

*Of Water and Spirit:*  
Disciples in  
Community of Christ

Youth Activity  
Guide



Community of Christ



# Introduction

Youth at family camps and reunions in 2016 will study lessons one through six in *Of Water and Spirit* (Herald House). Besides providing preparation for baptism, the lessons in the book help all learners explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The lessons are in five parts:

- **Gather** (Activates background knowledge, prepares, and motivates for lesson),
- **Engage** (Invites exploration of and interaction with new ideas),
- **Respond** (Takes the learner from hearing to doing),
- **Send** (Explores how the lesson might be lived out), and
- **Bless** (Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and hope). Modify the lessons to fit the needs of your group and setting.

Besides the lessons in *Of Water and Spirit*, this supplement suggests music and videos, crafts, games, extra discussion questions, and service projects. These suggestions are to supplement, not replace, the lessons. The lesson plans may be adapted to meet the needs of your group. If your event meets fewer than six days, lessons three and four, or lessons five and six, can be combined to help cover the content.

Youth classes can include a range of ages. Younger youth may look to the older youth as role models and want to engage with them in class. Older youth may enjoy sharing their knowledge while also seeking a challenge to deepen their understanding of the subject matter. The lessons can be adapted to fit the needs of all youth, whether they have been baptized or are new to discovering life as disciples.

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*Of Water and Spirit*: Disciples in  
Community of Christ

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Cover by Laurie Cook

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## Music

The following songs are listed by hymn number as found in *Community of Christ Sings*, Herald Publishing House, 2013 (ISBN 9780830915521).

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“The Trees of the Field”	645
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“Siyahamb’ Ekukhanyen’ Kwenkhos” (We Are Marching in the Light of God)	95

## Videos

([www.missionalleaders.org](http://www.missionalleaders.org))

- *Peace Through All People* ..... 5  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQ-KsGo\\_BI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQ-KsGo_BI)

([www.missionalleaders.org](http://www.missionalleaders.org))

- *You Are Loved* ..... 4  
<https://videopress.com/v/EqNFHvQT>
- *Community of Christ* ..... 5  
<https://videopress.com/v/izDYvg2n>
- *Let the Spirit Breathe* ..... 5  
<https://videopress.com/v/bkCfa3Cw>
- *Open Your Eyes* ..... 5  
<https://videopress.com/v/OkCJ3NYN>
- *Tables* ..... 5  
<https://videopress.com/v/VkvAXKpV>
- *The Long Journey* ..... 6  
<https://videopress.com/v/BigvKPPc>
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Music and videos are common ways youth engage with their culture and current events. It is important to help youth engage with music and videos that express what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Each lesson includes recommended music and videos. Use the *Community of Christ Sings* Audio Recordings USB flash drive (UPC 680121003823), available through Herald House ([www.HeraldHouse.org](http://www.HeraldHouse.org)), as a great way to introduce new hymns. Incorporate movements, drumming, or other musical instruments, and look for opportunities for youth to provide music ministry as part of worship or campfire.

## Lesson 1: We Believe

Focus: We believe in one Living God who is revealed in Jesus Christ and moves through all creation as the Holy Spirit. We affirm the Trinity—God who is a community of three persons.

**“Father, We Adore You”** (see end of *Music and Videos* section) is a traditional song about the Trinity (God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit). Sing this as three separate verses or as a round; without accompaniment, or accompanied by a guitar or other instrument.

**“We Are One in the Spirit” CCS 359** is part of the *Community of Christ Sings* core repertoire, and the hymnal includes French and Spanish translations. This song focuses on unity through the Holy Spirit, and the last verse expresses the very nature of God as unity in diversity.

**“Bring Many Names” CCS 5** introduces many names we use for God and how those names help define our understanding of God’s nature. This song can be used to open a discussion with the youth about the names they use for God.

***You Are Loved*** is a video that explores God’s love for each of us, and how we can share that love with others. Using this web address, the video can be downloaded or streamed <https://videopress.com/v/EqNFHvQT>.

## Lesson 2: We Learn

Focus: Through scripture–sacred story—we learn about God’s relationship to people and all creation.

We are shaped by the songs we sing and hear. Songs are an important part of our sacred story. Songs recommended with this lesson relate to stories in scripture and Community of Christ tradition.

