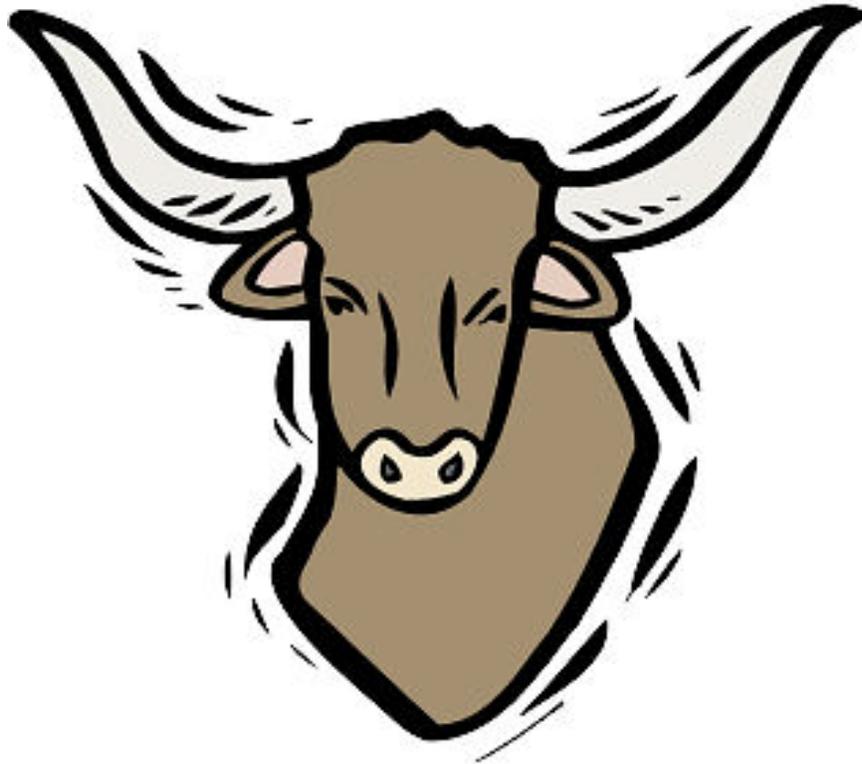


# Wrangler Ranger Camp/VBS 2013



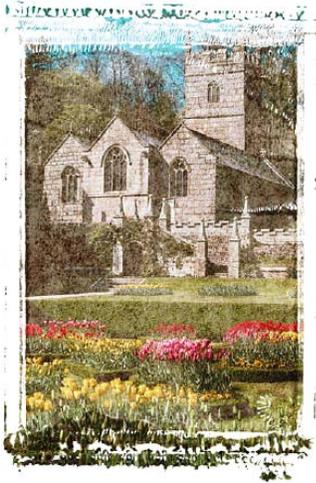
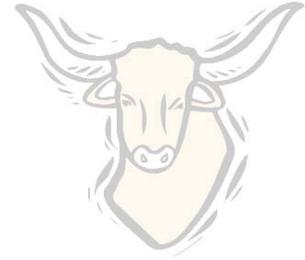
*Arena/Chapel Message #3 or  
Suitable as Stand-Alone Brief Message*

## *Joined the Church*

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Ron Singleterry

[www.wranglerchurch.com](http://www.wranglerchurch.com)



## Joined the Church

### Suggested Illustration:

† In Arena Setting have an adult character “helper” that plays the part of a sort of “dufus” individual. As the campers arrive at the arena, the character individual is out attempting to run barrels and is doing a terrible job of running the pattern incorrectly and knocking over barrels; just making a hilarious failing attempt.

† In Chapel Setting have the character “helper” to explain the illustration of his attempts at barrel racing.

**Reference:** *John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

### Notes:

Arena and Chapel Messages naturally are handled differently. We have incorporated Sunday Morning Arena messages into our Wrangler Churches for many years and find they are extremely well received by the children and the adults they also attract.

If you are able to do this in an Arena Setting or you must use an inside setup, either way this is a Cowboy Illustration and the culture is conducive to the understanding of the boys and girls we deal with in this culture. If you are not from this culture and have access to someone that is then he/she will be greatly beneficial in explaining the points in this illustration.

### Outline:

After watching this scene play out for a few minutes motion for him to ride over to your location and dismount.

Have conversation with the Character. Some points to discuss in conversation along these lines:

Speaker: Say, Are you trying to join BARREL RACERS ANONYMOUS or something out there?

Character: Not doing so good; Yeah, I tried to join 4-H you know.

Speaker: Tried? What happened?

Character: My cow died.

Speaker: Oh that's terrible.

Character: Yeah, I tried to join the Rodeo Team; but I can't afford a rope.

I even tried to Join Relay for Life; but I don't have one.

Speaker: Have what?

Character: A life. Think I'll just go join a church somewhere.

Speaker: Here, why don't you sit here a spell and listen to this morning's message before you do.

**Read** *John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

*2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

Sometimes in your life, things just do NOT go well.

What most people try to do during the hard or difficult times is find a solution.

Sometimes good or well meaning people go looking to "join a church." They say they are "seeking God." Or "turning to God" or "looking to improve their circumstances."

While it is true that God will immediately change your destination when you accept Him as Savior; it is also true that not every church or group of well-meaning people understand this one principle correctly. Jesus said: *no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* He meant what He said.

**You can join up with "churches" that teach all kinds of "strange doctrines." AND it is good to remember that when you join up with a good "cause" that is not brownie points towards Heaven, either.**

*Hebrews 13:9 Be not carried about with divers [many] and strange doctrines.*

Jesus is not a cause; He is God.

*Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Indeed, Jesus wants us to gather to pray, read His Word, & to encourage one another in an assembly or local church. But you MUST be careful that you are in what is indeed a local church.

There are assemblies that call themselves churches but are far from it. For example, The Jehovah Witness Group calls themselves a church. But they do not believe that the Holy Spirit is part of the God head. That is essential. The Holy Spirit is the part of GOD that indwells the born-again believer. You can't ignore that and be a church. They took the Bible and rewrote it taking out every reference to the Holy Spirit. Got news for you, that did not make HIM not exist nor did it take away the deity of the Holy Spirit.

If you are not sure about a group that calls itself a church; you should seek wise counsel before you join up with it. Many born-again Christians have been confused by listening to nice, entertaining, well-meaning teachers that taught the Word incorrectly. That is exactly what Satan did in the Garden of Eden. He misrepresented what God has said.

## **Conclusion**

The point I want to make this morning is this: *1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

Don't just JOIN UP to a CAUSE or a GROUP. Make sure the body of believers you are studying God's Word with know what they are doing.