

Meet Jesus  
*Outside*  
Bible Prayer Walks

DON MACLAFFERTY

# *Meet Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks*

Don MacLafferty

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Special thanks to the following volunteers:

Teri Escullar for her beautiful drawings to illustrate each prayer walk.

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## *Note from the Author*

When our children were very young and still chasing butterflies, watching snails, and counting dandelions, I was convicted as a young daddy that our children needed to know how to pray. I wanted our children to know how to talk with God and how to listen to Him. I didn't want them to see prayer as only for blessing meals, meetings, and the sick. I yearned for them to see prayer as sharing their hearts with the One who loves them the most and hearing what He had to say to them!

I also prayed that our children would enjoy the written Word of God as a personal letter from Jesus right to their hearts. I did not want it to be a dusty book in a dark corner of a library but a trusty flashlight to hold tightly to in the darkest night. But how?

In the early mornings, God often calls me out under the stars. As the sun melts the mist away, I walk in the forest and pray. Praying for my dear wife April and for our children has become a great blessing, joy, and calling for me as a husband and father.

During one of these early morning outdoor walks with God, He gave me the idea of Bible prayer walks as a way to teach our lively children how to pray through Bible stories in the great out-of-doors. The goal was for our children to meet the Author of the woods, fields, streams, and the written Word. We began this adventure years ago and now invite you to become a part of it!

## **Why Go on a Bible Prayer Walk?**

Sometimes our prayers become boring--a formality rather than a meaningful conversation with a God who is alive. Yet, He offers us the deepest relationship known to humans and wants to converse with us in real, meaningful, and delightful ways, as though we were talking with a much-loved family member or a dear, trusted friend. Bible prayer walks deepen our experience with Jesus and are one of many ways to keep our relationship with Him fresh.

We live in a time when friends and families are finding it increasingly difficult to be together. Bible prayer walks are something that both friends and the whole family--both young and old--will enjoy doing together.

## **What Is a Bible Prayer Walk?**

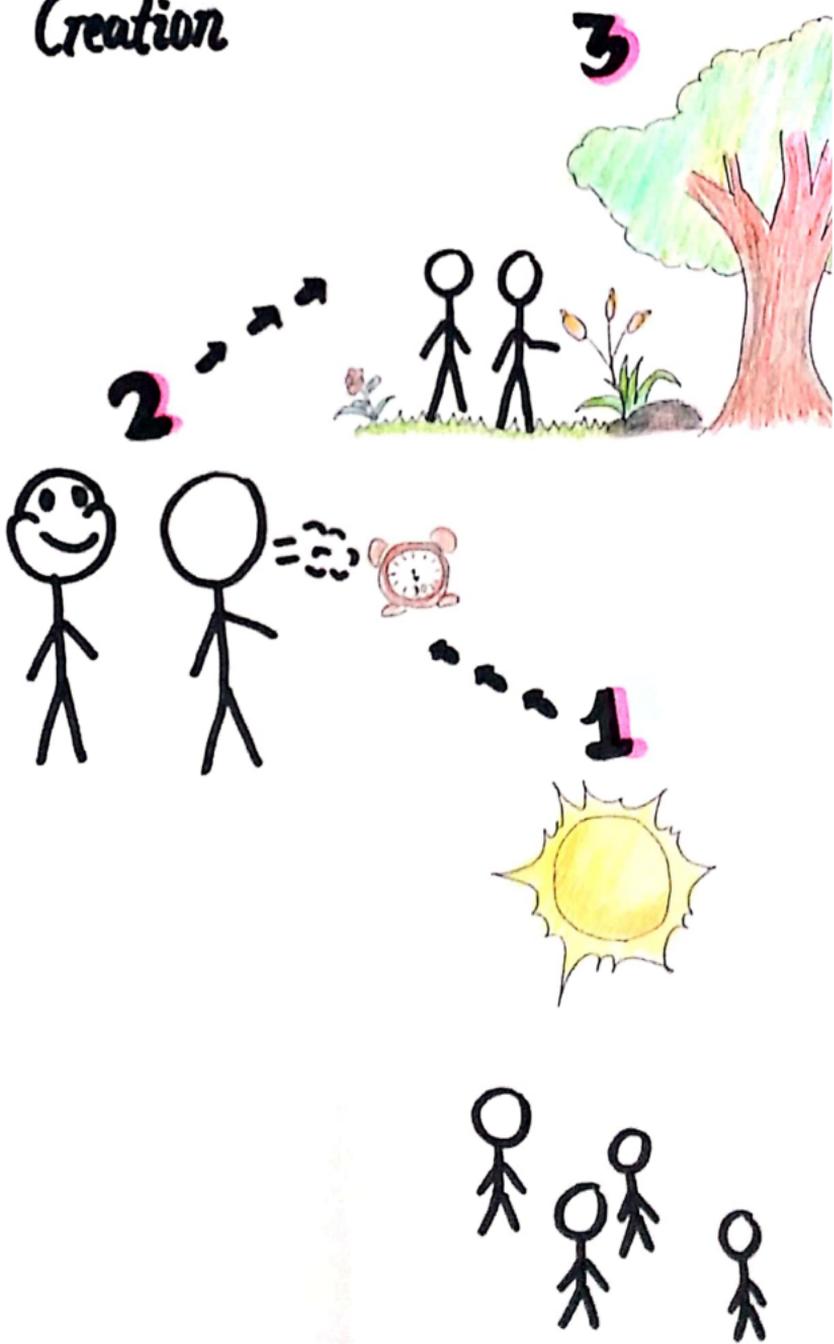
Bible prayer walks focus on exploring the Word of God through prayer and God's second book of creation. They combine four elements to engage the mind and heart:

- The written Word of God (usually Bible stories)
- Meaningful prayer
- Nature
- Action

## **How to Lead a Bible Prayer Walk**

1. Bible Prayer Walks will be more personal and interactive when experienced by 2 to 12 people. The more people you bring in beyond 12 will decrease participation. Keep your group small.
2. Pray with your group in the place where you plan to begin the Bible prayer walk. Pray for God to send the Holy Spirit to open each heart to His Word, to prayer, and to His creation.
3. Invite a volunteer to lead you all to the first place outside that goes along with the story.
4. Read the short Bible passage at the first stop on the walk. Give instructions about what to pray about. Team everyone in twos or fours. Wait until each one is finished praying.
5. Ask for a different volunteer to lead you all to the next place for the story. Repeat the steps of reading the Word and praying together in twos or fours.
6. Generally, three stops for a Bible story works well. When you finish the last stop, ask what they learned on the Bible prayer walk. Thank God together. Return to your beginning place.
7. Be available to talk with those who walked. Pray silently for God to provide divine appointments.
8. Go to [indiscipleship.org](http://indiscipleship.org) to watch a short video clip on how to lead a Bible prayer walk.

# Creation



# Creation

## 1. Light

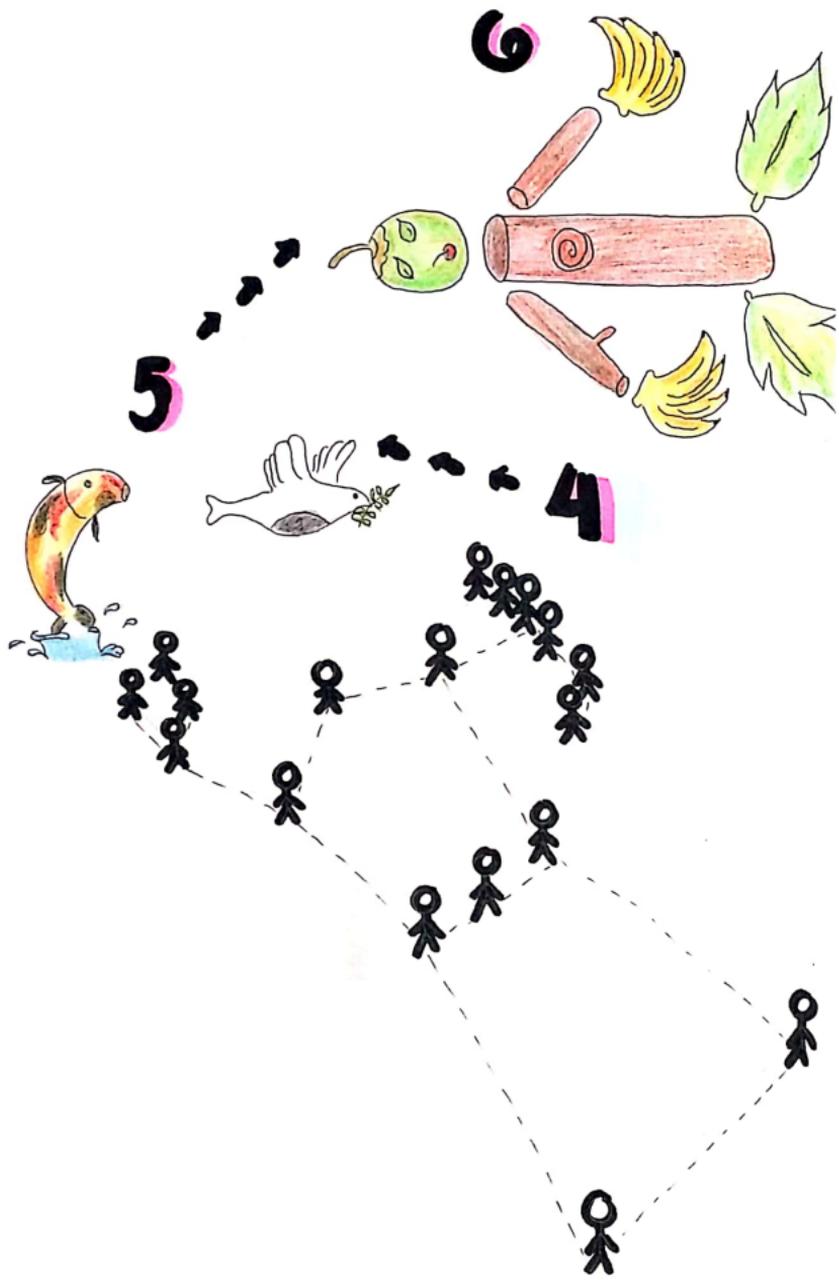
- Walk to the brightest place near you.
- Read Genesis 1:1-5. God created light.
- Ask: What do you like most about light?
- (In teams of 2-4) Thank God for bringing light to the darkness.

