

“Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World” (Group publishing)
VBS Celebration
June 26, 2016

Cave questing is a hard work, but also a lot of fun. I brought my supplies with me and I wanted to share with you some of the things the boy and girls covered this week in Vacation Bible School’s Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World.

Day 1: Jesus gives us _____

HOPE

JESUS GIVES US HOPE! FOLLOW HIM!!! (slide “Jesus Gives us Hope!”)

You in a cave you easily feel like you don’t have hope. It’s dark. Sometimes you have to use a rope to climb down, or climb up. But JESUS GIVES US HOPE! FOLLOW HIM!

In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah talked about people walking in darkness having seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2). He was talking about Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world.

“O, Lord, you alone are my _____” (Psalm 71:5)

HOPE

We want to follow Jesus because He is our light and He is our hope. We can often feel hopeless. All the troubles in the news. Questions like why a good friend has to move, why a pet gets sick, or why someone you loves des. There are wars, fights, killings, floods....and well sometimes it makes us feel hopeless.

But we can have hope because God sent His son, Jesus to be the light of the world. As our scripture verse said, “O, Lord, you alone are me HOPE!”

Now before we go on let me explain something at VBS we called “God Sightings.” Jesus was born to give us light. He said, “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12) However in Matthew chapter 5 in the Beatitudes, and we are going to talk about that in just a minute, Jesus said, “YOU are the light of the world.” So a God sighting is when we God at work, when we see what God is doing through someone. So each of these candles represent a God sighting that we have seen this week.

Day 2 was an exciting day as we heard the story from Matthew 14 about Jesus and then Peter walking on water. Our Bible point was **Jesus gives us _____ COURAGE!**

Yes, Jesus gives us courage! FOLLOW HIM! (Slide, Jesus Gives Us Courage)

The story is really an amazing one. It is somewhere between 3 o’clock and 6 o’clock in the morning. The disciples are out in the middle of the lake. It’s stormy. Lots of wind (Make wind sounds) Lots of waves. (Have people wave with both hands). They are going back and forth (Have people move back and forth)

It's dark...they look out and see, well they see someone walking on water....they think it is a ghost....AHHHHHH!!!!!!

But Jesus says... **Take courage, _____ am here! (Matthew 14:27)**
I

Jesus tells Peter to get out of the boat and come to Him. Guess what Peter does. He gets out of the boat and begins walking to Jesus. But it says when he saw the wind, he was afraid and began to sink....but Jesus immediately reached out His hand and saved him.

Now our little creature friend was Mawtha... a moth. Now there is a reason for that. Remember we are following Jesus the light of the world. Where Mawtha is a Moth. And well moths are nocturnal, meaning they like come out at night. They are not afraid of the dark. Did you ever notice around a campfire or a outside light at night that moths are hovering around the light. They are attracted to the light.

We do not know exactly why, but it is a process known as Phototaxis which means a movement away from the light or to the light. Now when I first moved to Florida I would turn the light on and there would be a little critter that would run away from the light because of phototaxis...that is what a cockroach does. A cockroach moves away from the light. Just let you know up in Illinois where I was born and raised we didn't really seem to have as many cockroaches as Florida. I told somebody when I first moved to Florida about the cockroach and they said... "Oh, it's a palmetto bug." Hmm...when I looked up Palmetto Bug it's definition is a species of American Cockroach....you can call them 'Palmetto Bugs' if you want to....I call them Cockroaches.

Anyway a moth does the opposite of a cockroach...a moth is attracted to the light. Now if Jesus is the light and we are to be following Jesus the light of the world....do we want to be a moth or a cockroach...excuse me a 'Palmetto Bug?' Cockroach or moth? Have Courage, moths are not afraid of the dark, Jesus is the Light.

Day 3: Jesus gives us _____
DIRECTION

Jesus gives us direction! FOLLOW HIM!

(slide, Jesus gives us direction!)

In a cave we need to have direction. In a cave it is hard to find your way. Our animal critter was Radar a bat. A bat uses echolocation (ultrasonic echo sound to find direction). Bats to me are kind of scary /////PUPPETT/////

The smallest bat is less than an inch and a half. The largest bat has a wingspan of up to 5 feet 7 inches....on 5'5 and shrinking...so the largest bat has a wingspan bigger than me!!!!

