

## Where Are We Going?

I was a counselor at summer camps throughout my high school and college years. One day a week, we would pack a lunch and take the campers on an all-day hike into the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. The destination changed from week to week. Sometimes it was to a remote, scenic mountain lake, while other times, it unveiled a breathtaking mountaintop view. The destination was always worth the effort, strengthening an appreciation of the unspoiled beauty of God's creation.

As we were on our journey, the scenery through the woods looked very similar to the



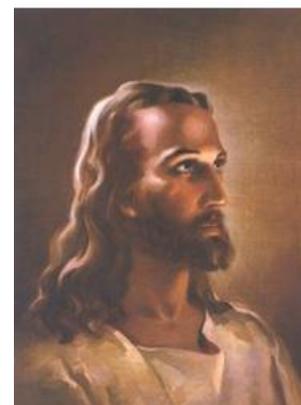
campers – a well-worn trail passing by tree after tree, with occasional trail markers as other trails veered off. The campers didn't know the way, but they had confidence in their leaders to lead the way.



They knew there would be obstacles along the way with plenty of uphill climbs. Other than the typical questions of "how much further" and "are we there yet" from a few weary campers, there was an abundance of trust the campers had for their leaders. The campers looked forward to arriving at the destination described before the hike even began.

We all know our desired destination – Heaven, and we are trusting Jesus to lead us there. Remember the familiar exchange between Jesus and (doubting) Thomas. *Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:5-6).* We can't find the way to Heaven ourselves. We have to trust Jesus to guide us. There will be obstacles and plenty of uphill climbs throughout the journey. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).* Once we reach our destination, the experience will be spectacular. Can you imagine the view from Heaven?

We are on the journey of life, wandering through the wilderness. Oswald Chambers says, "Living a life of faith means never knowing where you are being led. But it does mean loving and knowing the One who is leading. It is a life of faith, not of understanding and reason – a life of knowing Him who calls us to go." We cannot reason our way to the heavenly finish line. It is human nature to want to be in control and in charge of our lives. Like the weary camper, we want to know how much further we have to go. We all need Jesus. Life is tough. There are times when we live in fear, especially of the unknown future ahead. Our leader, Jesus, had this to say: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9).* Jesus is your leader on the trail of life, and only He knows the way. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." That is all we need.



**Question:** Are you willing to give up control and let Jesus lead you?

**Prayer:** Most gracious, heavenly Father. Lead us on the path with a Heavenly destination. You alone know the way. Amen.