

# SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

## 2024 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

### WORSHIP LEADER

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- Summer Friendship Gathering events last 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.
- There will be time set aside for worship on all three evenings of the Gathering. On Days 1 and 2, following the fellowship meal, 15 minutes will be set aside for a few worship songs and an opening prayer. This worship time is to prepare our hearts for the large group lessons and discussion time.
- Our friends with disabilities really value and love worship music. Every heart is connecting with God during these times.
- Through their example, I have learned a great deal about worship. I don't have to be a good singer or know the words; I can feel free to sing loudly with joy, knowing God is pleased.



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## WORSHIP LEADER CONTINUED

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- On Day 3, following the fellowship meal, everyone will gather for a group photo and then within the worship service have the Day 3 Large Group Bible lesson.
- In the Day 3 Bible lesson we will learn just how big God's love is for His people. Even though they sinned He forgives them and goes with them to the Promised Land. We will also review the lessons from Days 1 and 2.
- It will be helpful to focus on the Gathering theme and content of our lessons as you select songs and plan the worship service. There is a song list you can use of YouTube songs next to the Worship Leader video on the website.
- Last summer our theme was "Called Out of Your Boat" where we followed Peter on his journey as Jesus called him to follow, step out and jump out of his boat to join Him in the mission of starting the early church.
- The theme for this summer's Gathering is "**He is Worthy**". We will learn how God called Moses to lead His chosen people, the Israelites, out of slavery and into the promised land. Every step of the way God showed Moses His worthiness through His Holiness, His Power, and His Love.
- Our theme Bible verse for this summer comes from **Revelation 5:12** "**He is worthy to receive honor and glory and praise!**"
- The first night is titled "**God is Holy**". We will learn that God is worthy (deserving) of all our praise and worship because He is Holy. God showed Moses His Holiness when He spoke to him in the burning bush. There is no one more holy (perfect) than God.

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### WORSHIP LEADER CONTINUED

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- God wanted a relationship with Moses. God also wants a relationship with us.
- We will also learn the mission God had for Moses, to free God's people from slavery. God promised Moses that He would go with him. God promises us that He will go with us in whatever mission He calls us to.
- The second evening is titled **"God is Powerful"**. We will see that God is worthy of our praise and worship because He is all Powerful. We will learn how God's power, working through Moses, freed His people; and led them through the desert to the land He promised Abraham 400 years earlier, even when their way seemed impossible.
- On the last evening of the Gathering the lesson will be taught as the message during the closing worship service. We will not have a small group discussion time.
- In this message titled **"God is Loving"**, we will learn that God is worthy of our praise and worship because He is Loving. When Israel turned their backs on God and worshiped the golden calf God was ready to leave them and not go with them to the promised land. The Israelites cried out to God in repentance and God forgave them. He promised He would go with them to the land that He had given them.
- God wants us to have that same forgiving love for others by praying for them just like Moses prayed for the Israelites. God forgave them, went with them, and gave them rest.

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## WORSHIP LEADER CONTINUED

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- If you want more information about the lessons, there are additional videos that go deeper into the curriculum.
- Worship music and participating in the singing is an important part of every Friendship group and live music is always best.
- However, not every group has someone who can lead live music. If this is the case, prerecorded music and the use of technology can be used. Be sure you arrange for both the equipment and a volunteer who can operate the technology.
- Regardless of the music source, the lyrics for the songs should be available on printed handouts or projected on a screen. It won't matter if you use handouts or a projector, but the size of the font will matter. Make sure the font is large enough and easy to read.
- A computer or tablet with a projector can be used to project YouTube music videos with lyrics on a screen. It will be important to carefully select the videos with lyrics that are not flashing single words on the screen. It should at least display a sentence at one time.
- The choice of songs will also be important. The songs should be well known and easy to follow and sing along. You are welcome to use the YouTube playlist of songs on the Connection Ministries YouTube channel that were selected based on this year's theme.

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## WORSHIP LEADER CONTINUED

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- It is important to stay on schedule during the Gathering. Our friends with disabilities need to leave for home on time for their evening routines.
- Churches partnering on a Summer Friendship Gathering event can divide up the worship music responsibilities. On Days 1 and 2, there are 15 minutes allotted for worship music leading into the Large Group Lesson.
- It is important to start at the scheduled time and not wait until everyone is in place. The sound of music will move people from the dining area into the worship space.
- Depending on the length of songs, consider selecting 3-4 songs. Be flexible to keep the start of the lesson on schedule.
- On Day 3 you can plan on the same 3-4 songs leading into the worship and one upbeat song for the closing.
- There is no large group lesson or discussion group on Day 3. The Day 3 lesson is the message for the worship service. The person leading the message for the closing worship service should study the Large Group Leader's Guide in preparation for the lesson.
- Whoever leads the Day 3 Bible lesson can also review the video for preparing the Large Group Lesson for details on the main points that should be in the Day 3 lesson.
- You are encouraged to review the video for this presentation, as well as the YouTube play list of optional worship songs. The links to these resources can be found on the Connection Ministries website.

