

Hello Prince of Peace Families,

Discipleship Practice will look a bit different this year. We will be exploring our natural environment to help us learn more deeply about creation, while we learn about our spirituality, faith, stewardship, life, and practices of a disciple as we live into the larger life questions of God's presence and action in the world.

Living in the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic has provided us with many challenges, especially in the areas of education, social, emotional, and spiritual health and development. The Learning Team at Prince of Peace, in consultation with our COVID-19 Safety Team, feels that it is safe to provide an opportunity to gather outdoors in God's First Bible, Creation. In order to keep everyone safe, all participants will wear masks that cover both the nose and mouth, remain at least 6 feet from those not in your same household, and refrain from sharing objects.

We will gather outdoors at the [Black Run Preserve](#) here in Marlton each Sunday beginning **October 11** from **11:15 to 12:15**. Please try to arrive 5 to 10 minutes early so that we can begin promptly. We will head into the woods and we do not want to leave you behind. (Yes, there is a Port-a-Potty in the parking area.)

Directions to Black Run Preserve from the church:

Black Run Preserve REI Trail Head

<https://goo.gl/maps/YGXPaQ8WbKhB7rkr5>

If you take the Bortons Road entrance - Follow it all the way down until the pavement stops then turn left onto the sand road. The parking area is about 100 yards in.

We will gather no matter the weather (unless it is truly life threatening) in order to give learners/disciples:

- Experience of dealing and coping with different environments, especially difficult ones.
- Practical physical, emotional, spiritual, mental and tactical coping skills for stressful situations.
- A safe laboratory to practice observation and working through stress, struggle, and conflict.
- Observe, break down, and redefine their own presuppositions and fears about nature, stress and fear itself.
- Explore, observe and discover different aspects of creation when different conditions exist and therefore learn from them.

A day or two before our gathering, ask your child(ren):

- What should we think about for a Discipleship outing? (If needed, hint at possible weather conditions and possible terrain or bodies of water.) Encourage them to find out what the weather might be.
- What should we wear (clothing, outerwear, footwear) for the outing? (Again, hint at weather conditions, etc.)
- What kind of things should we pack as back-up? (Blanket, towel, extra change of clothing, large plastic bag to place on car seat, first aid kit)
- What things might we need for emergencies?
- If there is water, mud, rain, snow, ice; what might we need to pack?
- What "problems" might we run into, or what kind of things can happen in the woods...And, what can we do about it?
- What might be some safety measures (rules) we can follow while out?
- Perhaps you will decide as a family to pack a grab-and-go backpack and keep it handy. (Ready to Go DP BAG)

Things to remember:

- Wear a mask, and have an extra.
- Maintain 6 feet distance between you and one another (physical distancing).
- Do not share things with those outside of your household.
- Always stay in sight of an adult.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Follow the instructions provided by Pastor Brett (or leader) very carefully.
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather and activity. (We strongly encourage long pants and thick socks even in warmer weather to help reduce exposure to tics.)
- Bring water, insect repellent, and sunscreen.
- Bringing emergency medication if needed.
- Remember to respect God's creation and bring any litter you may create home with you.

If you or your child have any of these symptoms or answers "yes" to these questions, please stay home this week and text us so that we can hold you in prayer.

- Stuffy/Runny Nose
- Fever
- Upset stomach
- Diarrhea
- Coughing or trouble breathing
- Were you exposed to someone with COVID-19?
- Are you waiting for COVID-19 Test Results?
- Have you been outside of NJ in the past 14 days?

Even though we will be on a trail, when you return home, you may want to check your family members for tics and chiggers.

Here is our schedule until the end of December, with further updates as we move forward:

Time 11:15 -12:20 Sunday Morning

- October 11, 18, 25
- November 1, 8, 15, 22 (We will not meet on the morning of November 29th, but there will be an online evening event in preparation for Advent)
- December 6, 13, 20

If we decide to cancel our gathering on any Sunday, we will send a text message to each family by 9:00 a.m. that Sunday morning. Therefore, we need to have the best number to send your text message. Please text Kim (609-504-3105) with the best cell phone number for your family.

We look forward to seeing everyone on October 11th at 11:15!

Blessings,

Pastor Brett and the Learning Team