

Insight

Calling the 12

ENCOURAGEMENT IN YOUR
WALK WITH CHRIST

By JEFF GRANT

It was the hardest job I ever had: counseling 12 teenage boys at a summer camp. That year, I had the famously toughest group from the toughest session in recent history, and I wasn't happy

about it. Each activity director, or "chief" as we were called, scored my group of teens with all zeroes in our "honor cabin" contest. They cursed, they fought, they humiliated each other all day. My voice was gone by the second day from shouting.

I needed a break.

My sole encouragement came in the evenings, when someone else would stay with the campers while I relaxed with friends, sharing my woes with a stunned audience. Inevitably, though, my turn to watch them at night came around and, let's just say, I was not having

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the best attitude about it. A friend of mine took me aside before I went in to scream them all to sleep. She said the last thing on earth I expected: "Those kids are so blessed to have you there to share Jesus with them."

Still grumbling to myself as I entered the cabin that night, I decided to tell them how God had come into my life. To my surprise, all 12 of them asked Jesus to come into their hearts. Still, I assumed they were just being nice and kissing up, not that being nice was common for them. The next morning, however, I woke to find them standing together (a remarkable change in itself), and they said, "Chief, we want to be better."

Things weren't perfect after that, but every other counselor in the camp noticed the changes and awarded my boys honor cabin every day from then on. What a miracle to have a front-row seat as God transformed 12 hearts overnight. I almost missed it because of my selfish attitude.

I had been focused on my comfort, but God had something more important in mind. This was not just for the world and for His glory, but infinitely sweeter than what I could ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). He used me to change their lives. I learned to have a more willing attitude and to watch for ways to be a part of His great rescue mission. ■



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