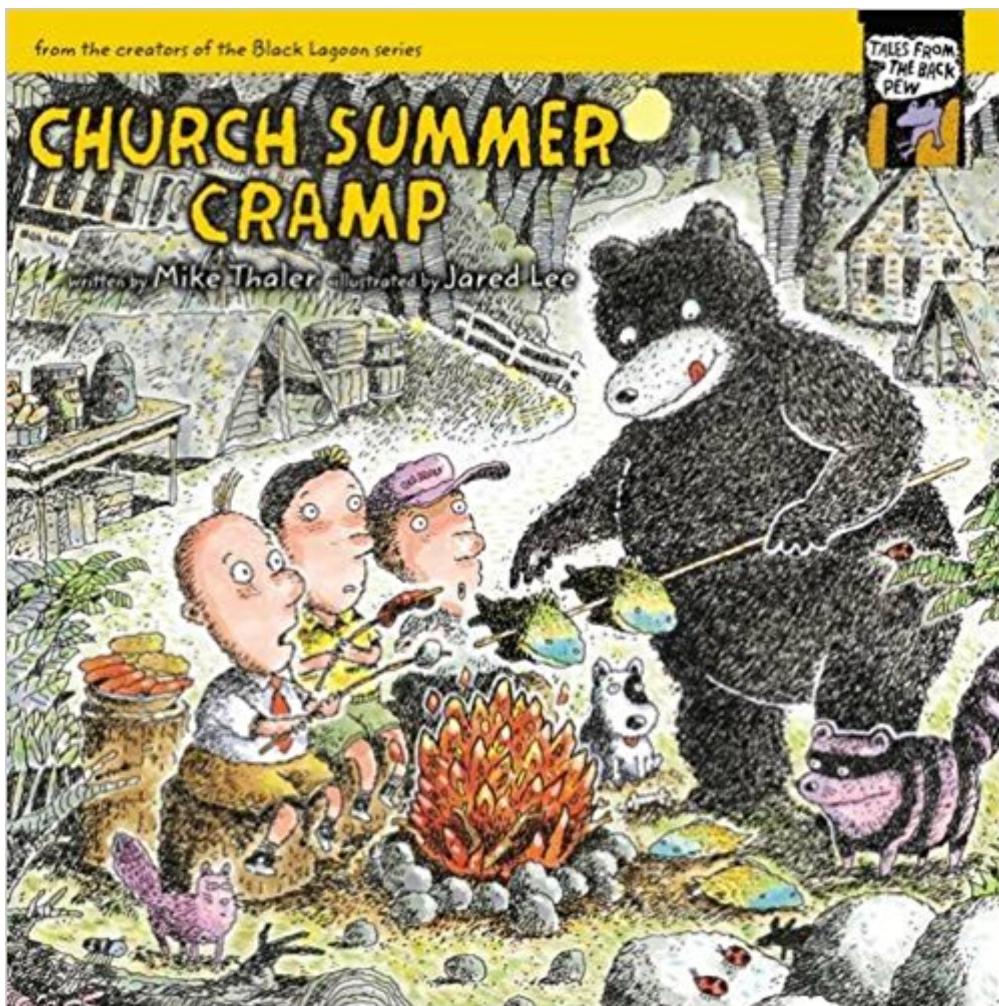


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# Church Summer Cramp (Tales From The Back Pew)



## Synopsis

With hilarious stories and nutty pictures, the Tales from the Back Pew series offers kid's a unique view of church. Enjoy plenty of giggles with your child---and learn fun, important truths about God, church, and the Bible. Mom's sending me to church summer cramp---I mean, camp. The woods are full of poison ivy, and you become a mosquito burrito and eat in a mess hall. Yuck!

## Book Information

Series: Tales from the Back Pew (Book 4)

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

With hilarious stories and nutty pictures, the Tales from the Back Pew series offers kid's a unique view of church. Enjoy plenty of giggles with your child---and learn fun, important truths about God, church, and the Bible. Mom's sending me to church summer cramp---I mean, camp. The woods are full of poison ivy, and you become a mosquito burrito and eat in a mess hall. Yuck!

Known as America's Riddle King, Mike Thaler is the author of the popular Black Lagoon books and the Heaven and Mirth series. He lives in Portland, Oregon, and travels nationally, speaking in schools, libraries, and churches. Jared Lee is an accomplished illustrator with

experience working for the likes of L.L. Bean, Procter & Gamble, Hasbro, Scholastic, Simon & Schuster, and the U.S. Postal Service. He received a BFA degree from the John Herron Art Institute. He currently resides in Lebanon, Ohio.

