

Family Devotional

Try this: Use masking or painters tape to make a maze on the floor. From August 20, 2017 You can determine the difficulty, but allow for enough room on the path for a person to walk without touching the tape. Have one person put on a blind fold and have the others in the group direct them as to which way to go. The goal is for the blindfolded person to make it through the maze without stepping off the path. The difficulty is not everyone will be giving good advice. Once the person is blindfolded appoint one of the other people in your group to give the correct instructions on which way to go through the maze and everyone else will give false instruction. The goal is for the blind folded person to decide who they can trust. Allow each person that wants a turn at being blindfolded to go. If time allows they can do it multiple times. Then talk about it. What made it difficult to go through the maze? Was it hard to stay focused when there were so many voices giving you advice? How did you decide who you should listen? What did you have to do in order to hear them? Did this activity remind you of life sometimes? Maybe you're trying to hear what God is saying to you, but there are all sorts of distractions trying to get your attention. Let's read the following verses and see what advice Paul gives.

Read: Colossians 2:6-8

Reflect:

- What does it mean to be rooted and built up in Christ?
- What are some ways we can do that?

Paul warns us about not being taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophies. In our activity we experienced this by people giving us advice that sounded good, but did not lead us in the right direction.

- What are some thought people around you might convenience you are "good" or fun, but lead you off the direction of God's path? Bullying, greed, selfishness, negative attitude
- How do these things distract you from hearing God clearly?

The best news is that God doesn't ask us to do any of this by ourselves. Most other religions focus on a person following a certain list of rules in order to reach a higher point. Jesus doesn't ask us to reach a certain level of "goodness" before we become a Christian. All He asks is for us to recognize that we need Him and accept the forgiveness and grace Jesus offers us! When we receive Christ Jesus as Lord and live our lives in Him we will continue on the path He has marked out for us. There will probably be times that the other voices sound convincing, but when we call out to Him, He is faithful to respond and help us get back on track. Jesus wants to be our partner and guide on the journey of life.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on James 4:8a this week.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

Ideas: Write this passage 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 of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you drawing near to me and walking with me every day. Help me resist the temptation and distractions in life that try to steal my attention away from youAmen."