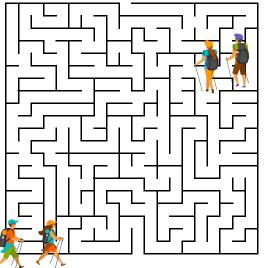


Have you ever gone hiking? There are a lot of different trail designs, but switchbacks will have you headed one direction for a minute, and then the trail will take a turn, and suddenly you're headed the opposite direction.

The hard thing about a switchback trail is that you sometimes don't feel like you're making any progress, and you can't really see what's ahead.

Life can feel like that too! You might think you're almost through a really hard season, only to turn the corner and find there are more hard things ahead. And even if you feel like you see what's coming, you can never really know for sure what you're going to face around the next bend.

But there's good news: God is with you the whole time! When things don't make sense, when you feel confused or alone, you



can still trust God. He's beside you on the path, and He knows what's going on, even when you don't! As you go through the unexpected twists and turns of life this week, remember you can trust God.



DAY 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show. (Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3
After watching, write one thing that
1) YOU LIKED:
2) YOU LEARNED:
3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW:

DAY 2

READ GENESIS 40:12-15; 23

But the chief wine taster didn't remember Joseph. In fact, he forgot all about him. (NIrV)

Ouch. Can you imagine how Joseph must have felt when the man whose dream he interpreted forgot about him as soon as he got out of prison? Probably just like he did every other time someone falsely accused him, sold him into slavery, or hurt him. But why did this stuff keep happening to him? Joseph admits he doesn't have a clue in verse 15.

I was taken away from the land of the Hebrews by force. Even here I haven't done anything to be put in prison for. (NIrV)

Joseph wasn't perfect, but he also hadn't done anything worthy of prison time. And yet, there he was. It just didn't make sense.

Eventually, Joseph would see God's plan revealed in his life, and it was good. But when he was sitting all alone in that dark, dank prison cell, he had no way to know how things were going to change. All he could do was trust God.

While trusting God wouldn't change his situation, it would carry him through. Sure enough, better days were ahead, and God would be with him then too.

DAY 3 When things don't make sense, how can you pray about them? Sometimes the best way to communicate with God is to just be quiet and listen—especially when you don't understand why something is happening.

Think about something challenging that is happening in your life or maybe in the life of someone you care about. Take a minute to tell God about it, and then sit in silence.

After you've sat there for a minute, empty your mind of the problem and instead fill it with this truth: I can trust God no matter what. Sit there as long as you can, focusing on God's power and strength instead of the problem. Then thank God for His faithfulness and for being trustworthy even when life doesn't make sense.

DAY 4

Find a sibling or friend and share some of these silly questions with them:

WHY DO WE PARK ON A DRIVEWAY AND DRIVE ON A PARKWAY?
WHY DO WE CALL SMALL CANDY BARS "FUN SIZE"?
WHY DO WE CALL THEM A PAIR PANTS WHEN THERE'S ONLY ONE?
WHY DO WE SAY "KNOCK KNOCK" AFTER WE'VE ENTERED A ROOM?
WHY IS ABBREVIATED SUCH A LONG WORD?

Those were silly questions, but the truth is, there's a lot of life that doesn't make sense. And when something hard or confusing pops up in your life, it may not seem funny at all. Before parting ways with your sibling or friend, each of you share something that is happening in your life that you don't understand. Make a commitment to each other that you'll remind each other often that you can trust God even when life doesn't make sense.

P.S. WHY IS IT CALLED A BUILDING IF IT'S ALREADY BUILT?