This book is so cute. The artwork is priceless. It is pen and ink drawings then colored in, the details are quite intricate. I was laughing on the first page. If you have ever been to any kind of camp as a child be it scouts, church or family you will be able to relate to this book. It only takes about 5 min to read depending if you can stop laughing enough to turn the page. It would be great to have a CD with it being read with sound effects. I highly recommend this book. Great gift for a teen going to camp as a counselor also. It is for kids ages 6-9 but I'd make that to age 90. :)

When it comes to church, kids sometimes think and say the darnedest things. The Tales from the Back Pew series takes a light-hearted look at some of the misconceptions our children may have about church. In Church Summer Cramp, the main character is trying to process all that the pastor has promised them about the youth group's trip to summer camp. He's not quite sure how getting lost, becoming a mosquito burrito, and sleeping in tents are anybody's idea of a good time. In spite all his objections he remembers that God took care of the Israelites when they were in the wilderness wandering around lost and sleeping in tents. If God took care of the Israelites, he can trust that He will take care of him too. Besides, canoodling, throwing horses, and possibly running into Bigfoot sounds like it might be fun. Children ages 4-8 and their parents will enjoy the light-hearted fun found in the Tales from the Back Pew series. As you complete each story, you'll be able to talk about the realities of "church life" and how it really isn't as bad as they maybe thought it was at first. Be on the lookout for two new titles in this series (Walking the Plank to the Baptism Tank & The Three Wise Guys), both scheduled to release later this year. Mike Thaler, known as the Riddle King of America, is the author of the popular Black Lagoon books and the Heaven and Mirth series. He lives in Portland, Oregon, and travels nationally, speaking in schools, libraries, and churches. Jared Lee is an accomplished illustrator with experience working for the likes of L.L. Bean, Procter and Gamble, Hasbro, Scholastic, Simon & Schuster, and the U.S. Postal Service. He currently resides in Lebanon, Ohio.

My son loved the Black Lagoon series, especially the Gym Teacher story. We still joke about a lap around the gym, a lap around the school, a lap around the world! So kudos to ZonderKidz for signing up the talented Mike Thaler and Jared Lee for this series, Tales from the

Back Pew. Too often, books written to impart a Christian message to children are boring, painfully earnest or outright embarrassing. This book suffers somewhat from Christian seriousness. It's more wordy than the Black Lagoon books. But the puns and word play that Thaler is known for is there, along with Lee's busy artwork. You probably spend more time looking at what's going on in the drawings than you do reading the text. I loved the scene in the movie *The Blind Side* where Sandra Bullock reads from a picture book to her "kids," all of them long past their single-digit years. So, I read this book with my son the other day and reveled in the joy that revisiting a favorite author brings.

The title of this book, *Church Summer Cramp*, written by Mike Thaler, should give you an indication of what to expect from the text. The title is a play on words, as is most of the text. A young boy is headed for summer church "camp," and as you might guess, he's not looking forward to what he is convinced will be an "ordeal." The book starts out: "Our church youth group is having a summer cramp. It's called a retreat. I thought Jesus told us to go forward. Why would we want to retreat?" It continues in this zany manner through to the end. With summer right around the corner, you might be planning on sending your child to a summer church camp. If so, this might be the perfect book for them. The two of you can laugh your way through the pages as you prepare your child for summer church "cramp!" The illustrations by Jared Lee are cartoon-like with speech bubbles sprinkled throughout. **What I Like:** Everything. What a delightful book! It reminds me of the *Little Critter* books (of which I'm a big fan) by Mercer Mayer. **What I Dislike:** Nothing. **Overall Rating:** Excellent. **Age Appeal:** The publisher suggests 4-8 as the appropriate age group for this book. I think that's a bit too young, as most children in this age bracket would be too young to go off to camp by themselves. I think this book would appeal more to children about 8-12. **Christine M. Irvin - Christian Children's Book Review**

I was excited to get "Church Summer Cramp" in the mail. Both of my children are very fond of the "Black Lagoon" series, and this book promised to be a good one from the promotional information I had read on it. This book is full of clever puns and imaginative illustrations that discuss church camp and all the things that could possibly happen there. I primarily got this book for my sons Erik and Kyle, who love illustrated books. After reading it to them, and asking each boy to read it by themselves and to tell me what they thought, they commented: Erik (age 8, about to be 9) "Imaginative, creative." Kyle (age 7) "I liked it." The puns are what had me at hello. Some of my favorites in the book are as follows: "They tell us to sew our names in our socks and

underwear—that's so they can identify the body parts." "He (meaning the Pastor) says the woods are full of wonder. Yeah, you wonder if you are going to come back alive. He says you feel really close to God, and you pray a lot. Yeah, you pray that you will come back alive." Some parts of this childrens book are a bit preachy, however the clever illustrations are definately worth looking at in this book. It is definately for ages 4-8, not age 6-9 like the back cover suggests.

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