

Camp Ministries - July 31st, 2022

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Preacher: Bill Howell

[0:00] We welcome you to the media ministry of Bethel Community Church, knowing Jesus, making Jesus known. All right, good morning.

Before we start, I got a three-part exercise for you. The first part is think of the best message you've ever heard. Okay? The second part is expect this message to exceed that.

And then the third part is lower your expectations by about a million. So I've spent the last two weeks at Turkey Hill, and I'll share, you know, a little bit about my time there.

And then, yeah, Kevin will come up after and talk about his time. He was at a couple different camps. And, yeah, I found out that I was doing this yesterday, which is fine.

And we had some logistics fun yesterday. I'll give you the brief version of it. There's this guy named Garrett that I was serving at Turkey Hill with.

[1:07] He's from Lubbock, Texas. He owns a commercial flooring business. And he also owns a private plane, because when you own a commercial flooring business, you also get a private plane, because capitalism works.

And, but his plane is grounded. It broke down in Springfield, Missouri. And so he had some campers that were going to fly back to Lubbock with him that couldn't fly back.

So they were flying standby last night. Well, I was out of cell service all day yesterday. We were on the Merrimack with Brad and Jeffrey and them. And so they did not make standby.

So Mr. Joe Babcock, big shout out to him, brought the boys back to my house. They slept in my girl's bed. The girls were in my bed with me. Lydia was somewhere. I think Bozeman's floor.

I think the couch. I got up at 3.55, drove them to the airport this morning for a 5.40 flight to Lubbock. Came back, slept in the girl's bed with Lydia. The girls were in our bed. It was a wild day, to say the least.

[2:08] So let's manage those expectations a little bit. Let's, anyway. So yeah, I did two weeks at camp. The first week was I spoke to the staff.

So obviously Turkey Hill has a lot of counselors, and then they have staffers who are not necessarily counselors, but they do like the gym. They do lifeguarding. They do the tech support, et cetera, et cetera, grounds crew, the stables crew.

And Turkey Hill's mission is souls saved, souls disciplined, and souls sent out. And so I was kind of pillar number two there, the souls disciplined.

And so to the staff, in the morning and in the evening, they do an hour-long meeting. And Monday through Friday, they do it in the morning, and then they do it in the evening. So it was nine meetings altogether.

Got to do that. And I'll tell you, it was a lot of fun. It was fun because my girls got to be there, you know, and Bozeman. I keep saying girls, but we have a son now.

[3:12] My kids got to be there, and my wife got to be there. And so the kids got to enjoy all the, you know, all the fun things to do at camp, the horseback riding, the pool.

We went on two different tube floats. We went to the gym. We did mini golf. We did everything you could do at camp, right? The kids got to have just a ton of fun. I got to have a ton of fun with the kids and the family. And then in the evening, after the kids all went to bed, like Lydia and I got to have a little bit of time, just us, which was kind of fun to have five nights in a row.

So the staff speaking, big win, big win for the family. I really enjoyed that. And what I talked about while we were there, in the mornings, I went through the dispensations, since we had just done a huge study on that, and kind of just what does a dispensational view of the Bible look like.

And so we marched through that. We defined them. We talked about how they typically start, how they typically end, right? They usually start with some kind of revelation or responsibility from God. The best example is Adam and Eve in the garden, right? He creates them. They're innocent. He says, be fruitful, multiply, take care of the garden, name the animals, et cetera. There's kind of this new revelation.

[4:22] And then the dispensations always end with two things, man's failure. Remember, he said, don't eat from this tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What do they do? They eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

And then they end with man's failure and then righteous judgment. What happened? They got kicked out of the garden. Sin and death entered into the world, et cetera, et cetera.

And so we talked about those. And then in the evenings, we went through the book of Romans. And so started kind of Romans 1 through 3, total depravity, all have sinned. And then kind of Romans 4, 5, 6, salvation comes by faith or by grace through faith apart from the law.

And then we went into Romans 6 through the end, just Christian living. How do you live as a believer? Kind of that battle between the flesh and the spirit. So that was a good week.

Like I said, really enjoyed my time down there. And then week number two was wilderness camp. So all the good things I said about being with the family, throw that out the window for wilderness camp.

[5:23] I've done wilderness camp before. I did it last year and really enjoyed it. And did it, obviously, again this year, really enjoyed it. And so if you're unfamiliar with wilderness camp, I do have some slides we'll show you.

But basically, there's 18 campers. I think they're like 13 to 17, somewhere in there. I don't think we had any 13-year-olds, though. Maybe we did. I don't know.

