

EQUIPMENT BAG

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

THE FIRST DAY OF EACH NEW YEAR OF SCHOOL CAN BE EXCITING AND A LITTLE SCARY ALL AT THE SAME TIME. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES IT EXCITING IS GETTING A NEW BACK PACK AND FILLING IT UP WITH ALL YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES. WITH THAT BACK PACK FULL OF ALL YOUR STUFF, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THAT SCHOOL MIGHT HAVE FOR YOU. IT HELPS YOU FEEL CONFIDENT, AND THAT MAKES EVERYTHING ABOUT THE NEW YEAR SEEM A LITTLE LESS SCARY.

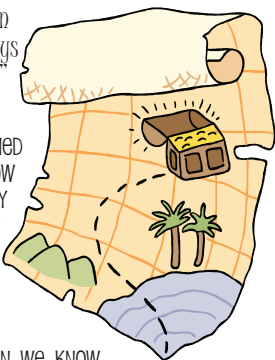
LIFE CAN SOMETIMES BE LIKE A NEW SCHOOL YEAR. SOME PARTS ARE EXCITING AND SOME PARTS ARE A BIT SCARY. BUT GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO BE SCARED. HE WANTS US TO TRUST HIM. ONE OF THE WAYS WE LEARN TO TRUST HIM IS BY READING HIS HOLY WORD, THE BIBLE. WHEN WE READ THE BIBLE, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN WE MEMORIZE IT AND CARRY IT WITH US IN OUR HEARTS, IT'S LIKE WE TAKE GOD WITH US WHEREVER WE GO. OUR HEART BECOMES LIKE THAT BACK PACK FULL OF SUPPLIES, AND WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED TO HANDLE ANYTHING LIFE MIGHT HAVE FOR US. HERE ARE SOME OTHER BIBLE VERSES THAT TEACH US ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT GOD'S WORD IS, AND HOW IT CAN HELP US LIVE OUR LIVES THE BEST WE CAN.



Romans 10:17, 15:4 // Psalm 119:11 // Colossians 3:16

TREASURE MAP

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
~ Proverbs 3:5-6



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LOST? NOT JUST A LITTLE TURNED AROUND, BUT COMPLETELY, AND TOTALLY "I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM" LOST. IT CAN BE A VERY SCARY FEELING TO NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO. THAT'S WHY MAPS AND GPS SYSTEMS ARE SO USEFUL, THEY HELP US KNOW WHICH IS THE RIGHT WAY TO GO WHEN WE ARE LOST. THEY HELP US FIND OUR WAY HOME.

SOMETIMES IN LIFE, WE CAN FEEL LOST EVEN WHEN WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE. THIS HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO OR HOW TO ACT WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, OR WHEN LIFE GETS CONFUSING. MAYBE YOUR BEST FRIEND HAS BEEN SPENDING ALL THEIR TIME WITH SOMEONE ELSE. MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN BULLIED AT SCHOOL. OR PERHAPS YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A REALLY HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING YOUR HOMEWORK. THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF SITUATIONS THAT CAN MAKE US FEEL LOST AND CONFUSED. BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EACH OF US. AND IF WE PRAY AND ASK FOR HIS HELP, HE WILL GUIDE US AND LEAD US THROUGH THE DIFFICULT TIMES. ONE OF THE MAIN WAYS GOD DOES SHOW US THE WAY IS THROUGH HIS HOLY WORD, THE BIBLE. IT IS LIKE THE ULTIMATE MAP, WRITTEN BY GOD HIMSELF. THAT SHOWS THE WAY THAT HE WANTS US TO GO. AND IF WE FOLLOW IT CLOSELY, WE WILL FIND OUR WAY TO OUR REAL HOME WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.