## 2. Air

- Read Genesis 1:6-8. God created air for us to breathe.
- Ask: When are you most thankful for air?
- Hold your breath for 30 seconds. Let it out. Take a deep breath of fresh air.
- Thank God for the air you breathe.

## 3. Plants, Flowers, & Trees

- Read Genesis 1:9-13. God created plants, flowers, and trees.
- See how many different plants, flowers, and trees you can find and name in 3 minutes.
- Thank God for plants, flowers, and trees.



#### **4. Sun, Moon, & Stars**

- Read Genesis 1:14-19. God created the sun, moon, and stars.
- See if your group can stand in the shape of a star. If you know any of the constellations of stars, try standing as a group in the shape of a constellation such as The Big Dipper or Orion.
- Thank God for the sun, moon, and stars.

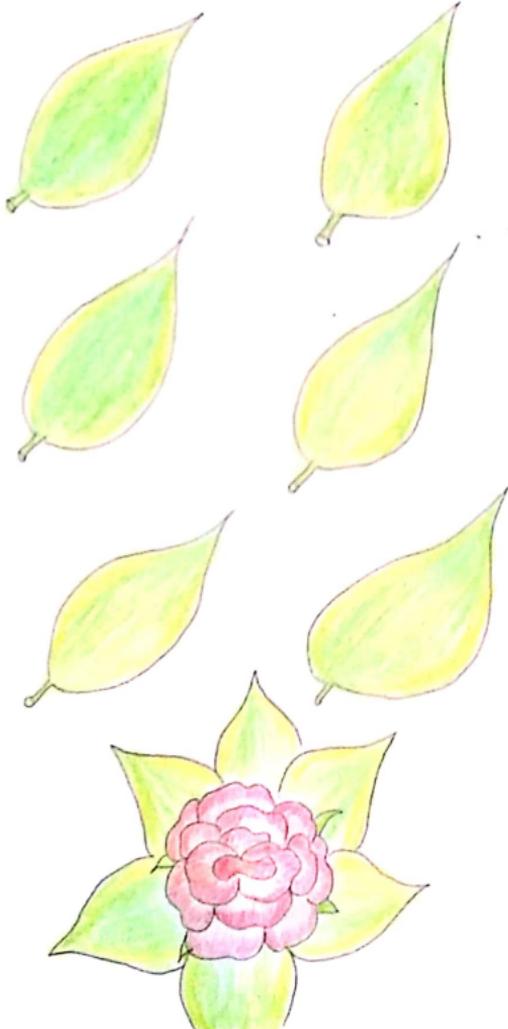
#### **5. Birds & Fish**

- Read Genesis 1:20-23. God created birds and fish.
- See how many birds and/or fish you can find and name in 3 minutes.
- Thank God for the birds and fish.

#### **6. Animals/Man & Woman**

- Read Genesis 1:24-31. God created all the animals as well as people.
- Invite everyone to act out the behavior of an animal that they find fascinating. Ask the group to try to guess.
- Find items from nature to place on the ground in the shape of a man. God lovingly created men and women with His own hands.
- Thank God for creating animals, men, and women.

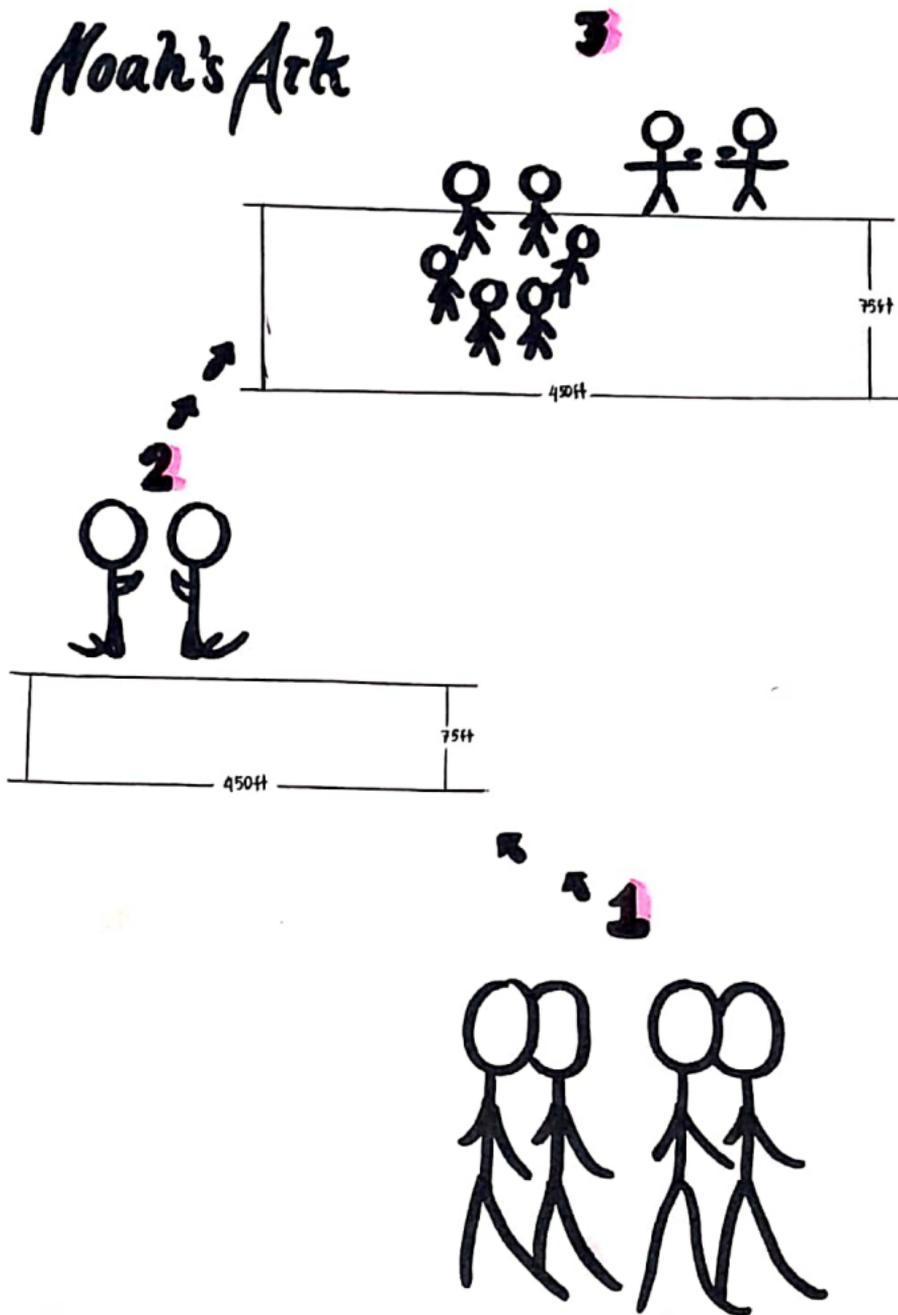
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## **7. Special Blessing Day**

- Read Genesis 2:2,3. God created a special blessing day.
- Work together to place seven, similar items from nature in a row. Find whatever is available from nature to make the seventh item the most special.
- On the seventh day of our world's first week, God did three things:
  - Rested from His work
  - Blessed the day and
  - Made the day holy
  - God put His hand of blessing on this day!
- Ask: What would be the positive results if you celebrated Saturday as a day of rest from work as well as a day to enjoy your friendship with God?
- Thank God for giving us Saturday, the seventh day of the week, as a day to rest from our work, to be blessed in our friendship with God and to be in His holy Presence.

# Noah's Ark



# *Noah's Ark*

## **1. Walk in twos**

- Read Genesis 6:5-9.
- God looked at this world and saw the way humans treated each other and was very sad. But though most of the world had forgotten God, a few, like Noah, still walked with Him.
- Ask: Who is one of your favorite people to walk or hike with?
- Team up in twos. See if you can walk in step with your partner.
- Pray with your partner. Pray that your partner will walk closely with God.

## **2. Open space or field**

- Walk to a large open space or field.
- Read Genesis 6:13-15.
- God told Noah to build something he had never seen before--a large boat called an ark. God told Noah to build it 450 ft (137.16 m.) long and 75 ft (22.86 m.) wide. Work together to mark out the measurements of the ark so that an outline of the ark can be seen on the ground.
- Ask: What is something your parents or teachers asked you to do that you had not seen or done before?
- Pray together with the whole group inside the ark outline for faith to do whatever God asks them to do--even when it is something they have not seen or done before.

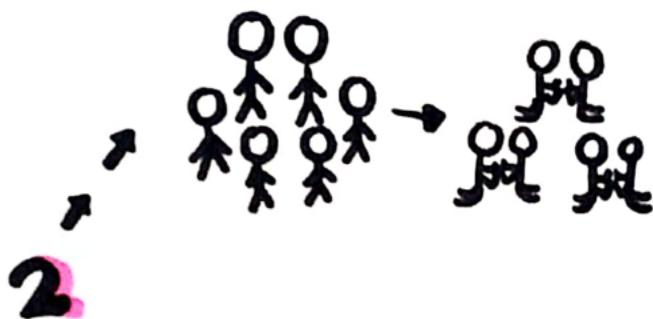
### **3. Two stones**

- Read Genesis 7:1-9.
- Noah entered the ark with his wife, his three sons, and their wives. God brought the animals into the ark Himself.
- Ask two people in your group to stand on the outline of the ark side by side with their arms stretched out with only the tips of their fingers touching. Place one stone even with the outstretched hand of one person and the other even with the outstretched hand of the other person. This will represent the large door in the ark.
- Walk from outside the ark through the door. Make a big circle with those in the ark. Think about who is not in this ark with you now.
- Ask: Do you have family and friends who you wish could be here with you? Pray in twos for specific people who do not walk with God. God longs to save each one before He returns.



