

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING WORSHIP LEADER

- Thank you for your willingness to help guide us in worship during the Summer Friendship Gathering this year. This notes sheet will outline our goals for worship and give you pointers on the best way to lead our Friends with disabilities in praise and worship to our great God.
- 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 all the words; I can feel free to sing loudly with joy, knowing God is pleased and delights in our worship.
- On Day 3, following the fellowship meal, everyone will gather for a group photo. The Day 3 Bible lesson will be presented as part of the worship service.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

WORSHIP LEADER

- In the Day 3 Bible lesson. There will also be a time to review the lessons from Days 1 and 2. We will talk more about these opportunities for worship later in this video.
- 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 play list you can use of YouTube songs next to this video as well.
- It will be important for the worship leader to watch the Theme Overview video. This will go over the specific lessons for each day, so they get an idea of what songs to choose for that day.
- If you want more information about the lessons, there are additional videos that go deeper into the curriculum. These videos are also on the website under Large Group Lesson Day 1 – 3.
- 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, YouTube, 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 is important. Make sure the font is large enough and easy to read.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

WORSHIP LEADER

- 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 display one sentence at a time. Using adult songs is also important for our adults with intellectual disabilities. Stay away from cartoon pictures or singers.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Churches partnering on a Summer Friendship Gathering event can divide up the worship music responsibilities.
- Depending on the length of the 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.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

WORSHIP LEADER

- Some groups choose not to have a large group lesson on Day 3. Instead, they choose to have the Day 3 lesson as part of a worship service for Day 3. The worship leader will want to coordinate with the Day 3 Large group leader to know how many songs are needed and when during the service.
- You are encouraged to review the notes 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.
- Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this year's Summer Friendship Gathering. If you have any questions or need information you can email us at connect@connection-ministries.org or call our office 317-646-5067.