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From my perspective as a retired educator and single mother of an African American son I would like to thank Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp for providing my son Ethan and the other participants with critical life skills that can only be taught from other African Americans or vetted males. I read an article titled “*5 Life Skills to Teach Black Boys: A Parent's Addendum to the Common Core*” by Valerie Wilson that tied in with the values of what my son experienced this summer at Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp. The skill that outranked the others stated and closely aligned with Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp values included:

1. Absorb all the positive reinforcement, self-confidence and self-worth your young, impressionable mind can hold. This builds immunity against negative images, lies and stereotypes that conspire to destroy you.

Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp is Christ-centered and is focused towards boys aged 8-13, and focuses on group mentoring, discipleship, and servant-style leadership training that speaks to the heart of the impressionable boys. Their Christ-centered approach was cost-effective, safe, structured, versatile, and multi-component. Furthermore, they encouraged each boy to embrace a strict code of conduct, to live honorably, courageously as a true man, and a modern-day knight. As a mother, I was elated to see this drastic change in my son. Additionally, research has suggested that boys who grow up in father-absent households are more likely to act out in school and later in society. They are also more likely to suffer from low self-esteem, depression, and other mental illnesses. I am confident that those are not my concerns.

I feel that my son has established and created a deeper relationship with God where he has experienced the unconditional understanding of God’s grace and love. The Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp has deepened his faith that I can attest to witnessing in his daily walk with God. My son has grown in his knowledge, awareness, and experiences. I enjoyed hearing about his daily schedule, elaborate meals, and experiences. As parents we were encouraged to communicate more, ask questions, practice, and be concerned which I feel strengthened my son’s spiritual growth because he knows without a doubt that I am highly engaged and empowered to help him excel.

Additionally, I would compare Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp to the My Brother’s Keeper Alliance initiative that address persistent opportunity gaps that particularly helps shield black boys from marginalization and mistreatment. In 2014, President Obama established the federal program, My Brother’s Keeper, which evolved into My Brother’s Keeper Alliance (MBK Alliance) and is focused on “building safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunity. I have

spent a career analyzing and speaking about racial disparities in nearly every realm of American economic and social life. Education plays a critical role in ameliorating these disparities. Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp helped him to make literacy a priority and encouraged him to better understand that “Education is the Key to Many Opportunities.”

Finally, When the Lord inquired of Cain, “Where is Abel, thy brother?” Cain arrogantly replied with the question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Moses 5:34). Over the years that question has been asked numerous times. As a recipient, single mother and retired teacher, I can truly say that this program works... through the love, support, and experiences. I firmly believe that my son and the other participants truly understand how to recognize and follow the “Fruits of the Holy Spirit” for their neighbors as well as for themselves. Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp has been a blessing to my son, my family, and the community. The growth the participants have experienced includes:

- Cultivate a Modern-Day Knights with a Warrior mindset of: Tradition, honor, and discipline.
- To foster a sense of Chivalry and Excellence.
- Experience “The Fruit of the Spirit” ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- To reach one and teach one (Like-minded vested adults in the form of volunteers, community leaders, donors, and staff).
- Provided fun, yet life-changing experiences.
- Build personal and lifetime friendships/relationships.
- Rigorous and well-rounded educational opportunities.
- To inform, equip, and activate individuals and families to transform.

Knight Life Christian Discipleship Camp surpassed all my expectations and then some!!

Sincerely and forever grateful,

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