

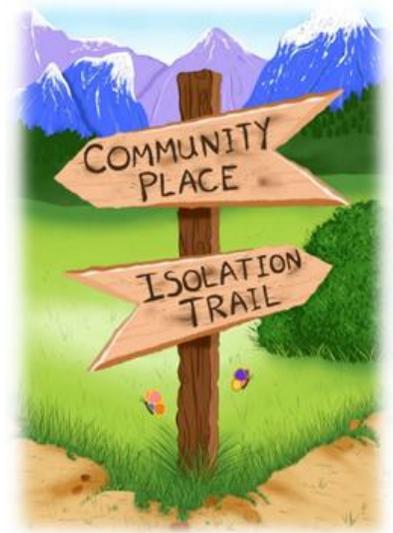
# SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

## 2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

### LARGE GROUP LESSON TIPS

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- Summer Friendship Gathering events lasts three evenings and each evening is divided into three parts: fellowship meal, worship time with a large group lesson, and small group discussion. On the last evening there is a closing worship service, which replaces the Large Group Bible Lesson and Small Group Discussion time.
- As Christians, we are not meant to be alone. God created us for community, and to gather in prayer, study of His Word, fellowship, and to love one another. It is in Christian community, with Jesus at the center, where we grow in our faith and produce good fruit by sharing His love with others. When we love one another as Jesus loves us, others will know that we are Christians!
- This summer's theme verse comes from John 13:34-35; ***"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."***



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# 2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON TIPS CONTINUED

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- On the first evening of the Gathering we will study what it means to belong in community through the Book of Ruth, and the commitment Ruth made to her mother-in-law Naomi to remain in community with her. God blessed Ruth's dedication through her marriage to Boaz, and she became part of the direct family line leading to Jesus Christ.
- The second evening we will look at growing in community, through Jesus teaching in the Gospel of John, chapter 15 about the vine and the branches. Jesus is at the center of all Christian community, and we produce good fruit in our lives by remaining connected to Him and each other.
- On the third evening we will discuss loving in community and study Jesus' teaching of loving one another through washing His disciples' feet. This is found in the Gospel of John, chapter 13. When we love one another, others will know we are Christians.
- We have provided several resources to help you prepare your Bible lesson. The primary resource is the Large Group Leader's Guide. You will find a link for this guide next to this video on our website. It is also available on the flash drive provided to the leaders for each Gathering.
- Provided with the Summer Friendship Gathering Training Videos there is another video for the preparation of each lesson. There is also an illustrated video for each lesson as an example of how each lesson might be taught.
- In the Large Group Leader's Guide, the lesson plan for each day includes 4 sections: Daily Bible Verse, Lesson Objectives, Background Information, and Bible Lesson Outline.

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# 2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON TIPS CONTINUED

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- This lesson plan leaves plenty of room for each teacher to use their unique gifts to individualize their lesson. However, it will be important that the main points as outlined in the Large Group Leader guide are reflected in your lesson.
- These same points are included in the Discussion Group Leader's Guide for small group discussions, as well as in the Discussion Booklet that our friends with disabilities will take home.
- You also have PowerPoint presentations for each day that have illustrated slides to help tell the Bible story. These files along with all the Gathering documents are available on a flash drive that will be provided to your Friendship group leader.
- You will not be able to solely rely on the PowerPoint slides for teaching your lesson. They are great for telling the Bible lessons but are not designed to help our friends with disabilities with real-life application. This is where you can use your individual creativity.
- The lesson plans also include optional skits for all three days. You can use the provided skits or write your own. If you decide to create your own skits, be sure to keep them short and the concepts easy to follow.
- Whichever you choose, the skits should be printed and rehearsed in advance using characters who can read and project their voice. Consider using a microphone.
- If your group has access to costumes, you can include your friends with disabilities to act out the Bible lesson. Consider using a narrator to tell the story while the story is acted out. You can also use a character in costume to tell the story from a personal perspective.

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## 2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

### LARGE GROUP LESSON TIPS CONTINUED

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- Repetition is important when teaching those with disabilities, so it is best to retell the Bible story more than once. You can tell it with the PowerPoint slides and again by acting out the story.
- Optional object lessons have also been included. Video presentations of two object lessons with the scripts have been prepared for Days One and Two. You can use the video presentation version or the script to do your own presentation of the object lessons.
- As you prepare your lesson it will be important to find ways to encourage participation. The best way to do this is to ask your audience questions throughout your lesson. You can review important points with simple questions. When you ask a question, give the large group time to answer.
- In your lesson, connect the skits and object lessons to important points. Also, connect the Bible lesson to a real-life situation. This helps everyone relate the Bible lesson to their lives.
- It will be important to tie your lesson back to the present and to the importance of Christian community in our lives. Use real life examples of what this looks like.
- Remember, we have provided three additional videos with specific teaching ideas for each Bible lesson. We also provided three additional videos for each lesson that demonstrate a way the lesson can be taught.