




The Critical Ingredient

There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. ~ Colossians 3:11

Discover the Context Colossians 3:4-11

 Are you ready? What have you discovered that you forgot to bring to camp? Will it make a difference? What would happen if you forgot to bring Christ into everything you do at camp?

 To help you stay focused during your prayer time, use a page in the back of this book or a note card to create a daily prayer list for this summer. Write out things that you want to pray for each day—campers, prayer partners, staff, chaplains, safety, etc. Keep it handy to use as a guide for your prayer time.

 What “ingredients” need to go into making this summer a memorable and Christ-centered one, not only for you, but also for the campers? Write out a list what you want to include—certain games, stories, snacks, prayer. Make sure Jesus is at the top of the list.

One of my first solo leadership camping trips was a lesson in humility. I modeled preparation for my campers by laying out everything that we needed to take with us. Rope? Check. Backpacks? Check. Stuff for stew? Check. Flashlights? Check. Batteries in all the flashlights? Check. And I demonstrated faithfulness by leaving on time.

We were almost at our destination when I discovered that in my hasty pride I had neglected to stop at the camp fridge on our way to the van to get the meat for our stew. Sure, we could boil potatoes, carrots, water, and throw in some seasoning. But we could hardly call it stew without the meat. It would lack flavor and sustenance—the meat is the critical ingredient.

In a similar way, it would be possible to do the camp thing this summer without a whole lot of reference to Jesus Christ. The games would still be fun. Friendships would still develop. Memories would be made. In fact, that’s about all some campers expect when they sign up for camp.

But we are aiming for something more than just camp life. What we’re about is *Christian* camping, and you can’t be a Christian camp ministry if you leave Christ on the shelf. Our real attraction is the beauty and glory of Jesus. The sustenance we have to offer is the saving work of Jesus in His life, death, and resurrection on behalf of sinners. The most valuable and meaningful thing we share is a relationship with the Savior. Paul says that Christ is all in all. Everything else is bonus.

Let me give you a challenge for this summer. Commit yourself to making much of Jesus Christ. Commit to putting the Savior and His gospel at the center of every activity, relationship, decision, and thought. Make your life about Jesus this summer.

Fortunately, we found a little country store and bought some meat for our stew. The camping trip was rescued. [JCR]