

Talking with your Camper About the Disappointment of a Summer Without Camp

We recognize that the cancellation of camp this summer comes with great disappointment to you and your camper. We are able to empathize with your camper - as we were looking forward to a summer of camp, too. As you discern how to have these hard conversations with your camper, perhaps some of these ideas may help.

Pray: We encourage you to pray before talking with your camper. Pray for God to calm any anxiety about the conversation and ask Him to lead you in the words you use. Pray for sensitivity for both how you deliver the conversation and how your camper receives it. Take this moment to pray for the pandemic. We also encourage you to open or close the conversation with your camper with prayer.

Be Honest: We encourage you to be honest about how the pandemic has caused disruption in many aspects of our lives. Being honest creates space for emotions to be processed, which is what your camper needs. Tell your camper that it is ok for them to be honest too - and that all the feelings they are experiencing are ok. It is ok to be sad, frustrated, angry, hurt, confused, disappointed and to cry about not being able to attend camp this summer.

Validate and Equip: Every camper is different and is therefore going to process their emotions differently. It is important that these emotions are validated - that your camper knows that it is ok to express their feelings. It is also important to direct those emotions into ways that help us heal. Again, every camper is going to have different ways of expressing their emotions that are helpful to their healing. Some suggestions we have are encouraging prayer, reading scripture, journaling, doing an art project, spending time outdoors, talking with a trusted friend, listening to or making music and exercising.

Share: For some campers, seeing the updates themselves is really helpful. We encourage you to share our video announcements, letters, FAQs and other updates we send out. We hope that every camper knows that this decision was made with their health and safety as our top priority!

As hard as it was to cancel camp for the summer, we know that it was the best decision we could make to keep campers and staff safe and healthy. And please let your camper know - THEY ARE STILL OUR CAMPER! We will be praying for them and are still thinking of ways to encourage them to take their next step in Christian faith. God is good and He is at work.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." - 2 Corinthians 1:3



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