

IN • RHYTHM

THE LATEST FROM THE RHYTHMS OF FAITH PROJECT



The Rhythms of Faith Project seeks to empower parents and caregivers in family faith formation by leveraging the power of camp experiences to establish rhythms of faith through regular Christian practices.

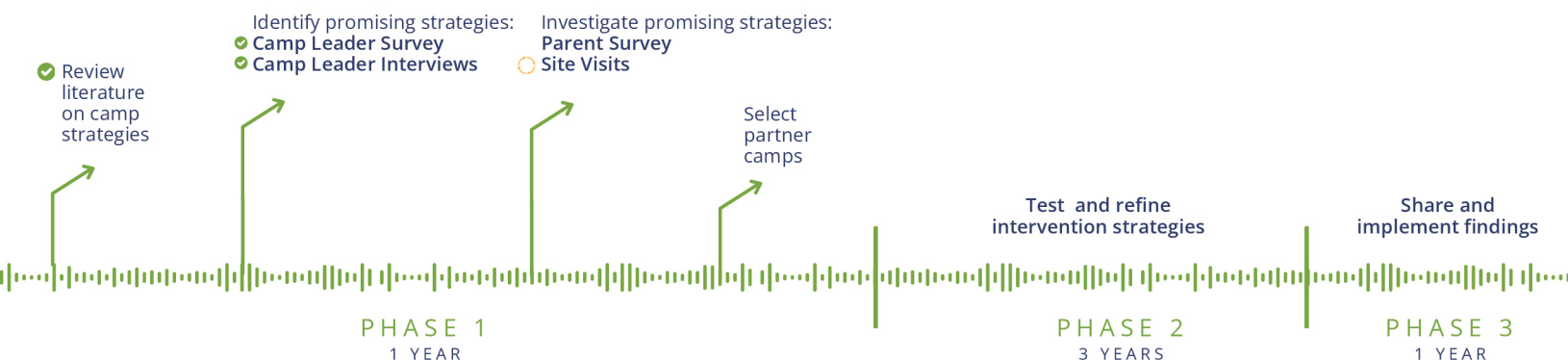
Welcome to the second issue of **In-Rhythm**, the project updates newsletter for the Rhythms of Faith Project. These updates include the latest findings from the current phase of the project, what the project team has been working on, and what's ahead for the project, including ways camps and churches can engage. Our hope is to provide an overview of our learnings as we proceed through this multi-year process so that camp leaders, church leaders, and families have real-time access to resources and ideas that will strengthen their ministries. We'll also communicate opportunities to get involved with the project as they arise.



What We've Been Working On

The Rhythms of Faith Project is deep into the exploratory phase! Over the past year, the team has been working to identify the strategies most effective for using camp as a catalyst for family faith formation. Through a literature review, a survey, and interviews with camp leaders, we have identified promising strategies that camps are currently using. These initial findings are ready to share! We are now diving deeply into specific camp systems to investigate the promising strategies through parent surveys and site visits.

This summer, we are traveling to 11 camps across the country, and you can read about each of these sites, with a new narrative coming out each week. These findings will be ready to share this fall. Then we shift to the next phase of the project, during which we will follow a group of camps for 3 years, helping them implement interventions to more effectively impact family faith and tracking their progress along the way.



✓ COMPLETED ○ IN PROCESS



What We're Learning

PHASE 1 FINDINGS

SITE VISIT
REPORTS

Site Visit Narratives

As we dig deeper into promising strategies through in person site visits this summer, we're sharing stories, images, and learnings from each visit. The researchers are writing up a narrative summary of each visit, and we'll share those regularly throughout the weeks and months ahead.

rhythmsoffaith.com/findings



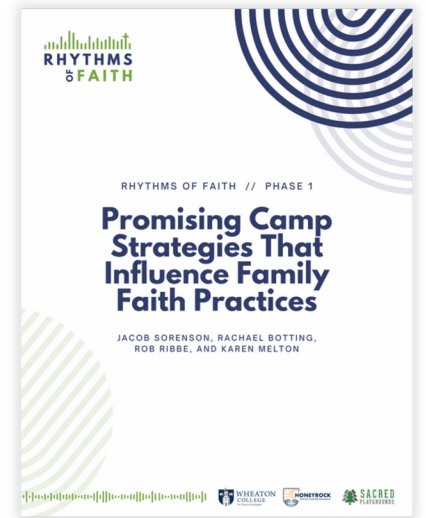
FINDINGS
REPORT

Promising Camp Strategies That Influence Family Faith Practices

Phase 1 of the project sought to answer the question, "What are the most promising strategies of overnight Christian summer camps to influence faith practices in the home?" Seeking to answer this question, the research team gathered survey responses from 75 camp leaders from the networks participating in the study. Researchers then selected 20 leaders for follow-up interviews in order to further investigate the most promising strategies.

The major findings of the study were that 1) strategies for faith formation beyond camp flowed directly from ministry philosophy and 2) the most promising strategies were contextual and engaged 3 key audiences: campers, parents/caregivers, and churches. The findings made clear that Christian summer camps were seeking to influence faith beyond camp, engaging strategies to ensure that camp was only part of a young person's faith journey. However, the focus on faith formation in the home was a recent change or a new concept to many of the respondents, suggesting an ongoing paradigm shift in the understanding of the purpose and scope of camping ministry. Even while embodying a philosophy focused on impacting faith formation in the home, many camps adopted strategies focused on campers, while few were making direct connections with impacting families through parents and caregivers. Camps generally adopted the strategies piecemeal, with only a single camp in our sample exhibiting robust strategies covering each of our themes and audiences.

Our analysis resulted in six themes, outlined in this report as "promising strategies." Two of these strategies relate to camp philosophy, one each to the three key audiences identified in the study, and the final one to camp leadership.



Read the Findings Report
sacr.pl/promisingstrategies



What's Next

This fall, we shift to the next phase of the project, during which we will follow a group of camps for 3 years, helping them implement interventions to more effectively impact family faith and tracking their progress along the way. Some of these camps will be receiving sub-grants.

Do you want to join us? Look for the request for proposals at the end of the summer to apply for one of these grants! Use the link or code to ensure you're on our project email list.



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