



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Camping

Children's Story

Year B, Proper 9

Title: Camping
Author: Vern Klassen-Wiebe
Church: Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: Mark 6:1-13
Theme: Jesus trained his disciples to co-operate and ask for help from others..

Wondering questions:

- I wonder what things your families have forgotten and had to borrow.
- I wonder why it is easier to make friends when we ask people for help.
- I wonder how God wants us to show our trust in God's care today.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they gather for the children's story and help them settle into comfortable places. Engage them in a brief conversation about camping, using questions such as: How many of you like to go camping? What do you have to do to be ready to camp? (You need to pack your tent, sleeping bags, pillows, axe, firewood, camp stove, food, and dishes. Sometimes it feels like you need just about everything!) Open your Bible to Mark 6 and say, now that's another thing that's great to take on a camping trip, because campsites are great places for taking time to be with God's Word. But so is this, and the ideas for today's story about camping come from the gospel of Mark (open your Bible) where Jesus tells his disciples what they need and don't need to take along when they go on a trip. Here's the story:

Story:

One summer Sarah's family decided to go camping and they planned and packed everything that they needed. Well, they thought they had packed everything. When they arrived at the campsite they set up

their tent. When they wanted to build a fire for hotdogs Sarah's dad went to get the axe out of the van. But it wasn't there! "Has anybody seen the axe?" Oops! The axe was left at home. What to do? They were stuck. Just at that moment the neighbour camper came over noticing they were short one axe and he offered his. Well, Sarah's family was so grateful that you know what they did? They invited the neighbour family over to their new fire and shared 's'mores' with them! The missing axe helped Sarah's family to get to know another family. If they had had their axe they probably would have kept to themselves and wouldn't have ventured out to do things together with the campers beside them.

Jesus didn't send his disciples on a camping trip but he did send them on a mission trip to tell people to change their ways and follow Jesus. And he told them to take nothing for the trip except a walking stick and sandals. In their work they were supposed to depend on others and work together. They were supposed to get into situations where they would need help and people would be able to "lend them an axe". Actually, by not taking everything they would need, the disciples were putting their trust in God; that God would provide all that was needed in their work and God would provide it by way of others helping the disciples.

Prayer:

Thank you, God, that you sometimes show your care for us through helpful strangers. Help us be helpful strangers when we have the chance. Help us to see and receive your love when strangers are willing to help us when we need to borrow things from them. Amen.