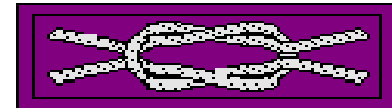




CAPITOL AREA COUNCIL LOST PINES SCOUT RESERVATION

DAILY MEDITATIONS



2005

First Day - "To the Future"

"Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10

THE LOST PINES GRACE

FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OTHERS
FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS,
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER,
O LORD
AND GUIDING US WITH YOUR HAND.
AMEN

1993 Matthew Rivera & "Mr.C."

THE PHILMONT GRACE

FOR FOOD, FOR RAIMENT,
FOR LIFE, FOR OPPORTUNITY,
FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP
WE THANK THEE, O LORD.
AMEN

Thought for the Day: Lost Pines of Bastrop and surrounding areas feature scores of historic sites. For instance, the Griffith Scout Reservation is a grant given to Stephen F. Austin by the President of Mexico - Santa Anna - later the 5,000 acres was handed down to Dr. Griffith. He left the grant in his will to the Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This camp is a place where the history of Texas was made by the Spanish Explorers, Native American Indians, Mexican Army, the Texas Revolution fighters, and the many Scouts who have camped here and have gone on to be a fruitful member of the USA.

The Capitol of Texas is nearby in Austin, Texas and the historical background is well worth the time to visit and take the Historical Trail that you can get a copy of at the Capitol Area Council Scout shop. In surroundings such as these, it is not difficult to believe in God's great power or to God's love for those He created to inhabit the earth. However, every day at the summer camp will be filled with exciting new experiences, each one vying for your attention.

It will be easy to become distracted and fail to acknowledge God's presence here. Yet, He's just a prayer away.

Be certain to take a few moments out of this and every day to thank God for all he has done for you. As the Forty-sixth Psalm reminds us, it is important for us to be still and to recognize God's presence and power in our lives. That you are reading this Meditation is a good indication that you recognize the importance of doing your duty to God each day.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are some of the ways we can know that God exists here at LPSR?
2. Are there times in your life when you felt God's presence in an especially strong way? If so, when?

Prayer-Morning: Thank you God, for loving us. Give us a special sense of your presence today as we observe your creative power all around us in this land. AMEN.

Prayer-Evening: As we end this day, we pause to praise you, to be still and know you better. We are grateful for our safe journey, our families, the world brotherhood of Scouting, and your presence with us now. AMEN.

Second Day - "To Friendship"

"I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant have you been unto me: your love to me was wonderful" 2 Samuel 1:26

Thought for the Day: He who brings you closer to God is your friend. One of the great blessings of friendship is the sharing of meaningful and enjoyable discussion time together and fellowship. Each of us needs and tells our hopes and dreams, and in whom we can find safe, peaceful comfort. Here, among your many friends in Scouting and in this historic countryside, you can find and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

Remember that to have a friend, you need to be a friend. Reach out to someone, share something, reveal something of your own personality and qualities to him, and look for his best qualities and characteristics.

Whenever God desires to bless us, it is usually through the hands of someone else on earth. More often than not, it is friends that provide some of God's greatest blessing. We bless others when we serve them; we are blessed when we allow others to serve us. Incorporate the values of Scouting and your natural inclination to do a Good Turn daily to find, build, and maintain friendships in all that you do here.

Take time today to read the account of the friendship of David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel, chapters 18-21, and in the first chapter of 2 Samuel. It is a touching and moving account of true friendship and brotherly love that survived war, wickedness, family difficulty, and even death. May God bless you to desire the friendship and fellowship that is available to us here at LPSR summer camp.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What can we do today to be a friend to someone else?
2. When you are among your closest friends, do you notice a feeling of spiritual growth and development that may not be present when you are around certain others? What do you think accounts for this difference?

Prayer-Morning: Dear God, we thank you for the opportunity to love and serve our friends, and pray for your divine guidance in leading us to those who will become our true friends. AMEN.

Prayer-Evening: Dear God, as we close the day, we offer our gratitude for all that we have and are. We thank you for our friends and for the blessings that come through them to us. AMEN.

