
Create Unique Shared Experiences

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Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 6:55 AM

Hi my friend,

Do you know what happened this week? Everything! :)

Ok, well, something happened that has been planned for months, and it was a very special and impactful event for certain individuals in our ward.

It was Girls Camp! (or Young Women Camp.)

And I happen to know from first hand experience that the Young Women in our ward who went had an amazing time! (Ask them to tell you about it.)

I also had a wonderful experience, just being there as a Priesthood chaperone, because I was able to see the young women lead, learn, have fun, and love each other as they bonded and developed a true Sisterhood. We have an awesome group of girls in our ward.

Of course, the experience was also shaped by the heroic sacrifice and pure love of adult leaders in our ward and the stake. They guided the girls, while letting them lead, and participated alongside them. Plus, the myriad of hours that went into planning this week ensured that everything went smoothly and the girls had the best experience possible.

Not only did this event required a great deal of service and sacrifice from those directly involved with planning and participating, but also from those husbands and families who had to survive without their wives, mothers and daughters for a week. That is not an easy task!

And hats off to the amazing cooks, who prepared wonderful food for a huge group every meal. The girls (and myself) were not only fed spiritually well, but physically too.

Why was this experience so effective in making an impact and building unity? I think there are a few principles that we could also apply to our families and the ward.

They...

- had fun together
- worked and served together
- spent time in nature, appreciating God's creations
- learned new things (camping skills, archery, crafts)
- were creative (built crafts, learned how to solve problems without conveniences of home)
- shared stories (a lot of story telling around the campfire)
- sang together
- had rituals and traditions
- shared testimony with each other and talked about spiritual truths
- spent time in nature
- disconnected from the world and connected with each other. (No phones were allowed for the girls, leaders used them to take pictures.)

Ultimately, it was a unique shared experience that created lifetime memories, built testimony, and drew those who participated closer together.

I encourage you to apply these principles in your family, with those around you, and in our ward as much as possible to build unity and connection with other children of God. We were meant to be here on earth together at this time. And I'm so glad. Thank you.

I want to publicly thank those wonderful women in our ward who sacrificed their week to be with these amazing young women, Sister Colson, Sister Jacobsen, and Sister Agler. They sacrificed a lot, but I know they received an abundance of blessings in return.

Here's a statement from "[The Family: A Proclamation to the World](#)" that relates to this experience:

"Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities."

We are a ward family too. And I believe we're 'successful'.

Thank you for your faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and participating in our ward wholesome recreational activities. It matters.

Take care.

Bishop Williams

P.S.

We had an important ritual yesterday, Elijah Tacher has turned 8 years old and was baptized. Be sure to congratulate him on his decision, and welcome him into the fold.

Families look different for everyone. The Northwest area is planning a big family dinner and devotional for all the singles in this area tonight at 6:00pm at the Lake Stevens church building (see attached flyer for details.)

Our Sacrament meeting will still be broadcast to those high risk individuals who need to stay at home, but we'll be using a new link, and you'll need to request it from a member of the Bishopric, either Brother Trent Stoker (stoker.trent@gmail.com) Brother Sam Colson (samcolson@hotmail.com) or myself, Bishop Williams (bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com).

We'd really love to see you in person if that is possible.

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.

 [July single adult devotional.pdf](#)
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