

6 LESSONS WE LEARNED FROM CHURCH CAMP



I worked as a summer staff person for 7 years and volunteered as a counselor many times, even canoe camps and baseball camps! I even met my wife, Heather, as fellow summer staff. Here are some “camp” themed devotional lessons for you this week.

Monday August 29th - *God doesn't call the qualified, but qualifies the called.*

Read 2 Timothy 3:17. You hear that a lot at camp and the truth of it extends back to Moses, Abraham, Joseph, David, just about everyone used by God. These were people who didn't have degrees, stature, or qualification for the jobs that needed to be done. You've never spoken in public, acted in a skit or led a Bible Study? You may be right where God wants you, so get ready for God to prepare the way! What might God be ready to qualify you to do?

Tuesday, August 30th - *If You Want to Learn Something, Teach It!* Read Exodus 18:20. I had never fired an arrow in my life and they put me in charge of archery. What were they thinking?! Turns out they were right. I taught hundreds of kids to shoot, even a girl with a prosthetic arm and watched her cry with joy when she hit the bull's-eye and won the trophy for her cabin! I split an arrow and even killed a snake with a target arrow. Because I didn't know what I was doing, I was humble and I worked really hard to learn so I wasn't embarrassed, and I practiced many hours! Don't be afraid to do something, just have a willing heart and tackle it!

Wednesday, August 31st - *The kid with the toughest exterior on Sunday is the one who will be hugging you the hardest come Saturday.* Read Matthew 19:14, Romans 12:9-10. If we were spending free time with other counselors often we would hear, “Spend time with those kids, love on them.” Whenever we had a tough case, we were just told to love them, listen to them, and love them. Lots of that love, I heard a rumor that Jesus said something about loving difficult people. Kids learn almost instantly what you think about them by how much time you spend with them and how important they are to you. Everyone has their issues but each kid will respond to love in time and in their own way. What a huge way to learn the beginning lessons of being a Dad!

Thursday, September 1st - *Life and Christianity are so much more than “do's” and “don'ts”.* Read Galatians 5:13. Living out faith without inhibitions in front of young people is about as bold, and genuine as you can be. Modeling the truth of the faith eliminates the need for giving lists of what you should do and what you shouldn't. All the information about drug abuse and premarital intimacy is known to these kids because they see it modeled every day. What they don't always see is the alternative. What does love look like? What does someone who loves Jesus do? Why live this way? Love for Christ when lived out in public makes a difference.

Friday, September 2nd - *It's good to be Alive!* Read Romans 8:6, John 10:10. I didn't make much money towards college and seminary while working at camp. I even made a bad financial choice or two. But spending that time with peers and campers, helping serve snacks and weed-eating trails, doing dishes and sitting under the stars; when life is simple, and Jesus is at the center? God shines a brighter light on our joy when we get back to the basics.

Saturday, September 3rd - *We are the Body.* Read 1 Corinthians 7:17, 12:12. Sometimes it was tough to stay inspired when working maintenance at the camp. I loved working with kids but emptying the grease pit in the kitchen or undoing the clog in a toilet when a beach towel was shoved where it didn't belong, just didn't feel much like ministry. But I had a great mentor and he reminded me that these jobs are so important. We cannot have camp if we don't feed the kids and staff. We can't have a great worship service if the fire doesn't get started. Campers can't run and play games if the grass isn't cut. Every part of a staff, every worker and volunteer, is an essential part of the body. We all looked beyond ourselves to the greater mission. And when you were sitting out the snacks for them to eat just after commitment night and their eyes were moist with tears, you'd hear that 25, 30, even 50 kids made first-time commitments to following Jesus, it felt right. And I remembered. I was one of those kids, years before.

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Todd & Beth Harnar (Trudi Wolfe's niece), Charlie Walters, Jill Hagan, Brody Stephens (Larry Suits), Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark

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