

Faith Walk



Description:

A simulation activity to help children identify with David and Gary's experience in the book *Angel Tracks in the Snow*, plus the option of choosing between two levels of coloring pages in a separate document entitled "Color by Number Artwork"

Aims:

- Children will experience what it means to "walk by faith."
- Children will better understand what David and Gary experienced in *Angel Tracks in the Snow* in the areas of faith and trust.

Audience:

Grades K–8

Minimum Time Requirements:

10 minutes

Scripture:

Psalm 37:23–24, 31a

Materials:

- Enough blindfolds for every two children to have one
- Obstacle course (see suggestions in the Pre-Class Preparation section)
- Scripture verses printed out from page 6 or Bible marked at Psalm 37:23–24, 31

If you have any questions or problems related to this lesson, please contact Wycliffe's Children's Communications team at kids@wycliffe.org.

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More curricula to engage children in Bible translation are available at www.wycliffe.org/kids.

Pre-class Preparation:

- Prepare your “obstacle course.” If you are outside, you may find plenty of natural obstacles like trees, parking bumpers, boulders, stairs, etc. You could add crime scene tape, rope, cardboard boxes, or construction cones if you choose. If you will do this inside, rearrange the room with tables, chairs, or whatever you have on hand to create a circular course. You needn't invest a lot of time—just make it disorienting for a blindfolded person. The teacher will go through the obstacle course first, followed by teams of two students. Avoid safety hazards! It's best that the children not see the obstacle course ahead of time.
- Be sure you have enough blindfolds for half the children.
- Print out Psalm 37:23–24 and 31 from page 6 or mark your Bible at that portion to read aloud.

Class Time:

Begin reviewing the story *Angel Tracks in the Snow* by asking:

What was your favorite part of *Angel Tracks in the Snow*?

After several children have answered, or if the children need prompting, you could ask some or all of the following questions :

1. Why did David and Gary go to those high mountains in the first place? (Answer: to find the Bengi people who didn't have God's Word in their language yet)
2. What was the weather like throughout the story? (Answer: They had good weather at the beginning, but then a storm brought snow.)
3. Why wouldn't the local people they met before they crossed the mountains sell them any food? (Possible answers: The local people feared they themselves might run out of food during the long, cold winter months ahead. They didn't think that David and Gary should travel with a storm coming.)
4. Why did David and Gary have peace about crossing over the mountains with two fearful helpers in bad weather even with very little food? (Answer: After they prayed, God brought a Bible verse to mind and used it to give them peace to go forward.)
5. What did they find instead of the mountain pass? (Answer: faint footprints heading over the edge of the mountain)

Materials:

- Obstacles
- Blindfolds
- Bible marked at Psalm 37:23–24, 31 or printout of verses from page 6

6. Why did they decide to follow those strange footprints? (Answer: They had prayed asking the Lord to direct their steps, and Gary remembered how Psalm 37:23–24 and 31 talks about the Lord directing our steps. They thought, “What if God wants to direct us with those footprints?”)

Hold up a copy of Psalm 37:23–24 and 31, and invite the children to read it together with you. Ask,

David, the writer of this Psalm, has given us a promise with two parts: God’s part and our part.

- What is God’s part? (*Possible answers: God directs our steps; He delights in every detail of our lives; He holds our hand so we don’t fall.*)
- What is our part? (*Answer: He tells us to live godly lives, filling our hearts with His law*)
- How might we do that? (*Answer: The first step is asking God to forgive our own sins. He alone can do that because of His Son Jesus’ death in our place on the cross. The second step is asking Him to be our Savior, and the third is allowing Him to take control of our lives. Then, by spending time with Him in prayer and studying His Word, we will learn to think and act more like Jesus, or live godly lives.*)

Allow some comments before asking the last question about the story, or jump right to the faith walk activity.