**“Kum ba yah, Seigneur” CCS 75** is a Negro Spiritual adopted by the church in French Polynesia. A sample performance is on the *Community of Christ Sings* USB flash drive. Have the youth come up with some of their own verses. Here are a few examples:

Come by here, my Lord...  
Someone’s crying, Lord...  
Someone’s praying, Lord...  
Someone’s laughing, Lord...

**“Now in This Moment” CCS 96** celebrates our sacred story. Sing this hymn together to rejoice in our part of the sacred story.

“Si tuvieras fe (If You Only Had Faith)” CCS 249 is an upbeat scripture-based hymn. This song offers opportunities for additional instruments or dancing! A sample performance is on the *Community of Christ Sings* USB flash drive.

*Community of Christ* is a video that explores who Community of Christ is and how our story is part of a much larger sacred story rooted in Christian history. Using this web address, the video can be downloaded or streamed:

<https://videopress.com/v/izDYvg2n>.

## Lesson 3: We Share

Focus: According to scripture, God’s vision for creation is shalom, a fullness or completeness of peace.

“The Trees of the Field” CCS 645 is an upbeat song to get the youth on their feet and excited! Add a simple circle dance to get the youth laughing and having a good time. As you sing the song through, first going right, step right with your right foot and then bring your left foot in to your right foot matching the beat to the song. The group should do this together and will move right with the beat of the song. Instead of singing all the way through, after the first set of “claps” start the song over and switch directions of the circle. Repeat this as often as you want. You can go faster and faster each time to see how quickly the group can do it.

“Peace Salaam Shalom” CCS 310 can be used with the video *Peace Through All People* ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQ-KsGo\\_BI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQ-KsGo_BI)) or as a stand-alone song. You may choose to have a youth or a small group sing the verses while the rest of the youth sing the “Peace Salaam Shalom” refrain.

*Let the Spirit Breathe* is a video that expresses the power of sharing the Spirit with others, and how that Spirit can transform a community. This is much like sharing God’s shalom with others. Using this web address, the video can be downloaded or streamed <https://videopress.com/v/bkCfa3Cw>.

## Lesson 4: We Proclaim

Focus: We proclaim Jesus Christ and become his disciples by sharing his peace with others.

“Peace Salaam Shalom” CCS 310 can be used with the video *Peace Through All People* ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQ-KsGo\\_BI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQ-KsGo_BI)) or as a stand-alone song. You may choose to have a youth or a small group sing the verses while the rest of the youth sing the “Peace Salaam Shalom” refrain.

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” CCS 499 is a great addition to today’s lesson. The song connects with the relation between Jesus and Simon Peter, who decided to be a disciple of Jesus. This Hindustani melody is easy to follow and fun to sing. Try singing this hymn in each of the three languages printed (English, French, and Spanish).

“Sizohambe Naye (We Will Walk with God)” CCS 377 is a folk hymn from Swaziland that shows how we should joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ as we walk with God. A sample performance is on the *Community of Christ Sings* USB flash drive.

*Open Your Eyes* is a video that shows how much more enriching our lives could be if we were more aware of what is going on around us. We are called like Simon Peter to share the peace of Christ with others, and that starts with opening our eyes to the world around us. Using this web address, download or stream this video:

<https://videopress.com/v/OkCJ3NYN>

**Note:** There is also a discussion question to go with this video in the “Discussion Ideas” section.

## Lesson 5: We Receive

Focus: We experience covenant and blessings through the sacraments.

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” CCS 499 talks about our decision to follow Jesus, which can start with the sacrament of baptism. This Hindustani melody is easy to follow and fun to sing. Try singing this song in each of the three languages printed (English, French, and Spanish) for a challenge.

*Community of Christ Sings* has a section of hymns on the sacraments. See hymns 487–549 for ideas and examples of songs centered on the sacraments.

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” CCS 307 is a song about our covenant to make Christ’s peace known on Earth. When we are baptized we are choosing a life as a disciple, and that involves working for justice and peace in the world.

*Tables* is a video that shares the importance of receiving, giving, and invitation. At the table we receive and we share. At the table we share in community and sacraments. Use this video to start a discussion about the blessings we receive as a covenant people. Using this web address, download or stream this video:

<https://videopress.com/v/VkvAXKpV>

## Lesson 6: We Respond

Focus: We can respond to God's generous grace through baptism.

