

CAMP



CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR SGLs

You're going away with a group of teenagers for a week or weekend filled with conversations, drama and a variety of smells. The relational investment you make at camp will pay off for years to come—because your group might just bond more in one week of camp than in an entire year of weekly small groups. You'll make amazing memories, create hilarious inside jokes, and have a chance to just relax . . . maybe. Okay, probably not. Your conversations at camp might seem a little different than the conversations you have with your group the rest of the year, and it's not just because everyone is extremely sleep deprived and a little loopy. It's because your time together will extend well past your usual hour a week, and that allows for a deeper kind of connection. You're going to have a lot of conversations, so to help you navigate this time of ongoing, constant talking, here are few things to say and a few things not to say.

WHAT TO SAY:

BEFORE CAMP

- Let's all agree to a low drama week. I know things will probably happen, but when we're able to let things go so that we can focus on the things we're here for, I think we'll end up having a lot more fun.
- Things will happen this week that will probably annoy you or bother you, but let's all just try to let things go.
- What are some expectations we can put in place to help us focus and have great conversations this week?
- What is something that you want to get out of this week? It can be in regards to God, other people, yourself or something totally different.

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WHAT TO SAY:

DURING CAMP

- If there's something you want to talk about privately, let's go for a walk or grab ice cream during free time and talk one-on-one. (Remember: one-on-one talks should still happen in a public setting.)
- There's no reason to feel like sharing something heavy ruined the fun. In fact, this time is set up for us to be able to talk about real-life stuff.
- Go *all* in this week. If you hold back, you risk missing out. So whatever it is we're doing whether it's worship, or small groups or dodgeball, go all in.

WHAT TO SAY:

AFTER CAMP

- What is the one thing you can tell your parents you learned while you were at camp?
- What was the highlight of your week here at camp?

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- This week is about changing something you were doing before you got to camp, so what's yours?
- There will be NO dating during this camp week. In fact, don't even talk to someone of the opposite gender.
- Would your mother be okay with you behaving this way/wearing that?
- Did I seriously take vacation time for this?
- I've been praying for some of you to accept Christ this week. (While this may be true, your students don't need to feel like you're disappointed with them if they don't.)
- For the zillionth time, get off the balcony or so help me . . .
- This speaker/band/camp is ok, but I like the old one better.
- Everyone has a big camp experience and then goes home and nothing changes.
- This week isn't about having fun. It's about growing your faith.

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