

Discipleship Trail Station 1:

Group Leader Instructions: Please read aloud all italicized portions below. Allow the group to discuss and answer prompts. Guide group to remain on topic but avoid spoon feeding answers. Do NOT provide your thoughts/answers to prompts at this station. You will have the opportunity to do so at Station 3.

ASK: *Can anyone remind me the theme for Powwow this year?*

-Allow a few seconds for a shouted answer or a boy or 2 to speak up.

Script: *Our theme is “The Pursuit”. Thomas Jefferson wrote the famous line in our Declaration of Independence:*

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

That sentence is a little hard to understand today, but it might be re-written to sound something like this:

We think its very obvious that all men are created equal and their Creator gave them human Rights that can never be taken away. Some of those are the right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

ASK: *What do you think Thomas Jefferson meant by the “PURSUIT of Happiness”?*

-Allow discussion

NOTE: Rephrase question as necessary to get personal and relevant answers. “How do you pursue Happiness?” Attempt to get at least 1 answer from every member of the group. Dissuade repeated answers.

BONUS:

Script: *In the Declaration of Independence where Thomas Jefferson wrote “endowed by their Creator with certain ... rights” the “C” in “Creator” is capitalized. Who do you think Jefferson meant by “Creator”? His Mom and Dad?*

Leader Instructions: Proceed to Station 2. As you near station 2, if you see a group still in the area keep your group well back and begin reading the station 2 question and Script 1.

Discipleship Trail Station 2:

Ask: *Has anyone ever gone Geocaching? (pronounced 'geo-cashing')*

-Allow a show of hands or shouts!.

Script 1: *Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt game. The GPS location of hiding places are sent to your phone from an app. Because most smartphone GPS is only accurate within a 32 foot circle, the locations sometimes have riddles, hints or clues to help you find them. The point of the treasure hunt is not to collect any treasure, but really just to FIND it. After you find it, you put it back just the way you found it, so someone else can find it!. Most caches have a logbook that allows you to sign your name as one of the hunters who found it. A few bigger caches have a collection of small items that you can TRADE for an item you brought with you to place in the box. Commander Chad left a "Forged" Powwow patch in a cache at Stephen F. Austin State Park many years ago!.*

Sometimes when a cache is located in a public place such as a shopping mall or parking lot the instructions might say "Beware of muggles!" "Muggle" is a term that came from a popular book and movie series that means "One who is not aware of the magic around them". For Geocachers that means "Don't let regular people who don't geocache see you find the secret spot!" People who don't know what a geocache is might steal it or throw it away thinking they're cleaning up something that doesn't belong. If you've never geocached YOU are a muggle! But we're going to change that right now!

Leader Instruction: If station 2 was empty as you approached (you are currently at the station 2 marker) read Script 2 below:

If you are still waiting for station 2 to be empty and available, you may politely ask the group in front of you how long they need to finish. Please don't send a boy to ask, it'll ruin the game! Once the station is empty, take your group to the station 2 marker and read script 2 below:

Script 2: *There is a Shoe Box sized cache hidden somewhere in this area. When I say go you may start to look for it. If you find it, quietly come back and tell me you found it. Don't touch it or give the secret away before all your friends have a chance to find it too. After the game is over we'll open it and sign our names to the log for Powwow points... But remember! BEWARE OF MUGGLES!! In this case- Muggles are all the other Powwow campers. We don't want them to see us find the secret spot! ... Goorilla! GO!*

Leader Instructions: While your group is looking for the cache do your best to keep them from giving it away to anyone nearby. "Look out! There's muggles over there!" Try to keep your kids from "spoiling" it for the rest of your group as each one finds it. At your discretion, once everyone has

found it or its been too long you can call off the search. Open the box and write everyone's name (adults too! Legible!), patrol or team name (make one up if you don't have one!) and your outpost number to the logbook. Be sure to return the box EXACTLY as you found it so its no easier or harder for the next group to find. This is my participation log book I will use for the prize drawing. Remind your young men if they tamper with the box later, none of the prizes can be given away because I won't have a list of names to look at!

Leader Instructions: Proceed to Station 3. As you near station 3, if you see a group still in the area stop your group well back.

Discipleship Trail Station 3:

Leader Instructions: As you approach station 3, if it is currently occupied politely inform the group in front of you that you are ready to enter when they've finished.

When the station is empty and available move to the Station 3 Marker and begin the script.

Script: *A large box can be easy to find
Even if it's the color of vines
Your quest may be much harder this time
Its no larger than a roll of dimes!
Look high, look low it could be anywhere
You won't need to dig, that wouldn't be fair.
Your quarry today will be worth THE PURSUIT
If you find it, you DOUBLE YOUR CHANCE FOR LOOT!*

BEWARE of MUGGLES!

Leader Instructions: Encourage your group to find this harder cache. Remind them if they do find it not to touch yet or spoil it for their friends. At your discretion if you've spent too much time looking for it, call off the search. Please be considerate of other groups behind you. This is a hard cache and you may not find it. Feel free to help search yourself!