Hagar

3



# Hagar

## 1. Sarah's Tent

- Read Genesis 16:1,5,6.
- Sarah wanted a child. The years went by and Sarah got older and still did not have a child. She grew impatient and gave her maid Hagar to be her husband Abram's wife. Hagar got pregnant and Sarah got jealous. Sarah treated Hagar unkindly, and Hagar ran away.
- Run together to the wilderness, and look for a spring of water.
- Pray together as a group. Pray for faith to believe God is with you, even when you are mistreated.

## 2. Spring of Water

- Read Genesis 16:7,11,13.
- Hagar stopped running at a spring of water in the wilderness. She was tired, discouraged, and without hope. God spoke to her and encouraged her, telling her that her baby Ishmael would become a great man.
- Ask: Who is someone that encourages you when you feel sad?
- Find a place to kneel and be quiet by some water.
- Pray by yourself. Thank God for understanding you, for encouraging you when you feel sad and alone.

## 3. Well

- Read Genesis 16:13,14.
- Hagar listened to God's encouraging words and decided she would call Him "You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees."

- Make a circle with the group. Take 30 seconds to look at everyone in the circle. Some may be happy, some sad. Some may have many friends; some may feel alone. Just SEE the people in your group.
- Team up in twos. Pray for each other to know that God sees all you are going through at this time in your life. Thank Him!



# Joseph's Dreams

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2



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# *Joseph's Dreams*

## **1. A Place to Stand**

- Invite a child to stand apart from everyone. Ask if anyone has something that could be added to what the child is wearing or possessing that may make the child feel more special. Invite them to place it on him or at his feet.
- Read Genesis 37:2-4.
- Ask: Why might the coat have made Joseph feel special?
- Pray together that God will help each of you know where your value comes from.

## **2. Grass**

- Send everyone to get a handful of grass, the longer the grass the better. Instruct everyone to stand in a circle with the grass in their hand.
- Read Genesis 37:5-7.
- Ask everyone to lay their handful of grass down on the ground pointing toward the same child they gave the objects to.
- Ask: How do you feel when someone is chosen in place of you?
- Pray together for God to give you peace when someone else is chosen rather than you.

## **3. Deep Pit**

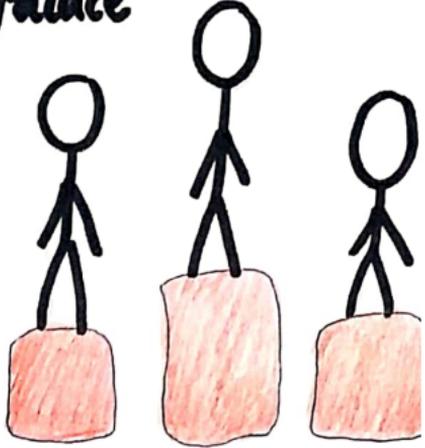
- Ask a child to lead your group to a place that could be Joseph's deep pit. (If you cannot find a place where the group can feel like they are in a pit, ask everyone to sit on the ground.).
- Read Genesis 37:18-24,28.

- Ask: What is the darkest, loneliest place you have ever been?
- Pray together, thanking God for being with you even in the worst of times.

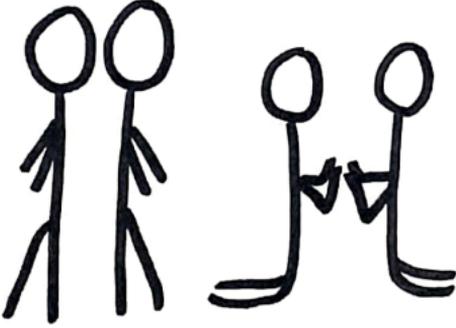


# Joseph's Prison to Palace

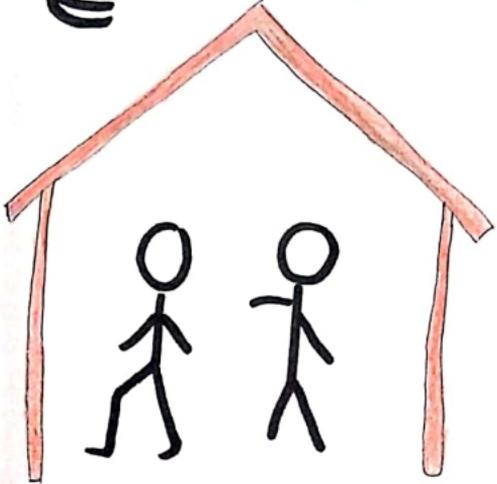
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# *Joseph's Prison to Palace*

## **1. Potiphar's House**

- Walk to Potiphar's House in Egypt.
- Read Genesis 39:1,2,7-9,17-19.
- Joseph was a slave. He had to work very hard for no pay. When Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph to disobey God, Joseph knew his parents and his family would not see what he would do. Joseph chose to honor God even if it would get him into trouble with Potiphar!
- When have you had the opportunity to choose what is right when no one in your family would ever know?
- Pray for courage to be faithful to Jesus even when it gets you into trouble.

## **2. Prison**

- Walk to the Prison in Egypt.
- Read Genesis 39:20-23, 40:9-15, 23.
- Joseph must have been very excited to think that the butler would help him. Imagine his disappointment when the butler forgot him!
- Stand back to back with one other person. When someone does not turn to face you, you may feel lonely.
- Ask: When in your life did you feel forgotten?
- Pray together in twos to keep trusting Jesus when everyone seems to forget you.

## **3. Pharaoh's Palace**

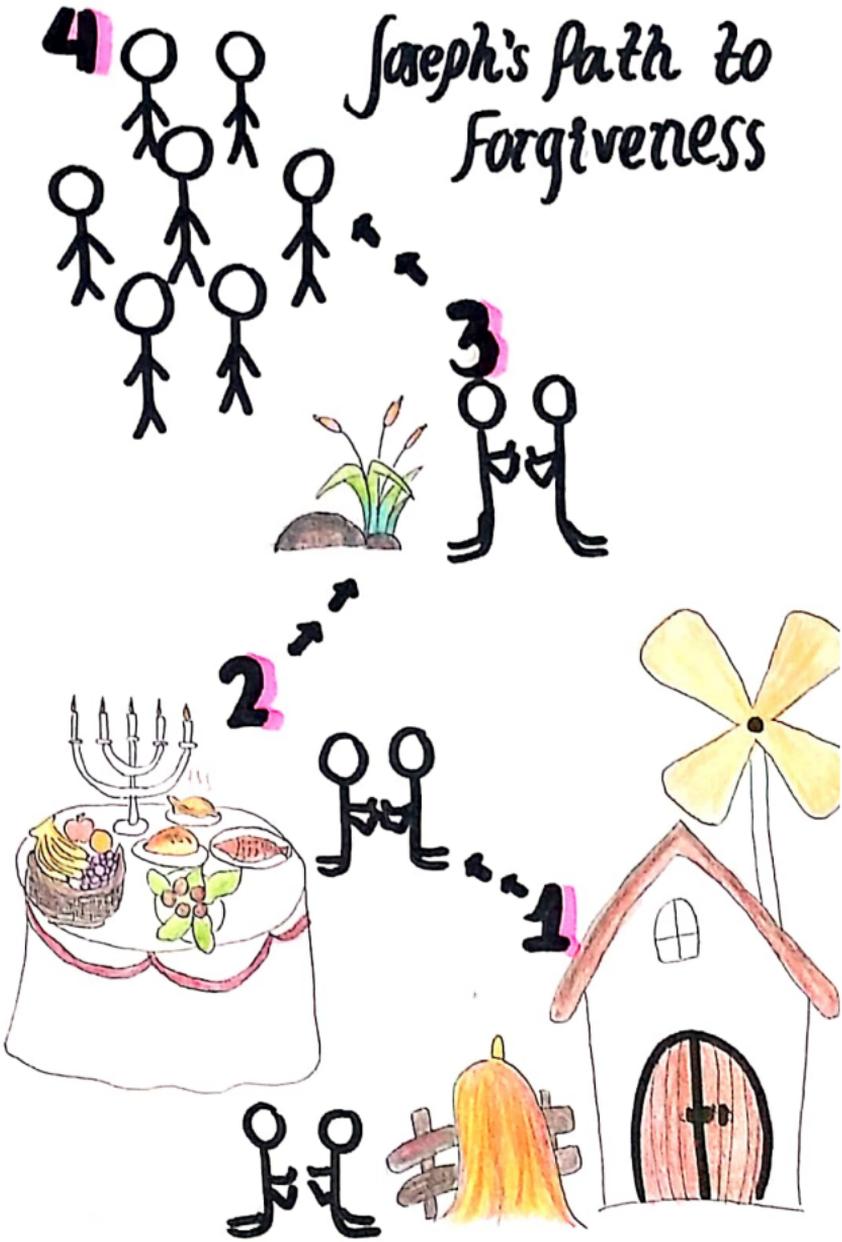
- Walk to Pharaoh's palace.
- Read Genesis 41:14-16,39-41.
- Invite everyone to find something to stand on to make them higher than the

ground around them. Joseph must have been surprised to be honored above all the citizens of the country.

- Ask: When were you surprised to win something?
- Pray in twos to keep your eyes on Jesus even when you meet with great success.



# Joseph's Path to Forgiveness



# *Joseph's Path to Forgiveness*

## **1. Grain Storehouse**

- Go to the Grain Storehouse in Egypt.
- Read Genesis 42:6-9,17-20.
- Ask: What makes it so difficult to see someone who has hurt us?
- Pray in twos that God will comfort you when you face those who have hurt you.

## **2. Table**

- Walk to Joseph's dinner table.
- Read Genesis 43:17,29-34.
- Ask: Why is it so hard to forgive?
- Pray in twos that you will not try to test to see if those who hurt you are good enough for you to forgive.

