

Arts and Crafts

Flashlight Focus

Supplies: Black and yellow construction paper, white paper, markers (paint supplies optional), scissors, and tape or glue.

How: Invite campers to draw a nature scene from camp. Encourage them to think about what a space might look like at night if they could see in the dark. What animals might be there? This can be done with markers, made more complicated with paints, or kept simple with just black markers. Once those drawings are done, provide small pieces of white paper and invite the campers to draw a small flashlight, about an inch and a half long. They can draw a generic cylinder, or draw the flashlight that they brought to camp. Have them cut it out. Now, invite them to cut out a long “pizza slice” in the middle of their black paper. The narrowest point should be about two or three inches in from one side, with the triangle expanding across most of the page. Remind them not to cut too close to the edges so it doesn’t tear. Campers can glue or tape their flashlight picture to the narrow point, making it look like a cone of light. Invite the campers to place their black paper over the nature scene and imagine they are looking around at night. Invite them to pick a favorite view, then glue down the black paper to lock in the revealed scene. If they prefer, campers could use tape, in case they want to eventually remove the black overlay. While working, invite the campers to talk about what God might see that we miss and how God’s light leads us in unexpected ways.

What is Revealed

Supplies: Paper, markers, black crayons, paper clips, toothpicks, and scissors.

How: In advance, cut some paper into quarter sheet rectangles. Give each camper a quarter sheet piece and a full sheet of paper to place it on, so they can work to the edges without coloring on a table. Invite the campers to draw a picture with markers, reflecting something they learned at camp or depicting one of the Bible stories they have learned. Encourage them to cover the entire piece of paper with color. Once they are done, invite them to use a black crayon to cover the page, coloring darkly over all the space. After they have

covered the entire image, invite them to use paper clips or toothpicks to scratch lines in the crayon to draw a new image. They could write “Wilderness”, the name of your camp, or draw a symbol that reminds them of God. As they scratch the image into the black crayon layer, color from below will appear and add a layer of beauty to the new symbol. If you have time and want to add another layer, you can invite the campers to design “frames” for their image, draw them on the larger paper, then cut them out, including the hole inside, and place them over the smaller piece of art. As you work, you can ask campers about lessons they keep learning and how we can keep digging deeper as we get older and see things in new ways.

Rugged and Rubbed Outdoors

Supplies: Paper, crayons, scissors, and glue.

How: Invite the campers to take paper and crayons around camp and make rubbings of various shapes and textures in nature. Some might be leaves, or tree bark. Some might be a branch or ground cover. Remind them not to harm anything in nature as they make their rubbings. They simply place their paper over the subject and rub it gently with a crayon. This works best by unwrapping the crayon and using the long flat side. Once campers return with their rubbings, invite them to make a mosaic on another piece of paper by cutting out pieces and shapes from the rubbings and gluing them down. They could cut rubbings into creative shapes, symbols, or to look like other things in nature. Imagine tree bark cut into a heart or leaf patterns cut into flower petals.

My Wilderness

Supplies: Dry erase markers and clear glass/plastic panels (or use windows at camp that are easy to reach), a long roll of paper or table cover, and a camera.

How: You can either provide simple glass or plastic panels, like you would find in a frame, or use windows at camp. If you are using panels, cover your workspace with paper or other covering and place the panels at each camper’s workspace. Ensure that you have the camp’s permission if using their windows. Provide

dry erase markers and ask the camper to fill the space using a marker as they draw what “wilderness” means to them. Once they are done, let the camper stand behind the panel or window pane and put their face close to it. Take a picture of each camper, silhouetted behind their wilderness image. While campers are working, invite them to talk about their work and what “wilderness” means to them.

Try This: Consider printing the images and making a collage of people in their wilderness that could be shared at camp, in worship, or even after camp to share stories with local congregations about what happens at camp.

F.A.S.T. Prayer Bracelets (Best for Day 5)

Supplies: Yarn, string, or craft floss; and tape

How: Before you begin, introduce the concept of crafting as prayer. Explain that many people use repetitive crafts as a way to meditate or focus their hearts and minds on an issue they want to lift to God, and that this craft is a way to do that. They can simply reflect on a prayer concern, think about who they might give their bracelet to when they are done, or even think about things that person is going through. Another approach is to think about a different word or prompt for each movement. Here is a simple acronym to use as a prayer process:

F(or)

Something we are thankful for having or doing, or something we hope for.

A(gainst)

Something we are struggling with or need to stand up to.

S(ingular)

Something we are facing personally /
What we can do individually.

T(ogether)

Something we are facing as a
community / What we can do together.

Remind the campers that Esther asked the people to pray and “fast,” a practice of not eating for a set period of time, to help focus and show solidarity. Our “Fast” could be different, but still prayerful.

Invite campers to choose four colors of string and cut long lengths. Tape them down to a firm surface with the ends tight together or knotted. To braid four strings, you take the furthest on the right and place it over the one to its left, then put the two strings now in the middle close together and move the furthest left strand over both. Repeat this with the string on the right crossing one and the string on the left crossing two, until you have the full length braided. Campers can then tie off the ends and tie them on their wrist.