But our group was pretty much 14 to 16 was kind of the range. But 18 of them and then four adults. So Jacob and I got to go together. And then Jimmy Allen, who is, you know, full-time staff down at Turkey Hill.

And then Garrett, the flooring playing guy. We were the four staff. And so wilderness is a ton of fun.

And we, you basically, on the first day, throw them in the lake and see how they do.

And you say, hey, sink or swim. You make them paddle the boats around the lake a little bit. And then make them flip the boats so they learn how to, you know, survive on the river.

[6:24] And then Monday morning, you load up in the bus. And you say your prayers because Jimmy Fitz drives the bus like a wild man. And we estimated, so it's a huge school bus, like a big school bus.

And then it has, you know, a canoe trailer behind it. And we thought it was maybe somewhere around 60 feet, 62 feet. I mean, long thing. And the roads in Salem, Missouri are not straight and wide.

They are no shoulder. And they are up and down and side to side. So you hang on tight when Jimmy's driving. But we got to the river, and we do 60 miles on the current river.

From Monday around 11 to Friday around 11. 60 miles. And by the end of it, everything is wet. Everything is sandy. But spirits remained high.

And it was really good. The theme of the week was talking about creation. Because obviously you're in creation. And Garrett and Jacob and Jimmy shared in the morning. Just about different aspects of creation.

[7:25] Jimmy shared about trees. And ultimately, you know, that went to the cross. And he shared about rocks. And that led to, like, the tomb. And then Jacob shared about the stars, which was actually really cool.

The night before, so he spoke in the morning on stars. The night before was the clearest night we had. It rained almost every night. But the night before was super clear. And we got to really look up at some awesome stars along the river.

Saw a couple shooting stars. Had a really good time. So it was cool how the Lord worked that out with Jacob's message. And then Garrett talked about man being created in the image of God.

And then he talked about something else. Water. Was it water? I think. Yeah. So anyway, that was in the morning. And then in the evenings I had the messages. And the messages were also on

creation.

But specifically man or men being created in the image of God. I'm talking to the 14 to 16 year olds. And I thought that went well. Had good feedback.

[8:29] It was, you know, it was a really good time. The best part about wilderness is you got 18 guys sitting around just on buckets and coolers. And like some of the messages I was standing in ankle deep water.

Like it's just a very unique experience in America to get to teach like that. So that was cool. Do you have any of the slides there, KJ? I just wanted to go through a couple pictures.

So that's day one. That's down at the lake. That's also the only time that we wear life jackets. Which is funny because it's like probably the safest time that we ever are. And like this lake is not very big and there's no current.

But anyway, that's the willing troops. There's Garrett and then Jacob. That is right before we launched. So that you can see kind of just to the left of Garrett's head.

There's a little low water bridge. That's Cedar Grove. And we put in at Cedar Grove and we paddled all the way to what's called Powder Mill. Which is 60 miles downstream. Go ahead.

[9:25] Yeah, there's a whole group before. You can see there's some other groups that are launching as well. And right here the river is very narrow. You can see it's only maybe two canoe widths wide over to that grassy shore.

But by the end it really widens out. So early on when you have a lot of energy you don't have to paddle that much. But then at the end of the week when you're exhausted you do have to paddle quite a bit. All right, go ahead. There we are.

There's a little kitchen set up. But the wilderness thing you do is you shave a mustache. Lydia quote for quote said, I will let you do anything you want but don't have a mustache. So that's okay.

And I'm way okay with that by the way. But there's a little kitchen set up. Go ahead. So this is a cool cave. This is called Cave Spring. And as you might imagine it's a spring inside a cave.

And that water there is 100 feet deeper than the Empire State Building is tall. So however tall that is at 100 feet.

[10:24] So if you were to go to the bottom you would be in a bad way. And that water is freezing cold. So we jump off the rocks there and you know into the spring. And your whole body goes numb almost instantly.

But it's a lot of fun. And then there's Jacob and I think that's Grace. And I don't remember. I can't really see. But you can paddle up into the Cave Spring as well.

So that's kind of the outside view of it. So that's Garrett and then Levi. Levi's family they are missionaries in Ecuador. Garrett speaks Spanish.

And obviously Levi speaks Spanish. And in Spanish Levi's name is Levi. And so that's way cooler than Levi. So that was Levi. And I dropped him off at the airport this morning.

Behind them actually go back. Behind them that's super blue water. That's called Round Spring. And it's maybe like a half mile hike off the river. I'll tell you a good story on this.

