



Chosen
2026

TREK CAMP
CHURCH TIME GUIDE



WHAT IS A CHURCH TIME GUIDE?

Immediately following Worship each night, your students and adults will gather as a group. You have the freedom to lead this however you feel is best. The purpose of this material is to provide a guide for you to use, if you so desire and need help structuring this time. These purposes for Church Time aim to foster a holistic and nurturing environment where students can grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. You may...

- **Continue Worship:** Church Time serves as an extension of the worship experience. It's a space where the spiritual fire kindled during the service can keep burning. Some students may have had profound experiences during worship, and this time allows them to share their decisions or reflections. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to delve deeper into the sermon's discussion.
- **Debrief and Connect:** This is a chance to connect on a personal level with your students. Simply checking in with them, asking about their day, and genuinely caring about their well-being are crucial for building meaningful connections. It's about creating a safe and caring environment.
- **Reflect and Acknowledge:** In the midst of a busy camp schedule, reflection is vital. It allows everyone to pause and process the day's events. This pause helps participants align their hearts with their thoughts and acknowledge the presence of God in their lives. Creating this space for reflection can be transformative.
- **Create Prayer Bonds:** Praying together is a powerful way to forge deep connections. It's not about the words spoken but the emotions shared. When you pray with and for someone, you show that you genuinely care. The feeling of being supported and loved through prayer can leave a lasting impact on students.
- **Relay Information and Announcement:** Sometimes, important information and announcements need to be conveyed. However, it's wise to time these at the end of Church Group Time to avoid disrupting the spiritual atmosphere established during worship. This ensures that the Spirit remains undisturbed.

A WORD FROM OUR CAMP PASTOR

Jesse Joyner, Camp Pastor
www.JesseJoyner.com, 804-349-3800, jesse.joyner@gmail.com

MVOTW (Memory Verse of the Week)

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

Psalm 139:14, ESV

Overall Theme Idea:

God, the Creator of the entire universe, made you and me! Not only did God make us, but He made us in His image, set apart from the rest of creation to be like Him and to take care of creation for Him. He made us for relationship - with God and with one another. He made each of us unique, with specific gifts, talents, features, and identities so that we can serve Him and bless others in this world, each in our own special way.

The Gospel Message:

The Gospel message of Jesus Christ and what He accomplished for us on the cross and through His resurrection is the overarching story that will be woven throughout each of the lessons. Time will be set aside on Wednesday and Thursday nights to invite campers who want to make a first time profession of faith in Christ to pray with a prayer counselor (from their own church). As leaders, please continue to share your own testimonies and share about the love of Jesus in all of our lessons.

Other Notes:

For our “Chosen” theme, we will focus on people in the Bible that God chose for His purposes, particularly people that demonstrate the “fearfully and wonderfully made” idea from the main verse (like Moses who couldn’t speak well, Esther who was a different ethnicity as Xerxes, or Zaccheus who was short). In other words, there is something unique about who they are that is part of their calling and chosenness.

Remember that there are two kinds of “callings” (i.e. being “chosen by God”). The first (and primary) is the calling to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:6). The secondary callings are the specific things God calls us to in this life (jobs, service, relationships, ministries, etc.).

Overview:

Day	Bible Story	Scripture
Monday	Adam and Eve: Made in the Image of God	Zacchaeus: Made to Give
Tuesday	Moses: Made to Speak	Exodus 3:1 - 4:17
Wednesday	Samuel: Made to Listen	1 Samuel 3:1-21 ; 1 Samuel 16:7
Thursday	Esther: Made to Sav	Esther 4:14
Friday	Zacchaeus: Made to Give	Luke 19:1-10; 1 Peter 4:10

Other Biblical narratives worth noting:

Feel free to weave the stories of other Bible characters whom God chose in special ways into your discussions. Some good examples include.... Bezalel/Oholiab, Deborah, Namaan, , Sheerah, Mephibosheth, Mary (mother of Jesus), Peter, Paul, David, Gideon, Abraham, and Noah

ADAM AND EVE: MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD GENESIS 1:1 - 3:24

Key Verse:

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’ - Genesis 1:26a

Summary:

Even before God created the universe, He was already there forever, sharing perfect love within Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That is why this verse says, “us” and “our” when referring to God - not because there are multiple gods (there’s not). But because our one true God is a community within Himself - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call that the Trinity.

