

STRENGTH FOR THE BATTLE

by Dr. Roy Smith



THE CAMPFIRE GANG



BOOK #9



STRENGTH FOR THE BATTLE

by Dr. Roy Smith

THE CAMPFIRE GANG



BOOK #9



ISBN: 978-1-942292-35-7

Published by LiveUp Resources

200 North 7th Street

Lebanon, PA 17046

© 2019 by Pennsylvania Counseling Services, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, digital or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of Pennsylvania Counseling Services, Inc. Requests for permission should be emailed to info@liveupresources.com.

Illustrations and book design by Jory Kauffman

Printed in the United States of America

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIrV®, copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version® Bible, copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.

CONTENTS

1. [Let's Go Fishing](#)
2. A Different Kind of Brother
3. Take That!
4. Overcoming
5. Showing Your Scars
6. A Charming Stranger
7. Taking a Stand
8. Friends, Fish and Fun

[Let's Think about It:](#)
[Questions for Discussion](#)

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



*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, Domenic, Francis, Jules, Tristen*

*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

The Jungle





CHAPTER 1

LET'S GO FISHING

BB stood at the exit of the Tunnel of Memories and smiled. He looked out over the beautiful green world in front of him, feeling freer than he ever had before. The hermit miner's diary had been right—the tunnel *was* the hardest thing the gang had ever gone through. On their adventures, they'd battled all kinds of ugly and scary creatures. But the most terrifying thing so far had been reliving all of their worst memories one after another.

But the miner was right about something else too. Facing those memories was hard, but it had made them all stronger. BB was proud of himself and his friends. They'd gone up against

yet another seemingly impossible challenge—and they'd won.

BB knew that the toughness of the tunnel was worth what they had all become. Thanks to the life lessons they'd learned, they'd found freedom from the painful memories and feelings that had once controlled them.

Still, BB wasn't sad to leave the tunnel behind. He looked down, directly below the exit. There was a huge pile of soft mud right below him. It looked like it might be the only way to get out of the tunnel safely.

Just as BB was about to launch himself from the tunnel's ledge into the mud pile, he heard a loud, angry growl. His eyes widened in terror. To his right, he saw four enormous monsters hungrily tearing into a giant pile of meat. They looked sort of like dinosaurs but much more ferocious than BB ever could've imagined.

BB knew there was no way he could jump

into the mud pile without them noticing him—and most likely adding him to their feast.

He gulped and crept back into the shadow of the tunnel. He'd have to wait until the creatures left, which could take days at the rate they were eating.

BB sighed, feeling his excitement disappear. He was tired of being separated from his friends. Not too long ago, he'd been stuck in Lardville with no way to get across the Impossible River to join the gang on the other side. But if that experience had taught him anything, it was that his friends would already be working on a plan to save him—and that they would succeed.

“Well Pops,” BB said out loud, “I don't think I can use gas-filled Lizlards to float by those monsters this time. There must be a reason you want me alone again. I guess I'd better try to learn something from it. And I think I know just how to do that.”

BB set his bag down on the tunnel floor and reached inside. He pulled out the smooth, flat rock the gang had been carrying with them since they'd first started their adventure. He put the rock down on the ground and stepped on top.

It let out a loud groan and began to vibrate. Then the voice said,

*“God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.” **

As BB continued to stand on the rock, it groaned and vibrated again. The voice continued,

*“LORD my God, help me. Save me because of your faithful love.” **

When the rock grew silent, BB began to pray.

“Pops, thank you for the good advice you give us through the rock. I’m glad you love me. I

* Psalm 46:1; Psalm 109:26

know you'll help me get through this. And please be with my friends too. I'm sure they're already trying to find a way to get me down from here. Please keep them safe and help them come up with a good plan. Amen."

Just then, BB heard a muffled voice say, "BB? Is that you?"

BB jumped in surprise. "Kerry?!" he shouted.

He looked around the tunnel, but it was still dark and empty.

"Where are you?" he asked.

"I think I'm on the other side of the wall next to you," Kerry replied. "We found an underwater cave that has a rock staircase on the wall. The steps go the whole way up to the Tunnel of Memories."

Kerry rapped on the rock and asked, "Do you see any way to get through this wall?"

BB ran his hands along the tunnel wall. But it seemed to be too thick and smooth. He

couldn't even find a hole big enough to poke his finger through.

"I think we'll have to find another way," he told Kerry. "Are you guys okay?"

"We're all safe," Kerry said. "And we have some new friends for you to meet once we get you out of there! They're helping us with a plan. Stay here while I go see if they've come up with anything!"

"It's not like I'm going anywhere," BB joked. "Thanks for being here for me... again!"

"I just wish you'd keep up with us, BB," Kerry replied, laughing. "But really, don't worry. We'll get you out of here. See you soon!"

Kerry climbed back down to the cave floor. Pete, John, Toby, Sammy, Spencer and Cliff all gathered around to hear how BB was doing.

"BB's safe for now," Kerry reported. "I told him to hang tight while we figure out how to help him."

“I hate that he keeps getting separated from the rest of us,” Pete said. “Let’s find a way to get him down here with us as fast as possible.”

