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WINGS Update

WINGS has recently been wet. Water games, water walking, and water slides have kept us dripping for several weeks now. (Don't worry, we haven't detected any mildew yet.) Warm weather finally allowed the use of water balloons along with some other fun 'get everyone-especially the leaders-wet' games. And ask any of the 3rd-5th graders what they remember about the WINGS retreat and they will most likely say the water slides. I, myself, tried out the water slides and my slide was definitely the fastest because I'm pretty sure I beat all the kids in the water slide races. We also explored a creek at God's Hollow which made a few shoes squishy when they slipped off the 'stepping stones'.

When not begging to get wet, the kids (and leaders) of WINGS were learning about friendship. We talked about the importance of friendship and characteristics of good friends and realized that sharing the fruit of the Spirit is a pretty good way to be a good friend. We learned that "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" and at the WINGS retreat, decided that Jesus is that kind of friend. At the retreat we focused on Jesus and His friendship. We looked at how Jesus treated people and how we can be friends with people even if they are different than us. Then, we learned that Jesus wants to have a relationship with each of us. He loves us so much He lay down His life for us and He asks us to do the same. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

We had some great input speakers at the retreat who shared the love of Jesus with the kids in each of their messages and we even took a trust walk. Blindfolded, in the dark, and following only one leader who could see, we realized how important it is to follow God who is the only One who can truly see. Then, we joined you all for worship on Sunday morning and were reminded again of the importance of your friendship.

Thank you for welcoming us, praying for us, feeding us, playing with us, (getting wet with us!), and pointing us to God in worship. Thank you Bill for drawing the weekend theme together in your worship service. Thank you Willie and Sandy for choosing to spend your anniversary serving us dinner at God's Hollow. Thank you Sherm and LaVonne for supplying the food for dinner. Thank you Jen Bixler for breakfast (mmm cinnamon rolls!) Thank you Larry for the snacks. Popsicles are definitely crowd pleasers! Thank you Emily, Audra, and Heather for sharing the faith with us through your inputs. Thank you Ryan for being the fearless leader of the blindfold brigade. You all are wonderful examples of the fruit of the Spirit.

Next time: learn about Emily's trip to India and what video the kids really wanted to watch from her time there; find out if we are still wet; go back to the beginning with "In the Beginning" and "The Fall"; and go for a quest in a cave!

~ Sara Anderson, WINGS Leader



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