

# CREATED BY GOD

A Retreat For 5th Grade Girls and Boys  
(plus the loving adults who watch and help them grow)



APRIL 24-26, 2009  
**WARREN W. WILLIS**  
UNITED METHODIST CAMP

**A COMPREHENSIVE, FAITH-BASED STUDY OF HUMAN SEXUALITY** for 5th graders and their parents or guardians, *Created by God* was developed by Dr. James H. Ritchie, Jr., a pastor, religious educator, writer, composer, husband, father, and grandfather.

Dr. Ritchie will be at the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp again this year to lead us in this amazing retreat. **OUR RETREAT IS OPEN TO 5TH GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS OR SPONSORING ADULTS.**

Please read Dr. Ritchie's mission below and visit his website for more information about the content of the Created by God curriculum.

[www.rfsministries.com](http://www.rfsministries.com)

## ♂Mission♀

**To offer reliable information** to young persons about human sexuality—anatomy, attitudes, growth and development, relationships, reproduction, responsibility, and safety—built on a foundation of faith.

**To create arenas of intimacy** where young persons feel free to ask all of their questions.

**To nurture communication skills** between parents and preteens.



Registration begins in January 2009. Click on the events tab for registration information and more detailed information about the weekend.

[www.warrenwilliscamp.org](http://www.warrenwilliscamp.org)

## ♂Format♀

Dr. Ritchie will spend time with both parents and their children over six sessions of active learning experiences. Those sessions are outlined below. Adult leaders will accompany the children in mixed gender small groups as they are led by Dr. Ritchie through the curriculum. Parents will be led through a series of workshops, forums, and discussions dealing with raising children in the 5th grade and beyond. Scripture, worship, and music are woven throughout the study. This weekend will be a great experience to worship, learn, play games, eat delicious food, and work on communication building.

**THE PARENT SESSION** gives parents an overview of the study, time to talk together, and an opportunity to ask questions about the study.

**STUDENT SESSION 1** gently eases young persons into the event and overcomes any resistance.

**STUDENT SESSION 2** covers female and male anatomy and growth and development.

**STUDENT SESSION 3** focuses on relationships and God's call to intimacy with God and one another.

**STUDENT SESSION 4** deals with reproduction and all other issues.

**THE PARENT/STUDENT SESSION** The intent of this session is to review new information that was learned during the weekend and to participate in communication exercises.

## Why Them, Why Now?

5th graders are at the ideal age for a study like *Created by God*. While some of them are already familiar with growth spurts, menstruation, deepening voices, and changing family dynamics, such phenomena have not yet taken complete control of their lives. They are curious but not yet obligated to pretend as though they already know everything. When placed in a setting where their ability to understand "adult" information is appreciated and their questions treated with respect, they will ask *anything*.