“It won’t be easy,” Spencer pointed out. “Those Killerosauruses have already been out there eating for hours. And judging by how much food they have left, they won’t be leaving anytime soon.”

“Any ideas, Obadiah?” Sammy asked.

The gang turned to look at the giant Gorilla standing beside them. At first glance, Obadiah was incredibly intimidating—he had huge muscles and a faded American flag bandanna tied around his head. But his wisdom and kindness shone through the deep wrinkles around his happy eyes.

Obadiah was the leader of the Gorillas. Ever since the gang had gotten to the Gorillas’ world, Obadiah and his friends, Jonah and Caleb, had been helping them figure out how to survive.

Obadiah's deep voice rumbled through the cave. "Well, we've never had to deal with anything like this before, and fighting those scary dinos isn't one of our best skills. But we'll help out any way we can."

The cave was silent for a few moments while everyone tried to think of a plan that had any chance of working. Finally, Pete snapped his fingers.

"I've got it!" he exclaimed. "We need two long, sturdy tree branches, a few vines and some of those sharp coconut spikes you Gorillas make. Oh, and a big basket if you have one."

The gang could tell Pete's mind was churning up a new idea. Without a word, the boys started making a pile of coconut spikes on a ledge in the cave room, picking out the sharpest ones. Jonah hurried out of the cave, across the river and into the jungle to get a basket from the Gorillas' village, which they called their home zone.

Obadiah and Caleb followed him to the edge of the jungle and grabbed two hefty tree limbs and several long vines.

Then they all gathered around and watched as Pete got to work, doing what he did best.

First, he picked out the two longest vines and tied a coconut spike to the end of each one.

Next, he made two loops in Toby's chain and fastened them tight. He hooked one loop around a large boulder sitting by the opening they'd already dug out near the top of the cave. He placed the other loop on the ledge just outside the opening.

Finally, he took more vines and tied the basket to the end of the two tree branches.

After making sure everything was secure, Pete turned back to the group.

"Time to go fishing!" he announced with a grin.

They all stared at him in disbelief.

“Are you nuts?” Toby exclaimed. “We need to save BB, not catch some lousy old fish!”

Pete laughed. “We’re not *actually* going fishing. The Killerosauruses are hanging out down there because they’re still feasting on the Butcher Bear meat, right? Well, if we can take that meat away from them, they won’t have a reason to hang around. Then it’ll be safe for BB to jump down.”

“That makes sense,” Toby said.

“So how will this work?” asked Cliff, motioning to Pete’s supplies.

Pete pointed to the basket. “We’ll need two guys to volunteer to go fishing. They’ll sit in the basket that’s hanging off one end of the branches. Obadiah, Jonah and Caleb will hold on to the other end of the branches to keep the basket steady. They’ll push the two guys out of that opening at the top of the cave. That way they’ll be almost right over top of the Killerosauruses, but too high

up for the dinos to get them. They'll use the vines and coconut spikes as fishing lines to hook the Butcher Bear meat. Once they've got it, the rest of us will pull it up into the cave."

"That could work," John said thoughtfully. "But it sounds a little risky. How can we make sure the two fishermen will be safe?"

"That's where the chain comes in," Pete explained. "We'll loop it around their waists as a backup in case something goes wrong."

Cliff shook his head. "I don't know about this."

"Well, it's the best idea so far," Kerry said. "And Pete seems to have thought it through. I vote we try it."

The rest of the gang hesitantly nodded their approval as well.

"So who wants to fish?" Pete asked.

"I will!" Sammy and Spencer replied at the same time.

“It sounds a little dangerous, but I’m the lightest one of us,” Spencer said.

“I’m pretty light too,” Sammy added. “And I *really* want to help get BB out of there.”

Everyone watched nervously as Sammy and Spencer looped the chains around their waists and climbed into the big basket. Then the Gorillas grabbed the other end of the branches. They slowly slid the basket holding Sammy and Spencer through the cave opening.

Once they were suspended over the Killerosauruses, the two boys began lowering their fishing lines.

“You’ll have to jerk the spikes back and forth along the meat to try and snag it,” Pete instructed.

Spencer quickly dropped his fishing spike toward the pile of meat. He ran it alongside a chunk of meat and jerked the line hard. The coconut spike seemed to catch at first. But when he



tugged harder, the spike came loose and flew free.

Spencer sighed and lowered his line again. After a few more tries, he finally snagged a piece of meat. This time when he pulled, the meat lifted off the ground a bit.

Sammy quickly lowered his line and jerked the spike into the other side of the chunk of meat. Then they signaled the other guys, who all began pulling up the vines. Luckily, the Killerosaurus closest to the piece of meat they'd snagged simply moved to another one and went right back to eating.

Feeling good about their initial success, Sammy and Spencer started working on another chunk of meat.

For a while, everything went as planned. The Gorillas kept the basket steady as the two boys worked. Sammy and Spencer got faster at snagging each piece of meat on their first try. And the gang quickly responded, pulling up each

chunk of meat before the dinos even noticed it was gone.