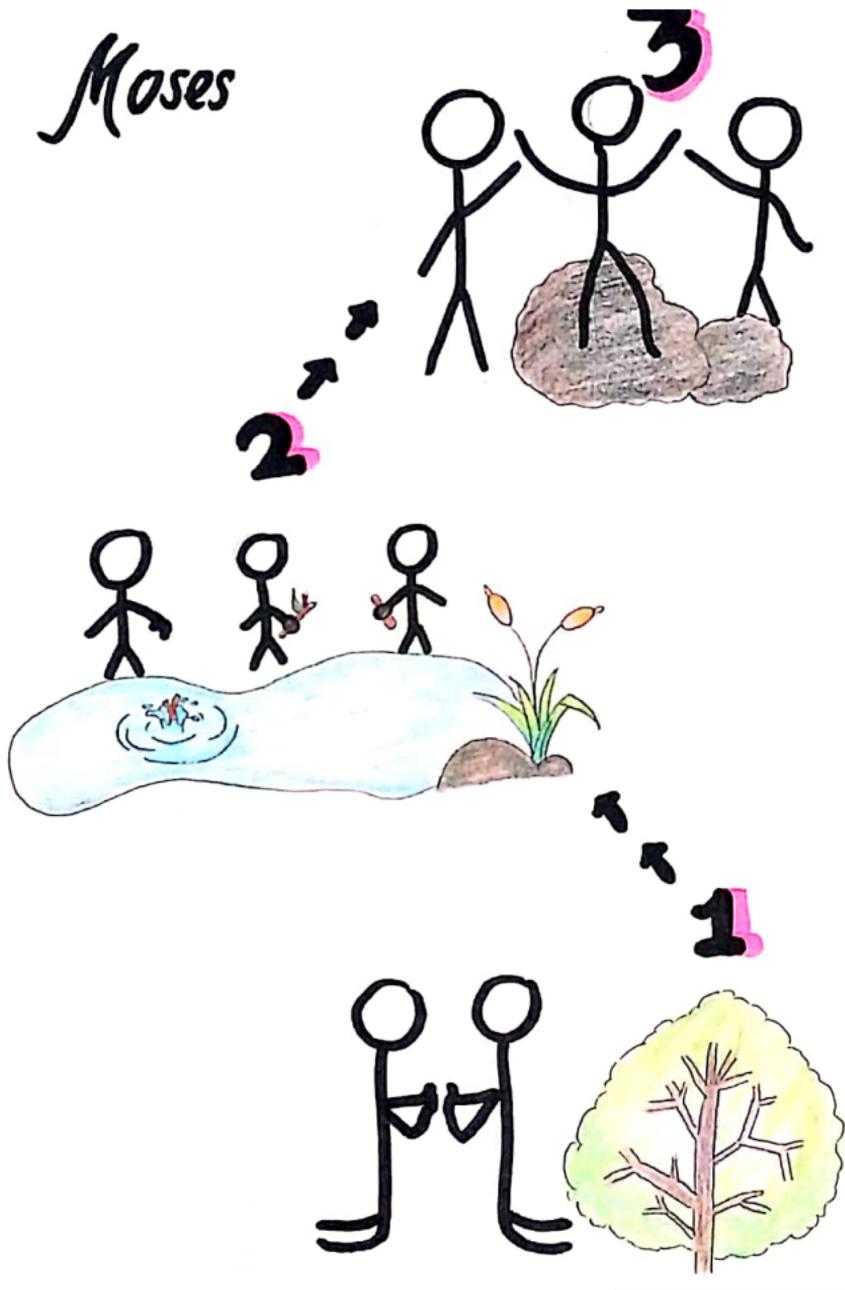
## **3. Rest Stop**

- Go from Egypt to a rest stop on the way to Jacob's Home.
- Read Genesis 44:1-12,18, 32-34.
- Ask: Who can you think of in God's Word who had a change of heart?
- Pray in twos to have a heart to see how God can change those who wronged you.

## **4. Big Circle**

- Form a big circle with your group. Ask someone to be Joseph and to stand in the middle of the circle.
- Read Genesis 45:1-8.
- Ask: What does it feel like to be forgiven?
- Pray for the grace of God to help you completely forgive those who have mistreated you.

Moses



# Moses

## 1. The Burning Bush

- Read Exodus 3:1-7,10.
- God had to get Moses' attention with a burning bush to give him his (Moses') mission.
- Ask: How does God get our attention today?
- Invite everyone to turn away from the group for a couple of minutes for private prayer. Invite each one to reflect on how God may be trying to get their attention right now.
- Call the group together. Say: "God has a mission for each one of you. There is something that God has on His heart for you to do right now in your life."
- Ask: What kind of missions does God have today for children, youth, and adults?
- Team up in twos to pray for each other. Pray that God will show you what He is asking you to do for Him."

## 2. The Bitter Waters of Marah

- Go to water or to a place where you can draw the outline of a pond on a dirt or gravel surface. God called Moses to a specific mission: to lead Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Days after God delivered them from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, Israel was grumbling.
- Read Exodus 15:22-26.
- Gather around the place representing the waters of Marah. Bitterness can ruin our walk with Jesus. Sometimes we are bitter

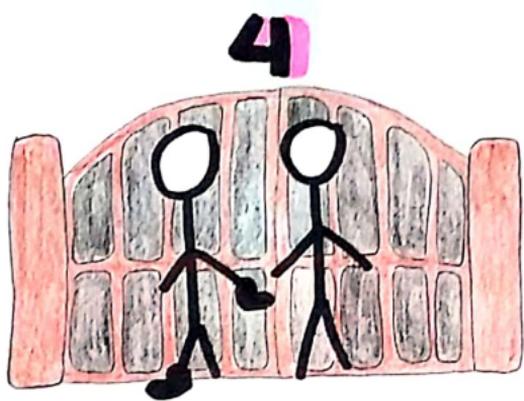
against our friends, family, the church, someone at work or school...even God.

- Ask: What can make us bitter like the waters of Marah?
- Invite the group to have a couple of minutes of private prayer to ask God to identify any place in their heart where they have bitterness.
- Call the group back together. God told Moses to throw a piece of wood into the water. He did, and God made the water sweet. Invite the group to go find a piece of wood and throw it into the "water" with a prayer that God will remove their bitterness and disappointments and make it sweet for His glory.
- When all have thrown in their piece of wood, ask them to form a circle around the "water." Invite several to thank God for His healing power in their hearts and lives...and His help to leave their bitterness behind!

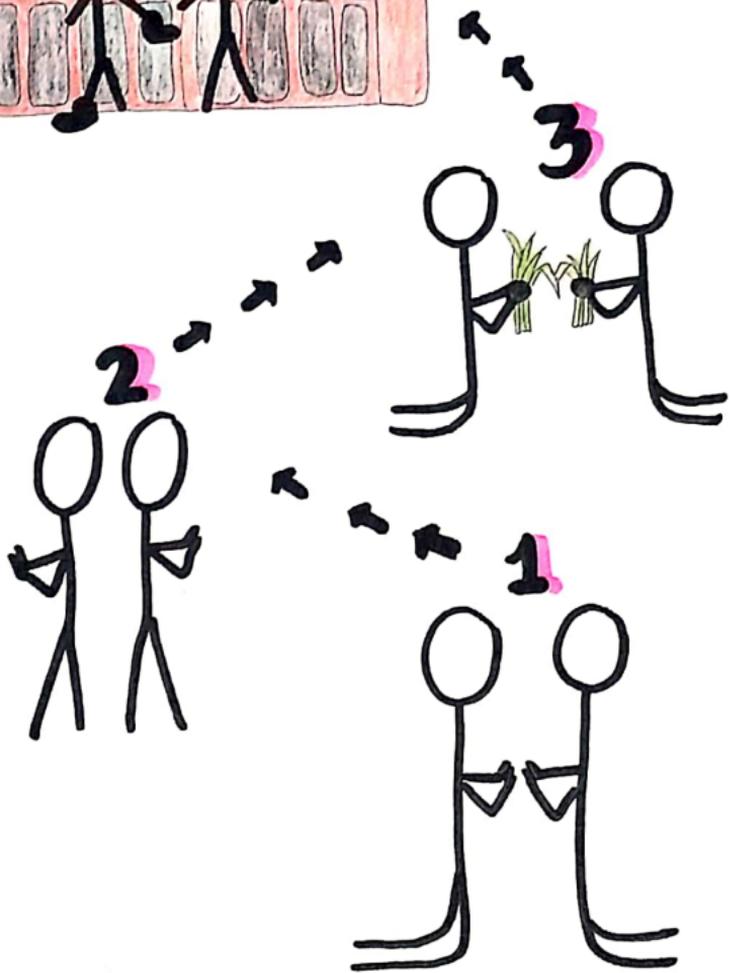
### **3. Seat on a Rock**

- Go to a place where every team of 3 (or 2 if group is small) can have a place to sit on a rock...or if not, a chair, railing etc.)
- Read Exodus 17:8-13,15.
- Every time Moses raised his hands to God, Israel won. Every time Moses let his hands fall down, Israel would lose. Aaron and Hur placed a rock where Moses could sit and raised up Moses' hands. Israel won the victory.
- Say: "Where do you need victories in your life? Team up in threes or twos if necessary. Invite one member of your team to sit down. Ask that person what

areas of their life need prayer support in order to have victories from God. Raise up their hands while both of you pray. Let each member have a turn to sit and be supported in prayer!”



Ruth



# *Ruth*

## **1. Moab**

- Read Ruth 1:1-7.
- Ruth was from the land of Moab. She grew up worshipping gods that could not see or hear her. She and Orpah married Israelite men who were the sons of Elimelech and Naomi, who had come to her country because of a famine in Israel. After about ten years, Naomi's husband and two sons died, and she decided to go back home to Bethlehem. Moab was a place of tears for Ruth, Orpah, and Naomi.
- Ask: What were some of the most difficult places for you to live. Why?
- Pray in twos. Thank God for being with you even in times of tears. Thank God that He has a plan for healing your tears even when you don't see it yet.

## **2. Path to Bethlehem**

- Read Ruth 1:8-16.
- Naomi told Orpah and Ruth to return to their own mother's homes and find a new husband. Orpah returned to her home and to her gods. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, worship the true God, and go to Bethlehem
- Start walking from Moab to Bethlehem.
- Ask: What is most difficult about moving?
- Pray in twos. Stand back to back as you pray. Pray for each other to always choose the living God over the gods of this world. If you choose the living God, then turn and start walking to the barley fields of Bethlehem.

### **3. Barley Field of Bethlehem**

- Read Ruth 2:1-11,14-20.
- When Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem, they needed food to eat. Without knowing it, Ruth was led by God to gather barley in the fields of Boaz. Boaz treated her with kindness and respect and made sure that his servants dropped some extra barley for her to gather and take home to eat.
- Ask: When has God cared for you in unexpected ways?
- With your prayer partner, gather some handfuls of grass, and hold them in your hands as you pray together. Thank God for always taking care of what you need when you need it. Ask for God to forgive you for times you have doubted His care.

