

Judson Retreat Center — Summer 2020

The focus of our summer ministry season has always been to share the gospel and the love of Jesus with the 500+ campers who visit Judson each year. As a result of the restrictions and limitations implemented by our government leadership to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have been forced to re-evaluate and adapt our ministry model for the summer of 2020.

The current restrictions and guidelines do not allow us to safely and effectively host quality, in-person kids' camp this summer. Regretfully, we think it best to postpone these programs until the summer of 2021. Throughout the last few weeks, we have consistently prayed that—regardless of how our summer plans may be affected—God would grant us the courage and creativity to diligently search for opportunities to actively engage in meaningful ministry.

Thankfully God has a plan. Even though our primary focus each summer is always the camper, we also have the privilege of serving our staff, volunteer counselors, churches and individual families. God has graciously provided funding that will allow us to hire summer staff, and although our programming may look very different this summer, we fully intend to make every effort to serve our extended camp family in the following ways:

Camper and Camper Family Outreach

- Developing and executing ways to connect with campers virtually.
- Providing a week of free virtual camp. This will include: assignment to a cabin and a cabin staffer, ZOOM bible studies lead by a staffer, morning celebration and evening worship experiences, missions moments, funny skits, etc.
Each registered virtual camper will receive postcards from their staffer, a name tag and other camp supplies. Each camper will have the opportunity to purchase a summer 2020 Judson t-shirt.
- As restrictions are lifted we hope to plan and host a few camp experiences for teenage boys and girls.
- Planning and brainstorming 2021 camps.

Retreat Center Ministry

- Inviting individual families to enjoy a reasonably-priced 2 day/1 night camp experience. Families can enjoy using the facility and choose to add options like swimming and horseback riding to their experience.
- Hosting day events such as trail rides or family fun days (as restrictions allow).
- Preparing for and helping host individual church rental groups as the state restrictions allow.

Community Ministry & Outreach

- Partnering with local churches to identify individuals in the community who may need assistance (i.e. yard work, food delivery, maintenance, housekeeping).
- Providing churches with a Judson Day Camp experience. Our staff will travel to area churches for a morning or afternoon and set up favorite camp activities for appropriately-sized groups of children. Day Camps may include bible study, mission study, archery, recreational games, and even horseback rides!
- Seeking God's guidance regarding other practical ministry and missions opportunities in the greater Baton Rouge area.

The Forge Discipleship Institute — *Summer Prototype*

One unexpected opportunity generated by the restrictions implemented to combat the pandemic, will allow us to both maximize our eternal impact, and pursue creative ways to continue ministering to your children, churches and communities.

Twelve of our summer staff have been invited to join what we are calling ***The Forge Discipleship Institute***. This program is intended to provide significant investment in the lives of these staffers, resulting in *their* significant investment in the lives of others for years to come. Our prayer is that these twelve staffers will be effectively trained as disciple-makers who carry out the fullness of the Great Commission. Through their participation in *The Forge*, we can leverage each staffer's unique gifts and abilities to creatively continue the mission and ministry of Judson both on and off the campus throughout the summer of 2020 and beyond.

The Forge will provide the following for our summer staff:

- Intense discipleship training
- Sound theological training
- Practical ministry training
- Leadership and character development
- Missions and ministry projects

Our staff will be serving and working at Judson for approximately 9 weeks this summer while focusing on these objectives. Our ultimate goal is to serve our campers, their families and our local churches.

Much like Joseph when he revealed himself to his brothers after they had kidnapped and sold him into slavery (Genesis 50:20), we are reminded that although the pandemic has the potential to do harm, God can indeed use it for good "to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."