

Life in the

LIGHT

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

The recent Winter Bible Seminar, “Crossing the Jordan,” was full of joy and blessings from God. We’ve asked the youths, high schoolers, and juniors who attended to share what they learned and enjoyed through the camp.

----- Youths -----

First of all, I want to thank God for giving me a winter break and guiding me to attend this winter camp. Spending time together with everyone, deeply learning God’s Word, praising wholeheartedly, and doing many activities were all precious times that God gave me, for which I am very happy and grateful.

The most memorable moment was when all the men blew the trumpet, and we all shouted, “Jesus!” In that moment, I was able to see the bigger picture of crossing the Jordan River and the walls trembling and falling down. It gave me renewed strength and courage to fight against worldly things!

The scripture that resonated with me the most from last year’s winter camp was John 15:18-19: “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.” This scripture resonated with me as I often struggle with human relationships. However, these verses reminded me that Jesus also experienced this during his time on earth, yet he continued to speak and act with love and boldness. In the same way, I, too, can persevere and live with love and boldness.

In this camp, I spent my time together with the youth juniors and the kids from morning to night, learning the Bible, praising God, doing crafts, eating, or just chatting with one another. It was a very fun and warm time when I could see that we were all God’s family. I believe it was real joy that came because God was with us. I thank God for leading me into his promised land, full of blessings, and I want to share that with my friends and coworkers, too.

Throughout this camp, I learned about Noah’s Ark and how I shouldn’t look or compare myself with other people, but look up towards God. It rained for most of the days during camp, but on the last day, I saw a huge rainbow in the sky. Connecting all together, it felt like the start of a new beginning. As I start the spring semester, I want to remember and apply what I learned through this camp.



----- Juniors -----

Last summer, I was unable to fully participate and be with the youth during most of the camp due to being in a malnourished state from extreme dieting for nearly 5 years. God has since healed me through the help of the Pastor's wife and daughter. Nevertheless, I still carried the fear of a relapse.

However, during the evening service of the first day, God encouraged me to stand firm in my healing. I learned about not limiting him according to my circumstances or calculations, but instead to entrust myself fully in his hands and focus on what he wants me to do. I was filled with God's hope, and I felt my faith come back to me as I accepted this truth that night. The result: my body felt completely fine, and I was able to be with the youth for the entirety of the camp.

In the December Newsletter, I wrote that I was looking forward to finding a new scripture during camp. I am grateful that I could find the verse Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I found this verse when I was reading my journal, and I never really knew about this verse until now, so I am thankful that I could learn it.

My camp experience was really fun! Learning about God's word and spending time with people, learning together! I learned that God told Joshua he'd keep him safe, and kept his word. Because Joshua trusted God, God helped him defeat Jericho, all down to rubble! God helps me every day without me noticing. He keeps me safe, gives me food, and more! I really enjoyed spending time with my friend more than usual at church. I hope I can go to the campground again in the future.

During church camp, I learned many things about God and a lot of other things. I had fun during the activities when we went hiking and when I made a card. I made a pop-up card where, when you open it, you can see people crossing the Jordan River. During the hiking trail, you can see a few wagons and a tipi with bunk beds inside of them. During breaks, we had fun by talking, going to other people's rooms, eating snacks together, and more. Although we may have slept during times when we were supposed to be listening, got into small arguments, or just didn't feel well, we all had fun together during camp.



--- High schooler ---

During camp, I was given the opportunity to lead hiking. Since it was a new campsite, we were able to explore a variety of trails. As a test run, we went to 2 different trails. The first trail was a moderate trail with a couple of steep hills, but the second one was a more mellow one. We all thought the first trail had a good view of the scenery, but when we hiked through the second trail, I knew that with this trail, everyone would have a good time, not just a select few. This connects to what I learned during camp, of not thinking about your own benefit, in this case, a harder trail, to thinking about others, so that everyone who came can enjoy the nature God gave us.



----- MLK Day Activity -----



I had a lot of fun when I went hiking and skating. I got better at skating, too. While hiking, I stepped into the water in the first part we crossed the water, so my shoes got wet, but they dried quickly. During skating, I was stuck to the wall most of the time, but it was fun. I was able to go into the rink, though. -Junior

The holiday activity was really fun because we were able to spend time together and also hike and do other activities. My favorite part of the day was hiking with everyone to see the sunset and the waterfall.

-High schooler

I loved that I was able to join for half of the day! It was fun bonding with everyone, and I loved seeing how we were able to help each other throughout the hike. -Youth

I'm grateful that we stayed safe during the hike and that we made it back safely. Pausing to check on one another during the hike reminded me that God created us to support each other. -Youth

It was nice to have many of the youth join the hike. My favorite moment was watching the sunrise-walking along the trail as the sky gradually changed colors was such a beautiful thing to see. -Youth

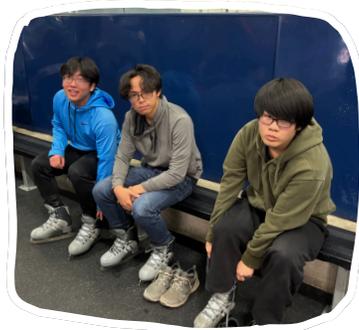
I had fun hiking and thought that I should try not to slip when crossing the river. They said that the place with ropes was going to be hard, but to me it wasn't that bad. I feel like I got better at it than the last time I went skating. I ate ice cream, which was really good. -Junior



This day was filled with many activities, and my favorite part was waking up early together and heading to the hiking trail. I also noticed my improvement in skating, in which I was able to skate hands-free and fell less than before. Overall, I thank God for giving us a great time together! -Youth

Seeing the sunrise with everyone was worth waking up early! -Youth

It was very fun being able to go hiking and ice skating with everyone. I especially liked hiking to see the sunrise, as it brought color to the mountains and warmth. -High school



I liked Martin Luther King Jr. Day because it was fun. I liked ice skating the most, because I hadn't done it in about a year. We also went hiking, to In-N-Out, Grant Park, and Salt & Straws. I learned to skate a little bit and was able to skate without holding onto the wall for about the last hour. It was fun, though, learning to skate by falling and getting up again. A lot of things happened that day. I was a little tired and sore from skating & hiking, but it was fun anyway. I would like to have a day like that next time!
-Junior

In addition to the joy I experienced, seeing how the youth were looking out for the younger kids really made me feel God's presence with us throughout the entire time. I thought, "This is what God's family is like." I was happy that people who usually cannot make it were able to join us this time. -Youth

Come join us!

Sunday Worship:

Japanese Service: 9am-

English Service: 11am-

2031 E Villa St, Pasadena, CA 91107

Contact

Email:

davaryouthgroup@gmail.com

Insta: @dkgyouth

Website: www.davarkg.com