[11:21] In Shannon County, Missouri, which is where we are, there are wild horses. There's a wild elk and wild horses. It's the only place in Missouri that has elk and horses.

Either of those things. Almost never do you see the wild horses. Like almost never. They've been doing wilderness camps for like 40 years. And like one group has seen them one time.

Jimmy Allen, as you may know, is the horse guy. Right? Noah has kind of replaced him as the horse guy. But for years and years and years, Jimmy is the horse guy. Like he does horses. That's what Jimmy does. Horses.

Jimmy said he was going to stay back with the canoes. While we went on our hike. What do you think we saw on our hike for the second time ever in wilderness history? The wild horses. Which looked just like regular horses.

But anyway. But we saw them just before the Round Spring there. Alright, so then that evening. Go ahead to the next slide. There is a jump and there's Jacob at the very top.

[12:20] Jumping into the water. That one is every bit of 60 feet. I mean, every bit of it. I jumped off of one that's probably about 25 feet. And I was looking straight up at those guys.

I mean, way, way high. It was kind of fun to see the kids. Some of them were like physically shaking on the edge. But they all did it. I don't think anyone climbed down that was up there.

They all jumped. But that was a big no from me. Go ahead to the next one. That's a little bit better perspective. I mean, you can see there's a person in the middle.

Like a little bit lower. And I mean, for perspective. I actually think that might be me. Because that's, I think, where I jump. So for perspective, however big I am. You know, add that up all the way down. And then that cedar tree above where you can see the kids hanging out. That's where they were jumping from. So pretty wild. It looks really shallow. It's not. It's like crazy deep up against the bluff wall. But we camped right there.

[13:21] And then, you know, that's what you woke up to in the morning was this beautiful bluff wall. All right. Go ahead. There's the Motley Crue of leaders. That's at the takeout on the very last day.

Right before we loaded back into the bus. And then go ahead. There's me and a kid named Riley, who is from Lawrence, Kansas. Had some really good talks with Riley. He's actually Sonny Williams' grandson.

They live in Lawrence. We did tip that day, Riley and I, which was mostly my fault. But anyway, that's just a picture of the water.

So you do that for 60 miles. It's awesome. Go ahead. There's me in a tent with Jacob. You notice the rain fly is off. That is a not fair representation. We had to sleep with the rain fly on every night because there was rain almost every night.

Which isn't so bad except that with the rain fly on, it is like crazy hot. So that was all right. But the rain fly was off as much as we could have it off. And then the next one, there's me cutting a fish.

[14:27] Jimmy speared a drum, which is a pretty big drum. And it was still kind of swimming around. It was off the spear. And Ivan, his son, goes after it.

And I was next to Jacob, and we were watching. You know, they're probably 200 feet ahead. I said, there's no way he's going to get that fish. So you can't catch a fish that's swimming in water. Men just aren't built to catch fish in water.

They have the advantage. And sure enough, he goes down and comes up with the biggest grin on his face and this fish in his arms. So we ate that for dinner. In addition to dinner, we ate that Thursday night.

And then speaking of Thursday night, that was our campground Thursday morning. Just absolutely gorgeous. There's a creek, not pictured, but running in right behind where those canoes are into the river.

There's awesome smallmouth fishing there. We caught a decent amount of fish there. And it's hard to see in this picture. It's better on the TV behind you, but you can see the fog. And then there it was.

[15:25] There I am making the scenery even prettier. All right. I think that's all on the pictures? Question mark? Yeah. Cool. So just real quick, what I want to share, something I shared both weeks, both with the staff and with the wilderness camp, is in the book of Romans, chapter 5, familiar verses, verse 12.

It says this, and this is talking about Adam. It says, There's a lot going on there.

There's death and sin and death and sin and all and all and all. There's a lot of words. So what's it saying? It's saying through one man, Adam, sin entered the world and death through sin.

So he's saying through one man, sin came into the world. God said, Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam disobeyed. He sinned. He ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So through one man, sin entered the world.

And then it says, Death through sin. So death followed right behind sin. Death entered the world by the means of sin. So through one man came sin, and through that sin came death.

[16:40] And then it says, Thus death spread to all men. We know that's true, right? Nobody comes out of here alive. Good people die. Bad people die. Moral people die.

Religious people die. Unfortunately, we just heard some children die. Healthy people die. Unhealthy people die. Everybody dies. Right? It is a universal thing. Only two dudes ever did it.

