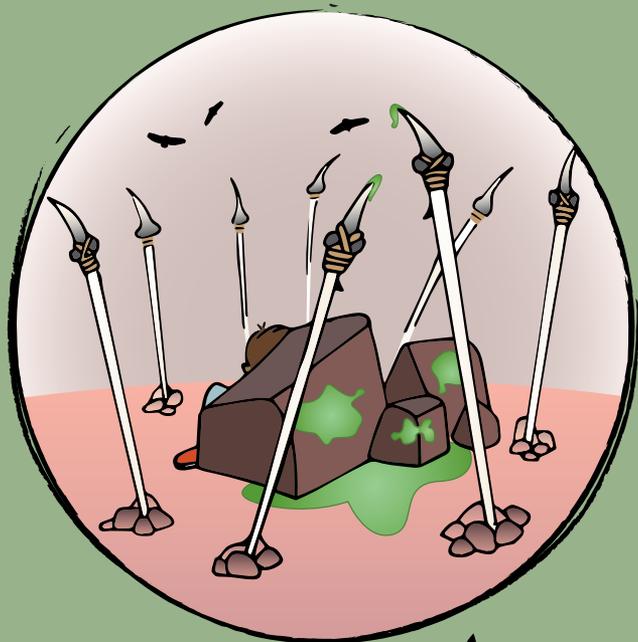


# LOST AND FOUND

*by Dr. Roy Smith*



THE CAMPFIRE GANG



BOOK #6



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*Dedicated to those who have great value  
and God-given potential. (This means you!)*  
*As you enjoy this series, may you discover  
your greatness.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*I am honored to be part of the journey of the following  
young men. May you grow strong, have courage,  
act wisely and change the world.*

*Silas, Jorah, Alexander, Nathan, Mason, William,  
Lucas, Cody, Elijah, Kent, Colt, Ian, AJ, CJ, JJ, Gavin,  
Ryder, Braxton*

*It is my privilege to be part of the lives of the following  
amazingly gifted and powerful young women.*

*May you make a difference in the world.*  
*Remi, Reese, Alycea, Joy*

THIS IS A SAMPLE. SOME PAGES HAVE BEEN OMITTED.

“Aha!” exclaimed BB. “Maybe I can write in here.”

As BB flipped through the diary, his eyes caught the words,

*Life has been difficult for me...*

Curious, he read on.

*It all started with the Great Depression. We never had enough food or money, and when we did have money, my parents spent it on alcohol. Night after night, I listened to them fight. Eventually, my dad left and my mom started spending all of her time in bed.*

*By age 16, I was on my own. So I lied about my age and joined the Marine Corps. The guys in my platoon became the only real family I'd ever known.*

The miner went on to say that he left the Marines after being wounded in battle. He talked about how hard it was to leave his brothers. After

that, he felt like life had no meaning. BB continued to read.

I wandered from town to town looking for something I could do. When I heard about the great silver rush, I took what little money I had and bought mining equipment and supplies. Then I set off to find my fortune in silver. That changed my life forever.

BB quickly turned the page, excited to see what happened next.

I spent months alone down in the mines. It was hard work, but I enjoyed it. Every now and then I'd go aboveground to restock my supplies.

On one such trip, I saw a sign for a tent meeting. I decided to check it out. An old preacher talked about how he'd met God and how it had changed his life. He said we're all sinful and try to act like we're

God. We think more about ourselves than we do about other people.

That's when I learned that God sent His Son, Jesus, to our world to show us how to love others. Because He loved us so much, He died on the cross so we could be forgiven for our sins. But death didn't stop Jesus. In three days, He came back to life and then went to join God in heaven.

I saw what sin had done to my family. And I saw it during the war when I was a Marine. I saw how it affected me through my own bad choices. I didn't want sin to control my life anymore, so I gave my heart to God that Thursday night.

When I returned to the mines, I didn't feel as lonely. I knew God loved me. It took a while for me to learn to trust Him, but eventually I came to accept that His plan was always the best plan.

God created me to be a miner. I got a new sense of meaning from exploring these tunnels. I became less angry and more content with my life. I let go of what had hurt me from my past and learned from it. This allowed me to turn that pain into strengths I could use in the future.

Because of God's grace, I can say I've lived a good life. Even after the silver ran out, I stayed underground because I believed that was what God wanted me to do.

When the great silver rush ended, a group of evil scientists came down here to do experiments on different animals. They destroyed the land and, in certain ways, destroyed what God had created. Some of the creatures that came out of their experiments were good and kind, but others became monsters with a sole purpose of killing.

After one particularly destructive experiment, there was a great earthquake that

shook the tunnels and rearranged the world down here. The creatures the scientists were experimenting on escaped to different areas. Mountains disappeared and new ones formed. Water patterns changed and the land was flooded. Even the days are different. Sometimes there's light down here, and time seems to move more slowly than it does topside.