Seventh Day - "Memories"

"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way." Psalm 46:10

Thought of the Day: "As a boy of 11 years old at my first Scout summer camp at Camp Perry in the Rio Grande Valley Council, I will remember it for a lifetime. It was time for me to leave a special place after having spent more than a week at this Scout camp. I found myself with mixed emotions that day. On the one hand, I was eager to see my family and friends. On the other hand, my mind was flooded with wonderful memories that made me want to remain just a little longer.

As I recalled that first summer camp, my memories are one of people and spiritual experiences and places. I will always remember the special times spent with others. Also, I recall vividly sensing God's love and presence even though I was many miles from home. As the Scripture passage reminds us, God is always there leading and teaching us, in good times as well as those that are not so good." (By George Finch)

What about you? As you soon depart LPSR site, will memories go with you? Will you think of times when you felt closer to God, in prayer, in personal moments of reflection, in shared Meditation experiences with others, and in the awesome recognition of God's creative power? You should be able to testify that God is willing to lead you wherever you go on planet earth and even beyond. After all, you have already stepped into the future by learning to live in God's country with nature at the Lost Pines Scout Reservation of 2004.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What memories of God's love and care will you be taking with you as you leave LPSR?
2. Who are some people who have made special contributions to you during your stay here at 2004 LPSR summer camp? Why?

Prayer: Thank you, God, for leading us each day wherever we may go in this world. We love you. AMEN.

Breakfast prayer: As we begin a new day, we give thanks, O Lord, for the many great memories of this 2004 Summer Camp, for our food, and for your many blessings. AMEN.

Departure prayer: Lead us O Lord, as we prepare to leave LPSR. We are grateful for our many Scouting experiences in the land we will long remember. Protect us in travel and preserve our memories of this adventure. We ask this in your name. AMEN.

Sixth Day-"Helping"

"If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Ecclesiastes 4:10

Thought for the Day: Have you ever felt helpless? Imagine yourself trying to take a taxi to a certain location in a huge foreign city. You discover that the taxi driver does not speak your language, and you speak little of his. But the day is saved when a passerby sees the predicament you're in and offers his help. Fortunately, your helper speaks both languages fluently. After only a few moments of explanation by our new friend, the taxi driver has you on your way to your destination. You do not know if your helper has ever been a Scout, but he's shown Scout spirit.

More than eighty years ago, William Boyce felt the same sort of helplessness in a foreign city when he was trying to find his way one night through a thick London fog. Fortunately, a young British Scout became Boyce's helper. With this Scout's helpfulness, Mr. Boyce found his way. He returned home with the idea of starting the Boy Scouts of America-now the largest member of the world Scouting family.

There are many opportunities here at Lost Pines Summer Camp for you to be a helper as you fulfill the third point of the Scout Law. Maybe you can help someone find his way. You can be friend another Scout. You might even share a Scout skill or help someone accomplish a task. Always be ready to "help other people at all times" in fulfillment of the Scout Oath -and the Golden Rule.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are some ways you can do to help others while at Lost Pines Summer Camp?
2. What are some biblical examples of people being helpful and caring?

Prayer: Lord, help us to always have a helpful spirit, seeking to show concern for the needs of others. AMEN

Breakfast Prayer: As we begin this day, O God, make us aware of ways we can be helpful to others. Bless this food and this day as we seek to serve you. AMEN.

Evening Prayer: As we end this day, grant us peace, joy, a giving spirit, fellowship, and brotherhood, O Lord. AMEN.

Third Day-"Cooperating"

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor." Ecclesiastes 4:9

Thought for the Day: Someone once said, "When you help someone up a hill, you are a little nearer to the top yourself." Life is like that in almost all we do. Any job is made easier and lighter if you have help. Any wonderful scene, great movies, excellent book, or tasty meal are much better if they are shared. Anytime we truly share in something with another person, we cooperate with them. We decide, "I'll do this and you do that, and we'll get through this together."

Every baseball, basketball, or football team depends on cooperation. "I'll pass the ball to you, and you put it through the hoop." This process has served humanity through the centuries. It has been found to be one of the most successful means of accomplishing great things. An old adage says that it's surprising how much you can get done if you don't care who gets the credit.

God wants us to learn to cooperate. He made it almost impossible for us to accomplish certain things without help and cooperation. At first, we sometimes balk at the need to share a burden with someone else, but eventually, we learn to do our best work with a trusted, cooperative partner.

