



COMMON GROUND

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“A Matter of Perspective”

Over the summer I got to work at a kids camp as an assistant teacher. After a while the kids found out I could draw and set me to work making pictures. One child asked if I would draw Shadow the hedgehog, so I did my best and handed him the picture. Soon I hear a distressed cry issuing from his direction. I come over and one of the hedgehog’s eyes has been colored completely black. I asked what was wrong and he pointed to the picture claiming it was ruined. “I’m sorry,” I said. “Its alright.” He replied, “I’m the one who colored it in.” Trying to be positive I say “It kind of looks like an eye-patch.” But this was apparently the wrong thing as he cries back “But I don’t like Eye-patch Shadow.”

Sometimes in life we can get really excited about new things, whether it’s a new year, new school, or just a project we started. This excitement can turn to utter disappointment, however, when something doesn’t turn out like we plan. Maybe our grades go down, our boss gets angry, or we spill coffee on our presentation poster for class. What do we do? Who do we blame? Should we just give up? These are all question that run through our mind, but its important to never give up. Galatians 6:9 says “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”

Not everything we are called to do is easy but it is worth it. By struggling though the tough things we become wiser, stronger, and more compassionate as Christians. Sometimes though, this means we end up retaking a class, spending hours redoing a project, or getting chewed out for something we didn’t do. Just remember what God said through the prophet Jeremiah ”’For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ (Jeremiah 29:11)” Even when things look hopeless they can still turn out to be good. We cannot see what the future holds, including the opportunities. Retaking a class means getting to know a new group of people; being able to witness to other with your life and actions. Just because the picture is different, doesn’t mean it’s not beautiful.

As for my student, I did manage to salvage things later on. After looking at it again I declared that shadow might be wearing goggles to protect his eyes at high speeds (since he has rocket powered skate shoes) this was met with excitement and the child rushed off to finish coloring the page. Apparently Goggles Shadow is cooler then Eye-patch Shadow, It just depends on your perspective.

- Bethany McMilin
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UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS



Tuesday Evening Worship is at 7PM in the lounge above the Lola Tilly Commons. We call this worship service Vespers (meaning an evening worship service). The service consists of singing, student testimony, a short message, and a time of quiet reflection. This is a great mid week pick me up.

Thursday Lunch Bunch every Thursday from 1PM-1:50 PM. We meet at the United Campus Ministry office. This semester we will be studying the book of 1st Samuel. Feel Free to bring your own lunch; we will provide cookies and milk.

Angel Rocks Hike Saturday, Sept. 8th we will meet at the UCM office at 10:30AM and head out Chena Hot Springs road to hike at Angel Rocks. Please bring a sack lunch, water bottle, warm cloths, and hiking gear (good shoes, etc.) Afterwards we will stop at Hill Top Truck Stop for some delicious pie. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of gas and additional funds for pie.

The Fall Retreat On Sept. 21-22 we will have the UCM Fall Retreat at Bingle Camp. We will meet at the UCM office at 5:30PM. We will be exploring God's Creation and listening in the stillness for his voice. We will return to campus around 4PM Saturday. Cost is \$25

Music Music will meet Mondays at 4:pm (we will set a permanent time at the first meeting) starting September 3rd. If you sing or play an instrument we would love to have you join us.

Leadership This small group will meet at 6:pm in the UCM office on Sundays starting September 2nd. If you are interested in growing spiritually and helping UCM grow please join us.