

Hello everyone,

I know many of you have been wondering about whether or not we'll be having children's camp this year because of all the Covid-19 regulations. Many churches have chosen to cancel their group's activities and some of the camps themselves have decided to cancel, so it is a mixed bag all around us. As of this moment, we are going to Children's Camp. The following information will pertain to the youth being involved in leading and working. To stay ahead of scheduling and details, I wanted to write this to let you all know what our plans are for children's camp, requirements for students to come as leaders to camp, and a mini-camp/retreat option for the youth themselves to take the place of youth camp.

Right now Children's Camp is set to be Sunday the 19th through Wednesday the 22nd. Ben will be sending out info to camper parents at a later date. I spoke with Pastor to let him know and get his approval for us to take all of the youth workers to camp Saturday after lunchtime to help set things up and stay over night. This way we will be ready to go for when the children arrive Sunday afternoon.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL YOUTH WORKERS

Regarding youth involvement, teenagers are still open and welcome to come as youth workers, so long as you the parent/guardian are comfortable letting them come. There will be no hard feelings or offense taken for adults who don't want their students going for health concerns or other reasons. Due to our church staff's decisions to keep all of our children and workers safe amid COVID-19, preventative measures will be used and enforced while at camp for this year. That being said, students who have their parent's/guardian's permission to come to camp this year MUST first adhere to the 3 requirements that are listed below.

Requirement 1) My20 Devotionals

- WHO: These have been used for several years to help students who want to go to camp as youth leaders stay in the word of God leading up to camp.

★ *It should be known though that students desiring to lead in this type of capacity should already know the importance of and be actively engage*

in reading scripture for themselves. This is more than just as a requirement to come to camp. Children's Camp is essentially a "mission week" just like Mission Arlington or VBS and it should be treated with spiritual maturity and personal integrity.

- **COPIES:** You can get a MY20 Devotional from the church or find them under the student ministry tab of our church website at gracewayokc.org/upcoming-events
- **NEW INITIATES:** These devotions are optional for upcoming 7th graders
- **CHECK DAY:** Every Saturday leading up to camp your student will check in with me to show me their progress. They can send pics of each day they've completed. They could also send a video of themselves slowly flipping through their booklet to show me their progress.
 - 🚩 *Students don't need to feel guilty, judged, or ashamed if they don't have everyday done up to Check Day. Students can use Saturday and Sunday even to catch up on days they may have missed.*
 - 🚩 *Regardless of their progress though, at least 3 days of work from each week must be submitted every Saturday.*
 - 🚩 *If students are all caught up, that's great! Maybe encourage them to spend some time praying, re-reading, and reflecting on what they've done this past week in preparation for the next week*
- **ADULT CHECKS:** Periodically checking in with your student during the week will help them stay engaged. Ask them daily or every other day what they've read and how they've responded. Some might not want you to but reading what they write can give you and me a gauge of where our students are spiritually as well as how to be praying for them.
- **INTEGRITY:** I am all for students reaching out to their friends or you for help. I encourage and promote that, especially between you and your student. However, please make sure your student isn't just giving their best responses to these questions, but that they are, in fact, giving their own responses. Not only their friend's responses or only your responses. Help your student maintain godly integrity by not doing this for them or allowing others to do this for them.
- **DATES:** These MY20 Devotions have pages that correspond to the dates leading up to Children's Camp. Students will start on Monday, June 15th, and finish on Sunday, July 19th.
- **PHYSICAL BOOKLET:** If students choose to use a physical booklet, the booklet must be turned in to Isaac the Sunday we leave for camp. These will be given back to the students once I have had time to go over their responses and reflections

- E-BOOKLET: If students choose to use the online e-copy of the MY20 Devotional, they must record their readings, observations, applications, and extra thoughts in a separate, personal notebook that will be given back to the students once I have had time to go over their responses and reflections

****NOTE: Choosing not to do a MY20 Devotion automatically disqualifies any student from attending children's camp. Also, if a student waits until the week before we leave to do their MY20 Devotion, I will see it as a choice to have not done it at all and the student will be disqualified from coming to camp.**

