



This year you can experience the camp high with your children, providing long term family impact. **Reserve your campsite for the main event on July 24th.**

## PARENT'S GUIDE

WEEK 1:

# Tie Dye Party

CREATE YOUR OWN COOL CAMP T-SHIRT

**When life is peaceful and joyful it's so easy for your child to see how God is at work all around them. But your child's life isn't all fun and games. When they experience difficulty, how can you help them understand that God is with us in all circumstances and He can make beautiful things out of messy situations?**

**SETTING:** This could get a little messy. It might be best to **take it outside!**

**GETTING YOUR HEART READY:** All of the mess, chaos, and discomfort we experience is temporary, and God is using it to make us into objects fit for his purpose. When we embrace that truth we can share it with our children. And they can begin to live in that truth as well!

But first, we've got to believe it ourselves. To help us, let's think about Paul– the greatest evangelist of the New Testament. During his time spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through the entire civilized world, Paul found himself in many tough situations. He was wrongly accused, placed under house arrest, imprisoned, and ultimately killed. It really doesn't get much messier than that.

**Pause here to open your Bible and read Acts 27:17-30**

Paul believed, as he wrote in his letter to the Romans, that all things work together for good when we are called according to God's purposes. He knew that his suffering was temporary, and that through it God was with him making him more like Jesus! He surrendered himself to God and the molding of the Holy Spirit and became a witness to the entire world through his difficulties. His acceptance of hardships allowed God to deliver him through those seemingly hopeless circumstances while he continued to boldly preach the Gospel. As a result, his story produced a legacy that encouraged Christians throughout history to walk through difficult times in faith. How beautiful his messy life looks to us now as we seek wisdom for our own trials and tribulations.

Being imprisoned is a concept that we should all be somewhat able to relate to. We may not be physically imprisoned as Paul was, but our circumstances may have us feeling arrested by fear, worry, or guilt. We may be imprisoned by regret, doubt, or that feeling of 'not good enough.' Chances are your child will feel that sometimes too. They need to know that this too shall pass, and that God is at work in their lives. If they are humble and submit to Him they'll be made more like Jesus; stronger, more compassionate, more loving, and ready to share the Good News through their own experiences.

This activity will help you demonstrate to your child that messy and chaotic events can lead to beauty and purpose!

## FAMILY IMPACT ACTIVITY

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to make your own camp t-shirts. Why? Because what's camp without one!? We asked the boys and the girls from True Girl and Born to Be Brave and heard that Tie Dye is really the rage, so we have easy-to-follow plans for you to each make a shirt that's unique. The best part? You're going to be learning a really powerful object lesson in how God can make a mess beautiful.

Watch the video of True Girl lead teacher Kasey and her little brother, Jacob, making their tie dye camp t-shirts together on either the True Girl or Born to Be Brave youtube channels.

### LEARN HOW TO MAKE A TIE DYE SHIRT



### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Bible
- T-Shirt
- Rubber Gloves
- Tarp, Plastic, or Garbage Bag
- Bowl of Water (large enough to dunk your shirt)
- Rubber Bands or Hair Ties (4-6 per shirt)
- Clothing Dye (found in most stores)
- Squirt Bottles or Plastic Cups
- Gallon Ziploc Bag

### THERE ARE TWO GOALS DURING THIS FAMILY IMPACT ACTIVITY:

1

**The first** is for your child to enjoy a slightly messy, but fun and creative time with you, that produces a powerful memory and a keepsake.

2

**The second** goal is to have a conversation with them about the truth that God promises to be with us in all things, even the messy and uncomfortable.

# How to make a spiral tie dye t-shirt

1

## PREPARE:

- Assemble your items
- Lay your garbage bag, plastic, or tarp out to cover your work surface
- Fill your bowl with water
- Mix your dye according to the instructions

2

## DAMPEN YOUR SHIRT:

- Dunk your shirt in the water
- Wring it out so it's just damp

3

## SET UP THE SPIRAL:

- Lay your shirt out flat
- Pinch the spot on your shirt where you would like the center of the spiral to be
- Twist as if you were winding a clock until the shirt is spiralled up like and looks a bit like a cinnamon roll

4

## HOLD IT TOGETHER:

- Use the rubber bands to hold your shirt in the spiral.
- 4-6 rubber bands should do the trick
- Align them like a pizza would be cut

5

## APPLY THE DYE:

- Now for the messy part.
- Apply the dye to one side of your shirt (like pizza or pie slices)
- Use one color or many colors in a pattern
- Flip and apply dye to the other side match the pattern from the first side

6

## BAG AND WAIT

- Put the t-shirt in the Ziploc bag
- Allow 24 hours for dye to set

7

## RINSE, WASH, DRY

- Rinse thoroughly with cold water to remove excess dye
- Wash separately with cold water
- Hang dry
- Show it off!

8

## POST YOUR PHOTOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

being sure to tag Born to be Brave (Facebook) and True Girl (Facebook or Instagram) or email us a photo of you with permission to share it on our social media pages. Be sure you're wearing your camp shirt and/or doing one of the Camp Staycation family impact activities.

WE'LL RANDOMLY SELECT ONE PHOTO TO BECOME A FINALIST FOR THE CAMP STAYCATION OOEY GOEY ULTIMATE GRAHAM PRIZE!

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

As you're completing your tie-dye activity, share the thoughts about the Apostle Paul and how God uses messy things, times, and even people for beautiful purposes. At an appropriate time, pause to open your Bibles and have a conversation. Consider asking your child some questions to get them thinking. Do you think Paul was ever frightened, confused, or discouraged by his situation?

If so, where do you think he found the courage and motivation to continue his mission? Where was his focus? How would you feel if you were treated as Paul was treated? Have you been?

Can we use Paul as an example to adjust our view of our own circumstances?

**Read Romans 8:28 and Dueteronomy 31:8 Use the following questions to guide your conversation.**

## ASK YOUR CHILD:

What feels messy for you right now?

How can we be trusting God?

Ask yourself and share:

When have you asked your child to do something difficult because you knew it was good for them? Talk them through that example

When have you recognized God's presence in a messy situation?

What good did He do in and through it?

As you talk, focus in on the words ALL and Never. Even on our best days we are not capable of keeping promises that use language like that. But, God can and God will! He really will NEVER leave us and will use ALL things for good! As you get a little messy. Lean hard on that truth.

## PRAY:

End your Camp Staycation family impact activity in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you through whatever messy situations you're facing right now. Make a verbal commitment to choose to walk by faith through the difficulty, trusting that God is up to something good.

**SNEAK PEEK**  
AT YOUR  
**NEXT**  
FAMILY IMPACT ACTIVITY:

Help your child discover how God has created them to be beautifully unique. In Happy Trails, you'll experience the thrill of exploring in a way that matches your child's personality. Blaze a trail of discovery that will lead you closer to your child and closer to Jesus!

