

# Linked by Love



We know that love comes from God, and sometimes we experience it directly. More often, God's love is manifest in relationships of all kinds that weave in and out of our lives. We see God's love in close friends and family – those we are born into and those we choose along the way. We see God in quiet moments where we are present with each other and in acts of profound grace when we have been far apart. We hear God in life guiding and life changing words of truth from those who know and love us. We know that such love links our lives, teaching us about commitment, intimacy, grace, and faith. As we seek to create and strengthen life giving relationships, we remember that such love flows from God, links us all together, and we give thanks.

The scriptures for the 2024 summer camping season at Camp Mennoscah are below. Some camp weeks will not use all the scriptures. We invite you to read these with your camper(s) before coming to camp and to incorporate them into your daily worship.

## **Colossians 3:12-14 – Linked in Love**

Campers will be invited to think about themselves as beloved, to explore God in the midst of loving relationships, and to be encouraged to build deeper connections within the camp community.

## **Luke 10:38-42 – Linked through Acceptance**

Campers will celebrate that everyone is welcome at camp! They will be invited to set aside distractions and be present with one another, as well as honor the different ways we create and respond to welcome. Campers will be asked to imagine the impact of inviting Jesus into their relationships.

## **Job 2:11-13 – Linked and Present**

Campers will acknowledge the power of presence in a friend's time of need. They will learn that God is with us when we are with each other and come to know that each person's emotional needs are unique.

## **Luke 15:11-32 – Linked by Grace**

Campers will be assured that God freely offers grace and love to everybody. They will learn that owning mistakes is the first step towards reconciliation, examine how forgiveness in action can be difficult, and explore reconciliation as something to be celebrated.

## **Exodus 18:5-24 – Linked in Truth**

Campers will explore how honest conversations deepen healthy relationships. They will ponder how receiving Spirit led truth helps us grow, discuss the challenges everyone faces when one tries to do it all, and consider the benefits of relationships like Jethro and Moses in their own life.

## **Philemon 1:8-17 – Linked to Change**

Campers will explore how their own prejudices and biases impact their relationships. They will reflect on how their strengths can be used to advocate for others, examine the way mending relationships can open us to unexplored possibilities, and discuss how advocacy based on Christ's love is powerful.

## **1 John 4: 7-9; 19 – Linked to Love**

Campers will be reminded that love is from God and that God's love is an example of how to love others. They will be sent to share God's love in their relationships.