

# hello, parents!

I'm so glad you and your child are joining me on this adventure. I have some things to tell you about being part of our campfire, and hopefully, I'll answer some questions you may have.

But first, will you join me in a prayer for your son?

*Dear God (a.k.a. Pops),*

*Thank you for the gift of this young boy. I know my relationship with him is significant in his development. I pray that he will see Jesus through me. Empower him to integrate who you are into every aspect of his life. May his relationship with you be intimate, and may he follow your guidance. Please keep him safe from the negative parts of the world and strengthen him through his daily challenges. May he fall in love with your Word and its wisdom. May his relationships be positive and supportive. May his choices reflect your wisdom, contribute to others' lives and honor you. I dedicate him again to you today. Amen.*

Now, here's some information that may help you understand why I created *The Campfire Gang* series and how these books can help your son.

My goals are to:

- Portray God as trustworthy, approachable, involved, caring, empowering, miraculous, forgiving, patient and joyful.
- Teach directly and indirectly. It's not enough to just understand what is being said. We must also connect it to our senses and emotions to fully act on it.
- Emphasize that we must develop all of who we are.
- Encourage your child to foster his natural curiosity about life and its meaning.

I want to teach this boy to:

- Prioritize his relationship with God.
- Appreciate, understand and apply God's Word.
- Develop his full potential.
- Grow mentally (IQ), emotionally (EQ), physically and spiritually.
- Learn both directly and through metaphors about how to be God's best.
- Develop social skills to receive and give support in friendships.
- Become a wise decision-maker.
- Take responsibility for making good life choices.



## your son needs your help...

Don't forget to support him in these early stages of manhood! My prayer is that you continue to encourage him to:

- Slow down and control his impulses.
- Evaluate and respond wisely to the world's many challenges.
- Understand how to experience and express the six emotional categories (tenderness, excitement, fear, sadness/loss, happiness, aggression).
- Guide his God-given aggression to contribute to the world.
- Sharpen his gifts and skills, and enjoy using them.
- Recognize his role as a leader who positively influences others.
- Create healthy, balanced and supportive friendships.
- Have empathy for others in need and celebrate their successes.
- Willingly submit to God, his parents and the basic principles of life.
- Start over after failure, ask for forgiveness and plan more carefully.
- Set S.M.A.R.T. goals (specific, measurable, accurate, reasonable, time-limited).
- Express himself through the skills of public speaking and teaching others.
- Feed his God-given curious mind through constant learning.
- Appreciate his imagination and creativity and their role in goal achievement.
- Increase his vocabulary and sharpen his ability to use words.
- Develop a healthy respect of the environment and take care of its resources.
- Realize that manhood is only achieved through discipline and following Godly principles.
- Develop, appreciate and express a sense of humor.
- Expand his interests in order to learn about a wide variety of topics.
- Be aware of and put words to his internal dialogue and its influence on his actions.

May God bless you as you help lead your son toward Godly manhood. Conversations about important developmental topics can help him in this journey. Each book in *The Campfire Gang* includes discussion questions in the back (except for Book #1—those are on our website). Encourage him to answer the discussion questions, talk about the lessons, draw pictures of the gang and the creatures, and join the discussion on our website.

Find these resources and more at [www.TheCampfireGang.com](http://www.TheCampfireGang.com). We'll send you an email to let you know when more books are available!

Sincerely,



Dr. Roy Smith, MDiv, PhD