**“Siyahamb' Ekukhanyen' Kwenkhos' (We Are Marching in the Light of God)” CCS 95** is a great example of a sending forth song. Have the group sing in English, Zulu, Spanish, French, or any combination. This would be a great song for the youth to lead at a final worship.

**Community of Christ Sings** has hymns grouped into sections by topics. There is a great selection of songs on the sacraments and discipleship. See hymns 487–549 for ideas and examples of sacrament hymns and hymns 550–664 for ideas and examples of hymns centered on discipleship and commitment.

**The Long Journey** is a video showing that mission begins with the choice to follow Jesus through baptism. Through baptism and confirmation, we commit our lives to the mission of Jesus Christ. Baptism and confirmation are only the beginning of a lifelong journey. Using this web address, download or stream this video:

<https://videopress.com/v/BigvKPPc>

**Missio Dei** is a video exploring the importance of mission. Christ's mission is our mission, and at baptism, we commit to a life of living out that mission. Using this web address, download or stream this video:

<https://videopress.com/v/VdaWucMD>

## Father, We Adore You

Terrye Coelho

Voice

The musical notation is for a voice part in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two lines. The first line contains three phrases: 1) 'Fa - ther, we a - dore You,' with chords F, Gm, C, F; 2) 'Lay our lives be - fore You.' with chords F, Gm, C, F; 3) 'How we' with chords F, Gm. The second line contains two phrases: 4) 'love' with chord C; 5) 'You!' with chord F.

Fa - ther, we a - dore You, Lay our lives be - fore You. How we love You!

2) Jesus, we adore You...

3) Spirit, we adore You...

\*May be sung as a round.

Youth have energy to use and hands that like to keep busy. Games and crafts are a great way to reinforce understanding of the themes and scriptures. Below are suggestions for each day, which can be adapted for the needs of your group. Games are inclusive and non-competitive. Help the group maintain this spirit when playing the games.

## Lesson 1: We Believe

Focus: We believe in one Living God who is revealed in Jesus Christ and moves through all creation as the Holy Spirit. We affirm the Trinity—God who is a community of three persons.

### Peg and String Heart

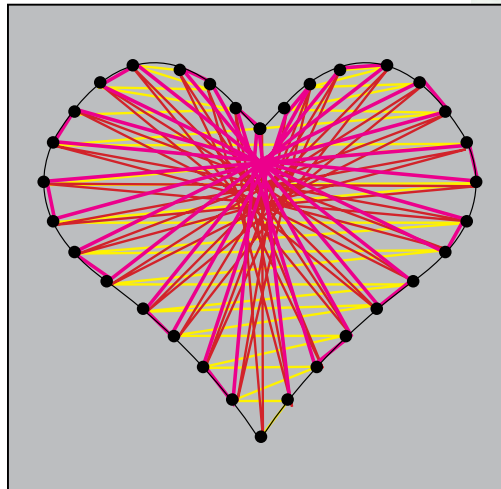
#### Supplies

- Wood boards, one per student
- Strings of varying color
- Pencils
- 1-inch nails
- Hammers

#### Instructions

Give each youth a wood board. The board needs to be about a ½ in/1.25 cm thick and 12 in x 12 in/30 cm x 30 cm wide.

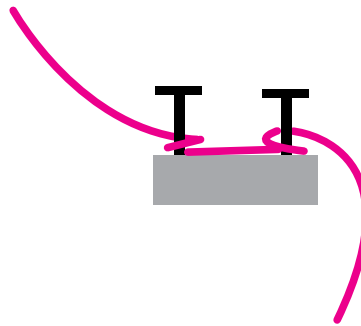
Draw a heart shape in the middle of the board with pencil.



Hammer nails along the heart shape.

To prevent poking and to make sure there is enough nail left to wrap the string around, don't hammer the nails all the way through the board.

When all the nails have been hammered in, the string can be wrapped around the nails. Tie the string around one nail, and then from that nail, loop the string around another nail in the heart and then to another and so on. Continue this until all the nails are used and the heart is filled in with string.



Love is the simplest and most powerful way to describe who God is, and to describe our relationship to God and others.

