**Philosophy of Ministry for Camp**

**In a nutshell, providing an atmosphere in which Teens/Kids can be challenged to draw closer to GOD and have a ball while they are doing it. Jesus often used “retreats” as a method of renewal for his disciples. He took Peter, James, and John and led them to a high mountain by themselves (Matthew 17:1-8).**

**I think care is needed today that the Church does not follow in the footsteps of secular society. Today if your child has not already started training as a CEO by the time they start kindergarten, they are considered a failure. Today kids have schedules so full they no longer have time to just be kids. In our zeal to help them achieve, we sometimes forget they are kids! In every report, poll, and counseling book I have read recently, every time teen suicide, teen depression, and teen burn out is mentioned this is pointed out! We forget that the reasons we adults have ulcer, depression, insomnia,…is because we no longer take time to “come aside”.**

**“Play” is not a dirty four-letter word. Some of the methods I use to help achieve “drawing closer to the Lord” include:**

* **The teaching and preaching of God’s word**

**(the Church is powerless today because we have replaced the clear teaching of God’s word with clever discussion, projects, and programs,…)**

* **Game Times**

**To help kids get to know one another and build stronger CHRISTIAN friendships**

**To break away from the daily pressures of school, family,…life!**

**To build these relationships, give fertile ground where encouragement and accountability can bloom and grow. (foster positive peer pressure)**

**My Prayer is to provide an opportunity to help renew and re-energize enthusiasm for God. If we can strengthen their love and devotion for God, other areas in their lives from attitude, to active involvement in worship and church ministry will not be something we have to force. Instead, they become areas we may have trouble keeping up with them in!**

**I want to give our kids an exciting “Mountain Top Experience”. Help them get away, renew their faith, and grow closer together.**