After a lot of grunting and pulling, they managed to retrieve most of the dinos' dinner. All that was left were the two large pieces of meat the Killerosauruses had crowded around when the rest of their meal disappeared.

“Let's throw some coconut spikes down there to distract the dinos,” Pete said. “Hopefully, they'll look away long enough for Sammy and Spencer to hook those last two pieces.”

The gang threw the sharp spikes down at one of the Killerosauruses. Although most of them simply bounced off its thick scales, it growled and backed away a bit. Sammy and Spencer quickly yanked their lines to hook the meat. Once it was secure, everyone pulled together to get it up on the ledge.

The confused Killerosaurus started roaring angrily, searching around for its missing food.

After stalking back and forth a bit, it calmed down and focused on snatching the remaining meat from its companions.

The guys cheered and high-fived, then got ready to snag the final chunk of meat. The four Killerosauruses were now fighting over what was left of their meal. While they continued to snarl at each other, Sammy and Spencer expertly hooked the meat and began to pull.

Just as the food left the ground, one Killerosaurus looked up and roared savagely. It charged toward the meat and sunk its teeth into it before Sammy and Spencer could yank it out of reach. The strength of its bite tore the fishing lines out of Sammy and Spencer's hands. They heard a terrifying ripping sound as the basket split apart right down the middle.

Before they knew what was happening, Sammy and Spencer were tumbling through the hole, headed right for the pack of furious dinos.

THIS IS A SAMPLE. SOME PAGES HAVE BEEN OMITTED.

LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

Good questions help us learn.

. . .

1. At the beginning of the book, BB is once again separated from his friends and feeling alone. How often do you feel alone? What do you do to feel better?
2. Kerry climbs up the cave wall to make sure BB's okay ([page 5](#)). Who looks out for you when you're struggling with something? Who should you check in with about what's going on in their life?
3. In [Chapter 1](#), Pete comes up with the idea to use fishing as a way to steal the meat from the Killerosauruses. Would you have volunteered to go out in the basket like Sammy and Spencer? How else could they have moved the meat?
4. Jonah and Toby love to play the drums and make up new beats. Do you play an instrument? What do you like about it?
5. In Chapter 2, Pops tells BB the story of Daniel, a brave leader who did what was right even when it was hard. How do you lead others like Daniel and BB? What are some ways you can make the lives of those around you better?
6. The gang and the Gorillas work together in Chapter 3 to save BB from a bunch of dinos. What problem

have you faced that you needed a team to solve? How did you keep yourself calm so you could confront this problem?

7. During the battle, Abraham loses his arm and runs off into the jungle (page 50). Have you ever been so sad that you just wanted to be left alone? What happened? What helped you feel better?
8. How does your dad or an older man in your life help you with life's challenges? What helpful lessons has he taught you?
9. Do you know anyone who has been badly injured or struggles with a physical limitation? How can you support them and show them that you value them?
10. Obadiah teaches the gang about the six main emotions: love, excitement, fear, anger, sadness and happiness (page 73). Describe a time when you felt each of these emotions.
11. In Chapter 5, the gang tells each other memories they've never shared before. Do you have a sad memory that you rarely talk about? What makes it difficult to share?
12. Cliff tells the others how unsafe he felt having people fighting in his neighborhood all the time (page 79). Who do you know that fights with each other a lot? How does it make you feel?

13. Kerry explains how his ability run fast is a gift from God (page 79). What gifts or skills has God given you? How can you work to get even better at them?
14. Sammy shares how his dad's life improved after he started to believe in God (page 80-81). How does a relationship with God help you?
15. Why do you think the rock shares Proverbs 29:11 with BB? What does this verse mean to you?

“Foolish people let their anger run wild.

But wise people keep themselves under control.”

16. Galatians 5:22-23 describes the fruit of the Spirit, which are positive attributes you should try to practice: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Give an example of how you can apply each of these words to your life.
17. Do you like snakes? Have you ever caught or touched one? What kind of snakes live near you?
18. The snake BB's group meets in Chapter 6 is very persuasive. Do you agree or disagree with what he says? What are some strategies you could use to resist him like BB does?
19. Who is Lucifer? How can he influence your thoughts, feelings and actions?

20. Lucifer thinks we should always do whatever we want. Why doesn't this work? Who do you need to submit to in your life? What rules do they expect you to follow?
21. Obadiah had never tried fish before the gang cooks him some (page 128-129). How willing are you to try new foods? What's something you thought you'd hate but ended up liking?
22. Even though the gang and the Gorillas are very different, they get along really well. What similarities and differences do you have with your friends? How can you teach each other new things like the gang and Gorillas do?
23. What's one verse the rock said that you want to remember? Write it down here:

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

. . .



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 nearly 40 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. To further contribute to the overarching goal of positively changing our culture, Roy developed LiveUp Resources, a ministry that produces books and video series for men, women and youth. You can find out more about these life-changing resources at liveupresources.com.

GRAB YOUR SWORD AND JOIN THE FIGHT!

*D*eep in the jungle, the gang finds themselves in the midst of a deadly battle. But they soon realize sharp claws and gnashing fangs are the least of their worries. They need courage and wisdom *now*... and their new friends may know just where to find it!

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*