

Hey everyone! I hope your summers have been going well! For me, this summer has been a blur. For those of you that don't know, this past summer I've been working again at Camp Sonshine. Every day from about 6am to 8pm, I'm around people. Most of the time I'm with a group of the cutest preschoolers. While I love them to death, sometimes I get super super frustrated. Being as young as they are, many of them don't understand how to do the simplest things like tying shoes, changing clothes, or even going to the bathroom on their own. Cody, one of my preschoolers, asks me if I can tie his shoe about every 5 minutes. Another camper, Peyton, hates participating in activities. Camp Sonshine is basically 8 hours of one activity after the next, so every 35 minutes, she throws a fit.

Going back to camp this year I had forgotten how hard it was to work with preschoolers. The first few weeks were super rough and there were so many different moments everyday where I just wanted to step out and cry because I felt like I had used up all my love and I didn't have any left. Every day was exhausting and I started dreading going to work. However, around the end of week 2, I stumbled on this verse—

“so whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him” 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:9

Honeybunches, when I read this verse, the farthest thing on my mind was pleasing God. It was 5:30am, I was rushing through devotions so I could get to my morning meetings on time, and I was already exhausted even though the day had not yet started. However, this verse made me realize that I had been trying to love my campers on my own. I realized that I had been rushing through the days just trying to make sure that I did everything I was supposed to do and I had somehow forgotten about God because of how busy I was.

Since then, my prayer everyday has been that God would continuously fill me up with his love—so that I can then pour his perfect love into my kids. It is still amazingly difficult and my kids still try to push each other down the stairs, force me to eat play-doh, escape by running into the forest, throw fits every 15 minutes, etc, but it is so much easier knowing that my love comes from a perfect savior whose love never wavers no matter what.

Friends, to be perfectly honest with you, I'm terrified of talking to strangers at the fair. Among a few things, I've always been afraid of being judged of what I believe in, I'm afraid I'll say the wrong things to them, I'm afraid that I'll push them farther from Christ, or I'm afraid they won't care about what I have to say. However, they are God's children, lovingly made in His image just like you and I. Some of them have never had the chance to talk to someone about the gospel, or perhaps have never had the chance to hear about it. In my opinion, one of the biggest acts of love we could ever perform is telling others about the gospel. I know that it is terrifying and sometimes it can also be super frustrating, but instead of relying on your own love, pray that God would fill you up with His perfect love and change your hearts so that you will see them like He does.

The fair is so close. During this time, pray pray pray for the people that you will encounter, share with each other about things that you are struggling with, and just anything else that God places on your heart. I pray that no matter what happens this year, we would all make it our aim to please Him through everything we do. I love you guys!