Enoch and Elijah. And we're not them. Right? They're not us. Death is universal. Death spread to all men. Why? Well, because all have sinned. In order for there to be a universal effect, death, there has to be a universal cause, which is sin.

So death spread to all men because death came through sin and all have sinned. And then, obviously, the good news, just over in verse 8.

But God demonstrates his love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We know over on the next page in verse 20, it says, Where sin did abound, grace did much more abound.

[17:46] So anyway, that's my weeks. That's what I had to share. And I'll turn it over to Mr. Kevin there. Thanks, Teddy.

Sound like you guys had some good time there. I would like to just share on, been at four weeks of camp.

And so, kind of tired. We got home 6 o'clock last night. Drove 11 hours from camp. And on the way, Tom calls me and says, Hey, you want to share tomorrow?

Okay, okay, sure. Got home and we had kind of a major thing we had to deal with. So that took us until midnight. And then tried driving 11 hours, dealing with something for five hours.

And then, thank the Lord that I feel halfway awake today. So it's a great day for golfing for you guys. I won't be there. I appreciate your prayer.

[18:59] We start a VBS tonight out in O'Fallon. So I appreciate your prayers for that. But look at, or you don't even have to look at it.

Maybe you already know. Matthew 6, 21 says. Oh, okay. It says, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

And so I have a question. How is your stock and retirement investment going this year? I've heard a lot of moaning and groaning this year that it's not doing too well.

Well, I say where your treasure is, that's where your heart will be also. And so if your treasure is in your stock or your retirement or what you can accumulate on this earth, that's where your heart will be also.

And the more you accumulate, probably the more you are going to have to try to protect it. You know, with insurances and just thinking about how you're going to deal with it.

[20:12] And so, but that's a question for you to answer. Two years ago, I've been doing speaking at camp for about 33 years. And two years ago, I said, Lord, I think maybe I have 12 years left to be able to speak at camp.

I'll be 70 then. So this year I'm turning 60. I said, Lord, I'll give it all to you. I'll give it all to you. And because that's where my heart is, Lord.

I've seen what you can do. I see what you're doing even today with our world. And so we're two years into that.

Some people think, oh, you get a lot of vacations. You know, and I always say is come along with me. Come along. Let's do vacation together.

Because it is great. But I see how hard it is. And this past week I said, Lord, I'm going to, I need to change some things if I'm going to hopefully do it till 70.

[21:15] Or even if he has it go longer, I'm going to probably need to change some things. You don't have to be involved in camp. Actually be there to have your heart in it.

I want to say thanks. You know, you're not getting your reward now, Mike. But I just want to say thanks. Mike doesn't go to camp often with me.

But we own a business together. And he tells me constantly. And I'm not doing this to try to get more time off, by the way. Because he doesn't know next Sunday after church the youth we have our week off.

So he doesn't know this yet. But since November I take off one to two days a week to go down to Dayspring. Dayspring and do work down there. And then we've had the camps.

And Mike says, you know, I'm like, I do kind of feel guilty. I do at times. And I share that. And he says, no. Because when he stands before the Lord, he doesn't want to say, you know what?

[22:20] I kept somebody from sharing with someone. And so I just publicly want to say how much I appreciate that. I'm not trying to butter him up

or anything. His reward is in heaven.

And you can be that same way. We did Turkey Hill first junior camp. So that was the beginning of our summer. And there were 200 campers.

Turkey Hill, I think, every single week was sold out. Or it was filled. 200 campers. And our theme was Decision 2022. Decision 2022.

And in the first night I shared about God's decisions. They're perfect. And how he made everything. And he didn't make any bad decisions. And then the rest of the week, the other nine lessons, we looked at man's decisions.

And how often we make bad decisions. We looked at Adam and Eve. Cain and Abel. Noah's day. The prodigal son. King Darius' law.

[23:19] That was a bad, bad decision. Just one after another after another. But then how the Lord, he made the best decision.

He came and he died for you and for me. And some years, it's unbelievable. Like last year.

After a lesson, a girl just came up. Mr. Kevin, while you were speaking, I put my trust in Jesus. And then there was another girl. The counselor came up and said, Mr. Kevin, my camper wants to talk to you, but she doesn't like you.

She likes her priest. But she thinks you're the one telling the truth. This year, a boy after the first message said, man, you're the best preacher ever.

And I said, we've only done one message. Let me know what you think on Friday. But one of the highlights this week is, as you're hearing some of the counselors share about people getting saved in their cabins.

