

THE ULTIMATE ENEMY

by Dr. Roy Smith



THE CAMPFIRE GANG



BOOK #70



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THE CAMPFIRE GANG  BOOK #10



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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, Connor,
Lucas, Cody, Elijah, Kent, Colt, Ian, AJ, CJ, JJ, Gavin,
Ryder, Braxton, Domenic, Francis, Jules, Tristen, Wyatt*

*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

PETE'S PROJECT

High up in the treetops, under a thick canopy of leaves, Pete dozed comfortably in a soft banana-leaf hammock. After months of sleeping on the hard, rocky ground, he'd almost forgotten what it felt like to sleep on a soft bed. And for the first time in a long time, he wasn't in a hurry to get up and start his day.

A light breeze blew through the tree branches. Pete felt his hammock rock gently. Then he felt it rock harder.

“Pete, wake up already!”

Pete slowly realized it wasn't the wind rocking the hammock—someone was trying to wake him up. With a groan, he squeezed his eyes

shut tighter. Maybe whoever it was would give up and go away.

But his hammock just started shaking even harder.

“Come on, Pete! I’m starving!”

Pete opened one eye and glared up at Kerry, who had a big grin on his face.

“We’ve got to go get ready for the feast, remember?” Kerry pressed. “You said you’d design a machine that could help us catch a lot of trout really fast. If we’re going to catch enough to feed all 400 Gorillas, we’ve got to get started *now*.”

Pete knew Kerry was right. Obadiah, the leader of the Gorillas, had been a huge help to the gang. If it weren’t for him and his tribe, all of them would’ve been lunch for the massive, bloodthirsty dinos that roamed the jungle.

Plus, the Gorillas had invited the gang to stay with them in their zone. It was kind of like a

village, except it was up in the trees to keep them safe from any dinos below. The zone floor and pathways were made out of tree branches. They were so thick and wide the guys could walk across them without ever worrying about falling.

That was why they wanted to do something to thank Obadiah and the Gorillas. The Gorilla tribe held four giant feasts each year to thank God for blessing them, and the gang thought that cooking a trout dinner for them would be a great way to celebrate and show their gratitude. The problem was, there were *a lot* of Gorillas to feed—and only eight guys to do the fishing and cooking.

Reluctantly, Pete sat up and rubbed his eyes. Kerry bounced up and down on his toes with excitement.

“I don’t know how you can have so much energy all the time,” Pete grumbled.

“Well, there’s a lot to be excited about

right now!” Kerry exclaimed. “Like exploring the Gorillas’ jungle. And fighting big, terrifying dinos. And eating lots and lots of food!”

Kerry stopped bouncing and grinned at Pete. “Plus, I’m excited to see the fishing machine you come up with. You’re the best builder I know!”

Pete cracked a smile. “All right, all right. Go get the rest of the gang. Let’s see what we can come up with!”

“Yes!” Kerry cheered, taking off to wake up the guys.

Pete had already thought of a bunch of different ideas for the fishing machine the night before, and any one of them could work. But he knew the gang was counting on him to come up with something awesome, so he wanted to make sure he chose the *best* one.

Pete realized he needed some advice. The good news was, he knew just where he could get it.

He hopped out of his hammock and hurried over to the gang's supply pile. He found the rock where they'd stashed it with their gear. Then he carried it a little farther away to get some privacy, set it on the ground, and stepped on top.

Like usual, the rock groaned and vibrated. Then the voice said,

*“Those who give freely will be blessed.
That’s because they share their food with
those who are poor.” **

The rock groaned and vibrated a second time, and the voice continued,

*“Many creatures will live where the river flows.
It will have many schools of fish. This water flows
there and makes the salt water fresh. So where
the river flows everything will live.” **

“Hmm...” Pete said, stepping off the rock.

* Proverbs 22:9; Ezekiel 47:9

“That gives me an idea!”

Pete ran along the tree branch to meet up with Kerry, John, BB, Spencer, Sammy, Cliff, and Toby. The boys each grabbed some bananas and coconut milk for a quick breakfast. Then they huddled up to discuss their plans for the day.

“We have a lot to do to get ready for tomorrow’s celebration,” BB began. “I think we should catch all the fish *and* cook them today so we don’t have to rush to get it all done tomorrow before the celebration.”

“That’s a good idea,” Kerry agreed. “But how are we going to make sure the food doesn’t go bad after we cook it? The Gorillas don’t have any fridges.”

