



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

20700 Wagner Cutoff Rd SE, Oldtown, MD 21555

301.478.5721 ♦ www.alleganyboyscamp.org

inspiring change through relationship

June 2016

PROBLEM SOLVING

A group of boys is huddled up. You ask them what they're doing and they say, "We're 'solving a problem.'" There's tension in the air. How will they work it out? What will it take for them to be satisfied they're ready to move on?

At camp we have chosen to view problems as opportunities to hold much-needed conversations and practice concepts and patterns laid out in Scripture.

Proverbs 27:9, As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man. – The concept of **mirroring**

Proverbs 15:22, Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established. – **Advising**

Proverbs 12:1, Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish. – **Accepting correction**

Proverbs 27:17, Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. – **Honing**

I remember someone saying, "The way we solve problems at camp really does work for everybody, everywhere." Until then I had been viewing it as simply a camp method... steps we went through so we could move on, hopefully peaceably. But he was right; it really does work worldwide because it follows Biblical patterns

The pattern for approaching your brother in Matthew 18:15-17 is usually the order correction is given. Starting with a reminder from one person, we proceed to a huddle up with the whole group if he does not respond well.

We usually work through problems following 3 main steps.

1. **Identify the problem:** there's a Biblical word for this act of recognizing and acknowledging our problems. It's confession.
2. **Solve the problem:** get advice, make amends, we do whatever we can to follow Matthew 5:24, "go... be reconciled to thy brother"
3. **Prevent the problem:** 2 Peter 2:22b, "The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." We want to do better than the dogs and pigs so we get a plan to prevent the problem. Jesus spoke of extreme prevention measures when he said if our eye or hand offends us we should get rid of it.

Now we meet the group that was huddled up earlier. There's freedom in the air, and they're moving on. Before you can ask they tell you, "Don't worry, we got it solved."

Hebrews 12:12 & 13, "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees: and make straight paths for your feet lest that which is lame be turned out of the way, but let it rather be healed."

Albert Stoltzfus - Program Director



"I remember someone saying, 'The way we solve problems at camp really does work for everybody, everywhere.' ... he was right; it really does work worldwide because it follows Biblical patterns"



Nature Corner - Fish

Fish entertain us for hours at camp. We study them, try to catch them, tell stories about them, and eat them. Fish are unique creatures that point to a wise Creator. If we would have undertaken the job of creating the world, designing fish would have presented a few problems:

- How do you keep a fish from drowning?
- How do they survive winters?
- When do fish sleep?

Designing a fish to live in the very substance that drowns humans and mammals seems ironic. Any swimmer knows that lungs cannot absorb oxygen from water. Inhaled water causes violent coughing and a desperate sense of suffocation. Yet fish thrive in this watery environment. Instead of lungs, God created them with gills which extract dissolved oxygen from the water. Gills do not function in air – if you take a fish out of the water, it will quickly suffocate!

How do fish survive winters? Can anything live in frozen rivers and lakes? Once again, God's plan is much better than anything humans could have developed. Water is the only substance that becomes less dense as it freezes. When ice crystals form, they rise to the surface and attach themselves to other ice crystals, creating an ice layer over the top of the water. Without this unique feature of water, bodies of water would freeze completely solid from top to bottom in the wintertime, killing all fish and aquatic life. Instead, the bottom of the lake is warm enough for the cold-blooded fish to spend their winters in a lethargic, hibernation-like state.

When do fish sleep? Do they sleep at all? Fish don't sleep like mammals or humans sleep. They have no eyelids, so they cannot close their eyes. Many fish, especially those that live in fast-moving water, cannot remain motionless for long or they will be swept away which is why God created fish to be fast sleepers! They get their rest a little here, a few seconds there, always with their eyes open and sometimes swimming slowly in place. Fish do not have long periods of continuous rest like we are accustomed to enjoying.

God surely did not create fish haphazardly, and I am thankful that He chose to design this unique creature. We spend lots of time at camp pouring over fishing tackle, telling tales about the monster that got away and the little one that didn't, and discussing strategies and theories of fishing. How is it that one person can catch two fish for each one that his buddy reels in? Can fish somehow sense your attitude through the hook and line? Why will they take one bait aggressively but ignore an identical one? We haven't been able to answer these questions yet, but we sure have had fun trying!

Chad Martin - Education Supervisor

Fishing

Grab your tackle box and your rod

So we can catch a massive cod.

