

Sacrifice

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16 NIV

Students

2010 Alabama WMU
Day of Prayer and Kathleen
Mallory Mission Offering

Before the Study

Prior to the session, gather and prepare all needed supplies, which will include the following:

For Introduction: A table and items that are important to students (see Introduction section for ideas).

For "Get to Know WorldSong" activity: Four separate stations (may be a table, a blanket placed on the ground, etc.); Numbered signs (one through four) for the stations/stops;

For stop 1 - Poster board and markers

For stop 2 - CD player with children's music CD or DVD player with children's music DVD

For stop 3 - Paper (enough for one per student), rubber stamps, stamp pads, a stop watch and calculator

For stop 4 - Cake, plates, napkins, forks, cups and something to drink

Make a copy of the instructions for each of the four stops. Decide how you will conduct the stops. Will you lead the entire group? Will you split the groups? Will you have a leader at each station? Do what works best for your group.

For Conclusion: Provide KMMO envelopes and Day of Prayer prayer guides (one for each student). Ask your WMU director to place an order. If you do not have a WMU director, you may order the materials from Alabama WMU at 800.264.1225 ext. 226 or mlee@alsbom.org.

Introduction

Before the session, place things that are important to the students in your group on a table. Possible items include:

- ~ Music - CDs, an MP3 player, radio or XM/Sirius radio tuner*
- ~ Athletic equipment - balls, bats, running shoes or a uniform*
- ~ Snack foods - bags of chips, cookies, soft drinks or candy*
- ~ Books - mystery or love novels or other books read for fun*
- ~ Television - DVDs, a television, a gaming system or games*
- ~ Academics - notebooks, text books, graph paper or calculators*

Say: "How do you define sacrifice? Have you ever sacrificed anything? What was the purpose of your sacrifice?" Allow students to answer each question. Help them to make the connection with the items on the table like sacrificing time with friends to be on a sports team, or sacrificing time on Facebook to study. Give an example from your own life when you made a sacrifice.

"We are going to talk about sacrifice today. We're going to hear how others have sacrificed, and then later we'll talk about how each of us can sacrifice something in our lives.

"WorldSong Missions Place is a camp in Cook Springs, Ala. Every year, thousands of children, students and adults visit WorldSong for day camps, summer camps, weekend retreats and more. While at WorldSong, campers can hear God's voice as they experience many types of activities."

Get to Know WorldSong

If possible, do this activity outside. Use the church grounds, a church member's yard or a local park. The idea is to be in a natural setting. Your group will stop at four stations (detailed below) that each describe a different aspect of the ministry of WorldSong Missions Place.

If your group is large, divide the group into two or more smaller groups, and allow the groups to visit each stop on a rotating basis.

If you decide to split your group and an adult leader is not available to guide the groups at each stop, print the instructions on cards, and post the appropriate card at each stop. Be sure to have each stop clearly designated with a large numbered sign. Provide a signal so that each group will know when to move to the next stop.

Stop 1 - Summer Staff Sacrifice Time

Supplies: poster board, markers

Stop 1 - Summer Staff Sacrifice Time

Sacrifice. Dictionary.com defines sacrifice as “the surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim.”

Every year, Alabama WMU and WorldSong hire 20-30 summer staffers. These staffers give up their entire summers to minister to campers who come to WorldSong throughout June and July. While at WorldSong, summer staffers may miss out on family vacations, church mission trips and internships. In addition, summer staffers sacrifice time with their friends from home or school so they can minister to children, parents and teen girls. Time is valuable, but summer staffers willingly make the sacrifice of two months of their lives to serve God in the ministry at WorldSong.

On the poster board, write down things you do in the summer. What would you have to sacrifice in order to serve as a summer camp staffer?

After making your list, elect one person in your group to pray for the staffers who will serve next summer. Ask God to begin preparing next year's camp staff right now. Ask God to give each future staffer a desire to serve Him at WorldSong.

Stop 2: Volunteers Sacrifice to Give Their Abilities

Supplies: CD player with children's CD or DVD player with music DVD

Stop 2: Volunteers Sacrifice to Give Their Abilities

Sacrifice. Merriam-webster.com defines sacrifice as “to suffer loss of, give up, renounce, injure or destroy, especially for an ideal, belief or end.”

Many volunteers come to WorldSong every year to give their time and services. Some help by giving their abilities such as renovating a building or working on the grounds. Others volunteer in one of the programs offered to children, students and adults. Each year, WorldSong features activities such as missions festivals for children and adults where campers learn about missions in another country by tasting national foods, playing games, interacting with missionaries, praying and other fun activities. When helping at WorldSong, volunteers give their time because they wholeheartedly believe in the mission of the camp.

Now you're going to do something many WorldSong volunteers find themselves doing. You're going to sing some camp songs! Then pray for God to send volunteers to WorldSong who will show the love of Christ.