The bat finds a way through echolocation to get direction. We have the Bible which gives us direction.

“He will _____ you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:6)

SHOW

Our Bible lesson was from Matthew 5-7 known as the Beatitudes. It shines the light on how we are to live; it gives us direction.

Day 4: Jesus gives us _____
LOVE

Jesus give us love! FOLLOW HIM!

Jesus died for us and on Easter came back to life again to prove His forgiving love for us.

Our animal was Olivia the owl. Notice how her face is kind of heart shaped...representing love. Can we make the hand sign with our two hands to look like love? Olivia whooo God loving created reminds us that God loves....whooooo xxxxxx YOU

I want you to stand if Jesus loves you! Xxxx You may be familiar with John 3:16 that says, “For God so loved the world that he gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not die, but have everlasting life. But there is another chapter 3 verse 16 that is also very important. It is not John 3:16, but rather 1 John 3:16

“We know what real love is because _____ gave up His life for us. (1 John 3:16)
JESUS

On the last day of VBS the theme was **Day 5: Jesus gives us His _____.**

POWER

Jesus gives us Power! FOLLOW HIM!

I don't need Batman, Superman, or a Marvel Hero....Jesus is my Superhero! He gives me power. You see He gave you power too. After Jesus had died and had come back to life, and before He went up to be with God He told His followers, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.” We are to be His witness all over. Just like 60 middle school, high school, college students, and adults will be doing in Immokalee this week. Just like our call to Joining Hands mission this month...and the attached sheet you find this week about our School Supply Drive.

Our Vacation Bible School students did that by example on Friday. **FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE**

Rev. Cathy is head of our Pillar area of ministry that is to Go and to serve the community and the world. Well she and Mr. Jamie our Director of Missions had a friendly competition with buckets during VBS. Each of us had different color buckets. So Rev. Cathy had a bucket that children were to put money in if they wanted to see her slimed at the end of Bible school (or we actually called it cave snot), I had a bucket, Miss Robin had a bucket and Birdie our drama skit leader had a bucket and Jamie had a bucket...green bucket, green bucket. If they raised \$1000 the one with the most money in their bucket would get slimed. \$2000 the top two would get slimed and so forth.

Where are Jamie and Rev. Cathy? Thrilled that by Friday over \$4000 was raised and each of us got cave snotted. Mr. Jamie was had the most by far of any of the rest of us. Here's the great news....that day the kids in their activity session packed packets of lentils, white rice, dehydrated vegetables and pink Himalayan salt----they packed 11,000 meals. Although the organization of Feeding Children Everywhere does just that...feeds children everywhere it also means feeding children in this area....Mr. Jamie decided to have those 11,000 packaged meals the kids made be left in Pinellas County for the hungry in our own area.

Proud of them. As Mr. Jamie says...Oh yow...Oh yow.

**Our great power is from God not from _____.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)
OURSELVES**

God gives us the power to share His light.

Jesus gives us hope! FOLLOW HIM

Jesus gives us courage! FOLLOW HIM

Jesus gives us direction! FOLLOW HIM

Jesus gives us love! FOLLOW HIM

Jesus gives us power! FOLLOW HIM

Following Jesus the Light of the world.----Oh yow! Oh yow!

Probably my most favorite worship service is Christmas Eve and the candlelight service. The light shines in the darkness and that is exactly what we are supposed to be doing....shining in the darkness.

Going to ask Mr. Bryan up in the sound and light booth to do something. Boys and girls I am going to ask him to turn off the lights....so it's going to get dark in here. I want you to notice something.

//////BLACKOUT//////

Notice my head lamp...that shines....Jesus is the head of the church body and His light shines.
Notice the lights on the Cross....He is the light of the world.
Notice the God sightings....yes, we are the light of the world.

I want to be running into marvelous light. I want to be running out of darkness. By the cross Jesus is the truth, the life and the way.

I want to say, Now I'm free, now I'm free.

I want to lift my hands and spin around....see the light that I have found. Oh the marvelous light---marvelous light!!!!

//////lights up....song: Marvelous Light//////