



2022 Camp Sunday Children's Sermon

Supplies

A pair of "floaties", pool noodle, or life vest

Scripture

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you." Isaiah 43:1b-2a (NIV)

Introduction

Do you know how to swim? Some people use something like these "floaties" to help them stay afloat when they are first learning to swim. For some people, learning to swim can be a very frightening experience. They are so afraid of drowning that they don't want leave the shallow end of the pool, and if they do, they want to stay close to the edge and hold on to the side of the pool. The only trouble is, you can't learn to swim with your feet on the bottom or with your hands holding on to the side of the pool.

Have any of you ever had swim lessons? How did your teacher help you learn to swim?

I heard a story about a boy who wanted to learn to swim, but he was afraid that he might drown. Then, one day, a new swimming instructor came to the pool. This instructor's swimming lessons were exactly what the boy needed. He knew that the boy was afraid of drowning, so as the lesson began and the boy began trying to swim, he walked alongside with his hand underneath the boy's belly. His hand was like a safety net in the boy's mind. He knew that he had nothing to fear because his instructor was there to keep him from drowning!

As kids you get to try a lot of new things all the time! What are some new things you have tried?

Can I teach you something new?

Activity *See Video - https://youtu.be/D_NvI8k_bjw * (this video teaches you how to do a fun coordination warm up)

"I want to teach you a warm up."

Teach them positions 1-6 on their right side. Then teach them position 1-6 on their left side. Then see if they can put them together.

Invite the whole congregation to try as well.

Debrief

Wow, that was fun and I'm sure it was a little bit confusing, challenging and maybe a little frustrating. Sometimes, life can be a lot like learning to swim. It can be frightening. There may be times when we

face uncertain situations and we may be afraid that we are getting in over our heads. Like the boy holding to the side of the pool, we want to hold on to those things of which we are sure.

There is no reason for us to be afraid. Just as the swimming instructor's hand was there to keep the boy from drowning, we have God's promise that he will be there for us when we go through deep water. Listen to his promise. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you."

Trying new things is exciting, but it can also be frightening. As you face new situations in the coming year, let God's hand support you. He will always be there for you and he won't let you down.

Gretna Glen Tie - In

This summer at Gretna Glen, we are going to get to hear a lot of stories about water. H₂O is literally the physical life source of our bodies and our world, making up about 60 percent of adult human beings and 70 percent of the planet Earth. At camp, we will discover that water is also critically important to Christian spiritual life. The Bible is filled with stories involving water as a powerful means by which God sustains, heals, revives, and saves us. The key verse for the week says it all: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:2). God surrounds us and fills us with literal waters and spiritual waters that remind us how we are part of God's life.