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Learning From the Adventure

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Hello my friend,

How are you?

I'm alive and well!

And that means something, because I just returned home from camping in the snow!

I know, it sounds crazy. Why would anyone do that?

Well, for one, the Stake organized this winter campout for all the young men in the Stake.

But for another, it was a chance to go on an adventure!

And we sure had one! A few boys actually slept in snow caves (or holes) that they built themselves! And lived to talk about it!

Again, why would someone do that?

For the challenge. And for learning something that you can't learn any other way. No matter how much you read, watch, or talk about building a snow cave, it doesn't even come close to the experience of actually building one. We had some great instructions. We even had some very nice tools, but the reality of the situation made it a lot more difficult than it seemed in the instructions.

But there was something about the challenge, of wanting to finish it and actually sleep in it, that kept driving the boys to overcome the pain and struggle it took to do it.

I think there's an analogy here.

When we all lived with our Heavenly Father before we came to earth, I'm sure everything was perfect. It made no sense to come down to earth to struggle, experience pain and sorrow, and risk the possibility that all of us wouldn't make it back to the same place.

But there's something we needed to learn here. Something that couldn't be learned any other way. We had to learn how to have faith. And a whole bunch of other things with regards to our bodies, families, and others. But ultimately, we needed to learn faith in Jesus Christ, and in our Heavenly Father's plan.

But we weren't left without help.

Just like our campout. We had a lot of other boys and adult men there to help us out. Some shared food, some helped dig, some helped set up tents, and some shared tools. And the stake leaders made a fantastic breakfast for all of us in the morning.

Camping in the snow is hard. But when you go with a large group, it's a little bit easier because you have a lot of help.

This earth life stuff is really hard. And I mean really difficult. But our Father in Heaven has sent us with as much help as he possibly can. He chose prophets to teach us about His plan. He had them write a lot down and kept their writings preserved so we could have scripture today to help us understand more details and give us comfort. And He has smaller groups of people who can really help a lot more people.

Trust me. He knows what He's doing.

And a lot of times it doesn't make sense to us. I'm sure it didn't make sense in the beginning.

But here you are. You chose to come! And you're here digging out your snow cave. Or whatever difficult thing you're struggling with. There's something you're supposed to learn from it.

Remember that you have help. We are here to help you. Our Father has set up this church for all kinds of help He knows you need. But He's trying to teach you one thing, to have faith.

And so, He's letting you struggle so that you'll know what it means to really have faith in Him. It's not an easy thing to learn. I wish we didn't have to learn it sometimes. It's cold, we're tired, and our hands and feet might be freezing. But you'll make it through. And you'll be able to tell others how you experienced this wonderful, difficult challenge called life.

We're on an adventure!

It's hard. But it's the only way.

Thank you for being on this adventure with me. I appreciate your support. It matters.

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- We'd like to invite those 12+ to join us for Stake Choir Practice beginning March 27, 2022. It will be held at 4pm in the Stake Center Chapel Mar 27, April 3, and April 10. We will not have practice on April 17 because of Easter. The choir will only be singing for the Sunday session of Stake Conference on April 24. Any further practices beyond the 10th will be determined at that point. FYI- masks will be optional. For any questions, contact Aimee Oliver at 425-314-3432 or aimspen6@gmail.com.
- April 2-3 - General Conference. Watch here: <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/event/april-2022-general-conference>
- April 10th - Fast Sunday
- April 17th - Easter
- April 24th - Stake Conference

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