**Outdoor Worship Pizazz Resources**

**Morning watch**

*Purpose*: Starting the day by seeking God with all of our senses, reflecting on your relationship with God, discerning how to do God’s will through our actions that day.

*Example Idea*: Each day focus on a different sense in order to explore the many ways God reaches out to us. Adapt this as needed if you have campers with sensory differences (blindness/low vision, Deaf/hard of hearing).

* Listening— Start by having participants sit quietly for whatever period of time feels right (5-10 minutes depending on age), and ask them to listen to all the sounds they hear around them.
  + Read Job 12:7-11.
  + What sounds did you hear?
  + How might God be speaking to you in the sounds of the natural world?
  + What is one thing you would like to hear today?
* Seeing— Start by having participants sit quietly for whatever period of time feels right (5-10 minutes depending on age), and ask them to pay attention to what they are seeing around them as they sit.
  + Read Psalm 104:1-6.
  + What did you see this morning?
  + How might you see God in the natural world, either here or at home?
  + What is one thing you can do to help others to see the presence of God in you?
* Touching—Start by having participants wander quietly and invite them to gently touch things around them (warning of potential dangers like poison ivy or nettles) and pay attention to how different natural elements feel (a rock versus a patch of moss for example).
  + Read Psalm 104:14-23.
  + What are some of the things you touched on your nature walk this morning?
  + How is God like a rock? How is God like the rough bark of a tall tree? How is God like the softness of a blade of grass or a patch of moss?
  + How can you walk on the earth more gently today, in a way that helps heal the earth?
* Smelling— Start by having participants sit quietly for a few minutes, breathing deeply and paying attention to what they can smell in the air that morning. After this you can also pass around different-smelling objects from nature (pine cone, lavender or other flowers, dried leaves, soil in a container).
  + Read Song of Solomon 2:12-13.
  + What did you smell this morning when you were taking deep breaths?
  + What does it tell you about God that there are so many different smells in the world?
  + Pay attention to how different places and things smell today and remember that God has created all of these things.
* Tasting—This one can be a little complicated with food allergies. If possible bring small samples of foods that activate different taste buds (a pinch of sea salt, a spoon of honey, a spoon of mustard). Invite participants to taste each food and pay attention to how it makes their body feel. A really cool thing to try is to have them taste honeysuckle nectar if it’s in season.
  + Read Psalm 34:8.
  + What did you feel when you tasted each of these different foods?
  + What is your favorite or least favorite food to taste?
  + How might eating good food help someone connect with God?

**Prayerful Wandering**

*Purpose*: connecting with God by being truly present in creation

*Example Idea*: Beholding Trees

**Practice—Beholding Trees**

Fun facts about trees:

* Trees are the longest-lived organisms on earth and do not die of old age. The oldest trees in the world are 4,000-5,000 years old, and many of them can be found in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California
* Trees communicate with one another both through underground root networks and by releasing chemicals into the air that warn other trees of dangers.
* Trees also offer nourishment to each other across species lines through these underground root networks.

**Different ways to behold trees**

In solitude: Have the members of your group spread out in a forest and invite each person to wander until they find a tree that speaks to them. They can stand or sit, touching the tree or simply watching it, for a set period of time. Ask them to pay attention to all aspects of the tree and to listen to what God might be saying to them through the tree. Ring a bell at the end of the time to bring everyone back together.

As a group: Find a tree at your camp that would work well for this group activity—a tree that is large, or old, or has some interesting defining features. Have the group go out and stand in a circle around the tree while you explain the exercise. Then folks can either remain standing, sit on the ground by the tree, or even come up to touch the tree if they feel so led. After a set period of silent reflection, talk about what people noticed about the tree. Ask them what spoke to them about this particular tree, and what they learned about God or themselves in beholding the tree together as a group.

**Outdoor Prayer Stations**

*Purpose:* to facilitate sincere prayer in nature in diverse ways, including making art, talking to God, reading Bible stories, and simply sitting and listening to the natural world.

*Ideas*:

* Outdoor Prayer Stations for Children: <https://engageworship.org/ideas/were-going-prayer-hunt-outdoor-prayer-stations>
* Outdoor Prayer Stations for Youth: <https://engageworship.org/ideas/face-face-with-jesus-outdoors-prayer-stations>
* Outdoor Prayer Stations for Adults: <https://pulpitshenanigans.wordpress.com/2018/08/27/outdoor-prayer-stations/>

**Evening Devotionals**

*Purpose:* a chance to listen for God in the stillness of evening and to reflect on what we learned that day.

*Scripture reading ideas:* Psalm 42:1-8, Psalm 139:1-18, Psalm 141:1-2

*Questions to ask:*

* How is God moving in your life during your time here?
* What is one thing you learned about yourself today?
* What is one thing you can do to be God’s hands for someone tomorrow?

**—Online Resources—**

Sabbath Practices Ministry Kit for Camp

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/sabbath-practices-ministry-kit-for-camp/>

Resources from Wild Church Network

<https://www.wildchurchnetwork.com/Wild-Resources>

Advice for writing a land acknowledgment

<https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

Indigenous lands map

<https://native-land.ca/>