



CAMP WOE-BE-GONE

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Props: 6 backpacks (1 for each character)
5 tin cans labeled and placed in appropriate backpack: Anxiety, Impatience, Anger, Rebellion and Pride
6 Bible verses on 8x10 cardstock:
#1 - Philippians 4:6-7
#2 - Colossians 1:10-12
#3 - Ephesians 6:1-3
#4 - Ephesians 6:4
#5 - Philippians 2:3
#6 - Isaiah 40:31
Clipboard and pencil
Headset and radio
Cell phone
Briefcase or folder with papers
Bible

Characters: (Each dressed in hiking clothes)
Counselor Hope - Camp Counselor
Rachel Rush - LWML member with too little time and patience, wears a watch
Mrs. Ima Right - Troubled mother, angered by teenage daughter
Becky Right - Rebellious teenage daughter, wears headset with radio
Greta Grumble - Has many anxieties and complains a lot
Ms. Fonda First - Business woman caught up in the rat race; uses cell phone, carries briefcase or folder with papers
Narrator

SCENE ONE

NARRATOR: We are about to witness a most unusual camping experience. Five campers are just now checking into Camp Woe-Be-Gone. They each are seeking peace and tranquility for a troubled heart. Perhaps you may identify with one or more of the campers.

HOPE: Welcome to Camp Woe-Be-Gone! Yessiree, this is the place to leave all your problems behind and find peace and tranquility! Come on in campers and have a seat. (Group shuffles in, looking bewildered, skeptical, frustrated, etc.) My name is Hope and I will be your camp counselor and guide. Let's see if everyone is here. (Checks clipboard as she reads off names) Just holler when I call your name. Rachel Rush?

RUSH: Here. (*Glances at watch, which she does often.*)

HOPE: Greta Grumble?

GRUMBLE: Here.

HOPE: Ms. Fonda First?

FIRST: (*Talking on cell phone*) We can't afford to lose time on this one, Jones. You make sure that report is on my desk Monday morning or else...(*realizes that she is to answer*) What's that? Yes, yes, I'm here. As I was saying...(*continues to talk into phone*)

HOPE: Uh...Okay, I guess she's mostly here with us anyway. Let's see...that just leaves Mrs. Ima Right and your daughter, Becky.

RIGHT: We're both here.

BECKY: (*Sarcastically*) Yeah, and thrilled to pieces.

HOPE: Okay, then let's get started right away.

RIGHT: What's the rush? I came here for rest and relaxation. I could sure use a little nap.

HOPE: Perhaps you are confusing us with Camp Take-It-Easy on the other side of the lake. Believe me, we have something to offer you that is far better than a 30-minute nap. And it all begins with a little hike. (*Hand out backpacks to everyone.*) You will each need one of these, but I caution you - don't burden yourself with extra baggage. Take only what you need.

BECKY: No way, man! I'm not going on any goofy hike.

FIRST: (*Sets phone aside to join conversation.*) Now, see here. I don't know why my boss sent me to this primitive resort, but I've got work to do. So you just go on and do your thing, but leave me out of it. I'm too busy!

GRUMBLE: I'm not sure I should join you on that hike either. I have a splitting headache. I should probably just take some aspirin and lie down. Maybe I'll watch some TV. Can you tell me where my cabin is?

HOPE: Now that you mention it...

BECKY: (*Interrupting*) I suppose you're going to tell us that there's no TV in our cabins, right?

HOPE: Well, actually, we don't even have any cabins. You'll be sleeping in tents.

RUSH: What! I've got two Bible studies and an LWML topic to prepare. Where am I going to plug in my computer?

RIGHT: There seems to be some mistake here. My husband sent us here to find some peace and tranquility. Our home hasn't been too peaceful lately. You know how it is with a teenager in the house. *(Laughs nervously)*

BECKY: Here we go again. Everything is always my fault! I don't know why I let you talk me into this.

HOPE: Folks, just trust me on this. You will find your peace and tranquility. After all, that's my job - to guide you along the right path. And the first obstacle we must overcome is no more excuses.

RUSH: So what are we waiting for? Let's get going! *(Looks at watch)* I've got just enough time to find some peace and tranquility before I start studying.

(All begin loading backpacks.)

FIRST: I suppose I have no choice...hmmmm...*(Looks at phone then puts it in her backpack)* I'd better bring this along... just in case.

HOPE: If you insist. But remember the path is not easy, so bring along only the bare necessities.

BECKY: *(Puts on headset)* At least my batteries are charged up.

(All exit stage.)

SCENE TWO

NARRATOR: Camp Woe-Be-Gone has made a big promise to these unhappy campers - peace and tranquility. But it sounds as though the campers are going to have to learn a lesson or two along the way. I think Counselor Hope has her work cut out for her! Let's see how they're doing so far.

(All campers except First follow Hope onto stage, already weary with fatigue. Backpacks are now "weighted" down with the labeled tin cans. Hope is still energetic.)

GRUMBLE: *(Panting)* Can't we stop here by this stream and rest a bit? My feet are killing me!

RUSH: *(Also out of breath)* This hill is much steeper than it looks. I thought I'd make better time than this.

RIGHT: I'm not as young as I used to be, you know. Ten years ago this little trek would have been a piece of cake.