If you find it, write down your outpost number and your patrol/team name on the log. I will reference the 1st cache log book for the list of names on the team and **each person on the team will get 2 entries for the prize drawing.** Put the cache back EXACTLY as you found it.

If you don't find it – don't worry! You can bring your group back to search more if they (and you) want. Give first priority to groups going through the trail for the first time.

Take your group out of sight of the area and read script 2:

Script 2: *Our theme, "The Pursuit" is based on Jeremiah 13 and 14. Jeremiah 13 (NIV) reads: " You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." That first cache wasn't so bad, but we had to really search hard for the 2nd one. Have you ever lost something really important? Like you misplaced your homework assignment, or your parents lost their car keys? Think about how you felt while it was gone, and how hard*

you looked for it. Did you find it? Just like this cache Jeremiah 13 calls for us to ‘Seek God with all your heart.’

Ask: What does it mean to ‘Pursue or Seek God with all your heart?’

Ask: How do we practically (really) pursue God every day?

Ask: At station 1 we talked about the Pursuit of Happiness. Can we Pursue Happiness and “Pursue God with all our heart” at the same time?

-Feel free to lead discussion as you see fit.

Bonus Ask: *There are several other bible verses or stories that encourage a believer to Pursue God. To seek! Can you remember any?*

Proceed to Station 4.

Discipleship Trail Station 4:

Leader Instructions: We’re going to play a tag variant game. Use the cones provided to create a square playing field just large enough for the kids in your group to have room to run around in safely but not so large they can easily avoid being tagged. Choose your fastest runner to be “it”. If the game ends very quickly, make the field larger and play again. If it never ends (or drags on and on) stop the game, make the field smaller and restart.

Script: *We’re going to play a tag variant called The Blob. Everyone get inside the square. The first “it” (name player) will tag another player, they must then join hands or link elbows. Every player they tag after that is also “it” and links with the group. This is the Blob. The Blob will chase the remaining players until everyone is captured. The last player captured is “it” for the next round. If you run out of bounds, you automatically join the blob. On Your Mark, Get Set, Gooooorilla! GO!*

Leader Instructions: Feel free to play with the boys, they’ll love it! Play a few rounds and call the boys together.

Ask: *What did you like most- pursuing or being pursued? The chase or being chased?*

-Allow shouted answers. Encourage a few boys to explain why they liked their position best.

Ask: *What is self-esteem?*

-Allow a few boys to give their definition

Script 2: *Self-Esteem is the value we place on ourselves. Maybe a “high self-esteem” is related to how close we are to achieving the “Pursuit of Happiness” we discussed at Station 1. In the book Reason for God by Tim Keller, the author suggests an important life goal of pursuing LOW Self-Esteem. This feels immediately contrary to everything we’ve ever heard, but let’s hear him out. Rev. Keller points out that our true value is not what we think or even make of ourselves, but rather the value that we have in Christ. We are each a Child of God. That is the true source of our value. When we try to establish our own value- our “Self-esteem” using the world’s guidelines – I’m smart. I’m*

athletic. I'm good looking. I'm funny. I'm witty. I'm popular. – when we decide that's our value we LIMIT our value to what we can achieve on our own. When we admit that compared to God we are nothing but we agree that "Greater is He that is in Me than he that is in the world" (John 4:4) we delete the LIMIT.

What does that mean For Real For REAL though? Its impossible to understand the upper end of God's value on our lives. But where it really hits home is when we stop to realize that it means we are no better than anyone else. That we all have the same value because we really were ALL CREATED EQUAL by THE CREATOR. What an incredible relief! You don't have to be better than anyone to like yourself, you just have to recognize that God likes you and that's worth more than being the most famous person in the world. What an incredible feeling to recognize that while you pursue God, HE PURSUES YOU! God chases after you! Because he Likes you!

So what's better- chasing or being chased? The answer is simple. YES!

Bonus: So many times we hear from people that they just can't go to God because they're not worthy. They're not clean or perfect enough. They think "I have to stop this sinning or that thinking before God would ever let me near Him". This is the trap satan lays for us because he knows we can never conquer sin on our own. The enemy convinces us God doesn't want us until we're perfect and so we need to RUN! The Bible is very clear that we are not saved by works (being good or being perfect). We are saved by "GRACE". Grace is such an awesome word. It means a gift we got that we didn't deserve. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8)

What does all that mean? It means QUIT RUNNING. Stop trying to be perfect, or even "good enough". Just stop and be Pursued! Let God chase you, He will meet you right where you are. How you are. Right now.

Leader Instructions: Pray for your group. Be sensitive to any opportunities to carry on further discussion 1 on 1 or as a group. Follow back up with some of these ideas later during camp or back at home. PURSUE your young men. Show them you care by being involved. By listening and asking questions. I'm so glad to join you on The Pursuit.