

WANDERING THROUGH A MAZE

[Lord,] I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

—Psalm 73:23-24

INTRODUCTION

When you face a difficult choice, do you ever feel a little lost? Does it seem as if there are two or more directions that you could go, and you're just not sure which is the right one? Life is confusing sometimes, and it certainly would be nice if there were signs to point the way, or a voice to tell you what to do. But hold on! There *are* signs to point the way, and there *is* a voice that can tell you what to do. The Bible is full of wise advice about how to live your life—you just need to read it. And the Holy Spirit is always present to give you wise direction—you just need to ask him for it and listen for him to speak. There's no need to wander through life relying on your own sense of direction. God will guide you along.

Today's devotion is based on Psalm 73:23-24, which says, "[Lord,] I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory." The devotion is called "Wandering through a Maze."

DEVOTION

Libby laughed as she and Alayna ran through the cornfield. Then the path they were on suddenly ended. "Another dead end!" Alayna said. The friends were trying to get through the maze Alayna's father had built in the cornfield next to his apple orchard. Backtracking, the girls returned to the last crossroads. "Which way, Dad?" Alayna cried.

From overhead Libby heard a chuckle. "Go right, sweetie." She looked up. Alayna's father was standing in a watchtower that gave him a view of the entire maze.

"He was here the whole time?" Libby asked.

Alayna nodded. "Yep. He put up that tower so he can guide people who need help."

Life is like a maze. You can't see very far ahead, and you constantly have to decide which way to go. But you're not in this maze alone! God is with you. He can see the way and guide you. Each time you reach a corner, he'll tell you which way to turn, until you finally make it through.

LIFE IN BIBLE TIMES

The Israelites didn't really wander in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. God led them the whole time. But he took them along a winding, twisting path, like a maze.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you remember a time when you didn't know what to do, but God showed you the right way to go? How did he do that? How did you feel at first when you were confused? How did you feel after he gave you the guidance you needed?

2. When we pray to God for guidance, he doesn't usually hand us a map that lays out our entire journey. Instead he just shows us the next step to take. Why, do you think, is this so?

For a clue to one possible answer, have children think about the way we learn to walk or read. God is teaching us to trust him throughout our entire lives, and we learn one step at a time!

3. When you travel with a GPS device in your car, it tells you what to do before you even get to the intersection. Why doesn't God give us guidance like that, without our having to ask for it?

One answer: God wants us to keep coming to him and asking him for guidance; he wants us to rely on him, not just take his help for granted. Our relationship with him is very important to him, and he wants us to value him even more than we value the help he can give us.

4. What should you do if you really *want* to go in one direction and it *seems* like the best direction to go, but you sense that God is telling you to go another way?

Answer: Talk to your mom or dad or another trusted, godly adult to make sure that you're hearing God correctly. Then obey what God is telling you to do! He knows better than you, or anybody, what is right and what is best for you.

5. What should you do if you ask God for guidance, and he doesn't seem to be answering you?

Answer: You should keep on waiting until God provides the guidance you need. It would be much better to lose some time than to take a wrong turn in life! And your willingness to wait on God shows him that you trust him.