

Escape from Fire Lake - The Last Chance Detectives - 3

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23 ESV

When the Last Chance Detectives were out looking for a new adventure Mike ended up in the back of a robbery truck. Mike threw hundred dollar bills out of the back of the truck as clues to help lead to his rescue. When the thieves discovered Mike, they left him in the desert believing he couldn't survive. Alone in the desert he read his Bible and remembered the things his dad had taught him.

What would you rely on if you were alone in a desert like Mike?

Mike was missing and his family was worried about him. Mike's mother said "I feel so helpless." His Grandmother replied, "Sometimes that's when the Lord does His best work." Even though the family was scared what might happen to Mike, they trusted that God would be with him and watch over him. They believed that God would protect Mike.

Have you ever felt that God is near you during difficult times?

When an old prospector found a \$100 bill it helped the search team identify the direction that the thieves had taken. Mike's friends told the sheriff that they really wanted to help. At first he started to say no, but when he realized how important it was to them he said, "I've got an idea." He had the kids look for more bills that Mike might have thrown out. He also insisted that they keep in contact with him.

Has there ever been a time when you've helped out with an important problem?

Out in the desert Mike stumbled and spilled the last of his water. Even though things looked hopeless, Mike didn't give up. He remembered his dad reading the 23rd Psalm to him and took comfort that God was with him. When he was feeling the most discouraged he remembered his dad telling him not to give up. "I won't always be there for you, Mike, but God will."

God will always be with those who love Him. If you have never asked Him to come into your life, this is a good time to do it. He will never leave you or forsake you.

Although it was exciting and adventuresome for the four friends to call themselves detectives, Mike made a few major mistakes when he decided to check into things by himself without telling anyone where he was going. Even though Mike was good at investigating, he got in over his head when he failed to report the abandoned car to the sheriff.

What are some other safety precautions that Mike should have taken?

The more difficult the desert situation became, the more Mike heard his father say, "You can do it." Some people have fathers who encourage them, some do not, but all of us have a Heavenly Father who wants us to succeed. When times are difficult He encourages us to do what is right. He will help us if we let Him. He promises that He will be with us always. The Bible tells us to "trust in God with all of your heart."

Is there someone in your life who always encourages you? Do you encourage others?

Dear Lord we thank You for Your unfailing love and encouragement. Help us to turn to You for comfort and wisdom. Teach us how to choose what is right. Help us to encourage our family and friends when they are discouraged. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.