

SHUK Easter workshop

“Growing together through honesty and trust”

Nordtangen, Norway, 16. – 21. April 2014



The workshop took place at Nordtangen scout camp by a beautiful lake north of Oslo. There were in total 39 participants. We were blessed with beautiful sunshine almost the whole time.

The workshop started with a small group on Wednesday evening. We were about ten people and most of us knew each other from before. Through playing games, singing songs, dancing & talking, we created a nice family atmosphere. When more people arrived the next day with an age range between 1 ½ and 70 years old, the feeling of being a family with three generations *expanded*. Everyone helped in taking care of the young kids, and the older people gave lectures and made food.

Throughout the workshop we spent time together as teams, where we discussed our thoughts around growth, honesty & trust. We also shared different trust dilemmas and discussed how we could solve these dilemmas in the best possible way. We played games together & celebrated Easter Sunday with an Easter egg hunt where the participants were challenged by “the Growth Bunny”, the “Trust Bunny” and the “Honest Bunny”.



The introduction lecture was given by Marea Toresen who brought us back to the beginning of time, and explained how Adam & Eve lost trust in God and were therefore not honest with him. The result was that Adam & Eve instead of growing, went instead the opposite way. Therefore if we want to grow we have to restore what happened back then. Some key points to growth are to trust God, to trust yourself and others. This lecture was followed up by John Widenhofer's lecture about the creation. He taught us the importance of attitude. How God has the same attitude as a baby. He is excited by everything he sees! We have to be like babies and see the world with inspired eyes!

Our main lecturer was James Baughman who talked about how we cultivate our character. As quoted: "The most profound task in life is to develop sensitivity to the needs and concerns of others, manifested in "other-centred" attitudes and behaviours". He gave us insight in how we, by checking ourselves, can attain the character we search for in others. The characteristics we wish to see in others are also the characteristics we should try to attain ourselves.

In the last lectures the main topic was Purity and the Blessing, since the Blessing is the place where we can really grow towards mature beings who resemble our Heavenly Parent. We received a Blessing testimony by Lisa Widenhofer and a lecture given by Jane Toresen from the Blessed Families department - a simple overview over Purity and the Blessing. Our partner helps us to see our greatest qualities, and also help us improve our weak sides. After the lectures we spent time together brothers and sisters divided, where the Blessed (2nd gen.) members gave insight and answered questions concerning purity and Blessing.

The whole workshop ended with a prayer evening where each participant got time to reflect and share some individual time with our Heavenly Parent.

Thank you Heavenly Parent for the success of the workshop and the beautiful moments we could share together as a huge family!