



1 Peter 1:7

Rugged Faith

High Ropes Course Summary



Rugged Faith is an Outdoor Ministry of Riverview Bible Camp where we desire to take people into God's awesome creation to allow them the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and grow in a relationship with Him, through a deepening understanding of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as taught to us through the Bible.

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Riverview High Ropes Course

The High Ropes Course consists of 4 elements. Like the low elements it is very exciting and challenging physically, emotionally and spiritually. 30 feet off the ground, the course is facilitated with the use of full body harnesses and participants are on belay from an overhead cable at all times. The course challenges **individual** participants to face their fears and allows them to push their physical and spiritual limits in a safe environment. All too often it is we ourselves who place *our* limitations on God and what He desires to do in us and through us. The course is built around the biblical principle, that when we put our complete trust in our *Anchor*, we can truly experience "life to the full" (John 10:10), and live a life free of fear (2 Tim 1:7, 1 John 4:18).

As with the low elements, the high ropes are very physical in nature and participants are encouraged to wear loose fitting sweats or long pants, Tee shirts and sturdy footwear (not sandals).

As reflected in the sign-up sheets, the High Ropes Course is best suited to be experienced by groups consisting of nine or less participants in any one hour period.

Average time: 12 min /person.

First things first... Motivation?

(What or *Who* is behind what I'm doing or why I am here)

Is my service a *calling*... or a good idea?

Who am I serving? Jesus... or others?

Why are we doing what we're doing? For what I get out of it... or what I can give to others?

Is this a *ministry* with a focus... or just another camp attraction?

What is the intended goal of this activity? Spiritual growth... or another neat experience? Just "to make it through the course"... or have Jesus do a work in the heart?

Do we want to see relationship with Jesus... or a timed race through the Ropes Course? Is our desire to see spiritual growth or conversions at the High Ropes course or... to see more Christian *competition*?

There **are** *right* answers for these questions. Jesus wrote them all down for us. **God's** word specifically addresses these questions concerning ones motives and our heart to serve. Before showing up for an outing, a solid and maturing Christian leader will have settled these issues with his Master.

The opportunity's to share Jesus and **His** words at the High Ropes *pulpit*, are as endless as is His word is abundant. Everything! And we're talking about... EVERYTHING! Everything at the Ropes Course, in the wilderness, back home... *wherever* we are at, all goes back to our Anchor. Our trust in Jesus and His unchanging word!

We want to encourage you as Christian leaders to come filled up with Jesus. Having spent much time at His feet... hearing His words. Pray that your response to all the concerns and questions that come up, will be met with His words. That your words will be Jesus' words. For Jesus himself has told us...

"It is the Spirit who gives life... the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" **John 6:63**

May God bless your ministry as you serve Him. Remember that you are ALWAYS *on belay*, on the bombproof Anchor! Stay in the word... remember that the greatest of all *will be the least... and the servant of all...* and keep the praise on! Our enemy hates that!!

And even for those that don't know Jesus. They *have* professed to "know" that the cables, ropes, and the harnesses hold 1,000's of pounds. Element 4 is where they find out if they *truly believe* it... If they've truly *trusted* them. If they have, and do trust them, they can go for the bar. And jump for it with their all.

For those that *have* trusted Jesus, and *have* walked through the last three elements with Him, the "Leap of Faith" has already been taken. This is just another chance to live "life to the full" with Him. Another step, walking with Jesus... *climbing with Christ!* Another chance to let Him take them deeper... really just giant ropes swing in the trees!

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" **2 Corinthians 5:7**

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" **Hebrews 11:1**

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)"
Hebrews 11: 6

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" **Romans 10:17**

"I called on the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. The Lord is on my side, I will not fear"
Psalms 118:5-6

"The Lord is near to all them who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth" **Psalms 119:18**

Set some specific time aside, individually and/or as a ministry team, to pray and seek God's word and His will for you. He **will** purify our motives, and give you the answer to these questions.

"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness" **Ezekiel 33:31**

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" **James 4:8**

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"
Psalms 119:9-11

Element 1 – Jacob’s Ladder



It’s one thing to say “yea, I *believe*” ... another to act on that *belief*. One thing to say you *believe* the cable will hold you... another thing to get in a harness, put on a helmet, and step out. We say we *believe* God’s word is true... it’s another to *trust* your life to it and put some action to our *belief*.

Sitting on the log, looking at up the High Elements, and **Jacob’s Ladder** before one, can be very scary and intimidating. This is where we see if we **truly believe** God’s words. We know the verses, but do we **truly believe** them?!

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. **Jeremiah 29:11**

Element 4 – The Leap of Faith



This element brings *it all* together. The anchor and *the Anchor* are the same. Same cable, same trees, same ropes, same harness, and the same brake. Only what’s (or what’s *not*) in front of me has changed - thirty feet to the “floor” and nothing to step out on.

