

# PS LIFE NEWS



I love camp! For most of my growing-up years, I spent a week every summer at camp. I worked three summers as a counselor, and it was always amazing to see what God would do in the hearts of those who attended the camp. You can have an uninterested child who would rather have his four sodas and go swimming during his free time at the start of the week. But by the end of camp, he is reading his Bible during his spare moments. God moves in special ways at camp. Part of the reason for this is there are fewer distractions there, and it is easier to hear God speak to us when there is less noise from life.

This summer, for the first time, since I've been here, we took junior campers to Hartland for a week. Camp did not disappoint! Yes, there was all the crazy silliness that comes with camp life, such as **Mud Day**. This is the day when everyone needs multiple showers to make sure they clean everything. There is also the extra amount of sweets that aren't typical in a week of 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders and the silliness of messing with your flashlight when people are trying to go to sleep. Hartland is a whole lot of fun!

More than just fun, kids encountered the living God! The theme of the week was "The Bible is Pure Gold." The primary way we can hear God is by digging into his Word, and kids were taught a simple method to do this. At every chapel, they were challenged about what they had read that day

using this method. They had to talk with their peers around them and their leaders. The constant question throughout the week was, "What verse did God speak to you about today?" At any given time, you could be asked that question, whether it was a counselor, camper, or staff member. This encouraged the kids to dig into the pure gold of the Bible.

All around the camp, you would see students reading their Bible and filling out their quiet time books. You saw campers come alive with fresh passion for God's Word. It was not just for the candy they received for reading because that prize ended after the first couple of days. But kids actually grew to believe that the Bible was for them; "**Kidpossible**" was the term they were taught, and they learned that Bible reading was something they could do for themselves.

The last challenge we were given at camp was to be in our Bible for one chapter a day for 21 days, in order to form a habit. We are now almost a week out from camp. Here is the good news: the Parkside kids we brought are still in the process of building this habit. Knowing these kids, they will continue building this habit for 21 days. It is the start of a lifetime habit for them. God is changing their life through His Word.

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