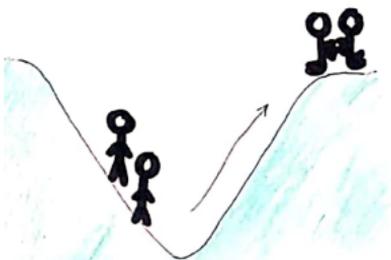
### **4. City Gates**

- Read Ruth 4:1-10, 13.
- Travel to the city gates of Bethlehem. Boaz wanted to marry Ruth and to take care of Naomi and her property, and He went to the city gates to make it official.
- Have a seat in the city gates. Remove one of your shoes and give it to your prayer partner. This custom showed that you would be the redeemer of the land and the people on it. When Boaz became the redeemer, Ruth knew she was safe. God had restored what was taken in Moab.
- Ask: Who in your life makes you feel safe?
- Pray with your prayer partner. Thank God for being the Redeemer and Healer of your heart. Thank Him for seeing your tears and hearing your prayers.



Jonathan

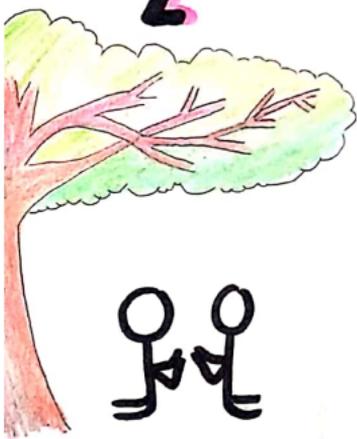
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# Jonathan

## 1. Israelite Army Camp

- Read I Samuel 14:1.
- Prince Jonathan had an armor-bearer to serve him in battle. Jonathan trusted his armor-bearer.
- Ask: Who is your armor-bearer?
- Pray with someone in the group that you feel comfortable with. Pray together for God to prepare your hearts for God's Word.

## 2. Shade Tree

- Go under a shade tree.
- Read I Samuel 14:2,3.
- King Saul was relaxing under a pomegranate tree instead of leading God's people. Saul was afraid of the enemy army.
- Ask: When is fear good? When is it bad for you?
- Pray with your partner, asking God to forgive you for times you have chosen fear instead of faith.

## 3. Ravine

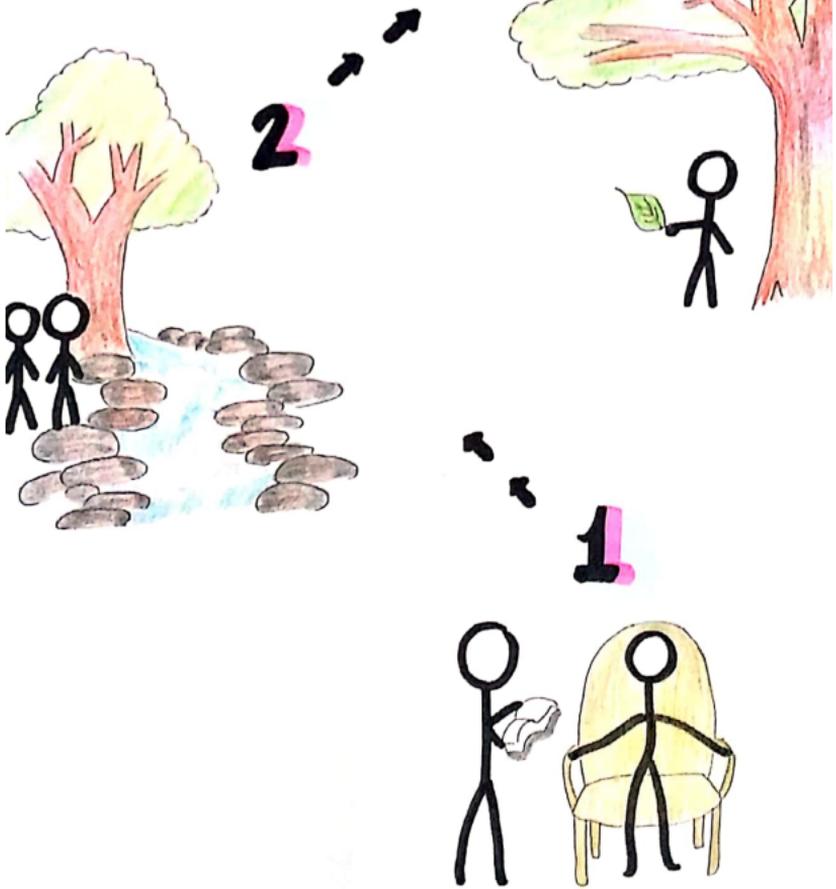
- Go to a place that reminds you of a cliff or ravine.
- Read I Samuel 14:4,5.
- Jonathan and his armor-bearer had a steep valley separating them from the Philistine camp. He could have used the valley as an excuse not to do what God had impressed him to do.
- Ask your partner what excuses keep them from their next step of faith. Pray together for faith to cross your valleys and to obey.

#### **4. Philistine Army Camp**

- Read I Samuel 14:6-15.
- Cross the valley with your partner.
- Ask: In what ways do believers in Christ need to practice their faith?
- Pray with your partner to live with such boldness for God's glory that God will make the ground tremble before your feet and cause the enemy to run. Share your next step of faith with your partner.



# Elijah's Ravens



# *Elijah's Ravens*

## **1. Chair**

- Walk to where someone could be seated (representing Ahab). Have one person read from I Kings 17:1 to the person seated.
- It was a dangerous thing for Elijah to go and speak to King Ahab, who did not honor the true God. Ahab could have thrown Elijah into prison immediately--or worse.
- Ask: What kind of people are the most difficult for you to talk with?
- Pray that God will give you boldness to say what God wants you to say at any cost.

## **2. Stream**

- Walk to a place representing the brook Cherith.
- Read I Kings 17:2-7.
- God sent Elijah to a stream and promised to take care of him there.
- Ask: How has God taken care of you in difficult situations?
- Pray that God will help you trust Him to provide for you.

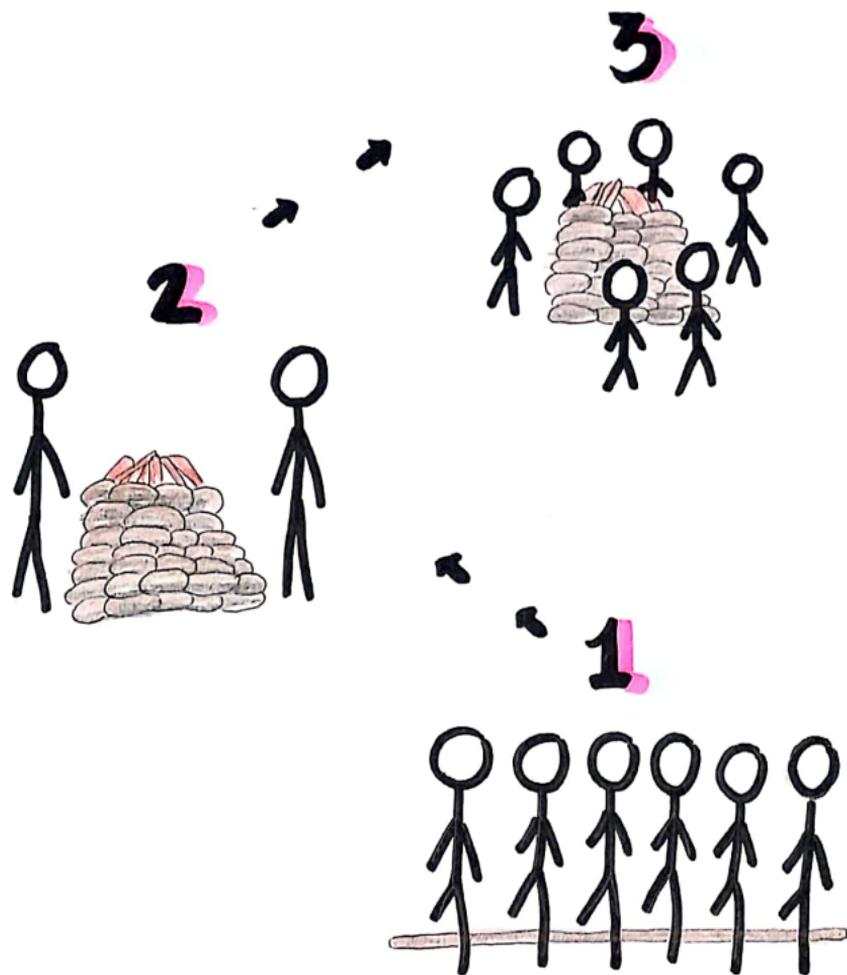
## **3. Tree**

- Read I Kings 17:8-16.
- When the stream dried up, God sent Elijah to a country full of people who did not believe in Him. God said a widow would care for Elijah there. When he arrived in Zarephath, he saw the widow gathering sticks for a fire.
- Walk to a place under a tree. Pick up any sticks or leaves there.

- Ask: What kind of surprising places has God sent His people to?
- Pray that you will obey when God sends you to an unlikely place.



# Elijah's Stand



# *Elijah's Stand*

## **1. Line**

- Walk to a place where you can draw a line in the dirt or make a line on the ground with rope, etc. Have each person line up on the line/or rope with one foot on each side of the line.
- Read I Kings 18:17-21.
- Ask: What does it mean to compromise?
- Pray in twos on the line, asking God to help you not compromise between God and Baal (false gods).

## **2. Rocks & Water, Part I**

- Walk to a place where you can form a small altar with rocks.
- Read I Kings 18:30-35.
- Do what Elijah did in the story. Together with your group, build a small altar. Arrange wood on it. Pour water over it.
- Ask: Why do you think Elijah poured water over the altar?
- Ask: What kind of "altar" do we need in our homes? (We desperately need to worship God in our homes!)
- Invite everyone to privately ask God to help them worship Him with all their heart and to call their family to worship Him.

