



Travis on top of the mountain after the hike at Crooked Creek

God is a Faithful Father

"What if my dad would have acknowledged me as his son?" Travis asked, "My life would have been different, I wouldn't be here at camp right now." Like all but one student in my cabin, Travis didn't grow up with his biological father. But through the love of a faithful mother and step-father and the faithfulness of a loving heavenly Father, Travis has arrived just where he needs to be. A recent graduate of Lanier High School headed for the U.S. Marine Corps in the fall, Travis reflected on how

God has worked in his life to bring him just where he needs to be. "I know that God has been watching out for me and that He has been the Father that I needed all along. He has reminded me of that during this week of camp. I now know that He will be with me, protecting me in the Marines."

Ben didn't really like camp at first. During the first cabin time, he shared that he didn't like being around a lot of people or a lot of excitement. "I came to camp to get out of my comfort zone, and I am uncomfortable." As the week wore on, Ben opened up more and more having fun and asking questions about God that had troubled him as he grew up in a family with both a legalistic church and occult background. By the end of the week as we sat in the snack bar having a one on one, Ben said, "Thank you for bringing me to camp. I appreciate how the leaders answer my questions and listen to me. I finally feel ready to believe and I want to start a relationship with God."

Isaac is heading to college in the fall. Always torn between following what the world has to offer and Jesus, Isaac shared during cabin time, "I now know that God is love. I see how he forgives me and is always there for me. I've changed a lot my senior year and Young Life and God have been a big part of that. I am ready to go to college and live for Jesus."

Jay is one of ten siblings who grew up in the CPS and foster care system. "I want to pray for my siblings, that they come to know God like I have and don't have to go through all of the things that I have." Like Isaac, Jay stood up at say-so and is beginning a relationship with God.

Robby starts on the offensive line at LBJ but his tough exterior betrays the hurt he has on the inside. "I saw my dad post on Facebook about his new son, how proud he is of him. Why doesn't my dad ever come to my games, isn't he proud of me?" As the week wore on, Robby grew in the knowledge that he has a heavenly father who loves him unconditionally.

This is just a sample from one of six cabins of 45 students from LASA, LBJ, Lanier, and Reagan at Crooked Creek. Overall, **33% of the students from Northeast Austin who came to camp made a profession of faith in Jesus**; 50% of students grew in their relationship with God; and 100% had the best week of their lives.

Thank you for your prayers and support to make our camp trip possible. Please watch the camp video below to see more of the incredible week enjoyed by Northeast Austin Young Life.