“We could smoke the fish,” Toby said. “My stepdad takes me fishing all the time, and that’s what we do after we catch a bunch.”

“What’s smoking?” Sammy asked. “It sounds kind of gross.”

“No, it’s actually really cool!” Toby said. “My stepdad puts the fish on racks in something that looks like a little stone oven, which he calls a smoker. He builds a fire in it—just enough to make smoke. And then he leaves them there for hours. That cooks the fish *and* preserves them for a while.”

“That sounds perfect!” BB said. “Do you think we would be able to do the same thing with our fish?”

Toby shrugged. “It should be easy enough. All we’d need to figure out is how to make the oven.”

“Great!” John said. “We can build that at the same time we build the fishing machine. Then it’ll be ready to go as soon as we’re done catching the fish.”

Spencer turned to Pete and asked, “Do you have any ideas for how to build the fishing machine yet?”

“Well, I was thinking about some of the ways we try to take care of the environment at home, like recycling,” Pete said. “And I think I want to do the same kind of thing here with the fishing machine.”

“You want to make the fishing machine out of glass bottles, plastic containers, and aluminum cans?” Cliff asked doubtfully. “I’m not sure how that would work.”

“I don’t mean *that* type of recycling,” Pete laughed. “I want to build a fishing machine that catches fish without wasting them. That way we don’t harm the environment, and we make sure there will be plenty of fish left for the Gorillas to catch in the future.”

“How would we do that?” Sammy asked.

“I can easily build a fishing machine that will catch all the trout in the river,” Pete explained. “But if we catch too many of the younger fish, eventually there won’t be any more fish at all.

So our machine has to be able to catch the big fish and let the little ones go.”

“I like your thinking, Pete!” Kerry said.

“Thanks!” replied Pete. “I think the best way to do it is to build small openings into the sides of the machine. Then the little fish can escape. We just need to figure out how big the trout in the river are. And the best place to find the biggest ones.”

Pete paused and turned to BB. “Can you tell me again where you guys caught the trout yesterday?”

“It was back toward the mountain range,” BB explained. “Near where the river comes out of the underwater cave. There’s a waterfall that comes down over the side of the cliff and into a pond. Toby, Spencer, John, and I caught the fish as they came over the waterfall.”

“Did the pond connect to a creek or anything?” Pete asked.

“Yeah!” Spencer chimed in. “There was a stream running out of one end. It looked like that went through the jungle to the river.”

Pete nodded thoughtfully. “The rock told me this morning that we’ll find lots of fish in the river. That must mean all the trout that end up in the pond eventually make their way into the river. How big was the biggest fish you saw at the waterfall?”

Toby held up his hands about eight inches apart. “I’ve definitely seen bigger trout in the pond back home,” he said.

Pete nodded again. “It sounds like the trout coming over the falls are still pretty young. By the time they get to the river they’re going to be older—which means they’re also going to be bigger.”

“Some of us could scout out the river,” Kerry suggested. “We can try to figure out where the biggest fish end up.”

“I’ll help!” Spencer said. “I don’t mind a good swim.”

“I’ll go too,” Cliff offered. “But we’ll have to watch out for the dinos.”

“That’s for sure,” Kerry said. “Good thing they’re afraid of the water. We should be safe as long as we stay in the river.”

“We could wrap some vines around us just in case,” Spencer suggested. “Since the dinos only see in black and white, we’d just look like floating branches to them.”

“Good idea,” Pete replied. “While you do that, the rest of us can start building the fishing machine and the smokers.”

Suddenly, the gang heard a loud, booming voice ask, “How can we help?”

They turned around to see a massive Gorilla standing behind them. His broad chest, huge muscles, and impressive height would’ve made him seem just as terrifying as any dino—if it

weren't for the friendly grin on his face.

“Obadiah!” Toby exclaimed. “Perfect timing! Could you spare a few Gorillas to help me build some smokers to cook the fish in?”

“We're always happy to help, especially when it involves food!” Obadiah said. “What do you need?”

“Some rocks to build the smokers and some wood for the fires,” Toby said. “Since I have a habit of accidentally making things explode, I was thinking of building them upstream a bit, just outside the jungle. That way we'll be far enough away from the home zone that we'll have plenty of time to put out a fire if it gets out of control.”

Obadiah laughed. “That sounds like an excellent plan! Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, and Amos can help with the smokers. I'll send them over right away. And Pete, I'm excited to see the fishing machine you're going to build.”

