closing service.

Go Fish!

Well, we've made it. Today we complete Te E'a O Te Hau, The Path of Peace. Yet at the same time it is just the beginning. In the movie *The Lord of the Rings, The Fellowship of the Ring*, Gandalf, the old wizard says to a young Frodo Baggins, "All we have to do is to decide what to do with the time that is given to us." So now we must answer a similar question. What will we do with our experience of this week when we get home? After Jesus' resurrection, he posed the same basic question but with the answer attached. Let's discover what is asked of us.

Create a worship center that features a cross and a large net draped over the cross. In the net you should place the wooden or paper fish that are called forth Making the Point Through Action. You will need at least one fish per person.

Sacred Story

Scripture: Matthew 28: 19-20

Context: Today's scripture is taken from Matthew and is known as the Great Commission. It is in this verse that Jesus instructs his disciples to go and tell all the world the good news of the gospel. It has been said most Christians treat the verse as a great suggestion rather than a commission. However, the scripture does use the word "commanded" to describe Jesus' instruction to go forth and tell.

Focus: Encourage campers to develop a vibrant witness of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Materials: Bibles

1. Read Matthew 28:19-20 aloud.
2. Ask campers to form groups of three.
3. Ask campers to think of the best meal they have ever eaten — then ask them to describe it to their group. Then ask them to do the same for their favorite book, movie.
4. Ask campers how witnessing is like what they just shared?
5. Ask for a volunteer to give a detailed recommendation for Jesus
6. Have groups create a group recommendation for Jesus.
7. Discuss how we can live lives of witness.
8. Ask campers to think of one person they will witness of Jesus when they return home.
9. Ask campers to determine what will change as a result of this week.

Making the Point Through Action

Objective: Campers will decide what actions to take after camp and who they can share the good news with.

Age Group: upper elementary to senior high

Materials: Wooden or paper fish big enough campers for to write a name on one side and an action statement on the other, pens or pencils, individual nets made during Island Sunset.

Procedure: This should be a seamless transition from the Bible study.

- Invite campers to go to the cross in their small groups and retrieve a fish from the net for themselves.
- Ask them to write on one side of the fish the name of the person they just thought of and on the other side what they will do as a result of this week.
- Instruct campers to attach or place their fish inside of their net and take it home.
- Allow time for them to share in their small group.
- Bring the whole group back together and invite any to share what is on their fish.

Tales of Tahiti

The gospel of Jesus Christ was shared in Tahiti because of the commitment of the Tahitian people. That commitment is evident today all over the world. Wherever there is a global gathering of disciples from the Community of Christ, you will find Tahitians there. International Youth Forums, World Conference, High Priest gatherings, international Leaders Conferences- you will find the Tahitians and French Polynesians there. The gifts they share so freely are truly a blessing to many.

Note: *If you have gathered hei's or a craft class has made them and you have enough for everyone, now is a great time to invite campers to give theirs away Be sure to have some extras and watch to ensure each camper has one at the end. All staff should help in this regard.*

Journaling Moments

Use reflective music of your choosing and provide journaling books (spiral notebooks) and pens or pencils.

Questions: How are you a blessing and witness for Christ in the world? What barriers in your life keep you from doing this? How can you overcome these? Where do you want to go?

Closing: Today will look different for every camp based on when and how you end camp. If this is the end of your camp, close with a strong sending forth. If your closing will come later, end NetWorks with a prayer of encouragement and courage for your campers.