I believe God kept me alive to share this story. I'm 86 years old now. I no longer think about God the same way I did when I first met Him. Instead, I think of Him as the loving Father I never had. I've even started to call Him Pops.

Pops has a journey for each of us. Yours may be different than mine. But if you're reading this, you must be traveling through these underground worlds just like I once did, and you've met my friends in Lardville. If you figure out how to get across the river that's

taken many lives, congratulations!

BB gasped as he read the next words.

BEWARE OF THE OTHER SIDE.

The only other words on that page said,

The Lost Canyon plays mind tricks. Don't fall  
into a drill hole—you'll never get out.

*I don't know what that means, but it can't be good,* BB thought. *My friends—*

Before BB could finish his thought, three Bat Birds dive-bombed him at full speed with their razor-sharp claws open and ready to grab him. Luckily, they hit the circle of spears before they could reach him.

Once again, green blood pooled around BB. He carefully removed the spears and shoved the first bird off the cliff. As he turned to retrieve the second Bat Bird, he lost his footing. He fell hard and started sliding toward the edge. He tried to grab on to any rock he could, but everything was

too slippery from the blood.

BB cried out as he tumbled over the edge of the cliff and fell down into the darkness—all alone and far from anyone who could help him.



## CHAPTER 2

# OUCH!

On the other side of the Impossible River, Sammy was waking up from a night of restless sleep. He hadn't been able to stop worrying about his missing friends. And now he was anxious to get on his way back to Pete and John so they could keep searching for the others.

Before he left, he hooted over to BB since he hadn't heard anything from him the night before. But there was still no reply.

*I hope BB is just sleeping and not in any trouble,* he thought to himself.

He wondered if he should wait to see if BB would hoot back, but he knew he didn't have time to waste.

Sammy began packing up his things. He decided he'd better take extra supplies with him. They still had no idea what had happened to their friends, so he wanted to be prepared for anything. He filled his pack with some bark tree sap and a sack of apples. He also grabbed a spear in case a Bat Bird attacked.

Before Sammy added the rock to his pack, he stepped on top of it. It groaned, vibrated and the voice said,

*“If one blind person leads another blind person,  
both of them will fall into a pit.” \**

“Thanks for the warning, Pops,” Sammy said out loud. “It seems like anything can happen at this point. I need to be humble. John, Pete and I are the last ones left. If we’re going to find the others, we need to be extra careful.”

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\* Matthew 15:14

Sammy stepped on the rock again. After it groaned and vibrated, the voice said,

*“What if one of your sheep falls into a pit on the Sabbath day? Won’t you take hold of it and lift it out? A person is worth more than sheep!”\**

*I wonder why the rock keeps talking about falling into a pit, he thought. Is that what happened to the rest of the gang?*

Sammy put the rock in his pack, then stood up with determination.

“I guess I should prepare for the worst,” he said to himself. “Like Dad always says, ‘Sammy, there’s only one God, and you and I aren’t Him.’ Only God knows what’s going to happen. I’m not planning on falling into a pit, but I better be prepared for it just in case.”

Sammy found a few ropes John and Pete had made for the punkin chunkin machine. He

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\* Matthew 12:11-12

stuffed them into his pack too. Then he grabbed Cliff's pole and a big walking stick and headed out along the river.

Sammy tried to recall his steps from the day before. He was pretty sure he needed to stay by the river, but they'd done a lot of walking yesterday. He couldn't remember exactly where they'd ended up.

Pretty soon, Sammy hit a fork in the path that didn't seem familiar. He decided to turn right, which led him up a long mountain range. He became more and more sure he hadn't come this way, but he kept on walking. He continued to look for any sign of his friends, stopping every now and then to let out a hoot. But he never got an answer.

Sammy wound his way through boulders and bark trees. Soon after he turned a corner, he stopped and spun around. He quickly realized that no matter which way he turned, it all looked the same.

"This isn't good," he said to himself.

He continued following the path as it wove its way through a grove of huge bark trees. Leaves and large pieces of bark crunched under his feet. Suddenly, he heard a loud “SNAP” and felt himself falling downward.

Sammy yelled and flailed his arms the whole way down. He hit the bottom hard, and his legs flew out from under him.

“Man, that hurt!” he said as he sat up.

He looked up at the 15-foot high walls above him and added, “Is this is what happened to the other guys? How on earth are we supposed to get out?”

Meanwhile, back across the river, a group of Lizlards on a scouting trip found BB lying unconscious at the bottom of the cliff.

“Wake up, BB!” Riptoot said, giving his friend a good shake.

“He looks really out of it,” Ironbolt said worriedly.

THIS IS A SAMPLE. SOME PAGES HAVE BEEN OMITTED.

# LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

Good questions help us learn.

• • •

1. Have you ever climbed a mountain or a rock wall, like BB does in Chapter 1? Was it scary or fun? Why?
2. Up on the mountain, BB sets a goal to appreciate his life and family more when he gets home (page 7-8). What are three goals you can make that will help you grow?
3. The constant Bat Bird attacks trap BB on the mountain. Have you ever faced a challenge that you couldn't control? What did you do?
4. In his diary, the miner writes that joining the silver rush changed his life forever (page 15). What job do you want to have when you're older? What will you have to do to prepare for it?
5. The miner describes how the evil scientists destroyed the land with their experiments (page 17). Why is it important to take care of the environment? How do you play your part in respecting and managing your environment?
6. BB learns a lot about the underground worlds by reading the miner's diary. Do you like learning about history in school? Who has taught you about what

happened before you were born? What have you learned from this?

7. In Chapter 2, Sammy heads off to find Pete and John but ends up in the Lost Canyon. Have you ever gotten lost before? How did the experience make you feel?
8. The Lizlards find BB at the bottom of the mountain, but they're not sure what to do (page 25-26). Have you ever tried to help someone who was hurt? What happened? What do you know about giving someone first aid?
9. In Chapter 3, Sammy has to think creatively to get himself out of a drill hole. When you're facing a difficult challenge, how easy or hard is it to come up with a solution you've never tried before?
10. Sammy has a great time pretending to talk to the skeletons in the drill hole. What do you like to do for fun?
11. While Sammy finds the skeletons creepy at first, Toby doesn't seem to mind them (page 42, 52). How would you feel about falling in a hole with skeletons?
12. What would you think about if you were stuck in a drill hole? Would you be able to sleep?

13. At the end of Chapter 4, Thundershell and BB have a unique problem—everyone wants to fart! Do you ever get excited about something just because everyone else does? How long does that excitement last?
14. When BB and Thundershell go over BB's plan to cross the river, they discuss everything that could go wrong. How detailed are the plans you make? Have you ever had something go wrong that you could've planned for?
15. In Chapter 5, BB prepared the Lizlards to deal with a Bat Bird attack while they were floating. What can you do to prepare for a future challenge?
16. Do you consider yourself a farting expert? How would you teach a class how to fart?
17. In Chapter 6, BB and Sammy discuss how drill holes show up in our world. Is there anyone in your life who's stuck in these types of holes? What are some problems you struggle with?
18. The gang makes sure to cover the drill holes to protect other travelers in the future. How do you try to show other people you care about them?
19. BB and Sammy find Cliff covered in bruises and several deep cuts (page 103). Have you ever been physically injured? How did it happen? How did you heal?

20. In Chapter 8, the gang feels helpless watching Kerry struggle to live. To keep busy, Sammy, Pete and John go talk to Thundershell. Cliff and Toby cover drill holes. And BB and Spencer stay with Kerry. Which group would you go with? How do you react when someone you care about is hurt and you can't help?
21. Have you ever known someone who died, like Sammy's grandmother or Pete's mom? How did you feel when they were gone?
22. What's one verse the rock said that you want to remember? Write it down here:

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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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After becoming a grandfather, Dr. Roy Smith was inspired to write a book series for his grandsons and for boys and men of all ages—so he embarked on a journey to creatively teach character development. Being a psychologist and counselor for more than 35 years, Roy understands how important it is for young men to develop and use their

full potential. Roy's goal is to help young men become mentally strong, address their emotions and develop social skills so they can have a powerful impact on the world. They need to meet God and integrate who He is and His Word into their daily decision-making. Another goal of Roy's is to help men grow and learn how to lead more effectively, contributing to the overarching goal of positively changing our culture. This goal led him to develop Knights of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ([www.K21.men](http://www.K21.men)), a ministry that produces books and DVD series for men. Roy has written and cowritten several books in the area of men's issues, including *Bull*, *Being God's Man*, *Basic Warrior Training*, *Manhood Journey* (Volumes 1-5), *Why Not Try to Hit the Real Target—Men* and *You're Not Dead Yet*. He has also consulted on and written several women's DVD series ([www.realwomen21.com](http://www.realwomen21.com)).

*LET'S BEAT THIS CANYON ONCE AND FOR ALL!*

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**B**B's had his fun in Lardville—but he's more than ready to get back to his friends. Unfortunately, the Lost Canyon has other plans. The gang races against time to save each other from the canyon's tricks and traps, always remembering to never give in!

Through it all, the boys learn lessons about life and about God. They never stop fighting for each other—and sometimes for their own lives!

*FIND ALL OF THE CAMPFIRE GANG ADVENTURES AT  
[www.TheCampfireGang.com](http://www.TheCampfireGang.com)*