

OBJECT LESSONS FOR KIDS / CAMPING SUNDAY

#1 *Sing Around the Campfire*

Props: Faux campfire/campsite in your altar area or other open floor space. Some kindling and firewood. "Pass It On" song sheets, #572 UMH.

Invite the children to come forward and sit around the campfire with you.

Talk a little about your camping experience and ask if they have ever gone camping. What do they like most about camping?

Tell them that one of your favorite camp activities is singing around the campfire. Then sing a bit of one or two silly camp songs ("On Top of Old Smoky," etc.)

Then say that your favorite campfire song is "Pass It On" (UMH #572) Teach them to sing it, and invite congregation to join in.

Then explain how a campfire is like the song. You start with kindling and a match to start a campfire (a spark). And then you add larger pieces of wood to create a bigger fire. We are warmed by the flames of the fire as we sit in the circle. We are all warmed by God's love.

End by singing "Pass It On" again.

#2 *What's in a Name?*

Props: Faux campfire in your altar area or other open floor space. Five rocks with the words courage, honesty, humility, faith and love written on them. These rocks can be mixed in with others circling the campfire and should be turned face down. Photos of rock climbing at Camp Quinipet.

Welcome the kids and announce that the church is celebrating Camping Sunday today.

Say something like, "Camping is so much fun, and we're lucky to have 2 great camps to choose from. One is named Kingswood, and the other is called Quinipet."

Suggest that Kingswood is a really cool name, but Quinipet is kind of a funny / odd name. Quinipet comes from the Greek-Latin words that mean "Five Rocks." The



camp was named for the 5 really, big rocks at the camp. Big enough to go rock climbing on them.

There are some special words carved into each of the 5 rocks (Don't mention the words yet: courage, honesty, humility, faith and love.) Those 5 words are characteristics that our camps try to instill in all their campers.

I wonder what those 5 words are? Maybe we can find them written on the rocks around our campfire. (Allow the kids time to discover the 5 rocks, and then talk about what each one means and how we can show these qualities.)

End with a repeat-after-me prayer like this:

Dear God,
We thank you /
for all the wonderful places / you have created./
Especially camps like / Quinipet and Kingswood. /
As we go there to play /
and swim and sail/
may we show your love /
to one another/
and to the woods, lakes, oceans and wildlife./
Amen.

Written by Rev. Joanne S. Utley