

Day 3

[Enter Campers. Moriah and Victoria are tending to the fire, Kevin is helping Chris, Jake is gathering firewood. He drops one.]

Moriah: Watch out everyone! Jake must be going for the record of breaking the most people's bones in one day!

Victoria: Don't be silly, Moriah, he probably already has that record. He seems to hold the record for everything else.

Moriah: [Imitating Jake] At my last camp, I broke 5 bones of the alligator I was wrestling while I was jumping off the world's tallest cliff. [Girls giggle]

Jake: Come on guys, it was an accident. I feel really bad about it.

Kevin: Do they ever stop talking about other people?

Chris: Seriously! If that fall didn't kill me, camping out here with those two might.

[Enter Pete and Sandy]

Pete: I hope you guys are up for a challenge, because today is ropes course day!

Jake: Ropes course? Awesome, I love ropes courses! One time I was on the world's biggest... wait. I'm not doing that anymore. I've actually never been on a ropes course. Can you tell me how they work?

Sandy: Certainly, Jake. Thank you for your honesty. For this ropes course, each of you will have a partner. You and your

partner will need to work together to make it through a series of obstacles. Whichever team makes it through the course first wins the game and doesn't have to do chores tonight.

Victoria: And whichever person gets teamed up with Jake gets a broken back! [Girls giggle]

Pete: I think it would be fitting to have this contest be boys against girls. Jake and Kevin will be on one team, Moriah and Victoria on the other. Chris, unfortunately you can't play because of your arm.

Chris: Of course I have to miss the ONLY fun day!

Sandy: Well, maybe cheering your friends on will be fun. After all, the way we talk about one another affects how we act. When we encourage others in the things they do, they often can perform better than usual.

Pete: On the other hand, the Bible says in Proverbs 16:28 that a gossip can separate the best of friends.

Sandy: Well, Counselor Pete and I have to go set up. We'll meet you guys at the course in 10 minutes, OK?

Campers: OK! [Counselors exit. Victoria, Jake, and Kevin move to one side of the stage, Chris and Moriah to the other. Groups talk separately to one another.]

Victoria: Congratulations, guys. You basically won already.

Jake: What do you mean? We didn't even start yet!

Victoria: It doesn't matter, Moriah is terrified of heights. She cries anytime she's more than a few feet off the ground. And she's

so slow! Two turtles could probably beat her at this ropes course.

Kevin: Wow, you girls even gossip about each other!

Jake: Didn't you hear what our counselors said about encouragement and gossip?

Victoria: Psh. As if something like words actually mattered.

Moriah: Looks like you're the lucky one, Chris. You won't be on the course, so you won't be in Victoria's danger zone.

Chris: What are you talking about?

Moriah: It's horrible! She is so clumsy that she can't take two steps without tripping over her own feet. She'll probably fall right on top of me on this course.

Chris: Man are you girls brutal! Sounds like someone wasn't listening to the counselors.

Moriah: Whatever.

Jake: [To all] Hey guys, I think it's time to go. We're going to have to run to make it to the course in time. [All exit]

[Campers re-enter huffing and puffing]

Chris: You were right, Moriah. Victoria is really clumsy!

Kevin: And Moriah is super slow, just like Victoria told me.

Victoria: What?!?! You told them about how clumsy I am?

Moriah: Well it looks like I wasn't the only one gossiping about her best friend.

Victoria: I think you meant to say *former* best friend. [Girls fold arms, walk away from one another. Counselors enter]

Pete: Alright, guys, time to start our course. Our first team will be Kevin and Jake.

Chris: Woohoo! Go Kevin!

Jake: Let's do this. [High-fives Kevin]

Pete: On your mark, get set... go!

[Kevin and Jake go through course encouraging one another, saying, "Nice job," "There you go," etc. Run to finish together]

Pete: 1:56. A new course record!

Jake: New record! Sweet! I don't even have to lie about it!

Kevin: You were awesome out there! Great job!

Jake: Thanks. That's only because I had an awesome partner.

Kevin: Right back at ya!

Sandy: Great job boys! OK girls, you're next. Think you can beat 'em?

Moriah: Probably not since apparently I run as slow as molasses.

Sandy: Alright, girls, get into position. On your mark, get set, go!

[Girls struggle to go through the course, bump into each other, go in opposite directions, yell at one another, etc.]

Victoria: That's it, I can't do this!

Moriah: Me neither! [Girls both storm off in opposite directions]

Sandy: That's it, everyone. Bring it in. [Everyone gathers together]

Pete: Well, this would normally be the time where we announce the big winner, but only one team finished, so you don't need me to announce anything. Kevin and Jake win!

Sandy: Girls, what happened out there? I thought you two were best friends, but you looked like total strangers on that course.

Victoria: We *were* friends, until Moriah had to make fun of me in front of the boys.

Moriah: You mean the way that you told them that I'm slow and afraid of heights?

Sandy: Hmm, interesting. Jake and Kevin encouraged one another throughout the course and had an excellent time. Moriah and Victoria were gossiping about one another, and they couldn't do anything out there. Coincidence? I think not.

Pete: Just like our Bible verse, Proverbs 16:28, says: a gossip separates the best of friends. Or in this case, two gossips. Well, like we said, as winners, Jake and Kevin don't have to do chores tonight. Chris is still healing from his injury, so he is excused from chores as well. Congratulations boys, go have some fun and make sure to be at dinner by 6:00.

Boys: Yes! [High-five one another, etc., run off]

Sandy: That leaves the chores for you two. Victoria, it's your turn to take care of the fire. Moriah, why don't you clean up around camp?

Girls: [Disappointed] Yes ma'am. [All exit]

[Girls re-enter, perform chore duties, awkwardly try to avoid one another]

Moriah: [To the audience] This stinks! Thanks to all the nasty stuff we said about each other, Victoria and I can't even talk to one another anymore. We used to be best friends! Maybe I was wrong about my words. Maybe gossip is a big deal after all. [Returns to cleaning up camp]

Victoria: [To the audience] I can't believe this! I should have listened to Counselor Pete and Counselor Sandy and encouraged Moriah instead of gossiping. That Bible verse was right! Jake and Kevin encouraged one another and they did great. Maybe I should try that. [To Moriah] I'm glad you came this week.

Moriah: [Looks around] Were you talking to me?

Victoria: Yeah, I was. This is ridiculous. We are best friends! We should be encouraging one another, not gossiping behind each other's back. I'm so sorry for saying all those things to you.

Moriah: I was thinking the same thing. Wow, that was really brave of you to apologize like that. You are a great friend! And I'm sorry too for gossiping about you in front of the boys like that.

Victoria: Thanks Moriah. I never realized that you could be such a great encourager.

Moriah: I guess I spend so much time gossiping that I never stopped to see if I could encourage someone.

Victoria: Yeah, me neither. Wow, this encouragement stuff feels really good. Who knew?

Moriah: You're right. Let's be friends again.

Victoria: Agreed! Hey, you know what, let's try to do that ropes course.

Moriah: Are you sure? I am afraid of heights after all.

Victoria: No need to worry, I'll be beside you the whole time helping and encouraging you.

Moriah: And I will help you stay balanced.

Victoria: Let's do this! [They high-five and exit]