Urban Camping and the Environment

Every year I take a group of high school students to a music festival in Illinois. It is an opportunity to camp with 30,000 other Christians, listen to 150 different bands, hear wonderful speakers, and grow in faith. This year however I want to incorporate the simple fact that we are living simple lives, in nature, even if we are truly living in a tent city.

This project outlines the morning devotional material and questions for each of the days we are on the trip (June 30-July 7). This curriculum could be used at any such event and the number of days or times could be changed.

June 30- Where are you?
   Arrive at the festival PM
   Activity One: Group meeting and distribution of Maps

   Find your campsite on the map, what are you near, what are your landmarks, are they natural or man made? Could you find your way to the stage? Or the Lake? Or the Gate? What makes traveling in new places exciting? What could you see? What could you smell? What could you feel?

   Bible: Deuteronomy 23:9-14

July 1- How did you sleep?
   AM Activity stretching
   How does it feel to be that close to the ground? How does it feel to wake up with the sun? Did the dew make you wet during the night? What about bugs? Did you worry about animals? Did you hear the quiet when you fell asleep?

   Bible: Proverbs 6

July 2- What do you feel?
   AM Swimming
   How did it feel to get up early? How did the water feel? Do you feel cleaner? Did you wash your hair? Have you taken a shower yet, or is this the first time you have been clean? What about the water do you like? Was it cold at first? Did it feel nice to soak your tired muscles? What about being here wet? How is this like baptism?

   Bible: Matthew 3:1-17

July 3- What do you need?
   PM shopping basket?
What did you buy today? What is it for? Is it for you or is it a gift? Why did you get that one? Can you afford it? Do you need it? Is it ok to buy things you may not need but rather enjoy? How do you make your money? How do you decide where to spend your money? What is important to you when shopping?

Bible: Matthew 18:2-4

Compassion Child. At this point we will commit to sponsoring a compassion child. The students make a commitment to the child and to giving a nominal donation.

July 4- Who are your neighbors?
PM FOOD.
This activity is a meal. A meal that is made entirely of food grown within the county. Steaks from a local butcher shop, sweet corn and other vegetables from a local farmer. This is a treat to eat and also to make.

How does it taste? Do you know where it comes from? Do you think animals deserve love? What about vegetables? How does food get to the grocery store? How many people touch your food before you eat it?

Bible: Romans 14

July 5- What are you rhythms?
Afternoon Siesta.
Why do we get tired in the afternoon? Did you take a nap? Could you sleep like this at home? Why or why not? Do you stay busier here or at home? When did you go to bed?

Bible: Malachi 1:11

July 6- What do you miss?
AM What comforts don’t you have here that you would at home? What things do you miss the most? Do you miss people of connivances the most? What will you do first when you get home? What is it nice to give up? What about your life here is easier? What about your life here is less trendy? What about your life here will you miss when you are back home?

Bible: Matthew 8:20

July 7- What did you gain?
AM Before Leaving.
What did you learn? What did you see? What in nature did you experience? How was camping at a festival different than camping in a forest? How was camping here different than staying in a hotel? How did we impact our space? How did we impact our neighbor? How long before you can’t even tell we were here? What will you take with you?

Bible: Matthew 10