### Unity in Diversity

#### Supplies

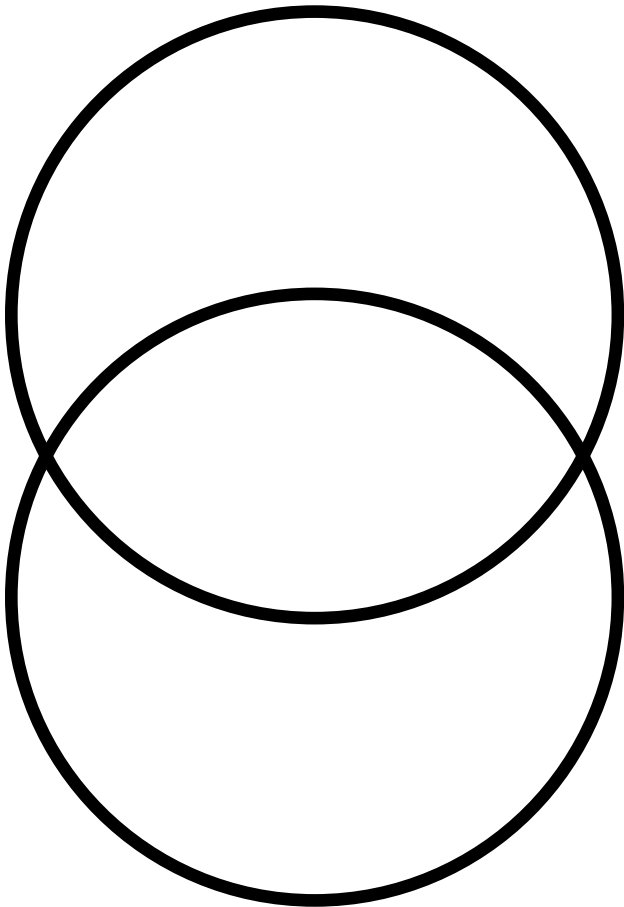
- Paper
- Pens or pencils

The Trinity helps us focus on the importance of community and Unity in Diversity. God is a loving, eternal community, and we are called to create sacred community in our world. We each come from different backgrounds and have our own story, but we are one community.

Have group members get into pairs. Give each pair a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Tell the groups to draw a Venn diagram on their paper. Ask the groups to find things they have in common and things they don't share in common. Write these things in their Venn diagram. Place what the pair shares in common inside the overlapping circles. Place those things each holds as unique in the other parts of the two circles.

After a few minutes, have two groups get together. Give these larger groups a new piece of paper and have them create another Venn diagram but this time each pairing will act as one side of the diagram. Ask the groups to place the things they have in common inside the overlapping circle. Place those things each pair holds as unique in the other parts of the two circles. Repeat this process until the whole group is together.

Example of a Venn diagram:



What are the things the whole group has in common? Are they all Christians? Are they under the age of 19? Enjoying camp? Explain to the group that it's important that we are different and unique but also that when we are in community; we focus on the community as a whole. We strive to be communities of joy, hope, love, and peace and that's not possible when we let difference divide us.

## Lesson 2: We Learn

Focus: Through scripture—sacred story—we learn about God's relationship to people and all creation.

### Act it Out

As part of the "Gather" section, after the youth list some of their favorite stories, have them form into smaller groups and act these out for the whole class. Another choice is to have them act out the story as a modern tale. Give them a few minutes to discuss their story and how they will act.

### Improvisation

#### Supplies

- Pieces of paper
- A bowl
- Pens or pencils

Before the game, give each group member several pieces of paper. On the paper, have them write a word or short phrase. Then have them fold their papers and place into the bowl. For the game, two members will start talking about a topic chosen by another group member. During their conversation they will reach into the bowl and draw a slip of paper. They then must insert the word or phrase on the paper into their conversation. Each pair can draw a couple pieces from the bowl and then the pair should switch with another group.

Sometimes stories take unexpected twists and turns, but the story can bring joy and laughter.

### Journals

#### Supplies

- Journals
- Markers
- Paint
- Stickers
- Other decorating supplies

Give members of the group personal journals they can decorate. The journal can then be used as their personal story journal where they can write or draw their part of the sacred story.

## Lesson 3: We Share

Focus: According to scripture, God's vision for creation is shalom, a fullness or completeness of peace.

