

Family Devotional

From July 16, 2017

Try this: Plan your own treasure hunt for your family. The Bible will be your treasure at the end, so place it somewhere you can all gather to finish the devotional. Then, begin working backwards. Use a compass to determine the direction and number of steps you want them to go (remember younger children have shorter legs and take smaller steps).

Break the whole treasure hunt into small sections. Provide them an action or activity to do after each step. Example: West 5 steps then jump 5 times. Make it as long or as short as you want depending on the age of your group.

Assemble your group, give them your instructions with a compass, and watch them go!

Idea adapted from <http://thecraftingchicks.com/outdoor-compass-treasure-hunt/>

Once you have reached your destination have someone:

Read: Psalm 42

Reflect: Do you think it would have been easier or harder to find our destination if we didn't have our treasure map and compass? Why?

Life is like a journey or quest. Sometimes it is easy to see where we are going, but other times we can feel lost and alone. We might feel a lot like the person who wrote this psalm felt. It is totally normal to have these feelings. It is what we choose to do with them that will determine the course of our life.

What would have happened if you chose not to follow the map, but made up your own directions?

These feelings can become important turning points. We either choose to turn away from God to find our own way, or we can choose to turn towards God, and ask Him to be our guide. Asking God to be our guide is like having a map and compass to help us in the journey. It doesn't mean we will instantly arrive, but we have someone who knows the destination on our side helping us along!

Even when we choose to go our own way, God is always waiting, and available for us to turn back to Him when we realize just how much we need Him! We can never go too far off course for Him to find us!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on **Psalm 42:11** this week.

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Ideas: Write it down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for being willing to be my friend and guide in life. Help me turn to you and trust your direction and comfortAmen!"