“I'm going to make it sturdy enough that

you'll be able to use it to catch trout for years and years!" Pete replied.

Obadiah chuckled again. "I never had trout until you boys cooked some for me. If my tribe loves it as much as I did, your fishing machine will get a lot of use in the future. Now, if you need anything else, I'll be here in the home zone making sure everything is ready for our celebration tomorrow."

The boys all thanked Obadiah for his help before he headed back across the zone. They scarfed down the rest of their breakfast, gathered up their supplies, and made their way down to the jungle floor. Cliff, Kerry, and Spencer headed toward the river. Toby headed upstream to meet his Gorilla helpers. And Pete went with John, BB, and Sammy to the edge of the tree line.

"I want to build the fishing machine here—just inside the jungle," Pete explained. "That way we can keep out of sight of any dinos on the other

side of the river. And we won't have to move it very far to get it to the river."

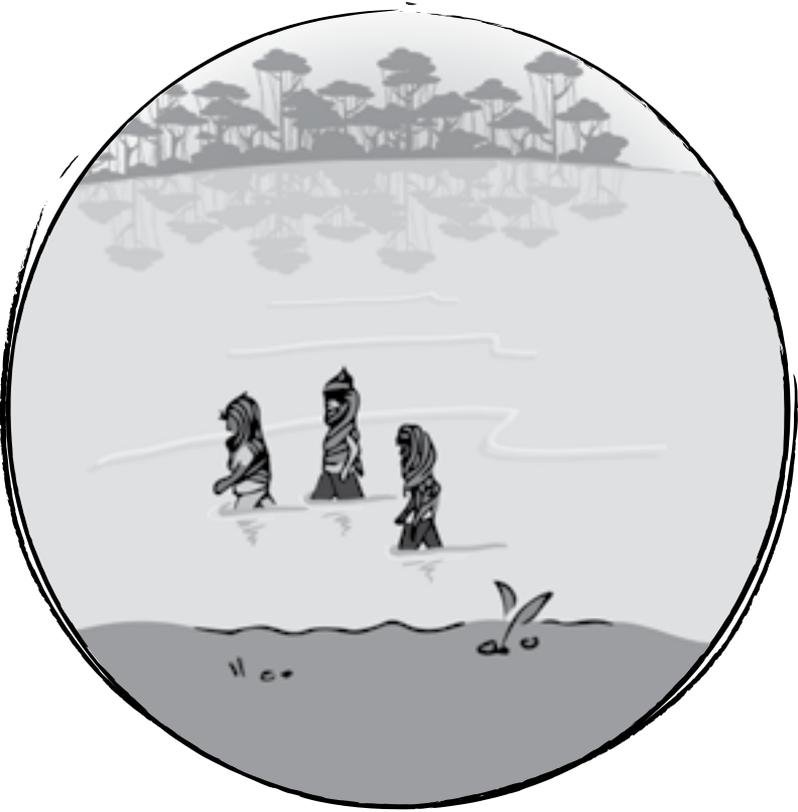
"Good idea," Sammy agreed. "How can we help?"

"The machine's going to have a scoop like a front-end loader tractor," Pete said. "If we face it upstream, the fish will swim right into the scoop. Sammy and John, I need you to find some logs and flat stones. We can use them to weigh the scoop down. BB and I will go see what tools the Gorillas have."

"We're on it!" Sammy said.

While the fish scooper team separated into their tasks, Kerry, Spencer, and Cliff got ready for their scouting mission. They wrapped vines around their chests and legs to camouflage themselves. Then they all grabbed hollow reeds they could use to breathe underwater while they were searching for trout.

When they were all set, they started heading



upstream toward the spot where the trout stream met the river. To make sure they covered the entire river in their search, Cliff swam along one bank while Toby swam along the opposite one. Spencer, the fastest swimmer, zigzagged back and forth between them.

Finally, they got to the spot where the stream connected to the river. When they stood up, the water barely came up to their waists, which meant there couldn't be many big fish around. The three boys gathered in the middle of the river to discuss what they'd found so far.

"I can't believe how many trout are in this river!" Spencer exclaimed.

Kerry nodded. "And there were all different kinds! I saw brook trout and brown trout and rainbow trout and even a few palomino trout."

"Are the palominos the gold-colored ones?" Spencer asked. "I saw a whole school of them swim by me a minute ago."

“I saw that too!” Kerry exclaimed.

