

# THE CAMP CONNECTION DAILY DEVOTIONS

ENJOYING SOME GREYSTONE FUN AT HOME. WE  AND MISS OUR AUGUST CAMPERS!

# MONDAY, JULY 27

## BETTER THAN A NAMETAG

*But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me. Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me." Isaiah 49:14-16*

Oh Greystone Girls, what we would give to be getting up at the crack of dawn to welcome you to camp this morning! Today should have been full of name tags and hugs and (of course!) warm scones. But obviously, that wasn't meant to be this year.

When we say the words "Opening Day," what do you think about? How does it make you feel? If you're anything like us, that phrase makes you jump-up-and-down-excited and may-not-eat-breakfast-nervous, all at the same time. It means the countdown has finally ended and camp has begun. Friends! Your counselor! The Blob! But it also means you're saying goodbye to your family for a few weeks. What if you don't fit in? What is the Screamer anyway?

A lot of people would say the best part about an Opening Day at Greystone is how welcomed and loved you feel. You are greeted with huge smiles. There is a place here just for you! Your counselor has made you a name tag - she has been waiting for you. And it all culminates in what we call the "Royal Reception," a newer tradition where campers are greeted at the first assembly with a huge line of staff, cheering and clapping for them. It makes us tear up every time!

There's a reason we do all of these things, and it's the same reason that they make you feel good. We were made to be recognized and welcomed and a part of something bigger than ourselves. Did you know that Opening Day at camp is just a small, imperfect picture of the way God, the creator of the mountains and the stars and the ladybugs, looks at you?

We read in Isaiah that God has written your name in the palm of His hand - how crazy is that? That's better than any nametag. He created every little bit of you and formed you just right. He calls you the crown of His creation. You are a part of His family, and you (yes, you!) have a place at His table. That cheering as we run into the Pavilion on Opening Day? It's nothing compared to the celebrating in Heaven every time someone accepts Him into her heart.

And the best part? This love, this acceptance, this welcome is already yours. It's not dependent on how good you are or how well you do in school or in sports. It's yours just because God loves you and delights in you. He enjoys you and wants to give you that Opening Day feeling, every day. All you have to do is say yes to Him.

1. What is your favorite part of Opening Day? Or what you think will be your favorite part? Can you see how God offers that feeling to you all the time?
2. What would change about your life if you really believed that He has a place for you and has your name written on His hand, just because He loves you?

# TUESDAY, JULY 28

## WHY TODAY IS A GREAT DAY

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

If you've been at camp before, you know that we do this thing when we wake up in the morning that feels kind of silly. Before we brush our teeth, before we make our beds or are even fully awake, we sit up, clap our hands, and say "It's going to be a great day and I feel terrific!" Now, there's lots of reasons we do this. We believe that your attitude matters and that every day can be a great day if you look for the good.

But there's a deeper reason too, and you can see it in this verse from the Psalms. We can say with complete confidence that it is going to be a great day because this is a day the Lord has made, a day He has made especially for us, and given to us in His goodness. Everything that you come upon today is being used by the God who loves us more than we can imagine, for our good and His glory.

This doesn't mean that every day is going to feel great though. In fact, the Bible tells us over and over again that life as a Christian is hard. This year so far has definitely not felt like our favorite. But the best thing about Christianity is that we have a firm, solid, unchangeable hope that God is still working even now, and that He wins in the end.

In New Morning Mercies, Paul David Tripp writes, "There is simply no panic in heaven. God is never anxious.... God never worries about what is going to happen next or stresses over how things are going to turn out.... He never makes promises that He cannot keep. He never forgets what He said or what He wants to do next. He is all-powerful, absolutely perfect in every way, faithful to every word, sovereign over all that is, the definition of love, and He is righteous, just, tender, and patient all at the same time. He is not dismayed or distracted by our panic and our questions. No, the sovereign move of His grace marches on!"

This is why we can say with confidence that it is a great day. Because no matter what happens in your day, God is moving things closer to the one day someday when He is going to make everything right, and we will be with Him. We can feel terrific because He is in control. Nothing surprises Him. He is watching over you even now. Doesn't that change the way you look at the gift of today?

1. Make a list of ways the last few days have felt great. How can you thank God for that?

2. How has the last week or month felt less than great? How can you trust that God is using it in your life?

# WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

## THE BEAUTY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

*"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body." 1 Corinthians 12:14-19*

This passage has become a favorite for cabin devotions in the first week of camp, and it's easy to see why. Here Paul is comparing the body of Christ (another way to say Christians everywhere!) to an actual body. Your body has lots of different parts with different functions, and the same goes for the church... and your cabin at camp! There's nothing quite like the anticipation of walking into your cabin for the first time on Opening Day. Who is going to be your best friend? Your bunkmate? Your dance party pal? The girls you'll be living with are all different, from all over the country. But you know it's going to be great, because you have something big in common - camp!

That's just a small picture of what the Bible tells us about the community of Christians world-wide. There are millions (probably more!) of Christians all over the world. We speak different languages. We look different. Our day to day lives may have little in common. But the Bible tells us this is a good thing. How crazy would it be if the whole body was an ear? Or a nose? Our body is even more incredible because of how its different parts work together, and the body of Christ is better because we are all different, and gifted in unique ways.

But what does that look like in our day to day lives? When it's easy to compare yourself to your friends or your siblings? We tend to fall into two traps when we compare ourselves to others. They're a foot and you're an eye - so what do you do? Sometimes we wish others were more

like us. Why can't they just like the same things as me? Or see the world the way I do? But other times, we look at what our friends have or look like or can do, and we get jealous. She's so much more talented than me. No wonder she is so popular. Why can't I be more like her?

But both of these traps minimize the truth we see in this passage. Every person (you included!) has been created purposefully, with unique gifts that will make God's kingdom a better place. The fact that we're all different is a good thing - how boring would it be if we were all exactly the same? Just because someone is different than you, with different skills and their own way of seeing the world, doesn't mean that they are more valuable than you, or that they are wrong.

That's what's so wonderful about being a Christian! We know for sure that God is working in each one of us. That He loves us, and that He is using us in our own unique way. Together we become even better and more useful to Him than we ever would be alone.

1. What gifts has God given you? We all have them! Thank Him for how He created you, and ask Him to use your gifts for His glory.

2. Which trap do you tend to fall into? Are you tempted to compare yourself to others?

# THURSDAY, JULY 30

## THE GREATEST LOVE STORY

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17*

We love a good love story around here. What can we say - we're a girls' camp! When we have visiting musicians come play at Main Camp, one of the first things you can hear the crowd asking for is "proposal story!" It's silly and makes everyone giggle, but there's a reason fairy-tales are fun. It's because our hearts were created to fall for the greatest love story of all time.

The Bible can seem a little huge and confusing sometimes. It's full of old stories and big words and it may not seem to have much to do with our lives in 2020. But at its simplest, it's one continual story. The Jesus Storybook Bible (that we love!) says it so well: "It's an adventure story about a young Hero who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne - everything - to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful of fairy tales that has come true in real life... And at the center of the Story, there is a baby. Every Story in the Bible whispers his name."

Jimboy's mother, Libby, used to say that the Bible has three parts - someone is coming, someone is here, someone is coming again. You see, the whole Bible is all about Jesus! It is the incredible story of how far God goes to rescue the people He loves. We are that people! That means that the Bible isn't impersonal at all - it's all about how much God loves you. That we broke His heart, but He came after us, all the way down to earth, so that He could take the punishment for our sins. And so that one day we could be with Him again and everything could be made right.

Now that is a fairytale! That is better and more beautiful than any Disney

movie or proposal story you'll ever hear. And the best part? It's true, and we are living in it! So the next time you pick up your Bible, look for Jesus in each story. Ask yourself what the words tell you about Him, and how they show you how wonderful He is.

1. Do you love stories or do they gross you out? What does it mean to you that Jesus loved you more than anyone has ever loved someone else?
2. Pick a passage of scripture today or tomorrow, and look for Jesus in it. Every story whispers His name!

# FRIDAY, JULY 31

## DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7*

You want to know something kind of neat? Every year, we choose a theme verse for the summer at camp, the passage that we're going to focus on and talk about all year. We've been working our way through the fruits of the spirit - you know - love, joy, peace.... and 2020 was going to be peace, so we picked this verse from Philippians. If only we knew how perfect it was going to be for this crazy, uncertain, anxious year!

But God knew. He knew we were going to need the reminder that He is near, that peace comes from Him alone, not our circumstances. And maybe you need that too. What kinds of emotions have you felt over these last few months? Maybe you've been afraid, or uncertain. Maybe you've been frustrated or sad or impatient. Maybe like us, you have felt pretty much every emotion under the sun! We know from the Bible that, far from being distant, God sees us and understands everything we're feeling. In fact, since He lived in a human body, he's felt many of the same things!

So what's a girl to do when life is hard and she feels nervous, or frustrated, or sad? Run to Jesus! He is not surprised by what you're feeling, He welcomes it. He still loves you and delights in hearing from you. Our world is uncertain and changes all the time, but God does not, and this is such good news. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and He is good.

That is where we can find peace and feel okay, even when our circumstances are hard. Peace comes from knowing that He is in control, and knowing what He is like. He keeps His promises. He is using every little

thing for your good. Nothing is out of His hands. You see, the world is going to let us down time and time again, because it's broken. But God will never leave you. He never goes back on His word. He put the stars in the sky, but he also knows how many hairs are on your head right now. That is the kind of person you can trust.

1. Are you anxious about anything today? How can you run to God with it?

2. Write down everything you know about God. How does this help you trust Him when things are hard?

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

## WE ARE IN CHRIST

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" 2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

Wake up, it's Challenge Day! Though we're not eating breakfast under a sea of green and gold streamers, there are still oodles of ways for you to earn points and root for your favorite team today. Whether you live for the Odds and Evens or you're just counting the minutes until lunch, we all know what it feels like to cheer on a team you love.

Have you ever noticed the way we talk about our favorite teams? We talk as though we are the ones on the field or court, even if we were just sitting in the stands. No matter if you're saying "We won!" or "We lost," it's a "we," not a "they." School is over, so we're not going to dive too deep into the grammar here (you can thank us later!), but the way we talk has meaning. When you love a team, their victories are your victories, even if you didn't have anything to do with it!

That has a little bit to show us about this concept in the bible called union with Christ. It sounds complicated, and in some way it is (whole books have been written about it!), but in essence it's pretty simple. If you are a Christian, you are in Jesus, so everything that is His, is yours.

This phrasing sounds a little funny to us at first, because in our culture we often say we have Jesus in our hearts. That's not wrong at all, but a better way to say it is that you are in Jesus, completely covered in His righteousness and love. You are a new creation! When God looks at you, He doesn't see your mistakes and sins, He sees Jesus' perfection. What an amazing thing!

This union has everything to do with what Jesus has done for us, and nothing to do with what we have done for Him. We haven't played in

the game, but we have the win on our record. The best news is, it doesn't depend on you, and it can't be taken away!

Because Jesus lived a perfect life and then died to take the punishment for our sins, God can look at you and say, "This is my [daughter,] chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." (Matthew 3:17 MSG)  
We have everything worth having in the world, because we are in Jesus. Because of Him, we have won!

1. Do you put pressure on yourself to do everything right so that God will love you? How can you rest today that if Jesus is in you, His perfect record is yours?

2. Take a minute and doodle or journal the verse from Matthew in today's devotion. Ask God to help you remember that this is true of you; what incredible news!

# SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

## SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH GRACE?

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*  
Ephesians 2:8-10

Imagine something with us for a minute. Your life is a book and on its pages is everything you've ever thought, done, or imagined from the day you were born on - the good, the bad, and the ugly. Sounds a little scary, right? But imagine a second book. This book includes all the same stuff, but about Jesus' life. Every single second, but the difference? He was perfect. He never sinned or didn't live up to God's standard for even a single second. Now, this is where it gets crazy. Imagine if you removed the covers from both books, and switched them. So Jesus' name goes on the contents of your book, and your name goes on His. He takes responsibility for everything you have done, and you are credited with His perfection.

That friends is grace! Grace is God's free gift to you. You haven't done (and you can't do) anything to earn it or deserve it or pay Him back for it. But because He loves us, Jesus died to pay for our sins. Just like in the book analogy, He took on the punishment for every way we have gone wrong, so that when God looks at us, He sees every way Jesus was right. If it's hard to wrap your mind around, that's because we don't have anything to compare it to in our world. This is the greatest love, the greatest sacrifice, the greatest gift anyone has ever imagined!

Pastor Tim Keller says it well, "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." We are so that sinful God had to die for us, but we are so loved that He was willing to. We haven't done anything to earn that kind of love - it is His free gift to us, His great grace.

Christians will spend their whole lives reminding themselves over and over again of this truth. But the more you understand it, and accept it, the more we love Him and worship him in return. If someone gave up everything for you, just because they care about you that much, wouldn't it change the way you felt about them? The more we recognize our own sin, the more beautiful what He did for us is, and in turn, the more we want to live every second for Him.

We follow God and obey His commands not to try to earn our salvation or His love, but in response to the truth that we are already saved. We are already fully loved. Everything else flows out of that!

1. Are you ever tempted to try to do everything right so that God loves you? How would it change your life if you believed that His love has nothing to do with your performance?

2. The word gospel means "good news." How is this good news for you today?

# MONDAY, AUGUST 3

## THE SECRET TO FRIENDSHIP

*"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

Making friends seems so much easier at camp, right? All it takes is a "hi!" walking from Waterpark to Dog Camp and you're off to the races. We hear it from Jimboy all the time at Breakfast Club. Say it with us now: the best way to make a friend is to smile! Do you know why we make such a big deal of this during the summer? Because of what God says about the people He created.

Every person you have in your class at school, or wave to on your walks, or even your sibling who gets on your nerves, is created by God, and He loves them immensely. C.S. Lewis says it well, "There are no ordinary people. You have never interacted with a mere mortal." That person who you have a hard time loving? She is created in the image of God! She is valuable. She is the crown of His creation. Who are we to ignore or gossip about or pick on people who God loves?

We are told in the Bible over and over again to love our neighbors, but it is so hard to do! And of course it is. We are sinners living with other sinners. (Basically we're imperfect, and so is everyone else we see!) So what's a girl to do? What is the secret for loving our friends and family members the way God tells us to?

It sounds a little crazy, but the first step is to admit that we can't do it on our own. We are never going to be able to love people perfectly. You know the only person who could? (Get that Sunday School answer ready guys!) Jesus. He loves us all with what the Jesus Storybook Bible calls a "never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love." When you are loved like that (especially when you have done nothing to deserve it), it overflows out of you and allows you to start to love others in the same way.

We can love only because He loved us first. Pray and ask God today to show you how much He has loved you, and ask that He would show you how you can love the people in your life today.

1. Is there someone you are having a hard time loving today? Take a minute to pray for them, and ask God that he would let you see them the way He does.

2. Do you know how much God loves you? How does that then enable you to love others?

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

## WHAT IS FAITH ALL ABOUT?

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1*

Imagine this: you're standing at the top of the Leap of Faith at camp. If you haven't been up to High Adventure in a while, that's the telephone pole that you climb to the top of (strapped in!), and then stand on a platform until you jump off, reaching for the bar. Sounds crazy, right? Well, one girl's "no way!" is another girl's "when can I sign up?"

So you're at the top, the counselors at the bottom are cheering you on, and you're about to jump off and reach for the bar. Your knees may be a little shaky, but what are you putting your faith in at that moment? Are you thinking that holding on to the rope is going to save you? Of course not! You know that your ability to hold on to the rope is so much weaker than the rope's ability to hold onto you. This is what the rope does - it holds. So all your faith in that moment is on the rope's strength, not your own.

We throw around the word "faith" a lot, but it's hard to really get what it means. This verse in Hebrews gives us a definition of sorts - faith is believing in something you cannot see with your own eyes. When we talk about faith, we use words like how "strong" it is, or that it is either something you have or don't have. That's not wrong at all, but there's more to it. If everything comes down to how strong your faith in God is, that's a lot of pressure!

Pastor Tim Keller said it well, "It is not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that actually saves you." Did you catch that? Being a Christian isn't about how strong or weak your faith is, it's about how strong our God is. Sometimes we feel like we need to hold on to God with all our might, but the truth is, He is already holding on to us, and He will not let us go. Our confidence comes from knowing Him, that He

is the strong rope holding on to us. The better we know Him and understand how faithful He is, the more our faith and trust in Him grows.

1. What does faith look like in your life? What are things you have faith in?

2. What would it look like if you really believed that God has you and will not let go? Does that comfort you in any way?

# WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

## TELL YOUR WORRIES TO A BIG GOD!

*"Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!' He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm." Matthew 8:23-26*

I can't imagine what it must have felt like to be a disciple in the storm. The waves crashing over the edge of the small fishing boat. The wind howling from all sides. Fear and worry about whether or not they would survive the storm. While we might not be the disciples on that fishing boat, we all worry about our own "wind" and "waves".

I remember the first time I came to Camp Greystone! I was giddy with excitement to meet my counselor and the girls in my cabin. However, as Opening Day got closer and closer, my excitement led to worry. What if the girls in my cabin didn't like me? What if I didn't like the camp food? What if I got homesick and missed my family? In the moment, my worries felt as big as the wind and the waves the disciples faced in that famous Bible story. But looking back, I see that God was there all along, calming the storm.

While Jesus told the disciples not to worry, we know it's not that simple. Luckily, Jesus gives us the tools we need to handle our worries. Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Whenever worry starts to creep into our minds, Jesus tells us first to pray. For me, this can be very difficult. Sometimes the wind and the waves feel so big, they are all I can focus on. My camp counselor from many years ago gave me helpful advice for remembering to pray when faced with worry. "Don't tell God how big your worries are, tell your worries how big God is."

After we pray, Jesus tells us to give thanks to the Lord. It's not always easy to see the things you are most thankful for when your worry seems as big as the wind and the waves the disciples faced. But, we can choose to focus on the many blessings God has given us. The lessons I've learned at Camp Greystone equipped me to do this. It's like Jimbo always says, "keep your eye on the donut and not on the hole." Don't focus on your worries, but instead look to the Lord. He is in the boat with you.

Not every day is going to be without worries, but what truly matters is how we choose to face those worries. Will we fear the wind and the waves? Or will we pray and thank God for the ways in which he calms our storm?

1. Are you worried about anything right now?

2. Pray to God and tell Him all about your worries. How is He bigger than all of them?

# THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

## WHICH LEPER ARE YOU?

*"On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'" Luke 17:11-19*

We have a lot of traditions at camp. That's just what comes with the territory when you are over 100 years old. (we think we look pretty good for our age though, if we say so ourselves!) There's lots of obvious ones - ice cream on Sundays, singing the blessing at breakfast, and being declared an "old Greystone girl" after your first meal in the Dining Hall, to name a few - but one that's more subtle is Jimboy's last Morning Assembly devotion. Every year he talks about this passage, the story of the ten lepers.

It's not a complicated story at all, but it has so much to tell us about our hearts. Here we see ten people who were out of options. They had the worst disease you could get, a sickness that made them outcasts. They couldn't see their families or friends and were basically left to suffer in a slow, painful way. But Jesus came along, and with a word, healed them completely. He gave them the best gift they could have gotten - they got their lives back - it was a miracle! Of course, they were beside themselves excited, so excited that they went on their way without thanking Jesus for what He did for them, all except for one.

Now, Jesus probably hasn't personally saved your life anytime soon (though wouldn't it be cool if he had?), but we have received a gift just as great from Him. If you're a Christian, He promises that He will take care of you, and give you everything you need. Even better, He has given us Himself, and when we have Jesus, we have everything! The Bible says

that every good thing comes directly from God. But how often do we take His gifts for granted? How often do we simply take a moment to thank Him?

You'll see in the story that Jesus doesn't take away His blessings from the nine people who didn't say thank you. He's not going to "get back" at us by not giving us gifts in the future because we've been ungrateful - that's not how He works. He loves to give us good things, and the more we recognize everything He has done for us, the more our hearts overflow with thankfulness naturally. A grateful heart is fruit, it's evidence of God's good work in your life. None of us are ever going to be perfectly thankful all the time, but the more we grow to love God and the closer we get to Him, the more we'll remember to say a simple, "thank you!"

1. Make a list of all the good gifts God has given you, and tell Him thank you.
2. Are there other people in your life that you can be grateful for today? Thankfulness begins with God and then spreads to everyone around us. How can you show gratitude to your family and friends this week?

# FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

## CARRYING JESUS INTO THE WORLD

*"Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." Psalm 115:1*

Have you heard of Corrie ten Boom? You might know her from her book *The Hiding Place* (if you haven't read it yet, it's worth a read!). She lived in the Netherlands during World War II and was amazingly brave and faithful to Jesus as she hid Jews in her house, risking everything. Fun fact: she actually visited camp before she passed away - wouldn't you have liked to be there that summer?!

Someone asked her once how she stayed so humble after she became famous. Corrie said, "When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road, and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him? If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in His glory, I give Him all the praise and all the honor."

What an incredible picture of how to look at your life as a Christian! We read in the book of James that "every good and perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17) That means that everything you have - your talents, your money, your dog, the breath in your lungs, everything you can think of - is given to you by God, and our job is to praise Him for it, and use His good gifts to point people back to Him.

The donkey didn't have anything to do with the cheering as Jesus entered Jerusalem, but what an honor to be a small part of it! In a similar way, we have the huge privilege of carrying God into the world. Any praise that comes our way goes straight to Him, because He has given us every good gift. As you go on from here to enjoy the rest of your summer, and next school year, think about how you can be the donkey. How can you give all glory back to Him?

1. What good gifts has God given you? How can you give Him all glory for them?
2. How can you carry him into your life at home this year, knowing that any glory that comes your way is his?