

Victory Sports
Winter 2012 Devotions
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If you're new to Victory Sports, you are in for a *real treat*!! VSO is a unique, one-of-a-kind community sports league, whose mission is to share the love and life-saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through sports! God has taken this ministry from 80 children in the winter of 2004 to averaging about 500 today. Praise God for His faithfulness!!

When games begin on Saturdays, the Gospel of Jesus is presented in weekly increments using the salvation colors model as follows:

- Gold represents God's glory
- Black represents man's sin
- Red represents Jesus' blood
- White represents purity or cleansing
- Green represents the new Christian's growth
- G- go to God in prayer
- R- read the Bible
- O- obey God, parents, teachers
- W- witness, tell others about Jesus

During the weekdays, however, instructional practices end with a short devotion. A fictional story begins the devotional time and Biblical principles are drawn out to apply to our lives. That's where you come in. Please be prepared to either read or summarize the lesson each week. Feel free to use easier language for little ones and add your own experiences if you have something you feel would add interest to the lesson.

Of course, we will have printed copies of the booklet available, but if you forget your booklet or come straight from work, you can also view and print the weekly lessons from the VSO website. Just go to victorysportsoutreach.org and look at the navigation bar on the left side of the home page. Toward the bottom, click on "devotions." This will take you to the devotions page where you can see a weekly schedule and view or print what you need for the week.

☞ This fall for our weekly devotions, we step back into the lives of Jake Smith and his single mom Amy. This season, it's time for Jake's birthday! But Jake doesn't want just any party- he wants a campout!

If you've ever been camping, you know what kind of things can happen on a trip like this. In *The Big Campout*, Amy, Jake, and his twin friends learn many lessons on this trip that will stay with them for years.

Note: All names, events, and places are purely fictional. Any similarities to Victory Sports participants and families is purely coincidental.

Here's what you can expect each week...*

Week #1- Celebrate!- Luke 2:11

Week #2- Read the Instructions!- Psalm 119:105

Week #3- Poison Ivy!- Proverbs 3:5-6

Week #4- Lost!- Luke 19:10

Week #5- Invasion!- Proverbs 4:23

Week #6- Home Again!- Psalm 46:10

Week #7- Summary

***NOTE: If weather conditions force some practices to be cancelled, weeks 6 and 7 can be combined.**

Week 1- Celebrate!

Luke 2:11, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.”

The Big Campout- Chapter 1:

Jake leaped out of Mr. Fred’s car and tore through the yard before he burst through his front door. Amy Smith, his mom, had not been home ten minutes when she heard, “Mom, Mom! I know what I want for my birthday!”

Amy cringed. Money didn’t exactly grow on trees at their house lately.

“I want to go on a real hike and campout!” Jake said, out of breath.

Amy was very surprised. That certainly wasn’t what she thought he was going to say. “That’s it?” she asked. “No giant Lego set or expensive video game?”

“Nope- I just want to go hiking, sleep in a tent, and cook hot dogs over an open fire! Mr. Fred said there are some nice campgrounds at Mt. Franklin State Park.” Jake declared, rather proud of himself.

“Well...” his mom said slowly, “I haven’t been camping in a very long time. We don’t have any equipment, but maybe Mr. Fred has a tent we could borrow...”

A quick phone call to Mr. Fred confirmed the use of his tent and lantern. They could use their own sleeping bags from the attic.

As they were enjoying a simple Hamburger Helper dinner, Jake asked, “Mom, can I bring Will and Phil?”

Amy stopped chewing mid-bite. “You mean the twins from your class?”

“Yah, it’ll be so much fun to have them come too!” Jake had such a smile on his face that she couldn’t say no.

“I’ll email them tonight.” she said.



After Jake was in bed, Amy emailed Will and Phil’s mom, then reserved a campsite online at Mt. Franklin State Park.

Of course, Jake wasn’t asleep yet. He was thinking about how much fun he was going to have on the campout! He closed his eyes and thought about putting up Mr. Fred’s tent, cooking hot dogs and s’mores, and running along a hiking trail with best friends! *After all, it’s not every day you get to celebrate your birthday! It only comes once a year!*

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What did Jake want for his birthday?
2. Did they have all of the equipment?
3. Who did he want to bring along?

Bible Thought~

When you have exciting news, you want to share it with other people, don’t you? We just had a HUGE event a few weeks ago! Whose birthday did we just celebrate all around the world?

Jesus’ birthday was quite humble by earthly standards, but God wanted to announce it in a very unique way! He sent an *angel* to announce it to Mary, and also one to the shepherds! And the magi came following a *star*, coming to rest over the house where Jesus was. That is an *awesome announcement*. Amazing how God chose to celebrate the birth of His Son.

Let’s play a little game- when I say a month of the year, raise your hand if your birthday falls within that month-

(Name the months in order and let them raise their hands)

Now, we’re all pretty special, aren’t we? But JESUS was the most special person who ever lived on the

earth. Today's verse is Luke 2:11, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." First of all, Jesus wasn't just any human being. He was fully human and fully God at the same time.

So why is He so special?

*He is the creator of the universe and holds all things together.

*He came to be our SAVIOR! That means He came to bridge the gap between God the Father and us because of our sin nature. He came to die on the cross and take the punishment that we deserve from our sin nature.

*He inspired men to write the Bible- the Holy Scriptures- so we could know about Him and more about ourselves and how to have a relationship with Him.

*He is the *only* way to heaven.

Jesus has done some pretty amazing things for us so let's pray to Him right now before we leave.

Pray to close the session.

Week 2- Read the Instructions!

Psalms 119:105, “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

The Big Campout- Chapter 2:

The weekend had finally arrived! Jake and Amy went next door to borrow Mr. Fred’s tent and lantern. Just as Mr. Fred closed up his attic stairs, he handed Jake two small gifts.

“Here’s a little something for your birthday,” said Mr. Fred, “Go ahead and open them now.”

First, Jake carefully unwrapped the paper and lifted out a book. The title read, “The Paul Bunyan Field Guide to Both Big and Small Plants in the Southeast.” On the cover stood Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox among a field full of flowers.

A smile came across Jake’s face as he said, “Wow! Thanks Mr. Fred! Now I can identify lots of the plants we see on the hiking trail.” He began flipping through the pages.

Next, Jake opened a small package and a shiny new flashlight fell out. “Wow, Mr. Fred! Thanks!” shouted Jake.

“A good flashlight is always a good thing to have around on a campout.” said Mr. Fred.

Jake’s mom glanced at her watch and said, “We’d better get going if we want to set up our campsite before dark. I don’t know about you, but I’d rather sleep in the tent than in the car tonight. And we still have to pick up Will and Phil.”

An hour later, they were pulling into the campground. The first thing they unpacked was the tent. Amy unzipped the bag and took out the instruction book while Jake began pulling out all kinds of poles with the stretchy cord inside. Amy decided to let Jake try to do it on his own, but knew that the sun was going down fast.

Soon, Jake was joined by Will and Phil. Amy sat down on a stump and watched the three boys fiddle with the tent and poles.

The poles were flying in all directions! Everyone had to duck so they wouldn’t get slapped in the face by the airborne tent poles!!

After about ten minutes, something white caught the boys’ attention. Amy was waving the instruction book around like a surrender flag.

She very slowly and deliberately said, “Why... don’t... we... try... reading...the...directions...first?” All three boys looked up and nodded their heads. They huddled around Amy as she began reading and turning the pages. The sunlight was now fading quickly so she asked Jake to get out his gift from Mr. Fred.

“The *field guide*? How will that help?” Jake asked.

“How about your new *flashlight*?” Mom replied.

“Ohhhh.” was the only response Jake could come up with as he ran for his backpack. A short time later, the tent was properly set up and their gear was put inside.

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What did Mr. Fred give Jake for his birthday?
2. What happened to the tent set-up? Why?

Bible Thought~

In our story today, Jake didn’t want to read the directions before putting up the tent they borrowed from Mr. Fred. Things would have gone so much better if they had just gotten out the manual and at least skimmed it over, right?

Jake thought he could figure it out on his own. Often times, we think we can figure life out on our own. Did you know that we have a kind of “instruction manual” for life too? God inspired lots of different people to write down things for us- and we call it the Bible. The Bible is like God’s instruction manual to us. Since He created life

itself, He is the expert on how to live it!

Our verse today is Psalm 119:105, “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” There are two important phrases in that verse- lamp to my feet and light for my path. They give us basically the same picture said two different ways.

When you’re walking someplace and you’re not sure where to go, especially if it’s dark, what do you most need? That’s right-a light! Just like the light, the Bible does many things for us too:

A light	The Bible
* It shows us the path	*Tells us about God’s holiness and perfection
* It shows us where we are on the path	*Tells us that sin has separated us from God’s holiness
* It shows us the direction we need to go	*Jesus said that He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.
*It only lights a few feet in front of us-not the whole path at the same time.	* God desires that we live a life of faith, trusting Him for each step of the way.
* It shows the boundaries	* Tells us what God’s expectations are, as in the Ten Commandments
* It shows us the hazards to watch out for	* Tells us to be on the lookout for temptation, doubt, and discouragement
* Light helps take away some of the fear we have of walking someplace unknown.	* Tells us that God’s perfect love casts out fear

Let’s stop and thank God for the gift of His Word and how it helps us live in a right relationship with Him.

Pray to close the session.

Week 3- Poison Ivy!

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

The Big Campout- Chapter 3:

Though the sun had already gone down, Jake, his mom, Will, and Phil used their flashlights to see as they built a fire and roasted some hot dogs and s’mores. After dinner, all three boys went to sleep without complaining. Amy was close behind after cleaning up.

Saturday morning came far too early for Amy. She could have slept a few more hours. Jake, Will, and Phil, however, had other plans.

“Mom! Wake up!” Jake cried.

“Mrs. Smith!” called Will, “Where’s the cereal?”

“I found it!” yelled Phil, “Let’s eat!”

Amy crawled out of the tent and helped them get breakfast in a civilized and quieter manner.

After the last slurp, Amy said, “OK, let’s get cleaned up and get ready to go on our hike.” Amazingly, the three boys cleaned up, changed, and brushed their teeth with no complaints.

Wonders never cease, Amy thought to herself. They packed up some snacks in their backpacks and went in search of the Red Leaf Trail.

The trail started out nice and flat and clearly marked. Jake got out his Paul Bunyan field guide.

“Look- here’s a White Oak tree...” he said pointing left. “Oh- there’s a Sweetgum and a Magnolia tree,” pointing right.

Jake felt mighty proud, being able to point out many of the trees from the guide Mr. Fred had given him for his birthday.

The trail began to narrow through a steep pass. Small bushes stuck out into the path, slapping their legs as they made their way up the hill.

At the top, they were surprised to see a rather large pond. Pretty pink and red flowers surrounded it. Will and Phil began running toward the flowers.

“Our mom would love a bouquet of these!”

Not paying any attention to the “*Do Not Pick the Flowers*” sign, Will and Phil waded right through a huge patch of poison ivy!

Amy saw the scene as if in slow motion, but couldn’t act fast enough to stop them! She would have to get the twins washed off soon and begin applying calamine lotion even before they left for home.

Now... if she could just decide just how to break the news to the twins’ mom...

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What sign did the twins ignore?
2. What did they end up with?

Bible Thought~

In our story today, Will and Phil tried to pick the flowers for their mom even though the sign said, “Do not pick the flowers.” Do you think whoever put the sign there knew there was a whole patch of poison ivy there? Most definitely!

We have all kinds of warning signs in our lives today:

- *Stop signs
- *Traffic signals
- *Slippery when wet signs
- *Bridge freezes before road signs

*Classroom discipline system at school

*The law and the legal system/ police deterrent programs

What would happen if we didn't pay attention to the traffic light at one of the intersections you took to get here tonight. What if the light was red, but you thought to yourself, "*I don't want to stop right now; I'm running late.*" You'd probably hit someone else on the road and hurt both them and yourself, right?

The Bible warns us about following our own judgment. Today's verse is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Since we are sinful people, we don't have perfect judgment. But we do know Someone who does- JESUS! He has the answer to every situation.

The most important questions we will ask are:

*Why am I here?

*Is there really a God?

*Is there really life after death?

*How do I get to heaven?

Jesus has told us in His Word the answer to all of these. We need these answers because if we try to figure them out apart from Him, we will get the wrong answers. That's what evolution and humanism have done.

We are here to glorify God and have a relationship with Him. He really does exist and I can be with Him in heaven by accepting that Jesus has died in my place and rose again so I could avoid God's judgment for sin. By faith, choosing Him as my Savior and Lord grants me salvation forever.

Let's stop and pray for God to help us rely on Him for everything and not ourselves.

Pray to close the session.

Week #4- Lost!

Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

The Big Campout- Chapter 4:

Amy did the best she could at washing the poison ivy oil off of Will and Phil’s legs with a couple of antiseptic wipes and rinsing off with a few squirts of their drinking water.

After a lazy makeshift lunch of granola bars, fruit and the rest of their water, the sun crawled high into the sky. Jake, Will, Phil, and Amy decided it was time to get back to the campsite and start packing things up.

Back down the steep path they went with the same bushes slapping their legs. Funny how it seemed easier to follow the trail coming up rather than going back down. Several times, they had to stop and back track.

The Red Leaf Trail and the Black Leaf Trail followed the same route for a short time. After about 2 hours of hiking, Amy said, “I don’t think we’re going the right way. I remember seeing that same tree with the big branch sticking out of that funny-looking bulge a while ago.”

“Oh no!” Jake wailed, “We’re lost!! We’re lost!! We’ll never get back!”

“What are we gonna do?!” asked Phil.

Will said, “I once saw a show where two people were dropped onto a deserted island and they had to eat bugs and snails and drink water from a big vine!”

Amy looked at him and sighed. “We’re *not* going to hack up any vines nor eat *any* bugs on this trip.” She began looking through her backpack for a trail map. After a minute or two, she asked, “Did anyone else bring a trail map?”

Three heads shook sideways for a “no” answer.

“I didn’t think so,” said Amy. “OK, so we’re going to pray. *Dear God, we’re lost and we have no way of finding our way out of here without Your help. Please show us the way to go. In Jesus Name, Amen.*”

They all sat down quietly for a few minutes before they started hearing strange crackling noises. With wide eyes and pounding hearts they started whispering to each other, “What is that? Do bears or cougars live in these woods?”

Amy whispered back, “Stay still. Maybe whatever it is won’t see us.” They sat stone still for what seemed like an eternity.

Then they say movement! Something brown was coming up the hill! A few more seconds and maybe it would pass on by.

Finally the thing *spoke!* “Hey! What’d’ya know? I found you! I didn’t know if I’d see you or not!” It was Mr. Fred!!

They all ran down to meet him and gave him a big hug!

“What did I do to deserve this?!” Mr. Fred asked, chuckling.

“We were lost and just prayed for God to show us the way out!” exclaimed Jake.

“I came just in time, then!” With that, Mr. Fred pulled out his trail map and said, “Looks like if we just stay on this trail, it will come out just a little farther above the campsite from where you started from.”

Within 30 minutes, they were back at the campsite, but they were not prepared for what they came back to...

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What did they do when they found out they were lost?
2. How were they saved?

Bible Thought~

Just like they were lost in the woods, we were lost in our sin. Jesus came to be *our Savior* like Mr. Fred saved Jake and his mom and friends. Today’s verse is Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man came to **seek** and to **save** what was **lost**.”

Today, we're going to focus on three words-

Let's start with the word *lost*. The New Testament was written in Greek and the original word is *apollymi*, which literally means *destroyed, devastated, or ruined*. It has the connotation of a shepherd watching over his sheep and rescuing them from all the places where they could be lost or destroyed. God knows how lost we are and that we cannot possibly save ourselves. That's why Jesus came to earth as the verse says.

The next word is *seek*. In the original Greek, the word is *zeteo*, which means *to look for, to seek out, to try to obtain, desire to possess, or strive for*. You can imagine a shepherd searching for the sheep that is missing. Jesus searches for us with intensity and passion because of His huge love for us.

The last word is *save*. This word is *sozo* in the Greek. It means *to deliver, preserve from danger, loss, or destruction*. It refers to our *spiritual salvation* that can only come from Him. He provided the way and He is the means. Everything about our salvation comes from Him.

Let's close our eyes. I'm going to say a prayer and if you agree with the words and pray them in your own heart to the Lord, let someone know afterward.

(Sample prayer to read:)

Dear Lord,

I know that I am a sinner and I'm separated from You. I am sorry for my sin and believe that You died for me on the cross and rose again on the third day. I believe that You took my punishment so I could be forgiven even though I don't deserve it. Please come into my life and be my Lord and Savior, Jesus. Thank You for Your free gift of salvation and help me to follow You all the days of my life, knowing You will guide me and have me grow more like You each day.

In Your Holy Name,

Amen

Week #5- Invasion! ~ Be On Guard!

Proverbs 4:23, “Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.”

The Big Campout- Chapter 4:

All five of them stood looking at what used to be the campsite with their mouths hanging wide open. Slowly, they approached the picnic table.

“Oh...my...goodness!” said Amy, “*What in the world* happened here?”

Mr. Fred answered with a nod of his head, “Looks like the work of the masked bandits.”

“*Batman* was here?!” asked a very confused Jake.

“I thought Batman and Robin were the good guys,” said Will.

“Not Batman,” Mr. Fred said with a grin, “I’m talking about *raccoons*.”

“Ohhhhh,” the three boys said slowly.

“Those raccoons must have been awfully hungry to come out during the day to eat.” said Mr. Fred.

Amy slapped her forehead with the palm of her hand, “*I can’t believe* we didn’t put the food away in the car or something where critters couldn’t get to it.”

They all worked together to get the mess cleaned up. Jake gathered up empty boxes. Will wiped off the coolers. Phil walked around with a big trash bag collecting the remnants of the racoons visit. And Amy gathered up what was still left in tact and re-packed the coolers. Mr. Fred helped take down the tent and pack up the car.

When the whole campsite was cleaned up, Amy finally got around to asking how Mr. Fred came to be on the trail just when they needed him.

“Oh- I almost forgot!” Mr. Fred answered, “I decided to surprise you all by coming out here and bringing some cupcakes for Jake’s birthday.” He ran to his car and retrieved a dozen bakery cupcakes decorated with green leaves on top.

Will and Phil just looked at each other and laughed when they saw the cake decorations, remembering their little episode with the poison ivy.

Mr. Fred went on to explain, “When I got here, I recognized my tent, and knew this was your campsite. No one was here, so I grabbed a trail map and figured I’d take a little hike and catch up with you later. Of course, you know the rest.” He smiled as he set the cupcakes on the picnic table.

In an instant, the three boys were seated at the table and Amy and Mr. Fred began to sing “*Happy Birthday*” to Jake. Will and Phil happily joined in, knowing they would soon devour those awesome- looking cupcakes!

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What happened to the campsite when they got back from their hike?
2. What should they have done to prevent the animals from getting into their food?

Bible Thought~

Just because we have a relationship with Jesus doesn’t mean bad things aren’t going to happen to us. In fact, the devil will most likely try to get us off course, so we have to be prepared for the battle as best as we can. In the Old Testament, King Solomon gave us some very wise words about what we can do to be on guard against attacks.

Our Bible verse today is Proverbs 4:23, “Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.” The heart is the core of your being- who you really are.

The Bible and it’s words should be one of those treasured words that we keep protected and close to us- in our heart. There will always be people who want to challenge our beliefs and tell us things that aren’t true. We have to be on the lookout for these kinds of things so that we will be able to stay firm in our faith.

It would be foolish to leave our treasures unprotected. What would happen if we left our brand new skateboard out in the rain. It has just come from someone we love, but we don’t take care of it or keep it out of the

weather. We would feel bad, but so would the person who gave it to you, wouldn't they?

In fact, in the New Testament, Jesus Himself says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

The world will tell us lies about the best way to live, but we have to remember that they are indeed *lies*. The world tells us that we have to be rich and powerful to be successful. The world tells us that if we have a lot of friends or possessions, we are successful. Basically, we should aim to get whatever we want.

But the Bible talks about being content and humble in all circumstances. Jesus says He will be with us and guide us even in the rough times.

In that part of Proverbs 4 where today's verse is found, it says that the Bible's words are *wise* and are *life* to those that find them. It also gives us some practical steps we can take to protect our lives. * It tells us to put away bad talking from our lips.

* It tells us to keep our eyes fixed straight ahead and not to swerve to the right or to the left of the right path (in other words, don't be fooled by good sounding lies- keep following Jesus).

Wisdom comes by following God's Word and by obeying parents and teachers who care about you and your walk with the Lord.

Let's stop and thank Him for the wise words we have from the Bible which are precious to us and tell us the way He wants us to live.

Pray to close the session.

Week #6- Home Again - Peace and Quiet!

Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.”

The Big Campout- Chapter 6:

Amy pulled into the driveway of Will and Phil’s house and politely explained to Mrs. O’Dell about their little run-in with the poison ivy at the pond. The twins had already started to develop a rash. Amy was turning around to leave when Mrs. O’Dell called back to her, “Oh, I almost forgot! The twins forgot to bring Jake’s birthday gift on the campout. Wait a minute and I’ll get it.”

A moment later, Amy was handed a wrapped box, which she brought to the car and gave to Jake. Jake promptly tore open the wrapping paper and took out a couple of Jake’s favorite chapter books.

Amy smiled as she thought of Jake doing some quiet reading when they got home. She, too, was ready for some quiet time after such an eventful campout.

And that’s exactly what they both did. As soon as the car was unloaded and Mr. Fred’s equipment returned, they both took advantage of a bit of quiet time before getting ready for bed. Jake went to his room and began reading his new books.

Amy, on the other hand, curled up in the big comfy chair in the living room and got out her Bible and began to read and thank the Lord for protecting them, getting to see His beautiful creation, and the great time the boys had for Jake’s birthday.

She began reading in Psalm 46. She came across several verses that applied to the last few days. But when she got to verse 10, she saw the words, “Be still and know that I am God.”

“Yes, Lord,” she prayed, “thank You for this quiet time to hear Your voice.”

She sat there so long she almost forgot that she had gotten a small gift for Jake too. But she figured that it might get loud again if she gave it to him right now.

Nah, she thought, I’ll just wait until tomorrow to give it to him.

She went to check on Jake and tell him to brush his teeth for bed, but when she got to his doorway, he was already asleep. He had even forgotten to take off his shoes! So she untied them, slipped them off, and pulled the covers up over him.

Nighty night!

The End.

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What was Jake’s mom ready for when they got home?
2. What do you think Jake’s mom had gotten him for his birthday?
(There is no right answer for this one- just let them guess!)

Bible Thought~

In our story today, Jake and his mom came home from the campout and had some quiet time. There are times in life when we should be quiet too. What are some places or times when we should be quiet? (Let them answer- things like the library, class time at school, Sunday School, bedtime, VSO instruction & devotions)

Why do you think being quiet sometimes is important? (Let them try to answer)

Let’s try something right now- let’s imagine that we’re in the woods camping out. Let’s be really quiet and close our eyes (have them be as quiet as they can for a few seconds). What would you hear if you were in the forest at night? (Let them answer)

If we are making noise, it makes it really difficult to enjoy nature, doesn't it? It also makes it hard for us to hear others and for others to hear what's going on.

It's the same way with God. If we're always running around and don't take the time to read His Word quietly and focus on what He's trying to say to us, we'll miss it.

What would happen, say, if your mom was trying to tell you that your best friend was coming over for a visit, but you were too busy playing a video game to listen. Then when your friend got there, you still weren't paying attention and didn't even say hello to him or her. That would be awful, wouldn't it?

God wants our attention. In fact, in the book of Isaiah, He says, "I am the LORD, and there is no other." God declares to us that He is the most important person in the universe and He is worthy of our praise and worship.

Today's verse is the same one that Jake's mom read: Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." Let's make sure we take some time this week to be still and read His Word (or have it read to us) and listen to His voice. He just might have something important to tell us!

Let's stop close our eyes and be quiet for just a minute and then I'll pray to close the session.

Week #7- Review (if time/weather permits)

Let's go over the story and the weekly lessons quickly and then you can tell me what your favorite part of the story was and why:

<p>Week 1-Jake wants to go on a campout to celebrate his birthday. Jesus wants us to celebrate his birthday also.</p>	<p>Luke 2:11, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."</p>
<p>Week 2- Jake didn't wait to read the tent instructions and ended up with little daylight left. The Bible is our instruction manual for life.</p>	<p>Psalm 119:105, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."</p>
<p>Week 3- Will and Phil ignore the sign and pick some flowers, getting poison ivy in the process. We must look to God for true wisdom.</p>	<p>Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."</p>
<p>Week 4- Amy, Jake, Will, and Phil become lost on their way back from the pond. Mr. Fred finds them on the trail. We are spiritually lost until we are found by Jesus.</p>	<p>Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."</p>
<p>Week 5- They come back to their campsite to find racoons have invaded and made a mess. We also need to guard our hearts to keep the precious words of God safe within.</p>	<p>Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life."</p>
<p>Week 6- Amy and Jake drop off the twins and enjoy some quiet time after the campout. We need times of quiet too!</p>	<p>Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."</p>