
What can we learn?

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Penny Creek Ward

Hello my summertime friend,

Summertime is beautiful here in the Great Northwest, so I'd just like to point it out and celebrate it as much as I can (because you know what happens the during rest of the year around here ;)

Our family is into our busy-summer-get-away season. Even though all of our 'get-aways' may not be necessarily for us or our family, we love our experiences serving the youth of our stake. Both Sarah and I participate in the Young Men and Young Women camps.

This last week, we did have some great family time at Cannon Beach in Oregon, then I also participated in the Stake Young Men Encampment at Ensign Ranch. It was a wonderful experience, and I've heard that the young men enjoyed it too. The stake leaders organized a great event that had a positive impact on the young men.

One of the activities that I led was the Ropes Course. It's a designated area of the camp that contains unique challenges for a group to accomplish. Things like walking across a balance beam or scaling a 12-foot wall. The point of the activities is not just to accomplish the difficult physical challenge, but to have a challenging experience as a group and learn something from it.

It's called 'experiential learning.' After each challenge, we reflect and analyze what happened, then try to learn principles that could apply in our daily lives.

It is an awesome process that surfaces great insights from the participants. As I and a co-facilitator were helping the young men through this process, I had an epiphany. I realized at some deeper level that if we can learn something from these physical challenges, we can also learn something from any challenge or experience in life.

Anything we experience can be reflected on. We can ask ourselves, "Why did I do that?" or "Why did I act that way? Is there a better way to respond to what happened? What was I feeling? Can I change my perspective so that my emotions are different?"

And then ask yourself, "What am I going to do differently next time when I have a similar experience? or "What changes am I willing to make in my life based on what I have learned?"

I know that's a lot of questions. There's more that I'm sure you could think of. Learning is about asking and answering questions. With practice and repetition, we might even be able to ask ourselves those questions in the moment and alter the outcome of our experience.

We are put on this earth to learn. Because learning is progressing.

And we are on an eternal journey of progression.

I'm so glad my journey includes you.

Thank you for helping me learn.

Keep learning!

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- This upcoming week is the stake Young Women Camp at Camp Zarahemla.
- Aug 28th 7:00pm - Stake Youth Activity, sharing experiences from youth camps and FSY. By August 23rd send photos and videos to: https://www.canva.com/design/DAFIshZsdR4/wd6TcURWWb-M0LXSmT9ypw/view?utm_content=DAFIshZsdR4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink
- August 31st, 6:00 - 8:00pm - Ward Picnic at Silver Lake, Thornton A. Sullivan Park. Bring your own food.

Single Adult Activities

- Sat Aug 20, 4:30 to 7pm

Snohomish Stake Swap Meet and BBQ

131 101st Street SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Bring household items, clothing, etc. you would like to donate and choose items from other people. Any items left will be put in the DI truck. There will be a barbecue outside under the pavilion. We will provide hamburgers and hotdogs and drinks. Please bring a salad or desert to share.

- Sun Aug 21, 7 to 8:30pm

Fireside: How can we better serve the Lord and others as Single Adults

<17222 43rd Ave NE, Arlington, WA 9822>

- Ensign Ranch Labor Day Campout

Fri, Sep 2, 2p to Mon, Sep 5, 2p

<3551 Hundley Rd, Cle Elum, WA 98922>

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.wewasa.org>

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