

Lost

Written by Karen Cupit, as told to her by Howard Lockward, M.D. ("Doc")

When I was about 10 years old, I was staying at a little religious camp, Camp Bethel, in East Haddam, CT. Then the land was relatively undeveloped- there was only a couple of farms. At the camp, we were given some free time, so five of us- two other boys and two girls- got together and went to take a look at the north camp. There was a trail, back from the river and we took it. We wandered through the woods, taking divisions on the path; one at a time. The trail began to get smaller, and pretty soon we followed a deer track.

Then all of a sudden we realized that we did not know where we were. It is an awful sensation, being totally lost. We were confused. We did not know what to do. We had no help. We were way out in the woods, hollering, but there was nothing but woods. The girls began to cry.

We knew we had to do something. The other boys wanted to take off blindly into the woods- just to head somewhere. I stopped for a few moments and prayed. I was inspired with one simple word: "Look!" At the same time, I asked myself, "The river- how did we get to the river?" I knew that rivers run downhill. We began to walk- the others followed me. It was tough, walking through branches.

Soon after, I spotted a small stream! It was a great sensation to see that stream- it was something! We followed it, and it got wider and wider. We knew that we were on to something! That stream became as wide as a river, and then we discovered a bridge- it felt like civilization! That led us to a railroad track, and it was cleared, so we walked along it. And this is what led us to safety.

We heard a church bell ringing and ringing. We wondered what it was. We found our way back to the camp, each to our own cottage. We wondered where everyone was. Then someone found us- they hollered and ran and told them to stop ringing the bell, and the rest came back. (We later found out that they were ringing the bell because we were lost!)

This was a big step for me, in my growing up. After that, I never feared again. Because this is when I began to learn how to trust in the Lord.

This memory also reminds me of times in life when we feel lost and confused; when life does not make sense. We can look to the Lord in such times and He will guide us through- one step at a time. Just like when He answered my simple prayer as a young boy, when I was lost in the woods.

Hymn Reference: All the Way My Savior Leads Me by Fanny Crosby (words) and Robert Lowry (music).
Psalm 31:3 For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.
Isaiah 53:11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

