

Where Does Your Trail Go?

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Effective Props you can make:

Make two Trail Head Signs.

One points to the right and one to the left.

One sign says: **Happy Trail** with a smiley face; however, on the opposite side of the sign it reads: **Dead End Trail** with a skull and crossbones insignia.

When you flip the sign during the message you will see the Dead End sign.

One sign says: **Everlasting Life**.



Personal Note:

The first part of this message we apply our personal background to focus the students. You will naturally want to adapt this to your setting as you see fit.

PRAYER & OPEN WITH THIS SCRIPTURE.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "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."

Sounds pretty easy- Trust God & go where He directs instead of trying to blaze your own trails. You'll be guided to where He wants you to be and there's no place better to be. But sometimes it's hard to see His trail or path.

Francine and I grew up near a very famous trail. We were both literally born on the Chisholm Trail.

Duncan and Marlow were on the old Chisholm Trail that was famous for cattle drives and stories of cowboys out riding the range. I was born in Marlow, Oklahoma in the Tally-Walker Hospital, smack dab on the trail. Francine was born in the Patterson Hospital in Duncan, which was also right on the trail. Francine lived on the trail sight because it cut right through the country club. She lived on Country Club Road.

However, we didn't see the trail; we never saw any cattle drives comin' up from TX. We just saw the historical markers and heard stories.

Francine had a great grandpa that ran a ferry boat on the Red River and he saw those cattle drives and talked to some of those cowboys. He ferried soldiers across the river. In fact, he ferried a group of soldiers that had Geronimo as captive or so the "story" goes down through the family anyway.

As a teenager, I used to cruise in my car up and down Highway 81 that once upon a time was covered with cowboys herding cattle. I was running back and forth honking at all the pretty girls ! OOPS, I mean I was honking at Francine☺.

The cowboys were taking cattle up to Abilene KS to get a good price for them. They had a purpose for being on the Chisholm Trail. It was to get the cows to a place where they were worth more: I was just driving back and forth thinking I had a purpose.

Today I want to tell you about two other trails and how important it is to know which trail to take.

1. The Happy Trail [the Dead End Trail]

This trail starts out looking pretty good. It begins as a broad smooth nice looking trail

Matthew 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:"

At the beginning you think it is a trail that will take you to happiness and wealth, but watch out!

Isaiah 55:2 "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And you labor for that which satisfieth not?"

This trail is actually crowded with thieves and robbers which will lie to you trick you, and if necessary, they'll whip you to get everything that you have. It doesn't seem like much fun after you been on it for a while. The trail quickly changes from parties, excitement, and pleasure to a trail of tears.

Jeremiah 9:1 "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night..."

And after this trail has robbed you of everything and crushed your dreams, you will find out that you are on a Dead End trail, an eternally dead end trail.

Matthew 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment..."

2. The Trail of Everlasting Life:

Jeremiah 6:16 "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."

This trail is the exact opposite of the dead end trail. Instead of starting out broad, it starts out narrow. And God's word says it doesn't have to get real wide because fewer folks choose this trail.

Matthew 7:14 "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it".

I have talked to many people that like the idea of being in heaven for all eternity, but they would look back at that broad path and decide they wouldn't be willing to give all that old life up. DUH ! Some were thinking about their beer. They would rather drink and wake up the next day with a bad hang over than spend all eternity in heaven. Now try to make sense out of that! Some would be looking back at their boat, their favorite ball team on TV, or whatever they would put in front of God.

John 17:3 "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

I found out that this narrow trail is filled with gobs of joy and happiness. It may look narrow and hard, but I found out that it is plenty wide enough, and it is easier to travel than the other trail. I never really had to give up anything of value on the old trail cause those old ways were not what made me happy. When I found out about the joys of this everlasting trail those old ways didn't have much attraction any more.

Mark 10:29-30 "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions: and the world to come, eternal life."

You see, once you get on the everlasting trail, you can't fall off, you can't be pulled off, and you can't be pushed off. This path started at the Garden of Eden and leads straight to the throne of God.

Rev. 21:4, 6, 23, 27

You have the choice: two trails and the Bible makes it clear which is the right trail. Some of you have already chosen this everlasting trail. God says you now need to walk worthy (Good testimony). If you have not made the choice to follow the everlasting trail, or you are not sure, then I am giving you something very important to think about. You need to think about these trails and if you want to take the everlasting trail, you can talk to a counselor or talk to me.