**Poppy and Camping with Our Father**

**You have already heard about Poppy and I hiking in the High Sierra mountains with our dad. But we have gone on many camping trips with our dad that were fun and where we learned a lot of things. When you are camping, there are not a lot of distractions that you might find while being at home. It’s a good chance for parents to teach their children.**

**Sometimes it was just a quick overnight camping trip. Sometimes it was a couple days. No matter when it was or how long it was, we always enjoyed being with our father. He knew a lot of things and was a good teacher by what he said and what he did. Here are a few examples:**

* **At night, we liked to sleep under the stars, no tent. Lots of times the ground we slept on was uneven. To avoid sliding all over the place during the night, our dad taught us about a “Hip Hole.” This is where you dig out an area under your ground cloth and sleeping bag so that your hip and bottom has a place to drop into. It helps you from ending up at the bottom of the hill by morning.**
* **Sometimes the ground you sleep in can be pretty hard and rocky. Our dad taught us to clear away the rocks and then, cut off some pine boughs to lay down under your ground cloth. This made it soft and comfortable. He called it, “Nature’s Mattress.”**
* **At night we would lay on our backs and look up at the millions of stars in the dark sky. Dad taught us about shooting stars, constellations, Heavenly Father’s creation of worlds without number, the rotation of the earth and planets and many more things. The best instruction was about being responsible as campers. He taught us we need to leave a camp site better than when we found it.**
* **And, he taught us about how to be good people, about living the commandments and being true to what we believed. About the importance of following the Savior.\**
* **He taught us how to fish. We would catch a lot of Rainbow Trout and then, clean them, cook them over a campfire and eat them right out of the tin foil they were cooked in. One time, we were fishing and our older brother threw in his fishing line and immediately caught a fish. It was because he snagged it by the tail as soon as his lure hit the water.**
* **He taught us how to read a map and compass. He taught us the best compass in life is the scriptures and following the prophet.**
* **He taught us to swim at a community pool so that we wouldn’t be in danger around lakes and rivers.**
* **He taught us how to hang our food from a tree so the bears don’t come and eat it.**

**Dads are important. Twin Power is listening to your dad and mom and learning all you can from them. It is also learning how to be a good father and mother now so that when you eventually have children, you will be ready to be the best dad or mom in the world!**