Part of this lesson focuses on Sacredness of Creation. Recycled items can be used for many different crafts and games. This craft uses empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls, but other items can be used for crafts, too.



Searching online for recycled craft ideas is a great way to learn how to reuse or repurpose items commonly thrown away.

## Recycled Crafts

### Supplies

- Empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Scissors
- Decoration supplies

Cut the toilet paper rolls into 1/2 in/1.25 cm circles that can be bent to create an oval shape. Cut enough of these to use as petals for a flower. You can use an unbent circle for the center. Use markers or paint to color the flower, and then glue the pieces together. These flowers can be hung as decoration, given as gifts, or used to hold small items.

## Cake in a Mug

### Activity Supplies

- Recipe ingredients (found below)
- Microwave
- Microwave-safe mugs
- Spoons, knives, forks
- Icing and sprinkles

Note: Any recipe or snack can be substituted here. An alternative is to create trail mix. You can choose what goes in your trail mix, but some suggestions are nuts, dried fruit, and pretzels. If creating a snack is not an alternative, the same sharing can occur by creating greeting cards with affirmations for others.

Following the recipe, each youth may make two cakes in a mug. The challenge is to share the second cake with someone they don't know and get to know them. Ask the other person about his or her life. Ask why the person came to reunion or family camp. It's fun to share, and cake makes sharing a little bit sweeter.

### Cake In a Mug Recipe

*The proportions given are by mug, so you will need enough of each ingredient for each group member to make two.*

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons melted butter (30 mL)
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoons milk (15 mL)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla (5 mL)
- ¼ cup granulated sugar (60 mL)
- 6 tablespoons self-rising flour (90mL)
- Pinch of salt

### Instructions

1. Combine butter and egg in mug. Whisk.
2. Add milk, vanilla, and sugar. Mix well.
3. Add flour and salt. Mix.
4. Cook in microwave for one minute (cook times may vary)
5. Let cool then decorate.

## Cooperative Musical Chairs

### Supplies

- Enough chairs for each player
- Music
- Music player

This is a cooperative version of a traditional game. Arrange chairs facing out in a circle so there is enough for one chair per person. While the music plays, the youth will walk clockwise around the outside of the circle. When the music stops, each youth sits in a chair. Remove one or two chairs and play again. When the music stops this time, the youth left without a chair must share a chair with a friend. Continue removing chairs until only one remains. All the youth must find a way to share the same chair.

Discuss with the youth how it felt to share the chairs. Was it always comfortable? What made it uncomfortable? Discuss how creating shalom can sometimes put us in uncomfortable circumstances, but it can also be fun and rewarding. There is a place for each person in the peaceable kingdom of God.

## Lesson 4: We Proclaim

Focus: We proclaim Jesus Christ and become his disciples by sharing his peace with others.

### Peace Rocks

#### Supplies

- Large, flat rocks
- Markers
- Other decorating supplies

Simon Peter, sometimes referred to as “the rock” was one of Jesus’ disciples. The disciples were called to help share the peace of Jesus Christ.

Create peace rocks to help share the peace of Jesus Christ. For the peace rocks, you will need rocks that have a large enough flat surface on which to write a word or short phrases. Provide the group with enough rocks for each youth to decorate two or three, and markers or other decorating supplies. On the rocks the youth should write a word or short phrase that expresses Christ's peace in their lives. The rocks can then be placed around the campground or used in a worship setting to be shared with others.

## Sharing the Peace of Jesus Christ

### Supplies

- Costumes
- Props for scripture stories

In the “Engage” section, there are three stories of Jesus accepting those who were on the margins of society. Instead of just reading these stories have the youth act

out the stories. Give them costume and prop ideas, and have smaller groups act out the scene for the whole group.

## Lesson 5: We Receive

Focus: We experience covenant and blessings through the sacraments.

### Sacrament Songs

In the “Engage” section, instead of reading about each sacrament as a group, arrange the group into smaller groups or pairs and have each group take one of the sacraments. Each group will then create a song or poem about their sacrament to share with the whole group. To make it easier, suggest using familiar tunes and creating new lyrics for them.