Where did those strange footprints lead them? (*Answer: through the elusive pass, right down below the snow level to a muddy path that eventually led them to the Bengi people for whom they had searched*)

Introduce the faith walk activity by saying:

Today, we’re going on a “faith walk” to help us understand what David and Gary experienced high up in the mountains.

Have each student pair up with a “hiking partner,” one team behind the other, and give each pair a blindfold. Then say:

We don’t have mountains or snow or dried meat to eat or scared porters to carry our gear, but with this “faith walk” we can still learn something about what it means to step out in faith. Let’s pretend that you are now ____ (*number*) teams called by the Lord to find a Bibleless people group. To do that, you’ll need to learn to walk by faith. Decide which of you will wear the blindfold first. (***If students need assistance, choose whichever one is the oldest today.***)

Materials:

- Copy of Psalm 37:23– 24 and 31 (page 6) or Bible turned to that passage

Your partner will lead you through a short obstacle course to get the idea of God leading David and Gary through the snow-covered mountains. You leaders, be sure to lead your blindfolded partner in a safe manner—like God led the men so they did not stumble or fall. In other words, please don't walk them into an obstacle. Remember that your blindfolded partner will become your guide next time around.

With all the blindfolds in place, lead the line through the obstacle course. Have assistants be sure that guides lead in a safe manner. Then return to the area where they put on the blindfolds. Have them switch roles (blindfolds) and lead their “hiking partner” through the obstacle course again. Try going the opposite way through the course this time for variety. Then return to the classroom to discuss the experience.

Faith Walk Debrief:

Pick up the blindfolds, and have the students take their seats. Discuss what everyone learned about walking by faith through this activity. Take time after each question to interact with your children.

1. First, let's remember how we felt when we wore the blindfolds. Was it easy to trust your partner to lead you safely, or did it make you a little nervous?
2. What made it hard to trust your partner?
3. How safe did you feel as you went through the obstacle course?

After sharing their feelings, remind them,

Sometimes we fear trusting God because we don't think He knows what's best for us. Isn't that silly? He made us, He loves us, and He knows us better than we know ourselves. He also knows the future, and we don't!

4. If you hadn't already known your guides, would you have found it easier or harder to trust them? *(Possible answers: Probably harder. Remember how hard it was for David and Gary to make the decision to follow those strange footprints? Sometimes we treat God like a stranger, too.)*
5. How did you feel staying right beside your guide, unable to run off on your own? *(Possible answers: frustrated, powerless, fearful, etc. God always wants to guide us on the safe path He has planned for us, but sometimes we try to go away from Him to do our own thing.)*

Materials:

- Blindfolds
- Obstacle course



6. What might have happened if David and Gary had turned back or refused to follow the angel tracks? *(Possible answers: injury, death, getting lost)*
7. Now, let's remember how we felt when we led our blindfolded teammate. Did you find it easy to keep them safe through the obstacle course?
8. What made it hard?
9. What made it easy? *(Possible answers: It may have demanded patience on your part. You couldn't just run off because you had a responsibility to guide your teammate safely. It might have been harder to guide a fearful or headstrong person.)*

Conclude by saying,

This activity reminds us that God is patient with us, and He stays with us—even if we feel fearful or act stubbornly. He promises never to leave us or forsake us.

Closing Prayer:

Pray that God will,

- teach the children to listen to His voice, guiding them through His Word.
- give students courage to do tasks to which He directs them—even while they are still young, like telling others how to have their sins forgiven.
- call one or more of these children to serve as part of a team providing God's Word for a group that still waits.

Next Steps:

Consider giving your students an opportunity to use the skills they possess right now by choosing a service-learning project from one you find at www.wycliffe.org/Kids



**The LORD directs the steps of the
godly. He delights in every
detail of their lives. Though they
stumble, they will never fall,
for the LORD holds them by the
hand...They have made God's
law their own, so they will never
slip from his path.**

—Psalm 37:23–24, 31 (NLT)