

How Kids Across America Changed My Family's Life

My journey began when a church hosted an event that I attended. I was impressed by everything I saw, so I decided to visit the church that Sunday.

At first, I attended alone. My children had not been in church for years because of negative experiences at a previous church. After visiting for a few weeks, I joined the church. Eventually, I convinced my children to come with me. My daughter immediately connected with the church and even expressed a desire to join.

A few Sundays later, I kept hearing about KAA. I learned there were only two spots left, so I signed both of my children up. At the time, I had no idea that this decision would become one of the most important decisions I had ever made for my family.

The church staff walked me through every step of the registration process and consistently followed up to make sure everything was in order. In the weeks leading up to camp, I encouraged my children to participate in meetings about camp, but they showed very little interest. Still, I felt strongly that sending them to camp was the right decision.

Then, two weeks before camp, our family faced a devastating crisis. My daughter attempted suicide. We had been dealing with difficult situations in our home, and I believed there were spiritual battles taking place that we did not fully understand. During that season, I felt certain that God had led me to our church for a reason.

After being released from the hospital, my daughter questioned why I still planned to send her to camp. She was overwhelmed, adjusting to medications, and trying to process everything she had experienced. Yet despite the uncertainty, I remained convinced that camp was where she needed to be.

The day they were leaving for camp, it seemed like everything that could go wrong did go wrong. It almost felt as though something was trying to prevent us from getting there, but we made it.



With no cell phones allowed, my only connection to them was through the photos and updates that were shared. I thought they were simply having fun, making friends, and participating in Bible studies. I had no idea that God was doing something far deeper. While my children were away, I found myself praying more intensely than ever before. My focus was completely on my family and on whatever healing God wanted to bring into our lives.

Meanwhile, my oldest daughter had returned home from college. She had not attended church in years and had long since distanced herself from her faith.

When my children returned from camp, I immediately noticed a difference. My younger daughter was sad to leave the friendships she had built at KAA, but there was also a new joy and peace within her. One of the first things she did was tell her older sister, **"You're coming to church with us on Sunday."**

Since camp, the transformation in my children has been remarkable. The music they listen to has changed. The way they interact with one another has changed. Their relationship with me has changed. Most importantly, their desire to know God and grow closer to Him has grown in ways I never imagined.

Today, my children pray with me. We spend time talking together. Every day, I ask them, **"What is God saying to you?"** and we discuss what God is doing in their lives. The weight that once seemed to rest so heavily on their shoulders appears to have been lifted. Our home is different. Our family is different.

I am beyond grateful for KAA, for the church staff, and for our pastor's commitment to creating opportunities for young people to encounter God. I am also deeply thankful to every sponsor and supporter who helps make camp possible. You may never fully know the impact of your generosity, but it changed my family forever.

KAA didn't just give my children a fun week away. It brought healing, restoration, hope, and renewed faith into our home. It truly changed our lives, and I look forward to seeing my children continue to grow through this experience for years to come.

Thank you,
A Grateful Mom