#### Find information on the sacraments:

- [www.CofChrist.org/sacraments](http://www.CofChrist.org/sacraments)
- *The Priesthood Manual*, 2004 Edition, Herald Publishing House or online at [www.CofChrist.org/common/cms/resources/documents/Priesthood-Manual-2004.pdf](http://www.CofChrist.org/common/cms/resources/documents/Priesthood-Manual-2004.pdf)

### Sacrament Quiz Bowl

#### Supplies

- Questions about the sacraments

There are eight sacraments in Community of Christ. Can you name them all? Create a quiz game for today’s lesson of sacramental covenants. Arrange the group in two teams; take turns having each team answer a question. Below are suggestions for questions:

- How many sacraments does Community of Christ celebrate?
- What are the sacraments?
- Who can perform a sacrament?
- Who can receive each sacrament?
- Which sacrament(s) include anointing with consecrated oil?
- Which sacraments are meant for multiple people?
- What are the emblems for the Lord’s Supper?
- What is another name for Communion?

## Receiving Mail

### Supplies

- Paper
- Envelopes
- Pens or pencils
- Postage stamps

It can be fun to receive a letter in the mail, especially when that letter is from a friend or someone who cares about you!

Provide the class with supplies to write letters and have students write a letter to a friend or someone they care for. In their letter, tell the person in what ways they are a blessing! Remember to mail the letters after camp.

## Lesson 6: We Respond

Focus: We can respond to God’s generous grace through baptism.

### New Creation

#### Supplies

- Mini plant pots
- Potting soil
- Seeds
- Water

Give each class member a mini plant pot big enough for soil and a flower seed. Also, have a pot with an already blooming plant (if possible, use seed of the same type of plant as the blooming plant).

Give the group time to decorate their pots. Then place soil in each of the pots and plant and water the seeds.

Discuss with the group how being baptized makes you a “new creation” as a disciple. Students can take their plant pots home to remind them that we can respond to God’s generous grace and become a new creation through baptism.

### Amoeba Tag

#### Supplies: None

Two people are “It.” They link arms and chase other class members. Any person they tag or catch joins the chain by linking arms. When another person is caught, the new group can stay together or split in pairs (they must split in even numbers and can link together at will). Play until everyone is part of the amoeba.

Amoeba Tag is like being a disciple: you are never alone, because Jesus is with you. Sometimes there are many others with you on your journey. Sometimes it seems like only Jesus is with you. How did it feel to be connected during the game? Was it more fun or was it more frustrating? What are some ways that you can invite those around you to know Jesus and become connected in Community of Christ?

## Friendship Bracelets

### Supplies

- String (something like embroidery floss)
- Tape
- Scissors

When we are baptized, we become part of a community in a new way. A community is woven together of many different people. Have group members create a bracelet of several strings that show how a community of many people comes together as one.

This is called the **Chinese Staircase Friendship Bracelet**.

Choose 3–5 colors of string, and cut strands about 12 in/30 cm long.

About 2 in/5 cm from the top of the strings, tie them off in a knot.

