

Sara Martin

My name is Sara Martin and I went on the Spring Break Mission Trip right down the street, at People's Church. When I was told our project would be leading a Vacation Bible School and Sports Camp, I didn't think much of it. I had led groups at our church's VBS before and I had played many different sports. Doing all that with other kids wasn't a big deal. I went to Whispering Woods on Monday with our team, I was looking forward to having a great time playing with the kids and maybe teach them a little about Jesus in the process. I didn't know that they'd touch my life until I saw them that first morning.

When they walked in the door, I instantly lit up seeing how happy the kids were when they saw older kids coming to play with them. When the kids would come to stories from games, they would be full of energy and excitement and it'd be such a blessing to see their smiling faces and hear their laughter when we messed up in our storytelling or "accidentally" sprayed them with water.

In the afternoon when we'd all be at Sports Camp, some of the children would come to us crying because they had gotten hit by a ball or had tripped on the sidewalk. It would break my heart seeing them crying and all I could really do was hold them tight and not let go. And so that's exactly what I'd do. I'd start talking to the kids trying to make them feel better and sure enough in the conversation somehow Jesus would come up. I guess it isn't much of a mystery considering all I was doing was for him but it still seemed pretty amazing. When I'd finish talking to the kids, they'd leave with a huge smile on their face, ready to play and have fun with their friends. Seeing that just made everything else in my life not matter. Spring Break was for them and all I was doing was for Jesus so I could help them.

I will never forget on Wednesday right after VBS as we were waiting for the pizza to get to the apartments, we had taken the kids out to the basketball courts to play and one of the little boys was walking with me. He asked if he could talk with me and I was more than honored for him to talk to me. He told me how the day before, he had heard a voice inside his head telling him to steal all the snacks we had brought for that day. He told me that he didn't want to hear that voice in

his life and how he wanted Jesus to be the one who made the decisions for him. He asked that we pray about it and in doing so, tears came to my eyes.

It amazed me that these kids have been through so much and all they really want in life is to know that Jesus loves them. It just goes to show that God's love is all around us no matter where we look. He's down the street with the kids who don't always get to come to church. He's at work where it doesn't seem like he's ever there. He's at home leading you through everything in life. In fact he's sitting right next to us right now wanting to love us and all we have to do is love him back. I saw God's love this last week and that is something I will never forget.