



Who Can Resist A Puddle?

by Pamela Stephens

Rain, rain, go away . . . I said that quite a few times this season! Gray appeared to be permanently painted upon the canopy of sky overhead. Each downpour added to already rapidly running streams, filled lakes and contributed to a plethora of puddles. Water, water, everywhere! Slicker-clad children walking, running and jumping gleefully through water-filled gutters, sloshing and splashing, throwing water hither and yon, "Singing-in-the-Rain" style. The years rolled back in my memory of my own childhood and slickers!

As children, puddles are an enticement promising delight and excitement. Squeals of joy resound in every neighborhood and it is great fun! But, we don't often see adults rollicking in those same puddles unless it's Gene Kelley or Fred Astaire in an old musical. Unfortunately, other types of puddles have lured our loved ones. Looking for something more in their daily lives, they want escape or even a flirtation with danger. These puddles may deceive them at first glance, but they are life-threatening holes full of all types of mud, pain and sadness. And when they succumb to these mud puddles, anyone near them gets splattered with the consequences.

"Listen my son, (or daughter) accept what I say and the years of your life will be many. I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction; do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way." Proverbs 4:10-15

We all can veer off the path and venture into territory that leads to wrong directions. But we need to watch the road signs along the way listening for HIS Voice saying, "This is the way, walk in it." How many times have I heard a warning whisper, "Don't go there; watch out!" I need to continually seek

God's direction, ask for wisdom, keep company with those who "know the way" and will encourage us when we are in doubt, and then walk straight ahead on our journey. Sometimes we need them to walk with us for awhile until we can find our way also. Can you hear King Solomon saying to us: "Choose wisely; it is your life"?

Watch out for those mud puddles!

Reflect and Respond

- 1) Think about a "puddle" you have been tempted to investigate. What stopped you from proceeding? Maybe you jumped in? What were the results?
- 2) How can we encourage those around us when they are tempted to get off the right path?
- 3) Have you ever been splattered by a "mud puddle person"? How did you handle it?



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Pam and her husband Bob, moved to NW Arkansas four years ago from California. They have two daughters and two grandsons and love traveling and RV'ing in their motor home when they aren't in Bella Vista. They celebrated their 40th anniversary in January this year.