## **3. Rock, Part II**

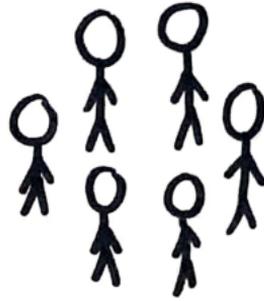
- Read I Kings 18:36-39.
- Elijah believed God would answer his prayer. When fire fell from the skies and burned up the altar and sacrifice, the people were overwhelmed with God's answer!

- In what ways have you seen God powerfully answer prayer?
- The people watched God send the fire, and they could no longer be silent. Lead the group to shout out: "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."
- Invite the group to pray prayers of thanksgiving for calling each one back to fully follow Him.
- Invite the group to pray prayers of praise for the mighty power of God.

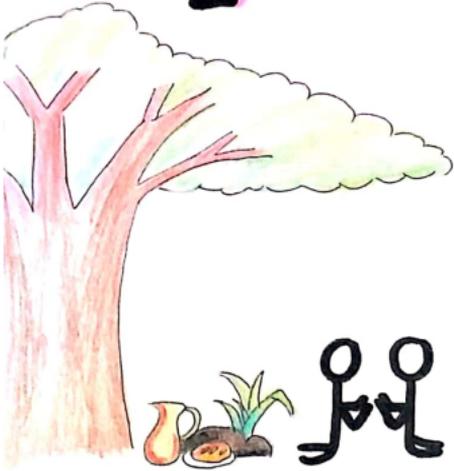


# Elijah's Run

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# *Elijah's Run*

## **1. The Walls of Jezreel**

- Go to the “city walls of Jezreel.” Elijah ran ahead of King Ahab all the way to Jezreel. He was exhausted and soaking wet from running in the rain. Invite everyone to sit down by the “walls.” When you are tired, hungry and soaking wet, you want good--not bad--news.
- Read I Kings 18:46-19:2.
- Ask: When have you faced bad news?
- Pray in twos for strength to believe God is with you even when you face bad news.

## **2. The Juniper Tree**

- Read I Kings 19:4-7.
- Elijah was afraid when he heard Jezebel wanted to hurt him and ran far away from Jezreel.
- Invite everyone to run to a tree and “sleep” under the tree. Place stones together for the place where the angel baked Elijah’s food. Invite everyone to team up in twos to find two objects each to give to each other to represent the bread cake from the angel.
- Ask the group: When have you run in the wrong direction?
- Pray in twos, asking God to help you trust Him to take care of you when you are all alone.

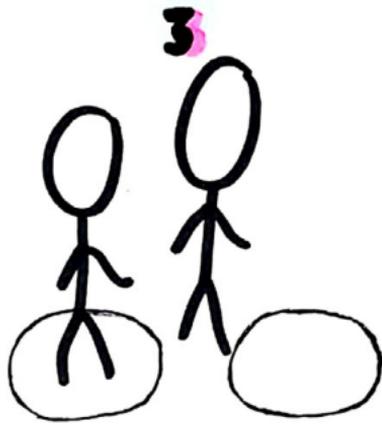
## **3. The Mountain Cave**

- Read I Kings 19:8,9 (first part).
- Elijah traveled for 40 days and nights to the mountain of God. Walk 40 steps in any direction to arrive at the “mountain cave.”

- Read I Kings 19:9 (last part) to verse 14.
- Invite everyone to stand up and act out wind, earthquake, and fire. God was not in any of those things. Invite everyone to stand in a circle and close their eyes and to softly blow air out their mouths.
- Read I Kings 19:15,16.
- Say: Share a time when God sent you an unexpected message.
- Pray in twos that you will listen to the small voice of God and hear what mission He is sending you on.



Esther



# *Esther*

## **1. Imperfect Bush**

- Go to an imperfect, not-so-beautiful-looking bush.
- Read Esther 2:5-7.
- Hadassah means "myrtle bush." What disadvantages did Hadassah have? She could have easily allowed herself to be defined by these disadvantages. Look at the bush. We all have things about ourselves we wish we could change. These things can become our identity.
- Pray in twos. Take turns praying with your hands over each other's heads. Pray that God will anoint your eyes so that you will be ready to see yourselves as God sees you and not how the world defines you.

## **2. Beautiful Flower, Plant, or Tree**

- Go to a flower, plant, or tree that has great beauty and grace. Now the King had banished his queen and was looking for a new queen. Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the palace for a great contest to see who the King would choose as his new queen.
- Read Esther 2:12-15.
- Every woman could take whatever her heart desired when she went to see the King. Esther chose only what Hegai advised.
- Read Psalm 139:13,14.
- Ask: What makes us happy or sad when we look in the mirror?
- You need to look in the mirror each morning and say, "I am a daughter/son of the King! God made me wonderful!"

- Read Esther 2:17.
- Esther was crowned queen and was greatly loved by the King.
- Ask: Who are some of the people that make you feel loved?
- Pray in twos. Pray that God will transform the way you see yourselves, so that you know you are the daughter/son of the King, wonderful in His sight.

### **3. Circle**

- Go to a place where you can fashion a circle on the ground with rocks, grass, etc. If you do not have this, draw a circle in the dirt or use chalk to draw a circle around your feet.
- Esther heard that Haman planned to destroy her people, the Jews. Her cousin Mordecai asked her to intervene.
- Read Esther 4:10-17.
- Stand in your circle. We all have circles that are our comfort zone. We make excuses to do what we feel safe doing, rather than what God has designed us to do. God has dreams for your life, and they are not to be defined by your fears, but rather, by God's loving plans for you!
- Draw a circle next to where you are standing. This represents what God is calling you to be...and what God is calling you to do for Him.
- Esther chose God's dreams. She risked her life to step into her God-given destiny.
- Ask: What are God's dreams for you? How does He want you to serve Him and care for people in your home, school, or work place?

- Jump into your second circle if you are willing to surrender your fears to reach for God's dreams for you.
- Pray in twos. Pray that God will shape each other's life into the dreams He has for each of you.

Jonah

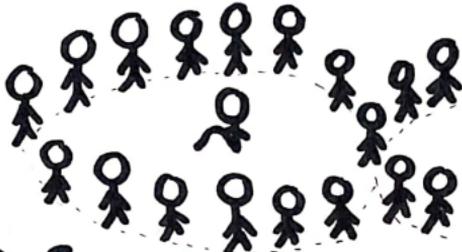
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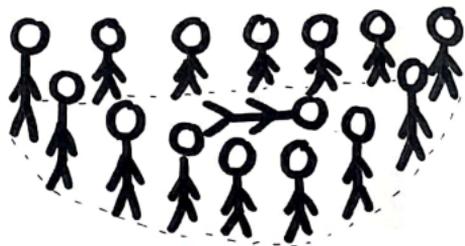
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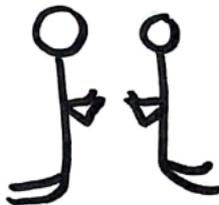
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# Jonah

## 1. Jonah's Home in Israel

- Read Jonah 1:1-3.
- God called Jonah to go to a place he did not want to go--Nineveh. This city was full of people who worshipped false gods. God told Jonah to preach against the sins of the people there, but he ran in the opposite direction to Joppa.
- Ask: What might make us run away from God's plan?
- Run together from Israel to Joppa.
- Pray in twos. Pray for each other to have courage to obey when God sends you where you do not want to go.

## 2. Ship

- Read Jonah 1:4-16.
- Jonah stepped onto a boat to go far away from Nineveh and went to sleep. God sent a great storm on the sea.
- Ask the group to stand in the shape of a boat. Ask for one volunteer to "sleep" in the middle of the boat. Then have everyone sway back and forth as though they are in a great storm. Take Jonah, and "throw him overboard" into the sea.
- Ask: Share a time when someone took care of you even when you were doing the wrong thing.
- Pray with the group. Thank God for still caring for you even when you disobey Him.

### **3. Big Fish**

- Read Jonah 1:17-2:10.
- God sent a big fish to rescue Jonah, and he prayed to God from the belly of that fish!
- As a group, stand in an outline of a big fish. Ask Jonah to sit in the belly of the fish. Then carry Jonah out of the belly and onto dry land.
- Ask: What are some of the most unusual places you have prayed?
- Pray in twos. Thank God that He hears our prayers no matter where we are.

### **4. Nineveh**

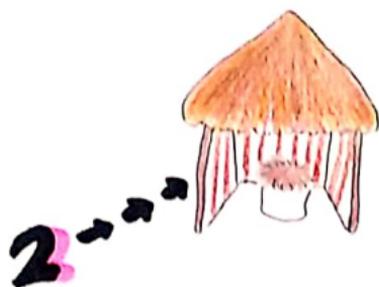
- Read Jonah 3.
- God again called Jonah to go to Nineveh, and this time, he obeyed. He preached, and the people of Nineveh turned away from their sins. God forgave their sins and did not punish them.
- Invite everyone to stand in a row facing the same way, marching in step. Ask everyone to turn completely around, facing the opposite direction, and march in step again. The Ninevite children, youth, and people of all ages turned away from their sins to God.
- Ask: What do people do today when turning away from things that God wants them to move away from?
- Invite everyone to pray alone with God. Ask God to tell them personally if He wants them to turn away from something in their life that is getting in the way of their friendship with Him. Call them to give their heart to God.

## **5. Shade Plant**

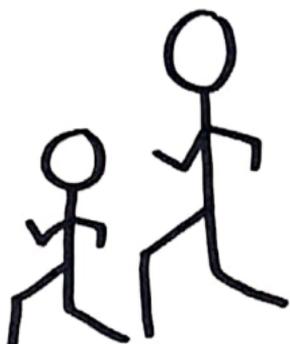
- Read Jonah 4.
- Jonah left the city that had turned back to God and sat where he could watch God destroy the city. God made a plant grow quickly to give Jonah shade. He was happy for the shade. Sit in the shade.
- Then God sent a worm to attack the plant and the plant died. God sent a hot wind. Jonah no longer had a seat in the shade. Go sit in the sunshine.
- Jonah wanted to die. He cared more about his shade plant than about God loving the people of Nineveh and letting them live.
- Ask: What do we sometimes love more than people?
- Pray in twos that God will help you love and care for those you do not like.

