

## Peace

- SU camp; Whithaugh Park; >100 boys; highlight... **night exercise!**
  - site & suitability; darkness of Easter.
  - boys went out in groups, with a leader, to complete a course.
  - eldest group went last; had been around previous year.
  - psyched up!!! they remembered last year's ducking!
- Realised **we'd overdone things**; big lads; people could be hurt by accident!
  - Alan & I (ACLs) went to head off trouble.
  - I was **nervous, worried, even scared** - some of them were bigger than me!
- But Alan's presence changed things completely:
  - he's a big lad! can take care of himself - and those around him.
  - **his presence brought peace.**
- *In the end nothing happened; they completed the course; everyone went to bed!*
  - but still, **Alan's presence brought peace.**

### Jesus Presence brings peace:

- real peace is not merely the **absence of war**, or of conflict.
  - rather, the peace Jesus gives by his presence is the kind that allows us to face our difficulties and conflicts, not run from them.
  - to go through the hard times; to struggle with our own failures rather than hide from them.
- This is the real peace Jesus' presence brings.**
- *(John 14:26,27) "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

## Obedience

- Joke: What goes "squeak, bang, squeak, bang, squeak, bang..."?
  - dynamice!!
- Dynamite - **dunamis** - power:
  - (Acts 1:8) "you will receive power (**dunamis**) when the Holy Spirit comes on you"
- Tell me about best and worst teachers you've ever had!
  - what was good about them?
  - what was bad about them?
- Often, the best teachers don't need to make us scared to get us to do what they want:
  - we like them, we learn to trust them, and when they are around we find it easy to do the right thing, to learn, whatever
- Their presence gives us a power, an ability, to obey we don't otherwise have!
- Jesus promises his disciples that he will be with them in the Holy Spirit:
  - and that his presence will empower them to obey his commands
  - even when we despair of ever living up to his perfection, of being changed...

## Closeness

- Good song?
- Who is your best friend?
  - why? what about them do you like?
  - time with them, presence, closeness, trust...
- Jesus is closest, best friend:
  - always with us
  - knows us exactly as we are - and still loves us!