



SUMMER 2020 – OVERVIEW FOR LEADERS

OVERVIEW

Due to the changes of COVID-19, this year we are reimagining an opportunity for outreach and engagement with River families and friends. We have developed a “mobilized” camp model that can be led by families in their own neighborhoods. Instead of inviting friends to the church building for camp, River families will invite friends to their backyards (or patios, or local parks) to participate in thematic maker projects and devotionals.

Although we will miss gathering all together, we believe there are some wonderful advantages to this model. The most effective way to share the love of Jesus is through relationships. This is an opportunity to get to know your neighbors and the families of your kids’ friends even better. You can think of each camp session (5 in total) as a short playdate in which we provide an activity and fodder for conversation. We hope that our friends and neighbors will learn to identify “the church” as not mainly a building but as a people—a people who trust and follow Jesus, not just on Sunday, but every day of the week.

GOALS

1. Kids who would have attended Maker Camp will have a sense of continuity and enjoy hands-on summer activities.
2. Kids will grow in their knowledge of Jesus through object lessons, scripture, and relationships.
3. River families will be mobilized to take ownership of outreach, building relational capital with friends/neighbors and creating a safe space to talk about faith. Families will learn to minister together with all members participating in a meaningful way.
4. Our community will be blessed by the opportunity for hands-on creative activities for children, social connection, and spiritual exploration. Unchurched families can see the Gospel modeled and lived out in the lives of their Christian neighbors.

LOCATION

- A family from the River serves as the host and leader. You can choose where to host your camp sessions.
- All projects are designed to be done in a backyard, but could be adjusted to a public park. We recommend being outside to limit potential germ exposure.
- For the projects, your location should have:
 - A flat surface to work on (we can loan out trays if needed)
 - A place for people to wash hands (we can give baby wipes and hand sanitizer)
 - Access to water (ideally warm water, but could use room-temp and put it in the sun)

MAKER CAMP @ HOME – SUMMER 2020

SCHEDULE

- There are 5 sessions, each with a thematic project and lesson. Each session is designed to take about an hour, although children may wish to spend longer on certain projects. You could host these sessions in a variety of ways:
 - Every weekday for one week (recommended)
 - Once a week for 5 weeks
 - 2-3 sessions per weekend for 2 weekends.

PARTICIPANTS

- This camp experience is designed for small groups of no more than 8 kids. For social distancing reasons, we recommend no more than 3 households be gathered together.
- Projects are appropriate for elementary kids (about 6-11). Children in the younger end of this range may need adult assistance, and children in the older end of this range can be challenged to be more creative. We recommend that you invite parents to attend along with their children, so they can lend a hand.
- This is an ideal time to invite a) someone who you would otherwise invite to traditional Maker Camp, b) someone who might be curious about spirituality but wouldn't want to visit a church service, or c) someone who might be lonely during the pandemic.

SPIRITUAL COMPONENTS

- The spiritual content of the program centers around knowing Jesus through the "I am" statements in the book of John. Jesus was an expert at teaching through "object lessons" and analogies - we are simply building on that example!
- Each day, there is a short devotional. It includes intro/warm-up questions, the "I am" verse, a short fictional example of the analogy, and discussion questions.
- The goal is that kids who already know something about Jesus will understand and know him even deeper, and that kids who don't know much about Jesus will get to meet him.
- Be open about your own spiritual journey. Share what God has done in your life and why you love him. It's okay if you don't have all the answers to the big questions kids might ask!
- We encourage you to consider this part of an ongoing conversation with your friends and neighbors. Hopefully you can continue to love and serve them, following up if they have questions or curiosities.

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RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- **PROJECT MATERIALS:** Each child will receive a small box (“Maker Kit”) filled with the essential materials for 5 projects. Even the box itself will be used for two of the projects! See details in the chart below.
- **LEADER SUPPLIES:** Each project requires some basic craft supplies, plus a few cooking supplies and cleaning supplies. See details in the chart below. Hosts can provide these or they can be borrowed from the church when you pick up the Maker Kits.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The host will receive written instructions for each project, plus video links that show how to complete them (on The River’s YouTube channel). You can choose to show the video to the kids directly, or watch the video ahead of time to teach the kids yourself.
- **SUPPORT:** We are here to answer any questions that come up before or during your sessions. If you would like to have a youth or adult provide assistance during camp sessions, we may be able to connect you with a volunteer.
- **PRICE:** Our church is covering the cost of all materials, so this program is available for free! If you would like to donate to The River, you can through <https://the-river.churchcenter.com/giving>.

[Please fill out THIS FORM](#) to request Maker Kits, leader supplies, and additional support.

MAKER PROJECTS

THEME / VERSE	PROJECT	SUPPLIES PROVIDED	HOST SUPPLIES*
I am the good shepherd. -John 10	#1 Sheep Magnet Toy	Cardstock, magnets, wool pompoms, pencil, googly eyes, pipe cleaner, bead	Markers, scissors, super glue, tacky glue
I am the light of the world. -John 8	#2 Paper Circuit Card	Battery, LED light, copper tape, cardstock, pencil	Markers, scissors, tape
I am the bread of life. -John 6	#3 Bread-In-A-Bag	Ziploc, flour, sugar, yeast, salt, wax paper, loaf pan	Warm water, vegetable oil, measuring cups & spoons, masking tape, plastic wrap
I am the way, the truth, and the life. -John 14	#4 Marble Maze	Cardboard box, graph paper, straws, marble, pencil	Markers, scissors, glue stick, elmer’s glue
I am the true vine. -John 15	#5a Sprouting Seeds #5b Kumihimo	Beans, paper towel, bag Box lid, template, string	Water, tape Scissors, glue stick

**we are happy to provide any of these supplies if you don't have them*

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

It is important to us that as a church community we are being good neighbors. We want to support the spiritual and social-emotional health of the children in our community without undue risk to their physical health. Thankfully, children are generally at much lower risk of contracting coronavirus. In Santa Clara County, summer camps are allowed to operate as long as they have 12 or fewer children in stable groups that follow social distancing protocols. As of June 18, masks are required for everyone in California when interacting with others outside your household.

You should follow these precautions:

- Make sure all participants are healthy. No children or adults should have any symptoms of illness, and should take their own temperature each day before gathering. If anyone has been exposed to someone who has coronavirus, they should stay home and not participate.
- Keep it outdoors, since there is less risk in fresh air. Children can go inside for the bathroom or to wash hands one at a time.
- Follow social distancing protocols: wearing masks, frequent hand-washing, maintaining 6-foot distance between households when possible. You can do this by sitting at opposite ends of a large table, separate small tables, sitting on different picnic blankets on the ground, etc.
- Clean frequently-touched areas before and after gathering.
- Do not serve food or drinks (bread project will be completed at each child's home).
- Limit sharing of supplies to within households (siblings can share scissors, markers, etc.)