# Mary, Mother of Jesus

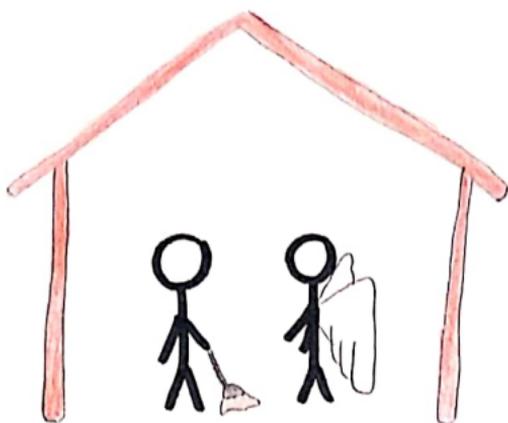
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# *Mary, Mother of Jesus*

## **1. Mary's Home in Nazareth**

- Walk to Mary's house. Ask everyone to sweep the floor in Mary's home until they are surprised by the angel (in the following story).
- Read Luke 1:26-31,37,38.
- Ask: What would be easy for you to do for God? What would be difficult?
- Pray together to have the humble attitude of Mary to do whatever God asks you to do.

## **2. Elizabeth's Home in Judah.**

- Read Luke 1:39.
- Invite a child to lead you to Elizabeth's home in the hill country of Judah. Go in a hurry to Elizabeth's home just like Mary did. Walk fast and run part of the time.
- When you get there, read Luke 1:40-45. Elizabeth was so happy and thankful to see Mary!
- Ask: What are you most thankful for?
- Pray prayers of thanksgiving that Jesus is alive and with you!
- Read Luke 1:56.
- Walk back to Mary's home in Nazareth.

## **3. Registration Table in Bethlehem**

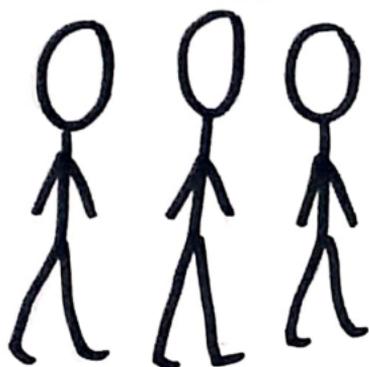
- Go to the Roman soldier's registration table in Bethlehem. Have a child sit like a soldier at the table. Line up everyone for their turn at the table. Have the "soldier" at the table count each person as they walk past the table.
- Read Luke 2:1-5.
- Together look for a stable where Mary can give birth to Jesus.

- Read Luke 2:7.
- Ask: What would your life be like without Jesus?
- Praise God that Jesus is the Savior.  
Thank Jesus for being your Savior.



# The Wise Men

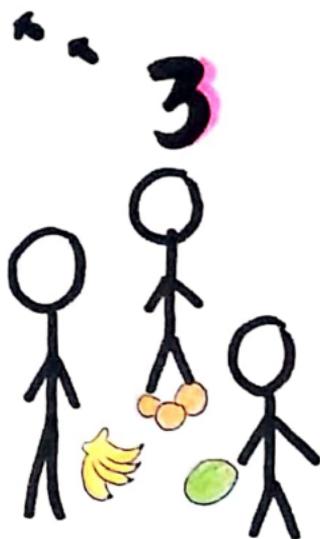
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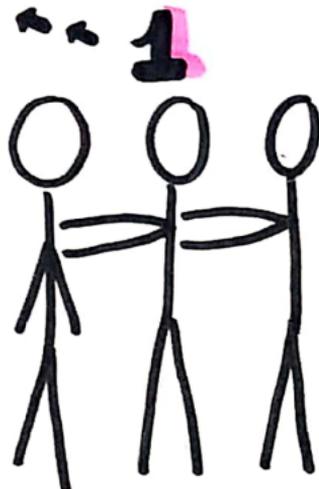
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# *The Wise Men*

## **1. Desert**

- Read Matthew 2:1,2.
- The wise men from the East traveled to Jerusalem.
- Walk together in teams of threes with your hands on the shoulders of the person ahead of you. Imagine that you are wise men riding on camels. Sway back and forth like you are high up on a camel's back.
- Ask: What part of your life requires the most patience?
- Pray as a group for patience to wait for Jesus even when it is difficult.

## **2. Jerusalem**

- Read Matthew 2:3-8.
- The wise men asked all over Jerusalem about where they could find Jesus. King Herod was not happy to hear that the wise men were looking for another king! He met secretly with them and asked them to find the King and report back to him.
- Crouch down and jog over to a secret place to talk with King Herod. King Herod said he wanted to worship the new King, but he really wanted to hurt Him.
- Question: Why do you think King Herod wanted to hurt Jesus?
- Pray as a group for wisdom to know who you can trust.

## **3. Joseph & Mary's Home**

- Read Matthew 2:9-11.
- God led the wise men to the home of Joseph and Mary. They brought the baby Jesus their best gifts.

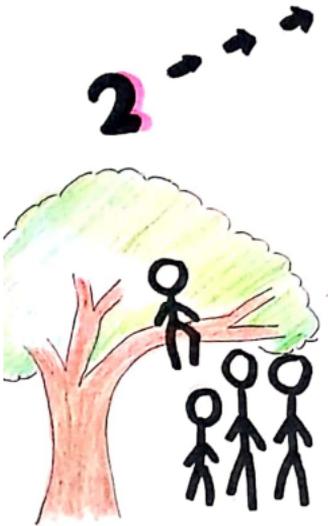
- Find the best items in nature around you or items made by humans and place them on the ground in front of you as you stand with the group in a circle.
- Ask: What are the best gifts we can bring to Jesus? (Our time, talents, treasure, and most of all--our hearts!)
- Kneel by the gifts and pray alone. Tell Jesus what you most want to give Him. Give with your whole heart!
- Gather as a group. Praise Jesus for how special He is. Tell Him why you believe there is no King like him anywhere!

#### **4. Secret Path**

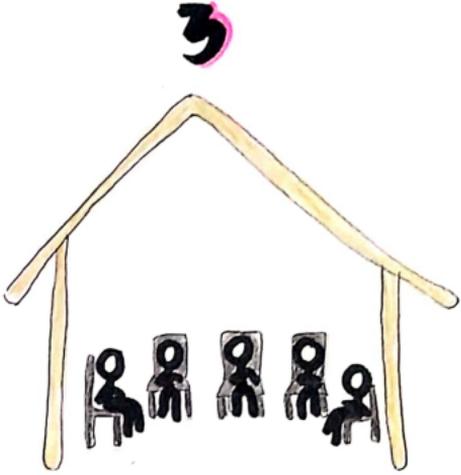
- Read Matthew 2:12.
- God warned the wise men in a dream to go home without reporting to King Herod about finding Jesus. They obeyed God and went a secret way home.
- Ask: Why might it have been difficult for the wise men to travel secretly?
- Walk together quietly a different way back to the desert place where you began.
- Pray together in twos. Pray that you will worship Jesus Christ and obey Him above all others.



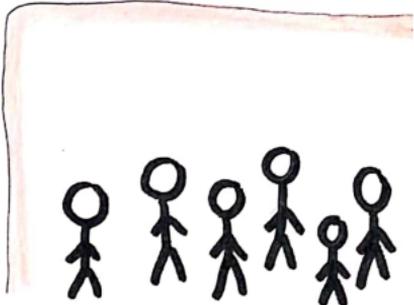
# Zacchaeus



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# *Zacchaeus*

## **1. Something Higher Than Anyone Can Reach**

- Go to a place where something is a little too high for everyone to reach, even when they jump. Ask everyone at the count of three to jump four times as high as they can.
- Read Luke 19:1-3.
- Zacchaeus felt it was impossible to see Jesus because he was so short; he could not see over the crowd.
- Ask: What can keep us from finding Jesus?
- Pray in twos that God will help you not be discouraged when you can't see Jesus in your life.

## **2. Climbing Tree**

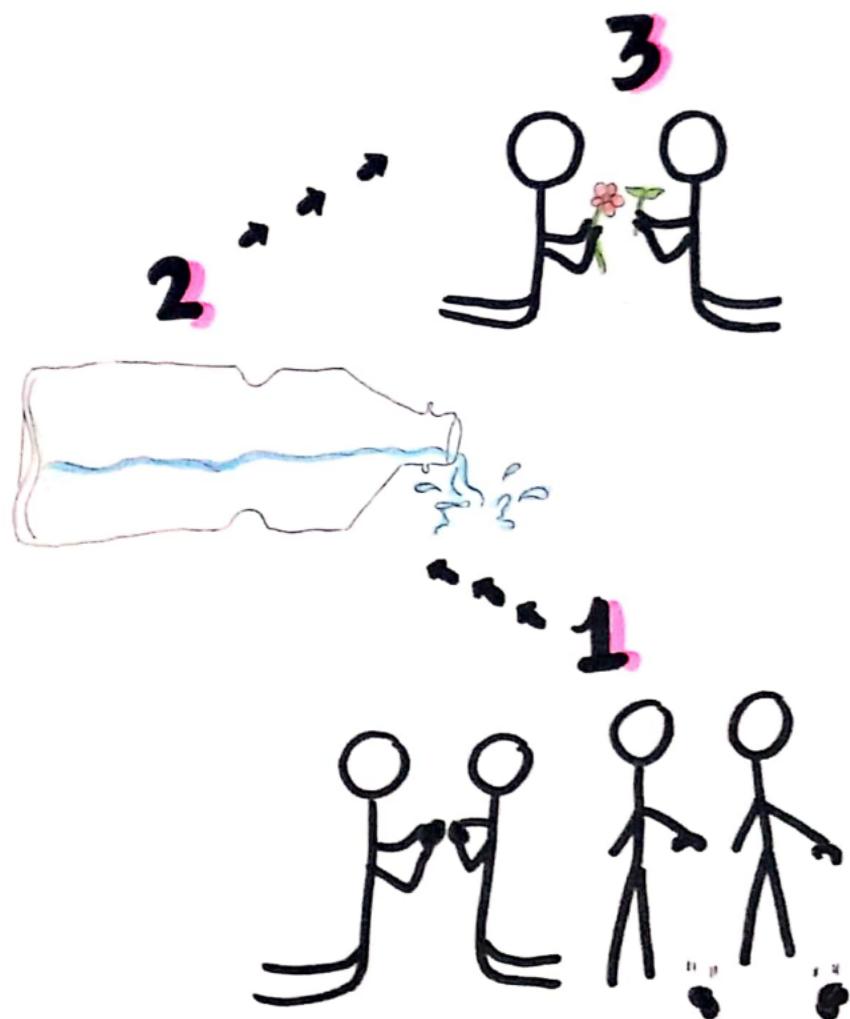
- Walk to a tree that would be safe to climb. Invite a young volunteer to climb a tree with a branch above the shoulder height of your group. (Help the child find a safe place to sit.)
- Read Luke 19:4-6 and invite the child in the tree to act the part of Zacchaeus as the verses are read.
- Jesus came to where Zacchaeus was and called him to come down to Him, so He could spend time with him.
- Ask: Who is somebody you love to spend time with?
- Pray in twos to thank God that Jesus is calling you now to come spend time with Him.

