

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt lonely because you thought you would never fit in? Edgar Guest's inspirational poem, "It Couldn't Be Done," emphasizes that "There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done/There are thousands to prophesy failure." In other words, there are people in the world who will try to hurt and discourage others. However, optimism, or staying positive, and perseverance or persistence, both affect the outlook in challenging situations. Remaining optimistic at summer camp helped me when it was hard fitting in and finding friends.

To begin with, summer camp during the summer of 2019 was challenging because the other campers made me feel unwelcome. For instance, upon arrival, finding a bunk was hard; everyone wanted to be next to their friends from the previous summer. All of the girls already knew each other and did not want a new friend. For example, on the second day, there was a break where our counselor permitted hanging out with another friend. I was heading to a girl named Olivia's bunk, but another girl, Eva, shoved me, saying that *she* was hanging out with Olivia. This was difficult for me because I felt so alone, and camp is supposed to be about fun with friends. However, at summer camp, finding friends was difficult because I felt left out.

During this difficult task, remaining optimistic encouraged me to keep trying to make friends. First, writing to my parents was very soothing. Explaining in detail "camp life" aided me to see the bright side. Writing also helped me to see the people who accepted me. Furthermore, realizing that not everyone will accept me also helped. Finally, what motivated me the most to keep trying to make friends was learning about God. Everyone gathered and listened to people's testimonies, and the bible. This experience really showed me God's strength, and I knew he would support me. One of the most important ideas that aided me in my tough situation was remaining optimistic with God's help and learning to be accepting.

Moreover, staying positive in tough situations helps individuals to see the bright side in strenuous times and makes challenging situations easier. My situation taught me that making friends is easy if one puts oneself out there. The situation also taught me how optimism actually affects the community. It helps individuals see the bright side in difficult circumstances. It also taught me to find strength and that leaning on others is acceptable. Optimism helps in situations like mine because it makes the situation seem less daunting.

In summary, when I felt unwelcome at sleepaway camp, it was beneficial to have a positive attitude. The situation when first arriving at camp was tough because everyone knew each other. Through God, overcoming my situation was easy, as well as finding strength in my friends, and parents. Optimistic attitudes can uplift people to do challenges they never would have dreamed of without others encouragement.