

## Children's Sunday School Lesson

### *"Camp Was Made For You"*

How many of you have attended camp before? We're going to do a little exercise to help us all experience camp a little bit. I'm going to read through a story and I need you act out all of the things with me. So if I say, "Okay, now let's wash our hands," you need to pretend to wash your hands at the sink. Does that make sense? I need everyone to lay down on the floor. Let's begin! (Note: Allow time for the kids to do some actions. Add pauses when you need to. Try and read this like you're an excited camp counselor. Feel free to add your own little bits. Include kids' names and encourage participation.)

*"Good morning campers! Good morning! It's a beautiful day at camp! Let's all get out of bed. It's time to wake up. We don't want to miss out on any of the fun today. Everybody get dressed. You'll need your swimsuits, some bug spray and sunscreen, a towel, your sneakers, and of course your bible. Go ahead and pack all of that into your backpacks. Make sure everything fits. Put on your backpacks; hopefully they are not too heavy. We don't want anyone to fall over. Let's head down to breakfast. I hear we're having pancakes and sausage for breakfast. Mmm... Before we head into the dining hall, we're going to do some stretches to get ready for the day. Everyone reach up for the sky. Now let's reach down to our toes. How about some arm circles now? Good job everyone; let's go eat. Have a seat at the table. Cabin 6 graciously set all of the tables. We have pancakes for everyone. Go ahead and pass the plate around the table and don't forget to pour some syrup on. Now let's clean up the table. We want to leave the dining hall nice and clean for the kitchen staff. Bring your plates over to the kitchen. Wipe down the table with the wash cloth. Great job, everyone!*

*Now it's time to go to the climbing tower! Grab your backpacks again. Everyone is going to need to put on a harness and a helmet. Make sure everything is nice and tight; we to keep everyone safe. Okay, now I want to see everyone climbing up the tower. How high can you get? Did anyone make it to the top? Okay, everyone come back down.*

*Oh, look at the time! We need to get down to the lake so that we can go fishing and boating. Grab your backpacks, let's go! How many of you want to go fishing? And how many of you want to go boating? Great! Grab your fishing rods. Put some bait on the hook and cast out your line into the water. Did you hear the 'plop' as the bobber hit the water? Now be patient and you just might catch a fish. Oh, look! You've got a fish! Reel it in! Hurry, you don't want to miss it. That must be a big fish. Good job. Now put on your life vest, and grab your paddle. We've going to go out in the canoes. Make sure you're paddling evenly so that you're not spinning in a circle. Don't rock the boat, you don't want to fall in! See how far you can paddle. Did you make it all the way to the other side of the lake? Okay, everyone come back in! It's time to go swimming!*

*At the pool, you'll need to pass your swim test. Let's jump in the water. Wow, that was a big splash. See if you can swim to the other side of the pool. If you want to you can float on your back or dive down to the bottom. But make sure you follow the pool rules. You don't want the lifeguards to blow their whistle at you. Okay let's get dried off. Don't run at the pool!*

*What an exciting day. I can't believe it's almost over. But it is getting dark. We better get to our campfire. Let's hike to the campfire. Up over the logs, and under all of the branches. Use your flashlight so that you can see where you're going. Just don't shine it in anybody's eyes.*

*Have a seat around the fire. We're going to sing songs [insert song of choice]. Good singing everyone. Does anyone want a s'more? Let's roast our marshmallows over the fire. Make sure to get them nice and golden brown. Be careful around the fire. It is very hot. When you're done cooking your marshmallow, get some graham crackers and a piece of chocolate. Now take a bite of those delicious s'mores. Can you feel the marshmallow oozing out the side? So sticky! Once you're all cleaned up, let's lay on the ground and look up at the stars [turn off the lights if possible] Look how magnificent the night sky is. Did you know God created all of those stars? There are so many. Did you see a shooting star or find a constellation?*

*Okay campers, it's time to go to bed. That was an exciting day. I'm exhausted. Let's all go to bed now. Get into your sleeping bags and say your prayers. I'll read you a story as we all fall asleep. Did everyone have fun today? Well guess what? We get to do it all again tomorrow. Goodnight everyone."*

That is just a small glimpse of a day at camp. There are so many activities and experiences that tailor made just for you. Did you know that you were made for camp? Camp is a unique place, set apart by God for life-changing experiences. Yes you get to do all of those amazing activities that will help you build new skills and make new friends. But we are called to be near God and the Bible gives us plenty of examples of where we go to be close to God.

- *Luke 5:16* says, "Yet He (Jesus) frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray."
- *Matthew 14:23* says, "After He (Jesus) dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by himself to pray."
- *Luke 6:12* says, "One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and He prayed to God all night."

Jesus went into the wilderness and up to the mountains to be close to God. Camps like Gretna Glen exist to be that mountaintop for you. Camp was made for you.

Feel free to share these important things about why camp was made for them.

#### Camp promotes Community

- There are rules and important boundaries
- You can practice using your social, emotional, and physical “muscles”

#### Camp Teaches Critical Thinking

- Games and challenges of problem solving
- Inspiring innovation

#### Camp Embraces the Natural Environment

- You have fewer and fewer opportunities to be outside
- Creation needs to be *experienced* to be appreciated
- There is discover and wonder

#### Camp Creates Future Leaders

- Learn from some awesome adults that care about you
- Take ownership of your own tasks and experiences

#### Camp is an Equal Opportunity Life Changer

- Nobody is left out

#### Camp has a Lasting Impact

- Participate
- Achieve
- Grow
- Make friends
- Make memories