

Chapter 1 Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think some camps are so strict about their leaders attending meetings and being there on time?
2. Which part(s) might represent your contributions to the body from the list below? Why?
 - Hands – hard working, steady
 - Eyes – insightful, quietly helping people keep on task
 - Ears – patient, good listener
 - Feet – always on the go, always doing something
 - Heart – caring for those around you
 - Stomach – quietly taking it all in, strengthening the body however you can
 - Mouth – using words to help others along
 - Skin – holding everyone together, keeping the peace
 - Wart – firmly attached to the body but doing more harm than good
 - Hat – an accessory to the body, trying to look like you belong
 - Couch – not part of the body and doing your own thing
 - Wasp – not part of the body and dangerous to any part you encounter
3. Notice that the BRAIN isn't one of your choices, though you may think that's your gift! This is because the Bible says Jesus Himself is the Head of the body (see Colossians 1:18; 2:19). All the other parts of the body depend on *Jesus* for direction and coordination. What are the implications of that?
4. What happens when parts of a body don't connect properly with the Brain?
5. What happens when leaders at camp or in the church don't listen to Jesus? Can you think of a time when that was you?
6. Spiritual gifts are given to help the whole body accomplish God's mission in the world to draw people to Himself. How can you use your gifts, wherever you are serving God (camp, school, work, church, among friends), to help accomplish this goal? How can people around you help you with that?
7. Are you ever guilty of assessing someone's worth or ability based on their appearances? Why is that unhelpful? How do you want others to decide what you are truly like?

Chapter 2 Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a practical joke go sideways and hurt or offend people? Were you ever the victim?
2. Have you ever been hurt by someone's careless words? Have you hurt others with careless words? How?
3. When you think of a good leader, who do you think of, and why?
4. What are some qualities of leaders who have had a genuine influence on your life?
5. Why is a top-down leadership model mainly useful only for emergencies, communication, and setting policies?
6. Why does *influence* better define leadership than *authority*?
7. What is the connection between influence and character? What happens if someone has influence but bad character? Is it possible for someone to have good character but no influence?
8. What can we do if our character needs work? Do we need to be perfect to be a leader? If you were to set a minimum standard, what would you expect in a camp leader?

Chapter 3 Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of this chapter, do you think Jon and Madison understood and embraced the purpose of the camp they work at? Explain.
2. What do you think is the mission of wherever you serve or work? How is this communicated? Would you say that this mission is consistently lived out by everyone? By the leaders?
3. Why do you think non-Christians send their kids to Christian camps? Do you think it's "brainwashing" to teach kids from the Bible? Why or why not?
4. How can we stay true to the gospel and yet avoid having non-Christian parents feel like their kids are being brainwashed?
5. How does each department of a camp contribute toward the mission? Is there any area that is more or less important than another area in regard to fulfilling the mission? Explain.
6. Do you agree with Jennifer that your "ministry is wherever you are, right now, to the people who are around you, right now"? What difference would that simple philosophy make if all Christians believed that and lived that way?
7. When you aren't at camp, what is your ministry? Or rather, who is your ministry outside of camp? What does that look like for you? What can you do to take advantage of the opportunities around you?

Chapter 4 Discussion Questions

1. Think of a good friend you have or have had. How did you get to be good friends? What did it take on your part? On their part?
2. Why is the relationship between the cabin leader and the camper so important? Is there a more important relationship at camp?
3. There's an old saying: "People don't care what you know until they know that you care." Is that true? How does that speak to the role and task of the cabin leader?
4. Look back over the story from this chapter. What were some things Jon did that helped kids relate to him (never mind what he was thinking)?
5. Why do you think Madison was so nervous about her first time being a cabin leader? What was she most afraid of? Can you relate to that feeling? What can you do with that?
6. Does it bother you that people like Jon are so popular, despite their arrogance and insecurities? How can you act differently?
7. Of the above suggestions for building relationships, are there any that you think are of vital importance? Are there any that you have a hard time with?

Chapter 5 Discussion Questions

1. What are campers' most basic physical needs?
2. How do you act when your needs aren't being met?
3. What behaviors would you expect from a camper whose social needs are not being met? How can you help meet those needs?
4. What is the difference between "liking" and "loving" your campers? How can we love campers we don't particularly "like"?
5. Which needs are the most difficult to meet as a camp cabin leader: physical, social, emotional, or spiritual needs? Why?
6. What age of campers do you think you would most like to work with? What age would be hardest for you to work with? What would you have to do to be a good cabin leader to that age of campers?

Chapter 6 Discussion Questions

1. How do “fences” or “boundaries” bring freedom? How do we let campers know where the fences are?
2. Why is it easier to ‘punish’ campers than it is to ‘discipline’ them? What is the difference? Why is discipline more effective in the long run?
3. Why is it ineffective to ignore misbehavior and hope it will go away? Think about and share a time when you saw or experienced that approach fail.
4. How much harder is it to deal with misbehavior when we are tired or stressed out? How can we be sure that we aren’t the main problem? How does our character come into this?
5. Does grace mean there are no consequences? How can consequences and grace work together when dealing with camper misbehavior?
6. How can you tell the difference between mistakes and misbehavior? What are some things to consider?
7. Why is it so important for campers to know expectations up front, before they have the opportunity to misbehave?
8. What is the end goal of godly discipline? Why is it important to always keep this in mind?

