

# Congregational Time

The purpose of congregational time is multi-faceted. It is a time to connect, plan, debrief, and join together as a group. This is really your time to do what your group needs to do.

As you plan, make congregational time an expectation and set a time. There is the suggested time on the schedule so that you can be finished by the time all need to be in their rooms. If you have leaders in the youth group who might want to help lead, this is a good time to do that and encourage them.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> your congregation will be assigned a time for discovery worship. This coincides with skillshops. If your discovery time is during session 1a, then you will go to discovery at the start time of skillshop session 1, and will have 30 minutes to use the discovery stations. For the following 30 minutes you will have time together as a congregation to use as you wish. If you are 1b, you would have time with your congregation for the first 30 minutes and then go to discovery for the second 30 minutes. The number (1, 2 or 3) designates which skillshop session and the letter (a or b) designates the first half or second half in discovery.

## Ideas for Congregational time include:

Highs and Lows (what was the high of the day and the low of the day)

What are plans for the following day—set time and place to meet

Discuss any group dynamics that need to be addressed—could be put ups (encouraging words) to reward helpful behavior and discuss thing that might not be aiding the group.

Daily ideas (in addition to the above)

## December 27—Theme: Rebellion = Jesus

- Discuss any new insights as to how you understand rebellion = Jesus
- Ask about the bible verses they discussed in small group and how they apply to Rebellion = Jesus (Matt 22:1-14 – parable of the great feast, John 4:1-42 – woman at the well, John 9 (Jesus heals blind man on sabbath, Mark 2:13-17 – Jesus eats with sinners, John 8:1-11 – woman caught in adultery, Matt 22:34-40 – the greatest commandment)
- Ask how they can share about this when they get home – both at church and with friends/family outside of church
- Optional activity – create a brainstorm poster with 3 circles, Jesus in the middle circle, the middle circle being ideas about smaller, more easily attainable ideas of ways to be part of Jesus' rebellion, and in the outer circle big ideas that may take some time. Remind participants that everyone has different gifts, talents and comfort levels, so something that might not be bold to one person is a huge step to another person. Discuss ideas that stand out or people have questions about

### **December 28—Theme: Rebellion = Change**

- This day the groups went to service. If you did not have time to debrief the service project, tonight would be a time to do that. May discuss how service may be taken to home and shared – expanding on your time after service.
- Discuss what change can mean, big or small, and why people can be resistant to change.
- Ask what stood out to them in small groups that day.
- Optional activity – Have participants write a note to someone at home in the congregation that they are connected to about Rebellion, and what it means to them and how they would like to involve this person in the groups rebellion when they get back home.
- Consider discussing which skillshops look interesting to people, the next day is skillshop day. Let them know what time they are going to Discovery, and where to meet the group.

### **December 29—Theme: Rebellion = Voice**

- This day has skillshops. It would be a good time to discuss what skillshops were attended and what they may have learned.
- This day also had discovery. Talk about what stations they did, and which were most meaningful to them.
- How does Rebellion = Voice?
- How is being part of a group, like this youth group give you a voice?
- Optional activity – have participants write their name on a slip of paper, fold it and put it in the middle. Once everyone has done so, have everyone take a slip (if they get their own name, draw again or trade). Then have everyone share a way in which the person named on their slip has either helped someone else or been a voice that everyone listened to or shared a great idea that worked, etc.

### **December 30—Theme: Rebellion = Strength**

- This congregational time is likely to be done mostly on the trip home. If stopping somewhere for lunch it is a good time to debrief the event and what you will do as a group when you get home to keep the rebellion going.