Lead the group to sing one or two songs from camp. If using a CD or DVD is not available, list some song options such as “Jesus Loves Me,” “Fruit of the Spirit,” “Do Lord” and “I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N.” After singing, lead students to pray for the volunteers who will give of their time and services at WorldSong. Ask God to guide volunteers to show the love of Christ to campers at WorldSong.

Stop 3: Staffers Tell About Christ

Supplies: paper, stamps, stamp pads, a stop watch and calculator

Stop 3: Staffers Tell About Christ

Sacrifice. Wikipedia.com defines sacrifice as “selfless good deeds for others.”

Each summer at WorldSong, camp staffers lead children and students to make decisions for Christ. From 1960 until now, more than 72,000 children and students have attended summer missions camp. Of those 72,000+, 28 percent have made some type of decision for Christ. That's almost 20,000 decisions! More than 5,000 children and students have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, and another 7,000 students have rededicated their lives to Christ. In addition, more than 1,500 have committed to pursue a Christian vocation, and almost 3,000 have surrendered to the call of missions in their lives! The lives of children and students are changed as the result of the ministry of WorldSong.

Each student should take a piece of paper, a stamp and a stamp pad. Take turns if necessary. Students should stamp their paper as many times as possible in 30 seconds. Count how many stamps are on the papers, and add up the total. Now divide 20,000 by the total number of stamps on all the papers. This number represents how many papers would need to be filled with stamps to show how many decisions for Christ have been made at summer camps. That's an amazing impact!

Now pray for the children and youth girls who will attend camp at WorldSong next summer. Ask God to make His direction clear in their lives and to help them have a great time while at camp.

Stop 4: WMU Members Sacrifice Time and Money

Supplies: cake, plates, napkins, forks, cups and something to drink

Stop 4: WMU Members Sacrifice Time and Money

Sacrifice. Dictionary.cambridge.org defines sacrifice as “to give up something that is valuable to you in order to help another person.”

In 1949, Alabama WMU began offering girls missions camps at Shocco Springs in Talladega, Ala. But by 1990, the camping ministry had outgrown the facilities at Shocco, and Alabama WMU purchased its own camp in Cook Springs that was owned by the Birmingham Baptist Association. Alabama WMU changed the name of the camp to WorldSong Missions Place and in 1991 offered its first summer camps at WorldSong.

The camp now spans 618 acres and includes four lodges plus an Adult Retreat Center. In addition, the camp has seen many upgrades such as the addition of a junior Olympic swimming pool and upgrades to both the chapel and the dining hall. WorldSong also features activities such as canoes for use on the lake, a high and low ropes course, zip lines and scenic, mountain hiking trails.

From missions camps at Shocco Springs to purchasing WorldSong Missions Place and then making upgrades to the camp, the members of Alabama WMU (including students just like you) have sacrificed in many ways to make missions camping available to children and students in Alabama. In 2008, Alabama WMU rejoiced when the final payment was made for the debt to upgrade WorldSong.

How do you like to celebrate? With cake? Enjoy a slice of celebration cake. As you pray, give thanks to God for the ministry of Alabama WMU at WorldSong Missions Place. Thank God for the more than 5,000 children and students who have accepted Christ while at Shocco and WorldSong. Praise God for almost 3,000 children and students who have accepted the call of missions in their lives.

Offering and Wrap-Up

Gather students near the table with the items important to them. Invite any students who have attended camp at WorldSong to share about her/his experiences. (If your group has had many students attend camp at WorldSong, before the session invite one or two specific students to share their experiences.) If none of your students have ever been to WorldSong, encourage students to tell what they learned in this study about the camp. Make sure to let students know about opportunities available for them at WorldSong including Student Missions Weekend and Youth Girls' Summer Missions Camp for girls in grades 7-12. For more information, visit www.alabamawmu.org.

Say: “Alabama WMU has offered missions camps for more than 60 years. In 2011, we will celebrate offering missions camps at WorldSong Missions Place for 20 of those years. WorldSong is thriving in Cook Springs. Children, students and adults are sacrificing their time, money and talents to serve Christ in the ministry at WorldSong. What about you? What are you willing to sacrifice for Christ?”

Invite students to look at the items on the table again.

Say: “Many of you are involved in sports, academics, extra-curricular activities and more. Each of those things fights for your time and your concentration, but the truth is that nothing is more worthy of our focus than God. Is He asking you to sacrifice something you do or have and instead focus on Him? What’s it going to be? Time with friends, time on the Internet, your money for a cappuccino going to missions? How will you choose to grow in Christ this year?”

Distribute KMMO envelopes and prayer guides. Encourage students to pray for WorldSong. Let them know that part of WorldSong’s funding comes from the Kathleen Mallory Mission Offering. Encourage them to pray about being involved, whether it’s giving their money through the offering or even by giving their summers to work at WorldSong. Lead students in prayer. Thank God for the ministry of WorldSong Missions Place. Allow students to give their offerings.



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Visit Alabama WMU on the Web at www.alabamawmu.org.