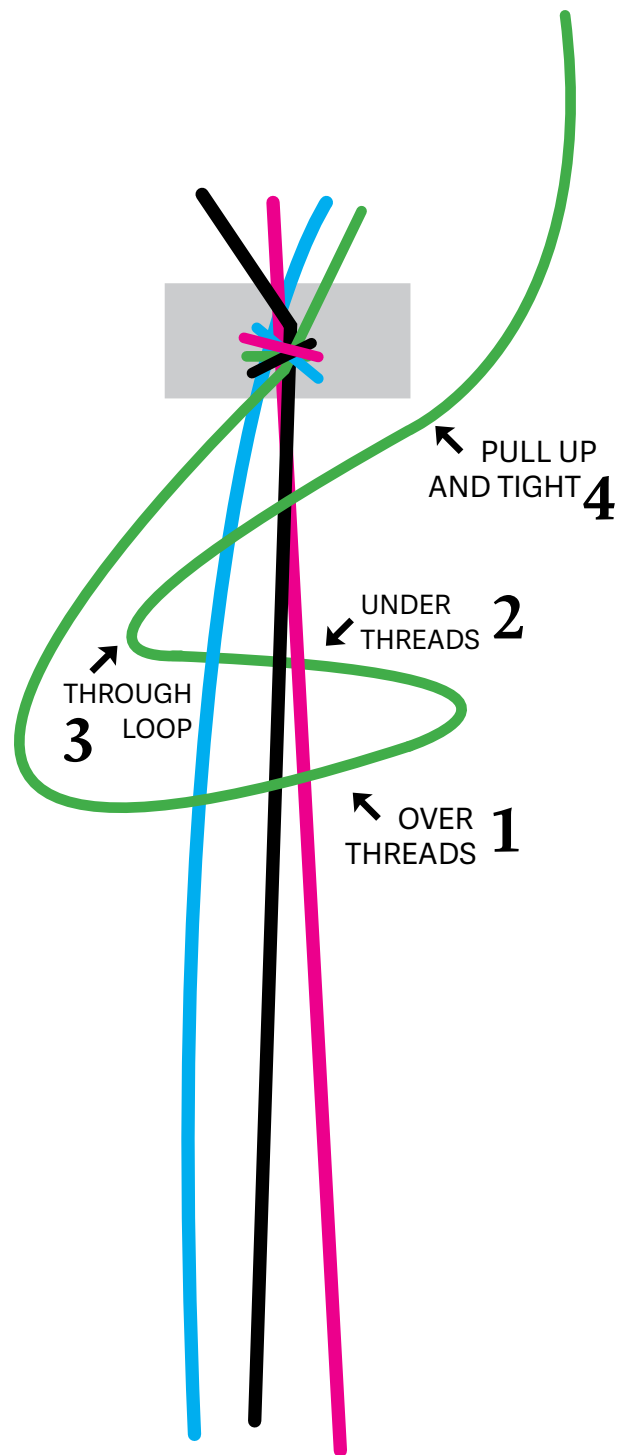
Using a piece of tape, anchor the string to a surface by taping above the knot.

1. Choose one color and make a loop laying it across the other strands from left to right.
2. Then bring it under the other strands.
3. Pull the string through the loop you created and
4. Pull up and tight.

Repeat until you have about an inch of braided bracelet.

Change to a new color strand and repeat steps 1–4.

Tie the end and beginning together when your bracelet is complete.



Understanding current events is important in helping youth connect living as disciples amid the circumstances of life. Youth begin to look beyond themselves to understand how they relate to their larger community and the world as a whole. The discussion section suggests how to relate the themes and scripture readings to what is happening in their lives and in the world. It is important to know your group and adapt these discussion starters to best meet the needs of your group and setting.

## Lesson 1: We Believe

Focus: We believe in one Living God who is revealed in Jesus Christ and moves through all creation as the Holy Spirit. We affirm the Trinity—God who is a community of three person.

### Ever Changing

Ages 12–18 are formative years in life. Young people are constantly changing and discovering something new about them. They are beginning to explore more deeply their relationships to others and their understanding of a global community. Use the following questions as discussion starters for the group:

- How has your understanding of God changed over the years?
- What has helped shape your understanding of God?
- How does your understanding of God shape your response to current conditions such as war, refugees, immigration, and discrimination?

## Lesson 2: We Learn

Focus: Through scripture—sacred story—we learn about God’s relationship to people and all creation.

### What’s in Your Library?

The sacred story—as told through scripture (that which is written)—includes the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants. There may be other books on your bookshelf.

- If you could create a library, which kinds of books would you have on your bookshelves.
- How are these books and stories different from scripture? How are they similar?

## Lesson 3: We Share

Focus: According to scripture, God’s vision for creation is shalom, a fullness or completeness of peace.

### Looking for Shalom

We strive for shalom in our lives, a fullness of Peace, but there will always be moments when we do not have a fullness of peace. Start a discussion about the conflicts or discomforts that keep the group from feeling a fullness of peace. If possible, use the conflict resolution guides from the lesson to work through these problems. Discuss ways to live shalom.

## God's Vision of Shalom for All Creation

In recent years, the world has become more aware of human effect on creation. Common news stories include deforestation, water pollution, global warming, and other environment related issues.

As followers of Christ who strive for shalom, what role do we play in God's vision of shalom for all creation?

- What are our responsibilities to creation?
- How can caring for creation be a spiritual practice?

## Lesson 4: We Proclaim

Focus: We proclaim Jesus Christ and become his disciples by sharing his peace with others.