Chapter 7 Discussion Questions

1. If you were a camper previously, what were your favorite activities? Why were they your favorite? Were there any leaders that made them fun?
2. Have you ever been at an activity that was boring because the leaders were boring? What do you wish they had done differently?
3. How can you quickly change the expectations that campers have of an activity that might seem boring to them?
4. What is the difference between “internal” and “external” motivation? Why is one often better than the other?
5. What is the idea behind “challenge by choice”? Why do you think this is important for campers to understand?
6. How can we use activities as opportunities to build into campers?
7. Do you believe the idea that “there are no boring activities, only boring leaders”? If campers are bored, is it usually the activity or the leaders to blame? What can you do about that?

Chapter 8 Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a time when something wasn't organized very well at camp? How did it make you feel?
2. Do you think Charlotte is "meddling" in Jon's work? Why or why not?
3. Give at least five things Jon could have done differently to make the game run more smoothly.
4. Do you think campers should be expected to wait for camp leaders to get things ready? What messages are we sending when we are not ready for them on time?
5. Would you say that you think things through and plan before starting them, or are you more of a "fly by the seat of your pants" kind of person? What are some benefits of planning ahead?
6. Do you ever use checklists to help keep on track? How do they work for you? If you don't use them, what is keeping you from doing that?
7. Why are contingency plans important? How can you anticipate what *might* go wrong?
8. What place does evaluation have in an event? Why is it helpful?

Chapter 9 Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jon would lead a Bible study on Melchizedek?
2. Besides a poor choice of passage, what else did Jon do poorly in his approach?
3. What opportunity did Jon miss with Caleb? What would you have done?
4. Do you ever feel like you don't know enough to teach kids from the Bible? Is there ever an arrival point where someone now knows enough? Why or why not?
5. What kind of tools can you use to better understand a passage you are reading?
6. What are the three kinds of questions that can help people understand a Bible passage?
7. What kind of object lesson or illustration could you use to teach campers about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?
8. If you agree that it is important to immerse ourselves in God's Word, what will you do to develop better disciplines for studying it? When will you start?

Chapter 10 Discussion Questions

1. Has your fear of failure ever kept you from trying something you later wished you had tried? How did you feel?
2. Have you ever been glad you attempted something and failed, simply because of what it taught you? If so, explain why.
3. What is the difference between a “sin” and a “mistake”? How do we recover from each?
4. What is the difference between “commitment” and “surrender”?
5. How can brokenness bring us into a deeper relationship with God?
6. Is there anything in your camp culture that needs to change so that people are free to “fail forward”? What can you do differently?
7. How do we love and correct one another (tough love) while leaving ample room for forgiveness and grace?
8. Is there brokenness in your life that God is using to draw you closer to Him? What areas of your life do you need to submit to Him more?

Chapter 11 Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever wondered if you were truly a Christian, especially after you messed up (again)?
2. Which do you see God more like: a loving Father who always wants the best for you or a righteous King who expects you to obey?
3. What do you think happens in our minds when we deny the love of God? How do we act?
4. Do you think there is anything you can do to make God love you more or less than He does right now? If so, what? If not, why not?
5. What do you think happens in our minds when we deny the holiness of God? How do we act?
6. What do you think it means that we are to “fear God”? See Luke 12:4-5.
7. What do you think happens in our minds when we deny the goodness of God? How do we act?
8. If God is good and loving, why do you suppose He allows Christians to suffer?

Chapter 12 Discussion Questions

1. How would you define the word “Christian”? How do you know if you truly are a Christian?
2. Why do you think so many people believe that they are required to “work” their way to God?
3. How does a person become a Christian?
4. If works don't save us, what place do works have in our Christian lives?
5. Do people look at you and say, “Wow, that Jesus must be amazing!”? Why or why not?
6. How can you live in a way to store up treasure in heaven?
7. What do you think it means to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus? Why does it matter that we do that?

Chapter 13 Discussion Questions

1. What was missing from Charlie's testimony? What parts were unnecessary or unhelpful?
2. Why do you think giving a testimony can be such a powerful way of witnessing to campers about who Jesus is?
3. What should the main point of a Christian testimony be? Why?
4. How can you talk about your "life before meeting Jesus" if you believed at a young age?
5. Why do you think it is important not to "glorify sin" when giving your testimony?
6. What are some good ways to prepare yourself for giving your testimony?
7. Why would you say that prayer is so important in the preparation and presentation of a testimony?
8. What do you see as the hardest part of writing your testimony? Why?

Chapter 14 Discussion Questions

1. Do you think that Jon's turn-around was realistic? Why or why not? Do we limit God when we doubt His ability to change us or others?
2. Do you think camp or non-camp is more like the "real" world? In what ways could each be defined that way?
3. Why do you think it is often so hard to leave camp at the end of a summer of serving there?
4. What are some steps you (personally) need to take to continue to grow in your faith apart from camp?
5. What are some skills you would like to pick up over the next few years? How will you do that?
6. When you think about your character and how it has developed over the past few months, are you satisfied? Why or why not? Are there decisions you will need to make differently in the future?
7. Are you considering finding a mentor? Do you have ideas of who you might approach? Is there anyone *you* should be mentoring?
8. Are there brutal facts in your life that you need to confront? How can proper accountability help you to do this?
9. Having read this book, what *should* you do in the next 24 hours to move forward with the knowledge you have gained? What *will* you do, and who will keep you accountable to do that?