



## QUIET TIME BIBLE STUDY

### **SIGNPOSTS ALONG THE PATH**

As we press on toward the goal for which God has called us heavenward, there are signposts along the way that gently remind us that this journey is one that must be made with care. We must be attentive as we hike, being aware of provisions God has made, and taking all of His warnings seriously. Begin this quiet time with prayer that God will speak to you about your journey with Him.



#### **DON'T HIKE ALONE**

Remember, you aren't meant to make this journey alone. There is One who desires to be your Companion and Guide.

1. Who promises to hike with us? (Deuteronomy 31:8, Isaiah 43:2, Joshua 1:9)
2. What are four things our Guide will do to help us along the path? (Use Isaiah 45:2-3, Proverbs 3:6 and Isaiah 41:13 to help you with your answer.)
3. Often, we are fortunate to have traveling companions on the path with us. Using the "buddy system" can be a wonderful safety precaution if we choose the right companions. Using II Corinthians 6:14, Psalms 1:1, Proverbs 2:20, 13:20, 14:7 and 22:24, fill out the chart below:

Good Traveling Companions

Bad Traveling Companions



### **NO HEAVY LOADS**

This signpost reminds us that unnecessary burdens will slow us down on our trip heavenward.

1. Read Psalms 38:4. What is one burden that we carry?
2. Who has carried that burden for us? (Isaiah 53:4-5)
3. Are you currently carrying the burden of unconfessed sin? Read the promise in I John 1:9 and take time to confess it to the Lord right now.
4. Are you carrying the burdens of concern over relationships, jobs and finances, health issues, etc.? What should we do with those burdens? (I Peter 5:7)
5. What burden does not slow us down? (Galatians 6:2)



### **FRESH WATER AHEAD**

This signpost would be welcome to all hikers--an invitation to come when you're hot and thirsty and drink safely, and to fill up your canteen while you have the opportunity. Only water can truly satisfy!

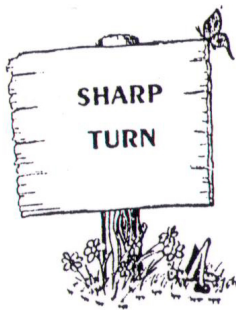
1. Who quenches our thirst? (John 6:35 and 7:37)
2. What does God promise us about our thirst? (Isaiah 49:10; Matthew 5:6)
3. The Word of God is our fresh water. What results will we see in our lives when we make it a habit to stop for fresh water? (I Peter 2:2 and Psalms 1:2-3)



### **REST AREA**

Wise hikers periodically take opportunity to rest. God gives us "times of refreshing" in His presence (Acts 3:19).

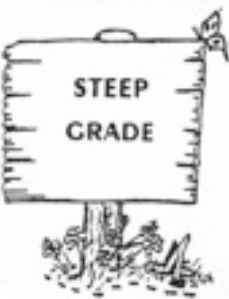
1. What choice do we need to make to find rest for our souls?  
(Jeremiah 6:16) Who is the source of our rest? (Matthew 11:28-29)
2. Use these verses to answer the questions below: Psalms 23:2-3, Isaiah 26:3, 40:31, Matthew 11:28-29, Philippians 4:6-7
  - a. What is our part?
  - b. What is God's promise?



### **SHARP TURN**

Paths heavenward are not always as straight as we expect. Often there are sharp turns--even switchbacks--which can cause us to wonder if we're heading the right way.

1. What is the key to knowing that you are "stepping heavenward," even when things are not going as you expected? (Proverbs 3:5-6)
2. What is God's promise about those unfamiliar paths? (Isaiah 42:16)



### **STEEP GRADE**

The path heavenward can be steep at times, and falling or backsliding is a continual threat.

1. Who keeps us from falling?
2. How does God order our steps? (Psalms 119:133)



### **SCENIC OVERLOOK**

Often God gives us the opportunity to view the journey from His perspective. With our own eyes, we see only the immediate situation within the context of our own limited abilities. If we look through God's eyes, we see what He sees in the context of His ability--and the possibilities are endless.

1. No matter what situation we face, we can always go to the "scenic overlook" in Romans 8:28. What does that verse tell us about our situation?
2. In a hopeless situation, the prophet Elisha brought his servant to a "scenic overlook." What did they see? (II Kings 6:16-17)
3. I John 4:4b also reminds us that things aren't as bad as they might look. Why not?
4. Our "scenic overlook" is an eternal perspective. How do our problems look from that perspective? (II Corinthians 4:17-18)



### **SHELTER AHEAD**

Storms can be a common occurrence on the mountain, and the weary traveler needs to take shelter from the storm when shelter is available.

1. Where are the places we can find shelter on our journey heavenward? Use the following verses.
  - a. Psalms 27:5
  - b. Psalms 61:2-3
  - c. Proverbs 14:26



### **WATCH OUT FOR FALLING ROCKS**

Falling rocks are a danger on the path heavenward. In the same way, we need to also be watching out for temptations that the enemy puts in our path.

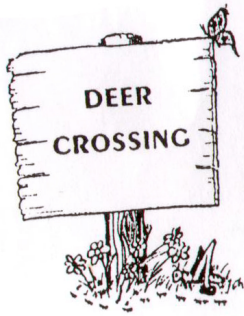
1. How can we avoid being defeated by those "falling rocks" (temptations)? (Matthew 26:31)
2. Who can deliver us? (II Peter 2:9a)
3. How does He deliver us? (I Corinthians 10:13)



### **NO HIKING AFTER DARK**

Darkness intensifies the dangers of hiking. No hiker, experienced or not, is safe hiking after dark. We need to hike in the Light!

1. How do you know whether you're hiking in darkness or in light? (I John 1:7, 2:9-11)
2. What are some of the dangers of walking in darkness? What are some of the blessings of walking in the Light?
3. What gives us light on our path, even in a dark world? (Psalms 119:105) Who is the Light?



### **DEER CROSSING**

Many hikers have "deer" one who either hike with them or refuse to hike with them. God has to have first priority. Are there "deer" ones in your life that you put before the Lord?

1. If we put someone in our life before God, we are making them a "god" in our life. What does Exodus 34:14 say about this?
2. What does Matthew 22:37 say about our true priorities?



### **CHECK POINT**

A check point is a time to examine where you are at...how far you've come...how far you have to go. Take a moment to reflect on your walk with God. Are you carrying extra baggage? How are you doing? Is there something in your life impeding your progress?

1. We need to remember how we have come on this journey heavenward. Where did we all start? (Ephesians 2:2-3, 12)
2. Do we have everything we need to complete the journey? (II Peter 1:3-4)
3. What promise does God give us about finishing the journey? (Philippians 1:6)
4. Write out the "check point" prayer in Psalms 139:23-24.