

Runaway

Lesson plan A, for faith-based groups.

Psalm 139:9-10

"If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."

Kid Shorts



Faith Challenge

Is there anything you want to run away from? Why? What responses to that issue bring you closer to God's purposes?

Advance Preparation

- Prepare the videos, *Runaway*, and *Runaway: Interviews*.
- As an opening activity, prepare sets of instructions that participants can use to find a treasure or hideout spot.
- Collect, or purchase, markers for the map-making activity and tea lights for the closing activity.
- Find a current song on the theme for listening and responding to the theme.
- Choose discussion leaders for small groups.

Activity for Early Arrivals

- Enjoy thinking about possible hideout spots in your building. Create maps to lead people to these spots.

Opening Activity

- After everyone has arrived, pair up participants in small groups and give them a map to find one of your hideout spots.
- Gather at the agreed-upon signal and place to share what you found as you followed the maps.
- Listen and respond to the music you found on the theme.
- Read the theme verse from Psalm 139.
- Pray: Thank you God that we can never hide from your love. Thank you for adventure, for chances to try things on our own, and for the important things we learn that way. Please be with those who need to run away. Open our hearts and minds to see the truths hidden in today's video. Amen.

Exploring a new view

- Watch the video, *Runaway*.

Responding

Discuss

1. What happened after Maria ran away to change the adventure into a scare?
2. How does this story relate to your life?
3. Have you ever run away? What was it like?
4. How does the video *Runaway* compare to the story of the Prodigal Son?
Read Luke 15: 11-32.
5. In what ways was Maria similar to the son who left home?
6. In what ways are Maria's parents similar to the father?
7. What advice would you give to someone who wants to run away?
8. What does Maria's story have in common with children who run away from dangerous homes, only to encounter greater dangers?
9. How can your community reach out to families who are grieving lost and missing children?

Make a Difference

- Research the issue of Canada's lost and missing children on the internet. Pretend you are one of them and write imaginary letters to kids for whom running away is just fun.
- Brainstorm about what should be part of a run-away survival kit. Research your community services for troubled children. If there is a 'safe house', collect and donate these items to it.
- Sit in a circle around a lit pillar candle surrounded by many unlit tea lights. Name things that you, and others, have learned about the topic of running away. After naming something you've learned, light a tea light from the pillar and replace it. Everyone responds by saying, Thank-you, God, that you are always with us, even when we run away.
- Observe a time of silence. End it by playing the song you found for the theme.

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