

Murphy Was An Optimist *Or... Don't Give Me A Paddle*

Editor's Note: *When I first heard Mac tell this story, I almost soiled my armor. Nobody in the room could stop laughing. Every new twist in the story brought a gale of laughter from the dozen or so youth ministers listening. But there's a lesson to be learned from this tale—a lesson that every youth leader needs to learn. You're familiar with Murphy's Law, right? "Anything that can go wrong, will." But, God seems to specialize in using Murphy's Law to further His Kingdom. That's why I asked Mac to tell his saga yet again.*

Lord, please let me out
of working with students.

That is how I felt after leading my first camp with youth. I had volunteered to lead the youth at a church in Palm Springs, California. I thought a canoe trip would be a great idea, so I went to the river and reserved camps, rented canoes, and made the arrangements to take one hundred students down the Colorado River near the town of Needles.

Read what happened. Then, maybe you'll see why I said, "Lord, please let me out of working with students."

Day 1

We get started late, so the camp is closed when we get there and we have to make camp on the river with no water or electricity. Rather than go to sleep, the students start a water fight. They find some kids from Needles to use as