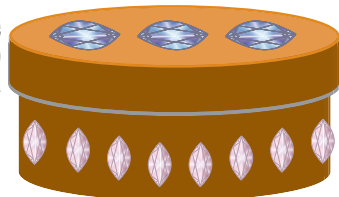
Jeremiah 29:11 // Psalm 139:13-16 // Philippians 4:6-7

TREASURE BOX

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
~ Matthew 6:19-21

IS THERE SOMETHING RIGHT NOW THAT YOU REALLY WISH YOU HAD? A COOL NEW TOY, THE LATEST PLAYSTATION GAME, OR SOME AWESOME ELECTRONIC DEVICE? WE CAN GET SUPER EXCITED ABOUT NEW THINGS THAT WE WANT REALLY BAD. WE CAN END UP SPENDING A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT THESE THINGS WE WANT, AND IMAGINING HOW HAPPY WE WOULD BE IF WE HAD THEM. HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THOUGH, THAT ONCE YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE NEW THINGS, IT'S NEVER QUITE AS GREAT AS YOU HOPED, AND IT'S NOT LONG BEFORE WE FIND SOME OTHER NEW THING TO GET EXCITED ABOUT AND FORGET ABOUT THE LAST ONE.

THERE IS NOTHING REALLY WRONG WITH US LIKING AND WANTING COOL NEW GADGETS OR TOYS. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: THEY ARE JUST STUFF, AND STUFF DOESN'T LAST. THE REASON WE LOOSE INTEREST IN STUFF IS BECAUSE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS WERE MADE TO WORSHIP GOD, NOT STUFF. AND GOD HAS MADE US A PROMISE THAT SHOULD GET US WAY MORE EXCITED THAN ANY GIZMO OR TOY. HE HAS PROMISED THAT IF WE BELIEVE IN JESUS AND GIVE OUR LIFE TO CHRIST, WE WILL LIVE IN HEAVEN WITH HIM FOREVER. IF WE SPEND OUR TIME THINKING ABOUT HEAVEN, INSTEAD OF THINGS, IT WILL GIVE US A JOY AND EXCITEMENT THAT WILL NEVER GO AWAY!



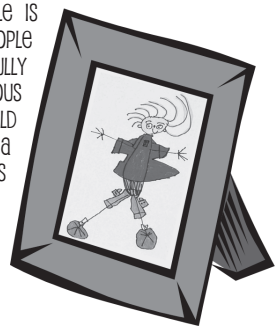
Matthew 13:44 // Colossians 2:2-3 // Revelation 21:1-7

PRECIOUS PORTRAIT

"Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you"
~ Isaiah 43:4a

THERE ARE OVER 7 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. THAT'S A NUMBER THAT IS SO BIG, IT'S HARD FOR US TO REALLY UNDERSTAND. LET'S TRY TO UNDERSTAND HOW BIG THAT NUMBER IS BY THINKING ABOUT ANTS: TEENY TINY LITTLE ANTS. IF YOU HAD 7 BILLION ANTS, THEY WOULD WEIGH ABOUT 23 TONS! THAT'S ABOUT 46,000 LBS! THAT'S A LOT OF ANTS!

WHEN WE THINK ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE IN THE WORLD, IT'S EASY TO FEEL VERY SMALL AND EVEN UNIMPORTANT. WHAT IS ONE PERSON AMONG SO MANY? BUT TO GOD, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE 7 BILLION PEOPLE IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT. IN FACT, EACH OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE PRECIOUS TO GOD IN A WAY THAT WE CAN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND, AND THAT MEANS THAT YOU ARE PRECIOUS TO GOD. WHEN HE SEES YOU, HE SEES A BEAUTIFUL CHILD MADE IN HIS OWN IMAGE. AND HE LOVES YOU WITH A LOVE THAT IS SO HUGE IT MAKES 7 MILLION SEEM AS TEENY TINY AS ALL THOSE LITTLE ANTS!



CHECK OUT SOME OF THESE OTHER BIBLE VERSES THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND JUST HOW BIG GOD'S LOVE IS AND HOW SPECIAL WE ARE TO HIM!