“It seemed like the closer we got to the stream, the bigger the fish were,” Cliff pointed out. “The ones we saw at the waterfall must be the young ones, and they grow a lot by the time they get to the river. Some of these trout have got to be more than 20 inches long!”

“We should tell Pete what we found,” Spencer said. “It looks like we hit the trout jackpot!”

As the boys turned to head back to the jungle, they heard an angry growl rumble from the trees behind them.

They whirled around. On the riverbank opposite the Gorillas’ territory, they saw two giant, hairy beasts. Each had a massive tail hanging between their legs and knife-like claws extending from their paws.

Spencer gulped and turned to the others with wide eyes. “Butcher Bears!”

THIS IS A SAMPLE. SOME PAGES HAVE BEEN OMITTED.

LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

Good questions help us learn.

• • •

1. In [Chapter 1](#), Pete has trouble getting out of bed. Is it often hard for you to wake up too? Do your parents have to help you? How could you take more responsibility for getting up on time?
2. Four times a year, the Gorillas get together to have a celebration to honor God and share what they're thankful for. What five things are you thankful for?
3. Pete wants to create a fishing machine that only catches the big fish, not the small ones ([page 8-9](#)). How would this protect the environment? What are some ways you can take care of your environment?
4. Do you like to eat fish? Have you ever gone fishing and then eaten what you caught? What was that like?
5. Do you have a friend who influences you to make bad choices, like Lucifer tries to do with the gang? Are you a good or bad influence on your friends? How can God help you always do the right thing?
6. In Chapter 3, Lucifer disguises himself as a warthog to remind Spencer of Mr. Tusker, a bad man who hurt him a lot. Do you have a bad memory that you still struggle with? How can you be brave enough to fight against it like Spencer?

7. What does Kerry's basketball coach mean when he says, "Work smarter, not harder" (page 40)? Think about some challenges you're currently facing. How can this advice help you overcome them?
8. Lucifer tells people what he thinks they want to hear, even when he knows it's not true. Do you know anyone who lies all the time to get what they want? Can people trust you to always tell the truth?
9. Do you have a library near your house like BB does? Have you ever visited it? What types of books do you like to read?
10. In Chapter 4, Toby and Cliff start smoking the fish. Have you ever cooked a meal, either for yourself or for someone else? Why is it nice to share food with others?
11. When a Gorilla keeps making bad choices, they get sent to the outpost to think about what changes they need to make (page 54). What happens when you misbehave at home? What actions tend to get you into trouble?
12. Do you get angry quickly like Hosea used to (page 55-56)? What makes you angry? How good are you at controlling your anger? What can you do to guide it better and calm yourself down?
13. What does the rock mean by Philippians 4:11, which

- says, “I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me” (page 58)? What situations do you need to become more confident and relaxed about?
14. Hosea and Obadiah both struggled with controlling their anger, but with God’s help they were able to change (page 66-68). Think about what you need to improve on in your life. What are some strategies you could use to do that?
 15. When BB meets back up with the gang in Chapter 5, he’s surprised to find they’re fighting with each other. Do you ever get in fights with your friends? How do the fights end? What can you do after a fight to make it right again?
 16. As the gang rebuilds their boat, they talk about work (page 84-90). What do your parents do for work? What do you want to be when you grow up? How can you start working toward your goal right now?
 17. If you were a teacher, would you want Toby in your classroom? What type of student are you? Why is it important to work hard in school?
 18. After working hard on the boat, the gang gets into a huge water battle (page 90-92). Would you like to have a water battle with your friends? What else do you like to do for fun?
 19. In times of stress, is it easy or difficult for you to

remember to look to God like the gang does in Chapter 7? How does it make you feel to know that God is always there for you?

20. Spencer's dad taught him that a man thinks about what he can do for others, not just for himself (page 105). What are several things you can do to improve the lives of those around you?
21. In Chapter 7, the gang discusses what scares them. What are you afraid of? How do you react when you're scared? Do you act tough to hide your fear like Toby, or do you talk about it?
22. The Gorillas all know what gifts God gave them to use to help their tribe. What are some of your gifts? Think about the people in your tribe, like your friends and family. What gifts do they have? What could you accomplish if you put all your gifts together?
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.

NOTHING IS EVER AS SAFE AS IT SEEMS...

The gang and the Gorillas are busy preparing for a big celebration, and everything is going just as planned—at least for now! But something sinister seems to be lurking just below the surface... Will everyone be ready when it attacks?

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*