



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: Revealed?

Suggested Week of Use: May 12, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 41:14-21,33-37

News Story Summary

A recent analysis of reports on lost hikers reveals some intriguing details and cautionary tales. Researchers analyzed more than one hundred reports of lost hikers to pinpoint what went wrong and how they survived. These hikers had gone missing anywhere from a few hours to ninety days. While weather and falls accounted for some of their dilemmas, the majority of lost hikers (41%) simply wandered away from their trail.

The analysis also revealed what the hikers did once they realized they were off track. The overwhelming majority (65%) chose to keep moving while the rest stayed put. Regardless, more than three quarters of them (77%) had to be rescued. In every situation, survival depended on finding the basics of warmth, shelter, food, and water. Recommendations for would-be hikers included carrying essentials, studying and printing maps, downloading backup GPS apps, and investing in signaling technology.

For more about this story, search “Smoky Mountains lost hikers research.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, encourage adults to rate their interest in hiking from 1 (would never do it) to 7 (can't get enough of it). Allow volunteers to explain the reasons behind their responses. Ask: *What role does the fear of getting lost play in your answers?* Discuss responses. Share the information from the recent analysis of lost hikers. Lead a brief discussion on the emotional impact being lost in the wilderness might have. Compare this to feeling spiritually distant from God. Point out that such a separation usually starts with one small step in the wrong direction and gets worse from there. Note that today's session examines how Joseph's life stayed on course because he chose to trust God—even when it didn't make sense.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, continue to connect the rescue of lost hikers to spiritual lostness. Direct adults to identify principles from Joseph's life that helped him stay on the right path. Encourage them to suggest ways his example could apply to their own lives. Highlight the fact that Christians function as a search and rescue team by locating the lost and pointing them to safety. Challenge the group to identify areas in their own lives where they may feel “off track” and to pray for God's guidance. Remind the group that when they find themselves in confusing circumstances looking to God and trusting Him are the keys to staying in step with Him.