



REMEMBER

- **Be intentional.** As the facilitator you need to be intentional about making sure everyone feels heard demonstrating good listening through eye contact, facial expressions/ body language, tone of voice, and words.
- **Everyone learns differently.** Some campers will need tactile things, visuals, or just something to focus on think through how you might offer one thing like this in each cabin time (ie. see resources).
- **Read the room.** You do not need to force a cabin time to be a certain way, length, or have a certain outcome. Sometimes campers just need to talk about something else, move on, or land somewhere you didn't expect. Pay attention to when you're trying to force something vs. what maybe needs to happen.
- **Rely on the Holy Spirit.** Work in tandem with the Holy Spirit, listen for the Spirit's guiding voice, and be watchful of how God may be moving in your campers.



RECOGNIZE

- **Purpose.** Cabin time is a time for young people to have the opportunity to be heard and known by others, know others more deeply, and ultimately to give them an opportunity to discover more about God.
- **Audience.** Age, gender, life experience, and beliefs all matter and impact the lens your campers hear and see things through. Keep this in mind as you use Christian language and stories, remember the time of life they're in, and what they're capable of engaging with.
- **Format.**
 - ▶ Invite. It is your job as a leader to invite your cabin into conversation not to lead a "talk". Help them check in and build trust to move deeper.
 - ▶ Discover. Move into the theme in creative ways offering them opportunities to share and uncover how it impacts them. (See resource section)
 - ▶ Recap. Help campers remember main highlights from your discussion by affirming the truth and life in what you have heard people say.



RESPOND

- **Create a safe space.** Be intentional with space and words.
- **Be prepared.** If your camp speaker gives you the themes for each talk before camp, look through them and start thinking of places where they intersect with stories in your life or experiences in your campers lives.
- **Focus.** Choose just one idea, question or theme, for each cabin time. Too many, and campers will get lost.
- **Choose "open-ended" questions.** Choose questions that cannot be answered with "yes or no" but with descriptions. Try the phrase: "tell me about...".
- **Plan the space.** These things can help focus your campers:
 - ▶ Gather away from obvious distractions and listening ears (ie. inside cabin, outside at a picnic table, in nature overlooking inspiring creation).
 - ▶ Arrange your campers in a circle all sitting at the same level.
 - ▶ Make sure the seats and temperature aren't distracting - but not so cozy that they fall asleep! Depending on the age group and ability, campers may struggle to sit still and listen. Gauge what they can do and don't overstretch their capacity.

- ▶ Choose some ground rules together for what making a safe space for sharing and listening looks like when in a cabin time.
- ▶ Be watchful of each individual camper and their reactions and responses to things. This provides a great opportunity to have deeper one-one conversations later.



RESOURCES

- **Stories.** Stories matter and people remember them. Check out some children's short stories or novels that fit well with the theme the speaker is talking about. Pick one bible story OR story from yours or your co-leaders lives that fits with the theme, memorize and tell it as a story, act it out with your co-leader, offer a few open ended questions after that connect your campers stories to yours.
- **Senses.** ie. smell, taste, touch, sound, and sight. Is there a song you can play, a picture you can show, a jar of playdough you can bring, a sour candy you can share, or a pot of tea you can make, that emphasizes a question or a point?
- **Setting.** ie. can you have a cabin time under the stars?, in the dark with the flashlight?, put your feet in a body of water, throw rocks into a stream?
- **Something in your hands.** Create a questions jars with stem questions to pull out, make a question ball, use an item that indicates who is talking ie. a "sharing stuffy".

<https://younglifeleaders.org/2017/06/how-to-lead-cabin-time-at-camp.html>



CREATING MEMORABLE
CABIN TIMES