### Open Your Eyes

Like the runner in the *Open Your Eyes* video (found in the "Music and Videos" section with lesson 4), it can be easy to ignore the people around us. With a profusion of technology like smart phones and laptops, becoming consumed in our own lives often means we miss important moments. Take time to discuss with the group what keeps them from being aware of others. How can they give more attention to their relationships?

## Lesson 5: We Receive

Focus: We experience covenant and blessings through the sacraments.

### Map Your Life

#### Supplies

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

The "Respond" section, invites the group to create a map or time line of their life including significant events and people who have influenced them along the way. Besides

this timeline, through the spiritual practice of discernment, have them create a second timeline of possible future events. Based on the events when they have recognized God's initiative in their lives, in which direction is their life heading? How do they see their life changing? What significant events (or sacraments) do they see occurring? Discuss with the group how they feel their covenant with God will affect their futures.

## Lesson 6: We Respond

Focus: We can respond to God's generous grace through baptism.

### Of Water

#### Supplies

- Slips of paper
- Pens or pencils
- A bowl

To be baptized is one of the most significant choices we can make. It affirms a life calling as a disciple and opens us to the many blessings of community, God's grace, and Christ's mission. Explore with the group what it means to live as a disciple in the circumstances of life.

Have the group write on slips of paper different scenarios in which being a disciple would help them make responsible choices. Put these slips of paper into a bowl to be drawn by smaller groups for discussion.

#### Examples of scenarios:

- A group of friends is out for lunch and they notice one of their classmates eating alone. How can you invite your classmate to feel included?
- You've noticed your family has much water consumption and wastes much food. What can you and your family do to uphold the Sacredness of Creation?
- You notice a friend is having a hard time with circumstances in life. As a disciple, how can you help your friend?

Family camps and reunion provide a great time for youth to be involved in a service project over several days. Here are some suggestions of ways to connect the week's theme and lessons into projects that will benefit the community and help the youth grow in their understanding of serving others.

## Box of Love

### Supplies

- Box
- Decorating supplies
- Slips of paper
- Pens or pencils

Have the group decorate a box, their Box of Love. Place this box in a common area such as a sanctuary, other worship space, or a dining hall. Each day the youth will fill the box with pieces of paper that have loving and encouraging words or quotes. Throughout the day, as other members of the camp need, they can come and take a piece of paper from the box to remind them they are loved by their community.

## Worship Settings

- Supplies: varies with settings

Have the youth plan each day's worship setting or help set up and prepare for worship services. This can include deciding decorations for worship setting or how to arrange seating in different worship areas.

## Plan a Worship Service

- Supplies: varies with worship

There are many opportunities at reunion and family camps for youth to get involved in planning worship. Ask your camp director(s) or worship leader(s) if the youth can plan a service or be part of a worship service. This is a great way to introduce youth to the parts of worship and worship planning. This is also a great way for youth to share what they would like to have included in worship.

## Campground Projects

- Supplies: varies with project

Many times during reunions or camps there are maintenance projects needing attention. Ask the campground manager(s) if there are tasks the youth could work on during camp. These projects could include cleaning a public area, painting a building in need of a new coat, or building benches in an area that could use some extra seating. This gets the youth involved and invested in the future of the campgrounds.

# Service Projects

Youth  
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Bring each lesson to the youth in a way that makes sense to them and engages their interests. Below are some general ideas and suggestions on how to engage youth in discussions and lessons. Remember, you know your group best! You know how best to engage them and what interests they have.

## Social Media

Social media is a part of today's culture and youth have grown up with social media sites. Instead of condemning the time they spend on these sites, encourage them to use these connections to share about their reunion or family camp experience. Create a hashtag for your camp that all the youth can use to share their pictures and stories online. Note: This may not be suitable for camps that wish to "unplug" and where use of the Internet and phones is limited. Also, make sure to discuss proper and safe use of social media with your group, and remember to adapt this to best fit the youth and culture in your area.

## Need Help Focusing?

Help the youth focus and prepare for the lessons with spiritual practices. Spiritual practices come in many different forms and can be used in most every setting. Find spiritual practices that will work for your group. Use the practices to connect students to the theme and scripture passages for the lesson.

Are you looking for spiritual practice ideas? Get started by exploring some practices here: [www.CofChrist.org/spiritual-formation](http://www.CofChrist.org/spiritual-formation).



# How to Connect

Youth  
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