John 15: 14-16 // 1 John 3:1 // Ephesians 3:17-19

SUNCATCHERS

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
~ John 8:12



NIGHT LIGHTS ARE A PRETTY IMPORTANT PART OF EVERY CHILD'S BEDROOM. THE DARKNESS CAN BE SCARY AND THAT CAN MAKE YOUR IMAGINATION CAN GET OUT OF CONTROL. YOU LAY THERE IN THE DARK AND WORRY, OR MAYBE YOU PANIC AND GO RUNNING FOR YOUR PARENTS' BED! BUT WITH THAT SOFT GLOW FROM THE NIGHT LIGHT THINGS FEEL VERY DIFFERENT. THE LIGHT IS COMFORTING AND CALMS US DOWN SO WE CAN RELAX AND FOCUS ON GOING TO SLEEP.

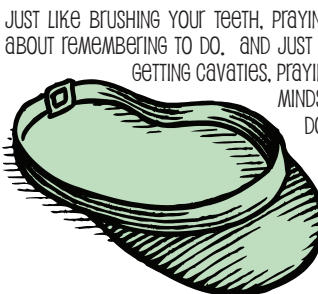
JESUS DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND THERE IS A REASON HE DID THAT. IF WE GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT KNOWING GOD, IT'S LIKE WE'RE TRAPPED IN THAT DARK BEDROOM FOREVER. NOW THAT'S A SCARY THOUGHT! BUT JESUS DOESN'T WANT US TO BE AFRAID. IN FACT, IN THE WHOLE BIBLE, GOD SAYS THAT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE: "BE NOT AFRAID" WHEN WE KNOW JESUS, IT'S LIKE HAVING A NIGHT LIGHT IN OUR HEART, AND IT HELPS US TO NOT BE AFRAID. HIS HOLY SPIRIT WILL GIVE US PEACE SO WE CAN RELAX AND FOCUS ON TRYING OUR VERY BEST TO LOVE OTHERS THE SAME WAY HE LOVES US. WHEN WE DO THAT, WE LET HIS LIGHT SHINE THROUGH US AND HELP OTHERS FEEL THE SAME SENSE OF PEACE AND COMFORT. THE BIBLE HAS ALL KINDS OF GREAT VERSES ABOUT JESUS BEING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND HOW WE CAN LET THAT SAME LIGHT SHINE IN US.

John 12:35-36, 46 // John 14:27 // Matthew 5:14-16

SALVATION VISOR

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... And take the helmet of salvation..."
~ Ephesians 6:11, 17a

GET OUT OF BED, GET DRESSED, EAT BREAKFAST, BRUSH YOUR TEETH, THESE ARE THINGS THAT YOU PROBABLY DO EVERY SINGLE MORNING. THESE THINGS HAVE BECOME HABBIT, WHICH MEANS YOU DO THEM WITHOUT HAVING TO BE TOLD OR REMINDED. OKAY, WELL MAYBE YOU MIGHT NEED TO BE TOLD A FEW TIMES BY YOUR PARENTS, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA. THERE IS ONE MORE IMPORTANT HABBIT THOUGH THAT EVERYONE SHOULD ADD TO THEIR LIST OF MORNING ACTIVITIES: PRAYING. WE SHOULD GREET EACH NEW DAY AS A GIFT FROM GOD AND BEGIN EACH MORNING BY THANKING HIM FOR IT. PRAYING HELPS US TO DRAW OUR HEARTS AND MINDS CLOSER TO GOD AND MAKES US MORE ABLE TO LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AS HE GUIDES US THROUGH OUR DAY.



JUST LIKE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH, PRAYING IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE ABOUT REMEMBERING TO DO. AND JUST LIKE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH PROTECTS THEM FROM GETTING CAVITIES, PRAYING EACH MORNING HELPS PROTECT OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FROM ALL THE BAD STUFF IN THE WORLD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE ANY SPECIAL WORDS. YOU CAN JUST THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSING OF A NEW DAY AND ASK HIM TO HELP YOU TO BE SAFE AND MAKE GOOD CHOICES. IT'S EVEN BETTER TO MAKE A HABBIT TO PRAY TOGETHER WITH YOUR FAMILY EACH MORNING AND YOU CAN TAKE TURNS PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 // Psalm 118:24 // Colossians 4:2