### **3. Zacchaeus' Home**

- Go to a place that could represent the home of Zacchaeus.
- Read Luke 19:7-10.
- Zacchaeus did not come down from the tree and try to make things right with Jesus and the crowd first. He came to Jesus just as he was--a sinner in need of a Savior. He did not say to Jesus, "Wait until I clean up my house before You come in." He invited Jesus into His home in whatever condition it was in.
- Invite everyone in the group to find an equal place to sit down together in "Zacchaeus' home." Jesus was unashamed to go to Zacchaeus' home even when the crowd tried to shame him and Zacchaeus. Jesus' love and acceptance won Zacchaeus' heart and he repented.
- Ask: What home do you like to visit? Why?
- Pray in twos that God will help you know that God claims you as His son or daughter. Ask God to empower you with His love to turn away from whatever has made you hurt Him or others.



# Mary Magdalene



# Mary Magdalene

## 1. Small Stones

- Go to a place with small stones.
- Read John 8:2-12.
- Mary was labeled and looked down upon by the world, but Jesus saw her differently. He rescued her, forgave her, and invited her to a life of freedom from her past.
- Ask: What kinds of bad labels do we give people in our day-to-day lives?
- Pick up a few stones in your hand, and find a partner. Each pray that the other will accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness and live without condemnation. During your partner's prayer, hold the stones tightly in your hand, and when the prayer is finished, throw them to the ground to illustrate the freedom you have in Christ from your guilt and the slavery of sin.

## 2. Water

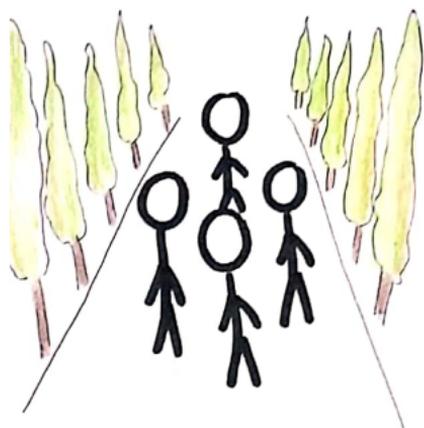
- Go to a place with water. (If there is none, participants can use water bottles, glasses full of water, etc.)
- Read John 12:1-3 and Luke 7:44-47.
- Ask: What was special about Mary's act?
- Mary was so amazed by Jesus' love and forgiveness for her that she poured out her love for Him in front of everybody.
- Find a place to sit by yourself. Think about all Jesus has done for you. Kneel and thank Jesus for His wonderful love and grace for you. As you do so, pour out a little water to signify the act of your heart.

### **3. Flowers, Grass, or Leaves**

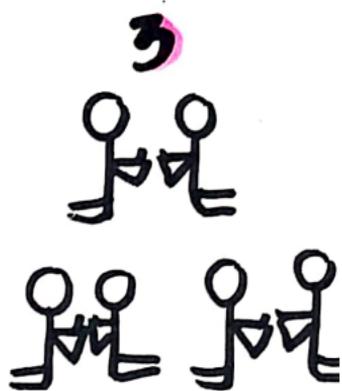
- Go to a beautiful place that reminds you of new life.
- Read John 20:1,11-18.
- Ask: When did Mary realize who Jesus was? Take responses from the group.
- Mary knew Jesus was alive when He called her by name. In a time when women were overlooked, Jesus chose Mary to be the first witness of His resurrection and gave her a precious message to share with the disciples.
- Find the same person you prayed with at the first stop. Each of you find something to hold that reminds you of your new life. Take turns asking God to make you both courageous to share the new life Jesus has given you with someone who needs to know that now!



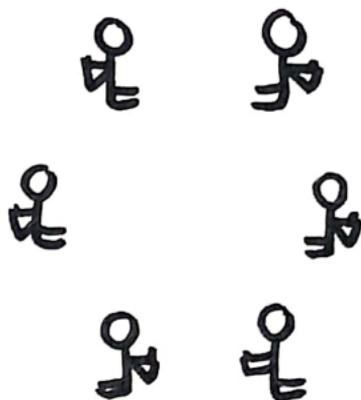
# Come Home



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# *Come Home*

## **1. Far Country**

- Walk to a place that looks different from where you are now. Stand a few yards/ meters away from each other.
- Read Luke 15:11-19.
- Ask: Who needs your forgiveness in your family? Who do you need to forgive you? Pray silently about these questions.
- Gather in twos to ask God for forgiveness for where you have hurt your family. Invite God to begin working in the hurt, pain, and brokenness within your home.

## **2. Path**

- Go to a path or a road and walk to a place that will represent home.
- Read Luke 15:20-24.
- Ask: How will you return to your family? (Be there for dinner? Spend one-on-one time with a family member? Help someone who needs your help?)
- Form groups of 3 to 4. In your groups, ask God to call you back to your family and help you take the first step to better connect with them. Pray with your arms around each other's shoulders.

## **3. Field**

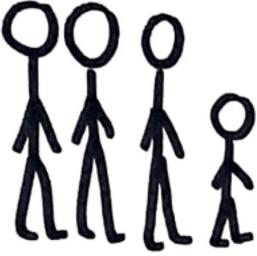
- Go somewhere where you can spread out.
- Read Luke 15: 25-31.
- Ask: Who do you identify most with in this story: the younger son, the father, or the older son? What keeps you from experiencing full forgiveness within your family?

- Invite everyone to move away from the group a little to talk with God. Have them ask God what they need to do in their role to fully forgive and be fully forgiven by their family members.
- Call everyone back to the group. Share in twos what God is convicting you to do. Pray in twos for the Holy Spirit to help your partner take this step.



# Priscilla the Refugee

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# *Priscilla the Refugee*

## **1. Rome**

- Invite everyone to place something special of theirs in a bag that they will hold.
- Read Acts 18:1,2.
- Priscilla and her husband Aquila had to leave their home and things they loved in order to go to Corinth. Have a child lead the group to the new home of Priscilla and Aquila in Corinth.
- Ask: What item in your home would be the most difficult to leave behind?
- Pray together for God to help everyone keep their focus on Jesus, not on what they own or where they live.

## **2. Corinth.**

- Read Acts 18:3.
- Invite the group to use their imaginations to create a tent. Priscilla and Aquila had a tent-making business. The apostle Paul worked with them. The honest and conscientious way they made tents to be well-made and beautiful would have been a witness of what Jesus is like.
- Ask: What is something you made very well?
- Pray in twos to honor Jesus by the way you do your work, whether at home, at school, or at a paid job.

## **3. Ephesus.**

- Read Acts 18:18,19.
- Invite a child to “steer a ship” from Corinth to Ephesus. Have everyone get into the ship and sway like they are one

of the waves. It was about an eight-day trip by sea.

- Read Acts 18:24-28.
- Priscilla and Aquila took time to teach a young leader named Apollos more about God.
- Ask: Who is someone who has taken the time to teach you something important?
- Pray in twos. Ask God what is the most important thing you know about Him. Take one minute each to teach each other one important truth about the true God.

#### **4. Rome.**

- Read Romans 16:3-5.
- Invite a child to lead the group from Corinth back to Priscilla's new home in Rome. Paul said Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives for him. Priscilla and Aquila led a house church in their own home.
- Ask: What would you like most about having a church in your own home?
- Gather the group in Priscilla and Aquila's home and sing praises to God! Thank God for how He was with Priscilla as she moved from place to place. Sing songs of God's faithfulness and care.
- Pray together to be faithful to God wherever He may send you.

# *How to Create a Bible Prayer Walk*

1. Ask for the Holy Spirit to lead you to a Bible story that could be experienced through nature, meaningful prayer, the written Word, and action.
2. Read the Bible story you chose a first time to look for the main theme.
3. Read it again to look for three main teaching-point potentials in the story. Outline the story with these main points.
4. The written Word of God provides a foundation and a focus for our prayers. Read James 1:5. Pray for wisdom to know what prayer focus would be meaningful to the children, youth, and adults you are reaching for each main point of the story. List beside the main points of the story the prayer focus, along with simple instructions of what the students will pray for.
5. Think about the property of your home, school, church, or park. Ideally the prayer walk is outside with some nature present. If this is not possible, be creative with your surroundings. List something in nature on the property that could become a part of the Bible story. Always ask a child or youth to lead you to the place that fits the story.



# Meet Jesus *Outside* Bible Prayer Walks

Do you want to enjoy prayer and God's Word in a fresh way? Meeting Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks combines the written Word of God, prayer, nature, and activity to involve children, youth, and adults in the adventure of meeting with their Creator. Written simply with the inspiration of powerful Bible stories, each Bible prayer walk invites you to experience God's Word and prayer outside the walls of where you work, live, and go to school.

Children, youth, and adults will discover that each Bible prayer walk is a faith adventure for them and their friends. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and youth workers will find another tool to disciple the new generations to Jesus Christ.

Come and meet Jesus outside!



Don and his bride April live in the woods and fields of Apison, Tennessee. For over 33 years, they have walked and hiked together, following the trails of their Creator God.

For more helpful resources for you and your family, go to [www.indiscipleship.org](http://www.indiscipleship.org)