

Summer

football themed camp

AIM

To provide some ideas for those taking part in summer camps who are looking for material with a football theme.

INTRODUCTION

I was recently asked to provide some material on a football theme for a Boy's Brigade camp. This theme was chosen for obvious reasons. Even if we did not win the world cup we took part and it has been very popular.

The idea was to use tunes from commonly used football songs and have words that might be more suited to a Boy's brigade camp. There are plenty of football songs on the internet but unfortunately quite a few of them are racist or homophobic. So the challenge was on to rehabilitate these. Other songs are well known enough in their own right like 'You'll never walk alone'. Once you get the idea I'm sure you'll be able to work out some more examples using the songs from your local teams.

STRUCTURE

The aim was to suggest a short structured prayer and reflection session that could be used at camp. I suggested three.

1. St George

St George is the patron saint of England and of Catalonia, which is now part of Spain (the world cup winners). Obviously camps in Scotland, Wales or Ireland might want to choose different saints. A Roman soldier who confronted the cruel Emperor, he was tortured and beheaded by Diocletian. He has been popular with soldiers and those under orders.

Bible reading: Ephesians 6:10-18. This passage describes the Christian as a soldier in a struggle with all those things which stand against God.

Prayer: there's a good prayer for this theme on the personal blog of Revd JP Richardson: <http://ugleyvicar.blogspot.com/2007/04/prayer-for-st-georges-day.html>

Heavenly Father, give us the bravery of St George to stand up for what we believe. Give us the strength to overcome the dragons in our lives and in the world. And where we see people in distress, give us the compassion to help them. Amen

Song: this is based on an England football chant to the tune 'Give me oil in my lamp'

Give me St George in my heart, keep me faithful
Give me St George in my heart, I say
Give me St George in my heart, keep me faithful
Keep me faithful to God everyday

Keep me faithful, keep me faithful

Keep me faithful to God everyday.

Summer

football themed camp

2. We are God's Team

You might remember there was a lot of discussion in the papers about Capello's team, the way he announced who was on the team and all that, during the World Cup 2010. Of course it's a big deal being on the team. There is always a lot of attention given to each member of the team, their performance is scored out of 10 and so on.

In Fantasy Football the aim is to assemble the best virtual team, even though in real life these players might never play together. All in all, football is a team game, but so is the Christian life. We are invited to be on God's team. We get called up and once we respond we are never left on the bench.

When you think about the first team Jesus chose (known as his disciples) you might wonder why he chose those he did and what sort of team they made. He even chose someone who would betray him: Judas. But is that any different from John Terry's behaviour towards Capello at the World Cup?

Bible reading: Jesus names his own team in Mark 3:13-18.

Prayers: Nick Baines, the Bishop of Croydon, wrote these prayers for the England Team

The first is simple and honest:

Oh God...

The second offers a little more:

God, who played the cosmos into being, please help England rediscover their legs, their eyes and their hunger: that they might run more clearly, pass more nearly and enjoy the game more dearly. Amen.

from <http://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2010/06/19/world-cup-prayer-for-england/>

Song: Based on a song sung by supporters of Huddersfield Town to the tune 'Those were the days'

These are the days my friend,

We hope they'll never end.

We've got on God's own team.

We've won more than the cup:

We share the bread and cup.

We are his team,

Oh yes we are his team.

Summer

football themed camp

3. You'll never walk alone

You'll never walk alone is a well known sporting anthem. You can find out plenty about it at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You'll_Never_Walk_Alone

It's sung by several clubs, most notable Liverpool, and has often been used at national events like the memorials following the fire at Bradford City's Valley Parade Ground in 1985 when 56 spectators died. It has also become popular at funerals.

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:16-20: Jesus promise to be with his team 'until the end of the age' is a powerful one.

Prayer: Use a version of Jesus' team prayer, known as the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best— as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and all evil.
You're in charge!
You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes.

From The Message Matthew 6:9-13
Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by [Eugene H. Peterson](#)

or use a traditional form of the Lord's Prayer if you prefer

Song: You'll never walk alone – sing this as is traditional

When you walk through a storm
Keep your chin up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm
Is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind,
Walk on through the rain,
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown.

Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone.

[Lyrics by Rogers and Hammerstein]

Summer

football themed camp

EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

If you want more seasonal material please revisit the website.

Acknowledgements

Please acknowledge the sources of the copyrights mentioned in this material if using it yourself, at camp or in public worship.

HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

If you have comments and particularly contributions to the prayer year, you can email the V4L prayer year coordinator via prayer@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk