

Whatever it takes ...
God, working
in me,



... can do it!

ADULT
WILDERNESS EXPEDITION
1994

FOREWORD

Whether this is your first Adult Trek or whether you are a veteran, welcome to an extraordinary experience. We pray that you will experience much, learn much, and give much.

The theme for this year's journal is

**WHEN OTHERS SEE A SHEPHERD BOY,
GOD MAY SEE A KING.**

The theme is taken from a line in the song "Shepherd Boy" by Ray Boltz and Steve Millikan. The lyrics are in the song section of the journal.

I was touched by this song when I was faced with an important decision in my life. It gave me confidence to make a choice and to rely on God and not on my own view of the situation.

It is my hope that as you read the journal and study the scriptures that you will be blessed in the knowledge that God may see something in you that you may not be able to see at this point in your life, that you will have patience and endurance, that you will wait for Him to act in your life. Not unlike the Trek experience.

I send you much love.

Rowland Craig
San Antonio, Texas
May 1994

INTRODUCTION

Despite the differences in our backgrounds, our personalities, and our needs, Trek will put us into a "shared experience" this week. Please use this experience to help you to build a closer relationship with God, each other and to help you do some self-reflection. There are no guarantees that you will solve the problems that you have brought with you or will experience the ultimate in physical challenges or will have experienced a profound spiritual insight.

This journal is only an aid to your spiritual trek this week. So use it as a facilitator or a spring board for your personal times and for the group gatherings each night. As you share your times together be open to what God would have you to receive.

The journal is divided by days. For each day there are suggestions for Solo Time, Pre-Session, and a Lesson.

Solo Times are to be times when you leave the group and you are alone. Use this time to pray, reflect, think about things that concern you, and to listen to what God has for you. The Solo Time sections are only suggested topics if you need a suggestion. Also, you may not have time each day to have a solo time.

The Pre-Session sections can be used as "ice breakers" or "start up" questions to get the group going. Again, use as desired.

The Lessons are based on the I Samuel 16:1-13 reading. They are short devotional type sessions to help the group relate to the story there. Discussion and interaction are important for this time.

DAY ONE

SOLO TIME

What have you gotten yourself into? You paid money to carry your own food and housing? Why?

What benefits are you expecting? Wanting?

PRE-SESSION

What were you not able to pack into your backpack?

How did you decide to leave it out and do without it?

Share one thing in your life that could be "un-packed" and removed from your life?

Is removing this thing a burden lifted, a hinderance removed, or a sacrifice given?

LESSON

A New King Is Selected

I Samuel 16:1-13

The text takes us back several thousand years to the time of King Saul and the prophet Samuel. The Israelites have asked for a king to reign over them.

But their first king, King Saul, has been rejected by God. God was grieved because King Saul had turned away from Him and had not carried out His instructions to

completely destroy the evil Amalekites (I Sam. 15:10).

In the text God tells the prophet Samuel to go to the house of Jesse and anoint one of his sons as the new king.

Read the text to understand the setting and what takes place. The rest of our studies this week will be centered around this event.

As Jesse's sons came to Samuel each was rejected until Samuel had to ask, "Are these all the sons you have?"

The youngest was not present but was in the pasture tending sheep. He was David, the "least" important of the brothers who was doing his duty as an ordinary shepherd boy. When he was brought, God tells Samuel, "He is the one."

Everyone else saw an ordinary, common shepherd boy. Everyone else had already decided that David was insignificant.

But God saw a king.

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How do you feel David felt when he realized what was going on with his father and brothers?

Share with the group a time you were overlooked, ignored, or under-appreciated. This can be when you were a child, a teenager, or as an adult.

Describe how you felt when this happened?

Describe what you did when this happened?

What didn't "they" (who ever "they" might be) know about you that would have made you noticed / chosen / accepted by them?

What did God see in David that the others didn't see?

Was God being biased by selecting David and not another brother? Was He displeased with the brothers?

Imagine what God's plan was for them?

Does God have a plan for you?



"Let's stop for a while...I have trail lag."

DAY TWO

SOLO TIME

In the space below describe where you are, your setting. Don't forget what you are seeing, smelling, hearing, and feeling.

What about your setting reminds you of God?

PRE-SESSION

Each person is to describe, act out, or role play your feelings today. (Examples: Sleepy, tired, fearful, hopeful, frustrated, blessed, excited, depressed, waiting, invigorated, rushed, etc.)

If this was your "Rappel Day" describe your worst moment.

Who helped you the most at the rappel site? How?

How did you learn to trust more in:

The Crew leaders

The Ropes

_____ (name of someone)

God

Your own abilities

Something in yourself that you didn't know was there

Describe your best moment on "Rappel Day."

