

## The Source of Pride and Joy of My Family

My family loves camping. We go at least 10 times per year.

We went camping at the beach last weekend. The weather was sunny and very warm, and we had such a good time.

Sometimes we go camping on very cold days or hot days. We still love camping in tough weather because everything is more pleasant when we are camping.

The food we are eating at the camp site is more delicious than the food at home or even the restaurant.

We listen to birds singing and feel fresh air while we are eating. We eat baked sweet potatoes, corns and S'mores. Sometimes we over eat because they are too good!

My family and my family's friends get together and spend time doing fun things.

We do play games like hot-potato, badminton, board games and so many others.

I love how we are playing together and laughing with each other.

After sunset, we make campfire. My favorite time is when we roast marshmallows.

I make S'mores for everyone. My mom says I am the one who roasts the best marshmallows.

When it gets very dark, we see a lot of stars in the sky. We talk about how beautiful they are, and my parents let my little sister, Cali, and I sit on top of their laps and pray to God as we hold hands together. "God, thank you for this day! Thank you for the birds, trees, and ocean. Thank you for this beautiful sunset and stars. Thank you for creating everything we see!

Thank you for letting us have this wonderful time in nature. What an amazing God you are!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen ". I love praying with my family under the trees and sky.

I feel God can even hear better when we are praying in nature.

To have fun camping like this, we should prepare a lot. My parents mostly do it, but Cali and I help too. I pack some books, board games, and some toys to play with Cali.

I always ask Cali to pack some of her own things. But many times, she packs some silly things like a lunch box, fake plants and bath rug. I can't believe how she thinks she can bring them!

When she does that, I ask her again that she should bring something that fits in her bag.

Guess what? She packs mom's crystal earrings and gold necklace.

She knows very well where mom's jewelry box is. My mom sometimes lets her wear them when she plays like a princess, but I don't think they are good at the camping.

I try to be patient and ask her again to bring something that belongs to her, like things that she can play with at the outside, and that fits in her bag. She doesn't want to do what I asked her. She cries and complains that she wants to do it her own way. It interrupts our family's preparing time and annoys me. Even though I try to stay calm and reason with her about why she shouldn't bring them. It's not easy to go through it every time we go camping. Finally, she brings her stuffed animal toy and her small lanterns. We are all ready to go camping now!

I understand Cali is still learning and believe she will be better at the end.

Besides, I am not only one who is helping Cali's pack. My parents help her to find what she is looking for while we pack. They take a chance to discuss with Cali and I what we are going to do at the camping trip. They listen to what we are saying and try to do what we ask for.

The preparing thing is not only before we leave for camping.

We make our tent, table and canopy at the camping site and load off our stuff from the car. When we arrive at the camping site, first thing we do is to build a camping canopy to make shades. It's huge. Each person grabs one leg and extend it until it's all opened.

Cali and I are not tall enough to reach out the top of the leg. My dad lifts me up to do it and my mom does same thing for Cali. My dad loves this part especially.

He says it would be a good camping trip if we set up well.

While my parents move heavy stuff, I hand the cold water bottles to them from the cooler.

My mom asks us to have some juices too. The taste of juice is even better than any other time because we are drinking after all the work hard.

Cali hugs me after drinking it and throws my empty juice pack to the trash bin with hers.

I know she also wants to help me. My parents say thank you to me for taking good care of Cali

while they are busy for setting.

I realize the sources of pride and joy in my family are being patient, helping each other and always giving thanks to God.

I am thinking this also might be "the Love" I was taught at Churchy.

To take care of the little ones, be patient of their growing and enjoy with them are the love Jesus tells us about. Of course, we need a lot of patience and a relaxed mind. It's not easy at all. People would get along together, and the world would be like how Jesus loves us if this kind of love stretched far and wide and reached to the ones in need.

My daddy announces that we are going camping to Joshua Tree National Park in April.

I have a good memory in Joshua Tree when we went there last year.

My family were lying on top of big rocks and looking for the constellations.

It was my first time that I was lying on the rock in the middle of night. I didn't feel cold and it was a very peaceful moment. I still remember how it felt. In April, I will try different things at camping. I've been practicing riding a two wheel bicycle. It has been a week and my dad is helping me out. I hope I can ride it at camping. I tried to ride a two wheel bike when I was seven but I failed to ride it. But my daddy encourages me to try it again. He holds my bike very tight until I say let it go. After I am good at it, I will teach Cali how to ride a two wheel bike and I will be patient like my dad while I am teaching her.

I am so excited for our next camping trip. I will pray my family will have another great time!