[24:26] Trusting the Lord. Little boy Mason, eight years old. And it was Thursday, no, Wednesday night. And he had a hoodie on. And there was like six people.

And he was the last one to talk to me after the message. And he goes, Mr. Kevin, I just want to say thanks for the wonderful truths that you're bringing us this week.

It has made me really understand God so much better. And I just can't be more thankful.

Eight-year-old. I was ready to cry.

I was ready to cry. And then, you know, I have some candy because getting it out for just questions and that. And I said, Mason, I appreciate that. And I said, here, here, you want a piece of candy?

No, no. I said, oh, I'm sorry, you don't like candy? No, I can't take candy for speaking about my Savior, Jesus Christ. Whoa, Lord. So we had many questions through the week.

[25:25] And it was a good first, that first week that we were at camp. And then three weeks ago, we had day camp down at Dayspring. It's about the 33rd year of Dayspring.

Mark Stevens and myself started it in, I think, 89. And so we averaged about 140 campers a day. The theme was Jesus, King of Kings.

Jesus, King of Kings. We looked at King Nebuchadnezzar, King Ahab, King Belshazzar, King Darius. And my question each time was, would you want any of these kings to be your eternal king? And the question is always no. We looked at some of their decisions and how they lived. And then we looked at Jesus. And each day we were able to end our lesson, though, by going back to the Lord Jesus.

But then on Friday it was totally dedicated to his birth, his life, his resurrection, and then the coming king. How he's coming back for us. How it says in Revelation he's going to be on the throne.

[26:30] We're going to reign with him. And who doesn't want to be with him? And during the week, questions being asked, Have you ever been told by an 8-year-old, Scream to you, I hope you die, Mr. Kevin.

And I hope you go to hell. Imagine an 8-year-old screaming that at the top of her lungs to me. And all these campers hearing this.

And I said, Well, I will die if the Lord doesn't come. But I'm not going to hell because Jesus has saved me. Her mom was a camper years ago.

There at our day camp. I got to show her a picture of her and myself and five other campers from 2008, was it? Somewhere around there.

Just sitting around. I said, You recognize this? So you can be praying for her daughter. As she got kicked out of camp. But she came back for the family night.

[27:42] And then little Wyatt, five years old. I counted him off. I counted him off. I said, Lord, he's too young. We shouldn't have five-year-olds at camp. He doesn't listen.

I don't even know if he talks. I try to talk to him throughout the week. He doesn't talk. And I finished my 10th lesson. The very last lesson Friday. And all of a sudden, Mr. Kevin, Mr. David said to ask you if I could have the Evangel Cube.

That I give Evangel Cubes that share salvation to each leader. I said, Wyatt, you talk? And I said, Well, tell me.

What's it mean? And he said about 60% of it. And I said, Wyatt, you can have it. And he had this big smile. And somebody said, Wyatt was just sharing the Evangel Cube with me.

So, Wyatt, his dad, had committed suicide a month earlier. His mom's doing 10 years in prison. His grandpa died two years earlier from alcohol.

[28:48] I'm like, Lord, unless you get a hold of him, what's he going to be like? But I sold him short at five years old. And the Lord rebuked me.

He really did. And at parent night on Friday afternoon, there were about seven to ten parents. I said, Raise your hand if you were a camper here at our day camp.

And there were about seven to ten hands that went up. I said, Wow, now you've got your kids coming to the day camp. So, that was neat to see. And then last, we got Storybook.

I spoke for third junior camp. It's up in northern Minnesota. Sorry, the last ten days were like about 70 degrees.

So, somebody, a friend of mine from New York, texted me and said, Are you guys drowning? I said, I don't know what you're talking about. And then we found out about all the rain here.

[29:47] But, we had 70 boys, 50 girls. And when you got 70 boys, it was crazy. The following week, last week was all girls camp. I was like, Bill, is there a camp going on?

And, they had many questions. Two biggest questions. How do I get saved? I don't feel saved. You know, the guy I was speaking with, Phil Kleiman, this is our fifth year together, and he's such a blessing, because he shares what we call a clear gospel.

No works involved. No, not even say this prayer, do this thing, come to the aisle, do this. It's, this is the gospel, do you believe? Jesus died for you.

And, and Thursday night, there were, we, we go up to the chapel after campfire, campfire every night, and kids, welcome to come, and, it, it was, they kept coming.

And, we had to have people come in and help. And, it was neat, because my wife was sharing with a girl, and this was one of the common questions. I don't feel saved.