BECKY: I think it's that piece of cake that is slowing you down, Mom. But if you guys need to rest then I'm game. *(Flops down, exhausted)*

HOPE: You all do look a bit weary. Where is Fonda First?

FIRST: *(Enters late, exhausted)* I thought...you said...we were going...on a little hike!
(Collapses)

HOPE: I think we'd better stop and rest a bit. *(Removes her backpack and takes a deep breath)* Ahh, there's nothing like the great outdoors!

GRUMBLE: Where does she get all that energy?

RIGHT: She's just in better shape than we are, that's all.

BECKY: I don't get it. I'm in pretty good shape myself, but I can hardly keep up with you.

HOPE: It's no wonder that you're all exhausted. Just look at those heavy backpacks you are hauling around! Maybe I can help lighten your load. *(Begins to examine the contents of their backpacks, starting with Grumble - pulls out ANXIETY.)* No wonder you have so many physical ailments, Miss Grumble. Look at all this fear and anxiety that you packed! They are taking a toll on your body.

GRUMBLE: What! I don't remember putting that in there.

HOPE: Don't worry. I have something that I think will help. *(Sets ANXIETY aside and takes out Bible verse card from backpack, hands Card #1 to Grumble.)* Here, read this.

GRUMBLE: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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 4:6 (Hands card to Hope)*

HOPE: *(Puts the card in Grumble's backpack.)* Well...?

GRUMBLE: Boy, does that feel better! How did you do that?

HOPE: I didn't really do anything. (*Looks in Rush's backpack and pulls out IMPATIENCE*) My, my. Your backpack is crammed full with impatience.

RUSH: I'm not going to waste my time listening to this nonsense.

HOPE: I think you'd better take a second look. (*Sets aside IMPATIENCE and hands Rush Card #2*) Here, read this.

RUSH: *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:10-12 (Hands card to Hope)*

HOPE: (*Puts card in Rush's backpack.*) Do you see things differently now?

RUSH: I think you made yourself clear. Thank you for lightening my load.

HOPE: (*Looks into Mrs. Right's and Becky's backpacks, pulls out ANGER and REBELLION*) Look what we have here, a heavy dose of anger and rebellion. I'm surprised you made it this far!

RIGHT: That's ridiculous! I packed no such thing.

BECKY: Neither did I. You know, you're beginning to sound like my parents.

HOPE: (*Sets aside ANGER and REBELLION and hands Card #3 to Becky*) Why don't you see what your Heavenly Father has to say to you?

BECKY: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' - which is the first commandment with a promise - that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3 (Hands card to Hope)*

HOPE: (*Hands Card #4 to Mrs. Right*) This verse is for you.

RIGHT: *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 (Hands card to Hope)*

HOPE: (*Puts the cards in Right's and Becky's backpacks*)

RIGHT: That feels great to get rid of that garbage! How about you?

BECKY: You know, I kinda like this outdoorsy stuff now that I'm not hauling around all that dead weight.

HOPE: My point exactly! I think you're catching on. Oh, yes, we'd better check you two out. Ms. First.

FIRST: *(Phone rings.)* Just a minute! I've got to take this call first. *(Answers phone)* Hello...what! No, that's not acceptable. Now you listen to me...

HOPE: *(Interrupts, taking the phone.)* I think it's time you listen to someone else, Ms. First. *(Speaks into phone and continues)* She'll have to call you back on Monday. Bye. *(Looks in First's backpack and pulls out PRIDE)*

FIRST: How dare you interrupt that important message.

HOPE: Well, I've got another important message for you. You have loaded your backpack with one of the heaviest burdens of all - pride.

FIRST: I beg your pardon. You happen to be speaking to a vice president of a major corporation!

HOPE: Well, Ms. Fonda First, perhaps you'd like to read this message for yourself. *(Sets aside PRIDE and hands Card #5 to First)*

FIRST: *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 (Hands card to Hope)*

HOPE: *(Puts the card in First's backpack)* Does that feel any better?

FIRST: Does it ever! I feel like a new woman inside.

HOPE: I think you're finally beginning to see the light.

RIGHT: But what about you? What is in your backpack?

HOPE: I'm glad you asked! I used to carry some of the same heavy baggage that you brought along today. *(Pulls out Bible and Card #6 from own backpack)* But I discovered this is the only thing I need to keep me going along this path. God's Word is what sees me through everything in life. *(Reads from Card #6)* *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31*

GRUMBLE: Now that all that extra burden is gone, I'm ready to keep going!

HOPE: That's the spirit!

RUSH: We may even find that peace and tranquility before sundown.

RIGHT: The problem was all that extra baggage.

BECKY: You know what, Mom? I think we had it with us all along.

FIRST: And Counselor Hope showed us where to look.

HOPE: Jesus said, "*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.*" John 16:33

NARRATOR: It looks like things are turning out just fine at Camp Woe-Be-Gone. These happy campers have learned that God's Word is necessary in traveling along the path of life. This is not to say that sin's burdens will not return. They will, for we live in a sinful world and need God's Word, His love and forgiveness. Jesus Christ has the power to relieve the burdens of sin: anxiety, impatience, anger, rebellion and pride. With daily repentance and forgiveness, our sinful burdens are lifted. His Word is a light for our paths, and we travel lightly with God's love and grace.

All Scripture is from NIV