Out of the overflow of God’s great love and goodness, He made the universe and everything in it, including us. We are God’s favorite part of His creation, as we are made in His image. That means that we are like God. Like Him, we have an eternal soul, made to love Him and to love others. Before you were born, He intricately wove you together in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). God made you like Him (in His image) so that you could be in His forever loving family (Gen 1:26-27). When God looked at everything He had made (after making the humans), He said that it was “very good” (Gen 1:31).

Key Takeaway:

God made us and made us to be like Him - with a heart to love Him back and to love others around us..

Discussion Questions:

(Note to leaders: For the discussion questions in each session, feel free to provide your own answers to the questions. In some cases, it might help prompt the campers to think of their own stories and answers if you go first. Also, allow the campers to pass on any question that they may feel uncomfortable answering.)

1. What do you think it was like to live in the Garden of Eden?
2. What do you think it means to be made in the image of God?
3. Do you think you could have resisted the temptation to eat the fruit off the tree? What do you think you would have done?

MOSES: MADE TO SPEAK EXODUS 3:1 - 4:17

Key Verse:

“But Moses said to the LORD, ‘Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.’ Then the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.’” - Exodus 4:10-11.

Summary:

God called Moses to lead the Hebrew people and to speak God’s messages to them. But Moses came up with an excuse (But “I’m not a good public speaker!”). Then God replied by reminding him who made the mouth (God) that God would be with Moses and show him what to say. Now, Moses’ fear is understandable. Public speaking is one of the biggest fears that people have always had. But if God chooses you for something and calls you to something, will He not sufficiently equip you with everything you need to obey?

Key Takeaway:

God is the One who made you the way He made you. If God chooses us and calls us, we can trust that He will supply us with our every need to follow and obey. And He will be with you.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think went through Moses’ mind and heart when he saw a talking burning bush?
2. What do you feel when you speak in front of a crowd? Does it make you nervous or scared?
3. What do you think Moses felt when God told him to talk to Pharaoh and ask for his enslaved people to be freed?
4. Has a teacher or parent or other adult ever asked you to do something that you felt you were incapable of doing? What was that feeling like? Does anyone have a story where they ended up realizing they were capable of doing that think after all?
5. Can you think of a time when you were nervous to do something but you felt God’s presence with you and it helped you do that thing? Share your story if you have one.

SAMUEL: MADE TO LISTEN

1 SAMUEL 3:1-21 ; 1 SAMUEL 16:7

Key Verse:

“And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant hears.’” - 1 Samuel 3:10

Summary:

Samuel was a miracle baby. His mother Hannah was unable to have children (1 Sam 1:5). But she prayed for a child and the Lord blessed her with a son, whom she named Samuel. When Samuel was a young boy, Hannah dedicated him to the Lord by sending him to work at the holy temple, under the care of Eli the priest. So Samuel became like a “priest in training” at the temple. It was there that he learned how to hear the voice of the Lord - in a time in Israel’s history when supernatural visions and hearing the voice of God was “rare” (1 Sam 3:1). This was all part of God’s plan to raise up Samuel to be an important prophet, or spokesperson for God, in a crucial time in Israel’s history. In fact, Samuel grew up to become the prophet who identified a young David to be the future king of Israel (1 Sam 16:7).

Key Takeaway:

You don’t have to wait to grow up for God to do big things through you.