*****NOTE: PARENTS/ADULT GUARDIANS! If you are unfamiliar with the process of MY20 Devotions, I have included in this email the first two pages that are included in every booklet. These explain the "what", "why", and "how" of MY20 Devotions. Please familiarize yourself with them. I have made changes to them since previous years to help fit our crazy, Covid-19 experience. Being aware of what's expected and required in these, you can help all of our students have great success in being transformed by God's Word that will go far beyond Children's Camp!***

Requirement 2) Sermon Reflections

In years past, I and my other youth leaders have been able to in-person walk our students through the MY20 Devotional together. As much as it saddens me to not have as many face-to-face interactions with all of our students, that simply isn't the case this year. We're not at a point as a state or church where we can meet as frequently as we all would like. Therefore, I have decided to include an additional requirement to emphasize church involvement as much as possible.

- WHAT: Sermon Reflections are personal responses to Pastor Greg's weekly Sunday sermons written by students wanting to go to Children's Camp as leaders.
- DATES: June 21st, June 28th, July 5th, and July 12th are the Sunday sermons that students will write their reflections about and submit to Isaac. Students only have to write about 2 out of these 4 sermons and can pick which ones they want to.
- DETAILS:
 - ★ Must be at least 100 words in length.
 - ★ Double-spaced
 - ★ Times New Roman font
 - ★ Size 12
- CONTENT: The content of the reflection can be anything the student chooses. It can be a summary in their own words of what Pastor Greg was preaching. The student can write about how the sermon directly applies to them and their life now. Students can

use the sermon to write their own devotional and have it if they ever want to give it to a friend. It can be a combination of these or anything else they choose to write.

- SERVICES: Students will not be required to come to services if you as their parent/guardian do not want them to go. They can live stream the service.
- SUBMIT: Students must email their Sermon Reflections before 9 pm the following Tuesday after each sermon is preached (June 23rd, June 30th, July 7th, July 14th). You can find my email at the bottom of this document.
- ADDITIONAL: Students may include drawings, poems, or anything else if they choose to do so, but these won't count toward the actual written portion of this requirement

Requirement 3) Church Membership

Camp is going to be different this year than ever before. Ben and the other leaders are leaning toward limiting the number of children we take to camp by only allowing Graceway members' kids or direct relatives of Graceway members. This is to best abide by COVID-19 regulations and protect the kids and staff. As far as how this will affect our teenagers, in addition to reaching the above-mentioned requirements, students who wish to come to Children's Camp as leaders will themselves need to be either official Graceway church members or the children of official Graceway church members. Students who are not official members of Graceway or the children of official members of Graceway, will not be able to come to camp as official youth workers unless a parent/guardian is cleared to come for the week.

I was approached by an adult within the last year who heard about our Children's Camp and wanted to know if he could come to camp as an adult leader. I told him that we staff our camp with our church members as a way of connecting with and reaching our kids/campers. This got me thinking about how important it is for the youth and adult leaders be people we know, we see regularly, and people who genuinely desire to invest in the children of our church as well as the other children who attend Children's Camp, not just to enjoy a fun camp experience.

MINI YOUTH CAMP

****PLEASE NOTE: The above requirements only apply to Children's Camp. There are NO requirements of this sort for our youth mini-camp.**

Even though youth camp was canceled this year, we do have an opportunity to have our own mini-camp experience at Camp Lela. Camp is still scheduled to be the week of July 20th but there have been minor changes made to best fit Lela's schedule. The Children will leave Sunday the 19th at 2 pm and will come home Wednesday the 22nd after lunchtime. This will allow the students and youth leaders/sponsors to stay Wednesday through Friday to enjoy the campground and our own version of youth camp.

Students who have met the aforementioned requirements to come to Children's Camp will stay at camp, and therefore need to pack accordingly. This applies to all upcoming youth initiates as well. For any students who don't attend Children's Camp as leaders but wish to attend our mini-youth camp, a van will come back on Wednesday to pick up students and take them to Lela. More general information regarding mini-youth camp will be made available to everybody sometime during the first week of July.