

Faith Journey Road Map

by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Plenty of newsprint
- Markers
- Miscellaneous small items for students to use as symbols on their faith journey map. These could be items from games such as Monopoly, candy, paperclips, pins, buttons, coins—anything small enough to use as markers on the maps they will be creating.
- Craft items, stickers, scrapbooking supplies for students to use to create symbols on their map
- A GPS and/or printed directions from MapQuest from your church to another church in a different part of the country.
- An atlas of the United States and Canada

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS:

Ask students how they would find their way from your church building to a church building in another part of the country—give them the address of the other church. Give them the atlas and/or the GPS.

CONNECT:

Ask: How is your life journey similar to finding directions to another location? How is it different?

EXPLORE YOUR FAITH JOURNEY:

Give each student a large sheet of newsprint and ask them to create a “road map” of their life, including the faith elements that have been a part of their life so far. Where did the journey start? What have been the twists and turns? Good times? Bad times? Times they were angry with God, or full of happiness with God? What church and God connections do they remember through the years?

Encourage them to use the items you’ve provided to place on their road map as symbols of different elements of their life so far.

When everyone has completed their faith journey map, share them with each other.

APPLY:

Say: Unlike getting directions from one place to another, we don't know what will happen in our life from this moment forward. But, we do have some "road signs" that we can follow. What do you think those might be?

(The guidance of the church, the Bible, adults we trust, our relationship with God.)

Ask students to imagine what they want their faith journey to be like at the end of their life. And then, ask them to place items or markers on the "future" part of their faith journey map that would help them get to that "ending point." What are some things they can do to help them get to the destination they want to be at?

RESPOND:

Encourage students to take several symbols from their map with them as reminders of the ways they can make good choices on their life journey.

Close with a prayer.