Discussion Questions:

1. As a group, play the “telephone game” for a few minutes. Line up into two lines. Have an adult whisper the same short sentence (they can make it up) into the ear of the first person in each line and then they have to send the message down their line by whispering the sentence, one person at a time. See what the last person in line thinks the sentence is. See how difficult it is to relay a message properly?!
2. Have you ever had the chance to be a messenger? Think of a time when someone asked you to relay a message from one person to another. How did that make you feel?
3. What do you think the voice of God sounded like when He called Samuel in the night? Do you think it was loud, soft, normal, or something else?
4. Spend some time together as a group in prayer, asking for God to speak in whatever way he wants for each person. Maybe it will be a sense in your heart, maybe you will hear His voice. At the end, share what you heard during the prayer time and discern together what people felt God was saying to them (make sure a mature adult leads this time to help discern and keep the focus on the Holy Spirit and God’s Word).

ESTHER: MADE TO SAVE ESTHER 4:14

Key Verse:

“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” - Esther 4:14b

Summary:

Esther was a Jewish woman living in the Persian empire. In those days (about 500 years before Jesus was born), the Jewish people were persecuted in Persia. The persecution was so bad that the second-in-command man of Persia (Haman) convinced King Xerxes to sign a decree to kill all the Jewish people. But there was one big problem: Esther (a Jewish woman) was the wife of the Persian King Xerxes - and he had no clue that she was Jewish. She became his wife by winning a beauty contest that Xerxes conducted after his first wife (Queen Vashti) left him. Are you confused yet? Basically, Esther was in a very unique position to save her people from death - probably the only person with the influence to do so. She risked her life by approaching the king with the truth about her ethnicity and asked for the decree to be undone. The Lord was with her and the King undid the decree, and the Jewish people were given protected status in Persia. Jewish people celebrate this story every year to this day with a festival called Purim.

Key Takeaway:

God made you uniquely who you are, in this time in history, in this place in the world, so that He can do great things through you!

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Esther felt when she found out that she was chosen to be Queen?
2. What do you think it was like for Esther to be married to a King who did not know her true identity? Have you ever felt like you had to hide your true identity out of fear of what people would think of you?
3. Imagine approaching King Xerxes and telling him that you are Jewish and that Haman was out to kill your people. Do you think you would have done what Esther did?
4. Think about who you are, where you live, and what year it is (2026). Those are three things that will never again happen in history. You are who you are, in a special town/city, in the year 2026 for a reason! Ask God to show you how to live out your calling and chosenness in this time and place in history

ZACCHAEUS: MADE TO GIVE LUKE 19:1-10; 1 PETER 4:10

Key Verse:

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.’” - Luke 19:9-10

Summary:

Zacchaeus was a rich man and a short man. People did not like him because he collected taxes. He was probably made fun of for being short too. But he was curious about Jesus and desperately wanted to see Jesus when Jesus was passing by. That’s why he climbed the tree. When Jesus went to his house, Zacchaeus declared his commitment to be a generous and fair man with his great wealth. Jesus reminded the skeptical crowd that he came to save lost people (like Zacchaeus). The most important calling God gives all of us is to belong to Jesus Christ. But we also have specific callings in this world, according to how God made each of us. According to 1 Peter 4:10, each of us have been given different gifts in order to share God’s great love with others around us in the world. And bringing joy to others brings glory to God. In other words, God made you special with unique callings so that you can serve others and bring worship to God through your gifts and talents.

Key Takeaway:

God loves you and made you unique with certain gifts and talents. You may not even know what your gifts and talents are yet. But that’s OK. Use whatever you have, whatever you’ve been given, whoever you are, to the glory of God and in service to others in the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. Whether you find time for this discussion after the Friday morning session or if you do it on the bus ride home, please find the time to go through this exercise.
2. What is something you learned about God’s love this past week at camp?
3. Go around the circle of your group and give each camper and adult the chance to be in the “hot seat.” While each person is in the hot seat, everybody else should go around the circle and tell the hot seat person something positive they see in that person. In other words, use this as a chance to affirm one another in the God-given gifts that you spot in one another. We all need to hear others call out the gifts they see in us.