AM LESSON

The Lord's Supper as a Shared Experience

Trek puts us together to experience something together--a common, wonderful experience. We'll work together in many different levels--from KP to carrying someone's load to helping the slowest make the mountain summit. We do this so we can all share the experience.

Today we can share a time together that is common to all Christians--the Lord's Supper.

Not only is it a shared activity among ourselves on the side of a mountain but it is shared with the rest of Christ's body all over the surface of the earth. We may not be physically together but we all are bound together in our hearts. The members of the body re-member (i.e. the body members are coming together) as one body.

But above all it is a sharing and especially a participation in Jesus' experience on the cross and at the tomb.

I Corinthians 10:16 says:

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a PARTICIPATION in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a PARTICIPATION in the body of Christ?

The word participation is intentionally capitalized for emphasis.

We are there, with Him, when we eat and drink the Lord's Supper. We are sharing his experience in surrender, in forgiving, in endurance, in sacrifice, in death, in life.

At the crucifixion others saw a criminal, an impostor, or a rebel. But God saw a King. A special king that became the ransom for our being kidnapped by alienation and separation and darkness. With Christ freely giving himself as this ransom we can now be reconciled with God.

"As we re-member into one body, let us participate in the experience, let us remember the experience.

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PM LESSON

The Ordinary Life

David was a shepherd boy. A shepherd boy did not lead a glorious life. It was hard, dirty work. It was so common and so ordinary. Perhaps he was given the job no one else wanted.

So very often we lead ordinary lives. Some might think of their lives as boring. Some might think they have full, busy lives. In fact their lives are really busy. But their lives are filled with ordinary things.

David's ordinary life changed in a moment when God chose him to be king. Everything changed.

In what ways is your life ordinary? Mundane? -

Is this good or bad?

How do you think God views your ordinary life?

Are you open to God's plan for you? What if He wants you to be ordinary? What if He wants you to be extraordinary?

How does one prepare for God changing your life?

In what ways is your life not ordinary?

I Samuel 16:7 says:

The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

What does God see in you that you feel others don't see?

Describe the greatest Trekker in your group. Is he/she the greatest because of outward or inward traits?

Romans 8:9 says that we must have the Spirit of Christ in us if we belong to him. And Romans 8:26 says that the Spirit helps in our weakness.

Look at each other and understand that God is in each of us. Natives of India greet each other with palms together and a slight bow. This greeting is a custom that recognizes that their "god" is in the person being greeted.

DAY THREE

SOLO TIME

Do you think there is something in your life which you think God highly values but you don't? Elaborate.

PRE-SESSION

Was the first day of backpacking easy? So-so? Hard?

I wanted to shout for joy when _____

I'm afraid when/of _____

LESSON

Endurance

In I Samuel 16 we have read about God's selecting David as the king to replace King Saul. After God indicated to the prophet Samuel that David was to be the future king, Samuel anointed David with oil. But notice that he was not crowned king for 16 chapters, not until chapter 2 of II Samuel. Why was there a delay?

Read Hebrews 11 and 12: 1-3. Read these verses not as just a lesson in faith but as words to encourage the Hebrews and us to endure for a future fulfillment of

promises. Each example in Hebrews 11 is a story of God acting in a life. Their rewards were not always immediate. Often it was years before the promises were fulfilled.

It seems that faithful patience and endurance (the old term "long suffering" may be most appropriate) is something even the great Biblical characters needed.

Share how you endured or didn't endure this week.

What role does endurance play in your life back home?

DAY FOUR

SOLO TIME

Pray for insight.

Pray for good priorities in your life.

Pray for a simple life.

PRE-SESSION

You've had many opportunities by now to get to know your fellow Trekkers.

Without first naming him/her describe to the group the one most exuberant Trekker in your group.

Do you think he/she knows who you are describing? Should they?

In the same way, describe the most encouraging, the kindest, the strongest, the most peaceful, the most selfless, etc.

LESSON

The Invitation

When Samuel went to Jesse's house, all the sons were there--except one. Why was David not invited? Was it intentional or was he forgotten?

Why does God often go against the "norm" so often?

(E.g. Why was Paul a persecutor of Christians selected?)

Why was dishonest Jacob chosen over the older twin Esau to lead the children of Israel?

Why doesn't God choose us as special by making us wealthy, healthy, and wise?

Are there people around you that should be invited into your life? How will you do this?

What part of your life do you not want people invited into?

DAY SIX

SOLO TIME

What are you taking home that you didn't bring with you?

What are you leaving behind?

PRE-SESSION

Looking back five days, could you have felt then what you feel now. Describe.

Do you see yourself now the same way as you saw yourself five days ago? How?

Do you see God now the same way you saw Him then? How?

LESSON

Remember the successes you have had this week. But above all remember God has a plan for you, He is in you, and He will help you.

Tonight is a celebration. So put this journal down and go share a joyful time.