



Macedonia district children's camp 2023

"The only thing sweeter than union is reunion."

~ Kathleen McGowanain

"I think I'm witnessing something akin to the formation of a family." The thought came over me as the children and staff of our children's camp broke out into spontaneous song in the middle of one of our arts and crafts sessions. Reconnecting with so many children who attended our camp last year and witnessing them voluntarily sing in unison, even though they come from several different churches, made me feel like I was attending a family reunion rather than directing a summer camp!

From June 21st to the 24th, thirty-seven children and twelve adults gathered in Gevgelija, North Macedonia for our second annual children's camp. The theme for our camp was „Божјите деца никогаш не се сами“ (“God's children are never alone”) and we explored the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace. The children were invited to experience the desert of Babylon and were divided into six groups, each with

their own desert-themed animal or item. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, learning about God's provision for His children and engaging in all kinds of exciting camp activities.

We started every morning outside with some calisthenics and then a brief devotional. After breakfast, we had our large group sessions where we sang songs, had our lesson, practiced our Bible verse and prayed together. Then we had activities in our small groups to explore different aspects of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's story.



Click [here](#) to watch the children singing while coloring

We also had crafts, indoor and outdoor games as well as free time for swimming and playing sports. On the final evening, we had a campfire and continued our tradition of roasting marshmallows.



[Click here to worship with us!](#)

On the first night, I asked the children if they had ever heard of King Nebuchadnezzar. I explained he was very powerful, he conquered many nations including Judah where Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were from, and he made many people his slaves. The next morning, we explored what it would feel like to be taken from our home country, given a new name, and forced to learn a new language and culture. We learned that even though God did not prevent Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from being captured, He was with them and blessed them with skills they could use in their new environment.

On the second day, we explored the Ten Commandments and why Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego felt they could not comply with the king's order to bow down to the idol he had made. We talked about courage and what it means to be God's



Sponge painting craft

children. And on the last day, we discovered that even though God did not prevent Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from having to endure the fiery furnace, He didn't make them do it alone. God's angel was with them and He protected them.

Going into this camp, my main motivation was to create an event where children can know they are loved and cared for and where they can hear the truths of God's Word. However, I am learning these camps are more than that. They are an integral part of building an extended spiritual family for these children and for us volunteers – a safe place where we belong and we can support each other in our faith. I pray you have a safe place where you belong and you are encouraged in your faith. I also pray, that even if God did not prevent a difficult situation from happening in your life, you know you are not alone.

In Him,

Jennifer Moore

Seeing God

The Bible verse for our camp was "the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6b. Now matter how stressful things get around us, if we are a child of God it is impossible for us to be alone. And sometimes, it is in the hottest period of a difficult situation that nonbelievers around us can see God.

