

Jesus the storyteller - Part 2

FOCUS

1. God wants us to be happy with him in heaven.
2. Jesus is the light who shows us the way.

During lesson time your child:

- *listened and responded to the parable of the Great Banquet;*
- *understood and appreciated that God wants to share eternal life with them in heaven;*
- *considered and discussed ways of living a good life;*
- *shared personal experiences of knowing someone who has died.*

Once there was a good king who lived in a beautiful castle at the top of a high mountain. At the foot of the mountain was a town where lots of people lived. They loved the king and his beautiful castle.

Once day, the king decided to hold a great feast for all the townspeople. He called his son and asked him to help get things ready for the great feast. The king sent invitations to all the people in the town. Even all the children received special invitations made just for them. Everyone was very excited about the feast and about what a great time they were going to have, but there was a problem. The only way to get to the castle was by walking, since there wasn't any road up the mountain.

The people said, "We're going to walk up the mountain, and even though we'll have to walk all day long to reach the castle, we'll get to the feast!"

But some decided not to go. Looking at how high the mountain was they thought they would never reach the top.

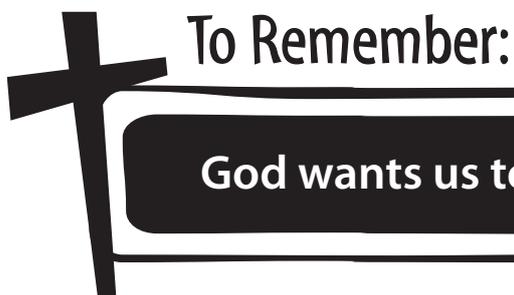
Some were just plain lazy and decided to stay home. Others started out excited and happy, but after a while they got tired and changed their minds, going back down to their houses. They never got to the feast!

Others just kept going and never gave up, even though it wasn't easy. They finally reached the top and went into the great feast which the king had prepared for everyone in the town.

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

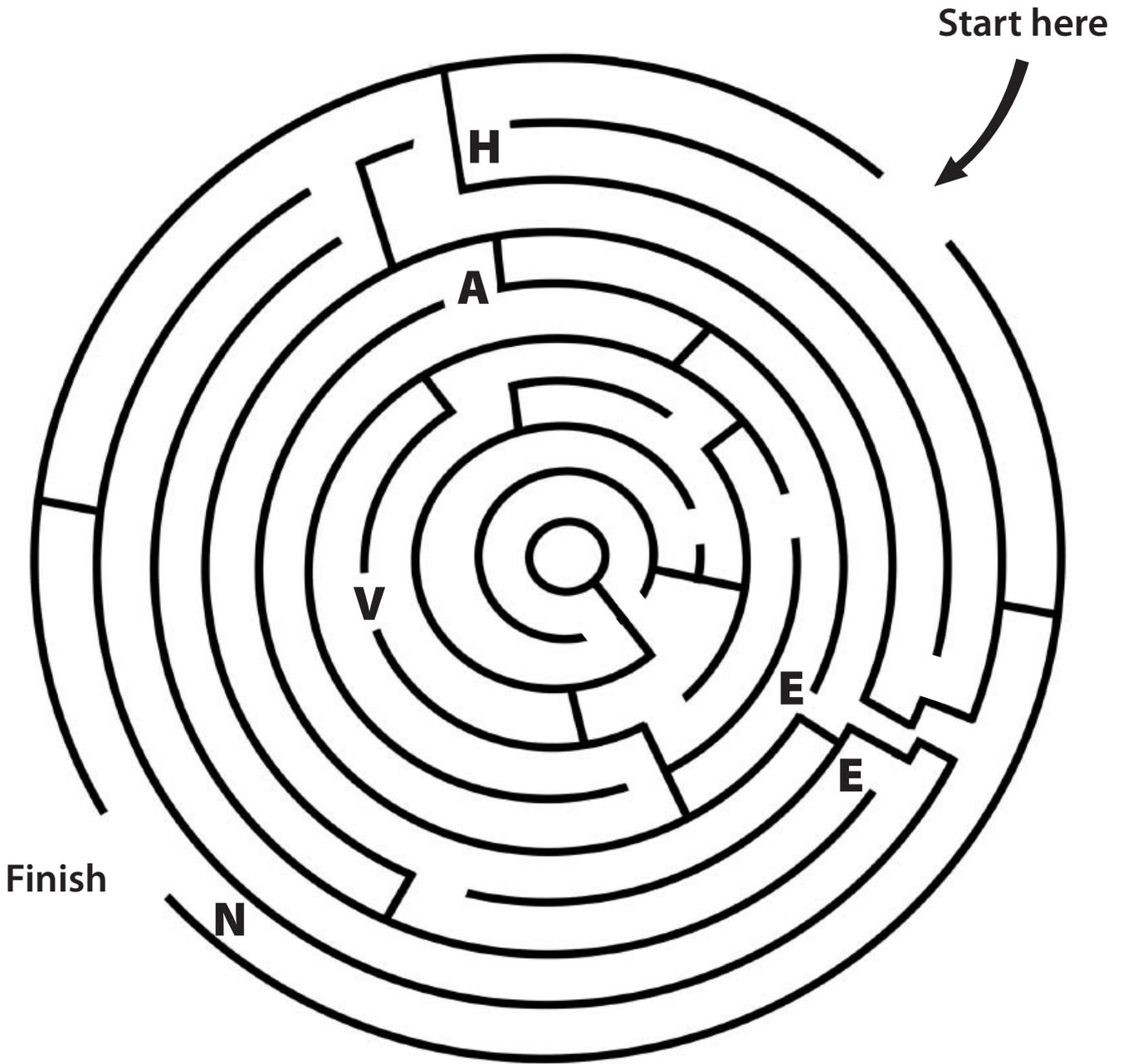
1. Read and discuss the passage by asking him or her 'I wonder' questions;
e.g. I wonder . . . if God has given us an invitation?
2. If your child has experienced the death of someone he or she knows, talk to him or her about the experience. While it is important to acknowledge the feelings of sadness it is equally important to emphasise a sense of hope and God's desire for us to be with him in heaven.
3. Show your child photographs from your family history depicting people who have died. Explain to your child how much you loved the person and how upset you were when he or she died. Explain that God has promised that we can live with him in heaven, and we should try to live as good a life as possible to go to heaven.



To Remember:

God wants us to live with him forever.

Find your way through the maze. Write each letter below as you come to it and you will discover where God wants you to live with him forever.





Dear God,
we pray for all people who have died.
May they be with you in Heaven forever. Amen.