[30:57] I hear about people, they feel this. I said, well, what do you mean? What, how did you get saved? Well, I don't know, but I've said the prayer so many times. An 11 year old girl.

I said, well, I haven't, I haven't even found that prayer yet. I'm still looking for it in the Bible. I said, what do you believe? What do you believe about Jesus? Is he your savior?

And, that's, that's what it was with most of them. There was a nine year, seven, no, nine year old boy. He's been wrestling with salvation about the gospel for two years. And, this is Phil Kleiman's grandson.

The speaker, other speaker. Two years wrestling with it. Earlier this summer, he, or last year, every night he went to the chapel. I need to be saved. I need, and same thing.

And I said, Channy, I could have you say a prayer. I could have you say you're saved, but I'm not going to, because I don't know what you believe. But this is the gospel.

[31:58] Jesus died for you. Do you believe it? Is he your savior? He's still wrestling with it. He's still wrestling with it. Whereas, he got to see his seven year old brother get baptized last week.

And so, lots of, lots of, it was neat. About a nine year old boy comes up that same night, and he said, Mr. Kevin, I want to say thanks for sharing with me last year on Wednesday night, because I got saved that night.

And I don't know if you remember that. I said, I don't even remember your name. And, and just for him to come up and say a year ago, this is what happened to me. And, and so that's, those are some of the things that just make camp for me, a treasure.

Last thing with the, last, on the girls camp last week, I was going swimming. It was kind of more of a relaxing week. Sorry, sorry, Mike. It was more of a relaxing week.

I was, I was helping around doing projects, but I didn't speak at all. And a girl just, I'm coming up from swimming. The girl just, I didn't know her. She didn't know me. She said, I said, how was your week?

[33:15] Oh, it's great. I got saved last night. I said, tell me about it. And she told me about it. And she said, you know what? But the church, my family goes to, I don't agree with it.

I don't believe what they believe. And so just out of nowhere, someone that I didn't even know. and so just a few of the last things here before, as we end, the backgrounds of campers, coming from homes, you know, like Wyatt, suicide, parent, alcohol, drugs, mom in prison, others.

Today, the LGBT thing is, you have to deal with it now at camp, unfortunately. One girl at junior camp was into this.

And it's amazing when they're away from all that for one week, and they're hearing the word of God, Wednesday, she is just a different girl. She's coming up, and she was a fun girl to be around.

I said, Lord, they're being brainwashed. It's the fight for their mind in our world. And to see what camp can do, and how God's using it.

[34:32] Let me think about this. Just myself, I got to share with over 550 kids.

And you have Teddy. He was working with kids. Tell me, in one year, what else can you do that can affect that many lives?

I'm sure there are things, but I say, and I tell it now, anybody will listen. Tell me how many people have come into your church in the last year. Is there any that many new people coming to ours?

I said, over 500. God is using camp still, and I pray that he'll continue to do it. I think it's a great investment.

I challenge, if you get the opportunity, either with your finances, or with your time, or with prayer, that you will be involved with it. And I want to end with, where are you at today?

[35:38] Genesis 11. I'm not going to, just going to say a few words on it. Like I said, appreciate prayer, as we do a VBS starting tonight, and then the youth group next Sunday, Friday, I think.

We'll be in Kentucky. We're not doing a mission trip. We're not doing, we're just coming together to enjoy each other, bond, and to get ready for youth group next year.

But in Genesis 11, I never saw this before, verse 31, Phil shared on this. It said, and Terah, who is Abram's father, took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarah, his daughter-in-law, his son, Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan.

Where did they go? To the land of Canaan. And they went as far as Haran and settled there.

Haran's, I think, is still about 1,000 miles from Canaan.

And the days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran. And then we see how the Lord called Abram. Terah was going, and he got sidetracked.

[36:58] And it was good enough for him. And I just challenge you and I, where are you and I at? Have you been sidetracked? Am I sidetracked?

The Lord has so much he's called us to. And I pray that you'll want to be a part of it. Father, as we sing this last song and just share some of the things you've allowed us to do, I'm sure there are so many other things.

We should have probably been listening from some of the youth group that have been at camp all summer. and hear some of the things that you've done in their life. Or what some of the other camps that people have been at.

Lord, this is just a tip. There have been camps going around all around the United States. Camp Hope, Sooner Bible Camp, Camp Lai Loli, Tennessee, Minnesota.

And we're just so thankful that you are allowing those camps to go on and for kids to hear the Word of God. And we just pray that it would continue. And as we just sing this last song, we say thanks to you.

[38:05] Amen. music music music music music music music music music music music