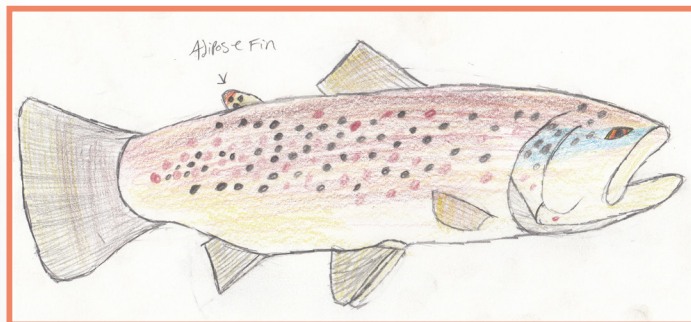
We'll reel him in and take him out
And realize we have caught a trout.

We'll gut him up and make fillets
And eat him at the end of day.

We'll serve him out and eat him up
And we'll feed the scraps to the pup.

After that we'll wash the dishes
And have sweet dreams about fishes.

Miles—Woodsmen



Sneaky Cats of the Water

Catfish are a large group of fish that vary from lakes to oceans to rivers. They are called catfish for their long whiskers called barbels for their sense of smell. They are different from other fish. They do not have scales but smooth leathery skin. They have one defense which includes these sharp spines beneath their gills, which inject poison when attacked, that can cause serious wounds. They eat frogs and insects, even other fish like bluegill and sunfish. Catfish like bluegill and sunfish. Catfish vary in size from the Megong giant catfish, which grows to ten feet and the glass catfish, which would be a 4 inch long Aquarium cat for your home. Another cool cat is one that swims into gills of other fish and drinks their blood. Catfish you can find in America are 70 pound flatheads, channels, Maddoms or bullheads. These are some facts on the sneaky cats of water, that mostly pay mind to themselves.

Joseph—Pioneers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



L to R:

Back Row: Dennis Martin, Ed Martin, Paul Hurst, Marcus Beiler
Front Row: George Burkholder, John Forry, Greg Sensenig, Ernest Zimmerman, Not Pictured: Andrew Crider

PASTORAL ADVISORS



L to R:

Back Row: Larry Showalter, David Sauder, David Mark Martin
Front Row: Jonathan Good, Harold Eby, Arvin Martin, Perry Beachy

GROUP EVALUATION

A camper's mother shares her thoughts after participating in a group evaluation.

Does that make you nervous or worried? Well, yesterday we parents, campers, and chiefs circled up to think how each of our sons is doing, and how he can go forward. The atmosphere was relaxed-we had all the time in the world, yet I felt like I was sitting on the edge of my chair, not wanting to miss a word.

The goals and issues discussed were mostly familiar to each one, me included, such as being afraid of what others might think of me if I tell chief about something that is not right. Well, what's the worst thing that could happen to me here at camp? Maybe my friends won't talk to me, or maybe they will tell Chief about my secret (I better be honest and not have any)... Actually, we discovered that people respect someone if he has the guts to speak up, and may try to be like him.

Other thoughts which came from fellow campers, parents, and chiefs were to forgive, don't blame-even yourself. There's a blessing in becoming truly part of the group, saying "we" not "they", helping with group planning, and so on. Be proud that you were/are at camp and of the strides forward that you've made! As in sports you win or learn from a game. Never say lose or give up. Think of others, helping those who are hurting which will change one's self-centeredness. Follow those in authority just as the disciples did, so you can be trusted. Discuss ideas and thoughts respectfully. Don't trample on others in your eagerness to get ahead. Remember that what comes out of your mouth originates in your heart. Maybe I have to slowly count to three before answering if I'm upset about something. To become a whole man, one must be physically active to keep your mind and heart on the right trail. Take time to read your Bible daily.

What meant the most to me, was that even though some things seemed very hard, possibly even overwhelming, I think each one of us felt lifted up and encouraged by the end. There are good things to be celebrated in each one of us-let's be optimists, believing in ourselves and our sons!

Gretchen - Camper's Mom







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We send out printed newsletters twice a year. The rest of the year is by email. If you currently are not receiving our email newsletter and would like to: email our office at lorraine@allegany-boyscamp.org.

CAMP KINDLING

... small pieces of camp news and needs

-  Camp needs a maintenance man ASAP.
-  A young man is needed to serve as a chief beginning in January.

OPEN HOUSE

August 20, 2016

10:00 AM until 2:00 PM

Tours from 10:00-11:30 AM

Lunch served: 11:30 - 12:30

fun activities for the whole family

The Board recently approved of moving forward with building a house for Chiefs. We are working on scheduling and making plans to start this project in June based on permits.

Do you know of someone that would be willing to donate materials and labor for the house?

Lester Fisher is coordinating this project. You can contact him at camp if you would like to help with the building project in any way.

Thanks so much for your support and prayers for camp. God bless you!