But... God’s word remains! His promises *are* the same. And we are called to walk by faith and NOT by sight. Everything comes back to **trust**. Do we trust Jesus? With our *everything*? What He has said, over all else – our thoughts, our emotions, what we feel, even what we see most of the time. For those that truly *know* Jesus, this final element is not really a “leap of faith.” We’ve already given Him our lives. We are *already* living eternal life with Him - right now! We *know* that He loves us. We *know* He is here with us at this very moment. Encourage them to simply trust. To remember back to that moment when they first trusted Jesus.

Some more of “Dad’s” voice...

“Have not I **commanded thee?** Be strong and of a good courage; **be not afraid**, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee **wherever** thou goest” **Joshua 1:9**

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my Savior”

2 Samuel 22:2

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”
Psalms 46:1

“He hath said, I will **never** leave thee, nor forsake thee”
Hebrews 13:5

Not even thirty feet off the ground, at the High Ropes course!

Note: Most American Christians know this verse from the NIV “translation” as... *“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.”* Though most Christians “know” the verse, most have not *lived it out* when faced with struggles, fears or even the very immediate unknown (yet incredibly safe) future. (i.e. the Ropes Course).

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me”
Philippians 4:13

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” **2 Corinthians 12:9**

Jacobs’s Ladder IS the most *physically* demanding of the High Ropes elements. Again, most Christians “know” these verses, yet few even consider pausing to remember them, before “bailing.”

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" **2 Timothy 1:7**

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear hath torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love" **1 John 4:18**

Also...

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life" **1 John 5:11-13**

"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish" **John 10:26-28**

Do we *really* believe it? Do we *really* "know"??

There are so many specific scriptures that can be intimately shared from this pulpit (Element #3), and realized as true by those participating. Again, we "know" them... but do we believe them!

"I **can** do all things through Christ which strengthens me"
Philippians 4:13

Can I?

"And he said unto me, My grace **is** sufficient for thee: for **my strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" **2 Corinthians 12:9**

Is His Grace sufficient??

The 23rd Psalm. Most everyone "knows" it. Have we ever had to live it?

"...The LORD is my shepherd... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"

Do I "know" this as God's voice to me personally... or is it just a neat verse at on the wall at Grandma's house or above the baby's crib?

complete trust in Gods word, and do as He tells us in Hebrews... *“seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:2).

It is our hope and prayer that Christians facilitating this element, especially, will **be prayerful** and encourage the participants to keep their eyes on Jesus! *Really truly* consider crossing the log by keeping their “eyes fixed on Jesus”, and **NOT by holding the overhead rope**. Don’t miss the opportunity to see God’s word bear specific tangible fruit in the lives of those He sent to you. Those he’s sent not to just have a “pleasant experience”, but to be stretched and drawn into a closer or “real” walk with Him.

Not listening to the *lies* begins with knowing God’s voice - His Words. Being able to distinguish between what *God is telling us* and the voice of our adversary, the Devil. God’s word tells us there ARE *other* spirits. *“they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world (Revelation 16:14).”* God has told us though, that we are to test the *spirits* (thoughts, lies, untruths) and think on what *He* has said.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world (1 John 4:1)...”

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Element 2 – The “Wobbly” Cable



The sureness of our steps is directly affected by the amount of (or lack of) trust or reliance upon Jesus, that we exhibit in our daily walk. More “weight” on God’s word... less wobbly our walk. Less trust in Him... more *wobbles*. This element is all about putting ALL our weight on our Anchor, and taking the next step... keeping our feet moving.

“He must increase, but I must decrease” John 3:30

“And we have known and believe (rely upon) the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” 1 John 4:16

“we should not trust in ourselves, but in God...” 2 Corinthians 1:9

Element 3 – The Log Walk

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you”

1 Peter 5:7

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:5-6



“Keep your eyes on the *prize*... don’t listen to the lies!” We believe that *proper execution* of The Log Walk, brings a Christians’ faith to action. Like no other “exercise” we’ve seen or used at Climbers With Christ over the years, this High Ropes element shines as one of, if not the most effective tools God has given his people, to separate a *professed* faith in God and His word, and a real, living and active faith. This is what we call the *stretch factory*.

Platform number one (above the log) is where, like nowhere else, one **MUST** keep their eyes on the prize (there’s a “cross” carved in the tree at the other end of the log), and *not* listen to “the lies.” For the Christian who does not buy the lie and grab the overhead safety rope, but keeps his or her eyes fixed on the cross, and moves slowly, one small slowstep at a time, *that* person will cross the log, with only Jesus to thank. Most can **not** cross *this* log or any other “log” in their life, unless they place