We can learn a great deal about cooperation from our LPSR summer camp experience. After all, it takes cooperation and patience to live successfully in such close quarters. If you get frustrated with your fellow Scouts, ask for God's help. He will bless you and your life will be richer and fuller.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are some of the obvious benefits of cooperation?
2. Why do you think God wants us to learn to cooperate? Why is it important that we learn to live in harmony?

Prayer-Morning: O God, we thank you for the daily challenges you provide us. We pray for your blessing and inspiration in finding peaceful and cooperative solutions to them. AMEN.

Prayer-Evening: Dear Lord, we thank you for this day and for our many blessing. We pray your spirit to attend us through the night and bless us tomorrow with unity, harmony, and peace in our efforts. AMEN

Fourth Day -"Peace"

"Who is the person that delights in life and desires a long life to enjoy all good things? Then keep your tongue from evil, your lips from uttering lies; turn from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it." Psalm 34:13-15

Thought for the Day: The summer camp at LPSR gives you an opportunity to be a Lost Pines-builder to peace. The verses from the Thirty-fourth Psalm instruct you how to begin.

You will meet people from all over our state and even from other parts of the U.S.A. Many of these people will have backgrounds quite different from yours. Yet, everyone can understand a kind "hello," a warm smile, a friendly gesture of greeting and acceptance.

Here at summer camp you represent more than just your troop; you are a goodwill ambassador. The impression you make will last a lifetime. Your words and your actions will help form another Scout's opinion about your home life and area you live. You may even represent your town. You want to do all you can to make a good and lasting impression on those you meet.

You are a scouter to peace. As you go about doing your work of peace, use the words of the Thirty-fourth Psalm to help you build peace. Let your actions show kindness and let your concern be for your fellow Scouts. Let your language be respectful and courteous. Your words and actions demonstrate sensitivity for and appreciation of the wonderful opportunity that is yours at summer camp.

Remember, by being a builder to peace, you not only represent your family, school, Troop, town and state of Texas, you also take part in the work God assigned to all of us: "Seek peace and pursue it."

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can the friendships we make at LPSR summer camp help bring peace to the world?
2. List five things a person can do at summer camp to start building peace. Discuss these with your friends.

Prayer-Morning: O Lord our God, you have given us a vision of peace for the world and commanded us to be messengers of your peace. Give us the wisdom to recognize opportunities for peace and the strength to make real in the world the peace for which we pray. AMEN.

Prayer-Evening: Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down in peace and may we awake tomorrow refreshed and renewed. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Protect us and strengthen us as we work for peace on your behalf. AMEN.

Fifth Day -"Giving and Sharing"

"What is good has been explained to you; this is what God asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Thought for the Day: Summer camp draws people from all over Texas and even people from other states. It offers each camper unique opportunity to give and share. Everyone comes with a unique cultural background and this diversity brings a tremendous richness to LPSR. You have already met many Scouts from various regions of the state of Texas and probably have made some new friends. When we share the uniqueness of each culture, we begin to learn that we are not really all that different. We all experience similar feelings of happiness and sadness, fulfillment and disappointments, confidence and fear. When we realize that people are basically much the same, we don't find it so difficult to treat each other with justice and love.

Sometimes, however, people become somewhat shy and fearful of making new friends. Do you find yourself trying to cling to familiar surroundings or spending your time only with the people you know? Might there be someone in your group who is very shy and needs some help in meeting new friends? God truly wants us to learn about each other, to understand each other, and to come together in friendship.

Ask God to help you overcome any fear or shyness you might feel. Do your best to open yourself to new experiences. Trust that all you do in developing these bonds of friendship will help to build a world of justice love, and understanding. Believe that God is present with you and will help you in this work. Help build some paths to the future.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are some of the God-given gifts you bring to LPSR Summer Camp? Have you tried to share these with others?
2. Have you tried to learn about other regional distinctions, customs, and cultures? Have you made many new friends?

Prayer: God, help me work for peace, justice, and love in our world by uniting my self with others in friendship. AMEN.

Breakfast prayer: Dear God, help us all to use this day well. We thank you for this food which gives us energy to work in building a world of understanding among all peoples. AMEN.

Evening prayer: Thank you, God, for this day. Grant us a peaceful and restful night that we may awaken refreshed and eager to work again in building a world of justice, love, and understanding. AMEN.