

Dangerous Journey

LEADER'S
GUIDE



DANGEROUS JOURNEY LEADER'S GUIDE

Use these resources and activities to make your
DANGEROUS JOURNEY film series a special learning event.

DANGEROUS JOURNEY is a vivid retelling of John Bunyan's classic work **THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**. The colorful characters and gripping situations will capture the hearts of children and adults alike as it brings new insight into the challenges of a life committed to Jesus Christ.

This resource guide provides information, ideas, and teaching helps for those using the **DANGEROUS JOURNEY** series in classroom, Children's Church, family devotions, and small group settings. These resources can expand each film showing into a full class session. Along with background information on John Bunyan and **PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**, this guide offers summaries; explanations of characters, events, and places; activities; and discussion helps.

You may find the book version of **DANGEROUS JOURNEY** a helpful resource and supplement to your film showing. The book, based on the film series, has been published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishers and is available in bookstores and libraries.

INTRODUCING THE SERIES TO YOUR GROUP

Before your film showing begins, take a few minutes to introduce your group to the story of **DANGEROUS JOURNEY**. You might want to give some background on John Bunyan to an older audience. Before describing any one segment, an overview of the whole story would be helpful. Explain that **DANGEROUS JOURNEY** follows the travels of a man named Christian as he flees from his home in the City of Destruction, finds deliverance from his guilt and sin at the cross, and journeys on to the Heavenly City, meeting exciting challenges all along the way.

Alert the group to the "hidden meanings" in the story. **DANGEROUS JOURNEY** is more than an adventure story--the characters, places and events portray spiritual truths and challenges. Christian's dangerous journey is the journey through life that all of us are on when we try to follow God. Depending on the age of your audience, point out some of the "hidden meanings" in the story. This introduction will add to your group's appreciation and understanding of this rich story as they watch.

If you use the terms "pilgrim" or "pilgrimage," be sure to define them. (For most American children, a pilgrim is someone who celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Indians.) You can explain that a pilgrim is a traveller on his way to a holy place, often journeying far from home through foreign lands.

BEFORE THE SHOW

Each film viewing will be a more valuable experience if your group spends a little time preparing beforehand. Start by giving a brief summary of the section you are about to see, reminding them that **DANGEROUS JOURNEY** is a story about the Christian life. Point out the main characters and settings, noting their spiritual meanings, so your group can more easily grasp the significance of the story as they watch. (Summaries and descriptions of MAIN CHARACTERS and MAJOR SETTINGS are provided for each segment.)

Next, take time to explain unfamiliar words. You might list the WORDS TO EXPLORE on a blackboard or flip chart. Ask the group if they know what each word means. If no one can define a term, use a dictionary to find the meaning. Help the group come up with a brief definition for each word, fitting for its use in the story, which you can then add to your list.

After you have watched each segment of the film, use the DISCUSSION GUIDES and ACTIVITIES to reinforce the lessons of **DANGEROUS JOURNEY**, and apply the truths to each class member's own spiritual journey.

ACTIVITIES

Working together on these projects will get your group involved in the story and reinforce the lessons of Christian's journey. Choose the activities that are best suited to your group and time schedule. You might use a different activity for each session, or choose one larger project which the class can work on each time they meet.

1. Dramatize a scene from the story. This can be an off-the-cuff role play, or bring simple props and costumes for a more elaborate production.
2. Make a wall mural. Have each child illustrate one character or scene from Christian's travels.
3. Have group members make their own Dangerous Journey Booklets, figuratively illustrating events from their own lives. The teacher can help them choose appropriate experiences, sharing examples from his/her own life.
4. Draw a map of Christian's journey, showing his path from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. Plot the important places, illustrating the events that occurred there.
5. The world has changed a great deal since Bunyan wrote **THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**. Think of new and different problems we see around us that are not included in **DANGEROUS JOURNEY**. Then have the group describe characters or settings to represent the temptations and troubles we face in our modern world. You could write and illustrate a new episode, or sketch out a map with your new locations and events plotted.

1

THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND

Christian wept and trembled to read in his book that fiery judgment was coming to the **City of Destruction** where he lived. His family thought he was quite insane, but **Evangelist** pointed out the way of escape, by following a shining light to the wicket-gate. In spite of the attempts of his family and neighbors to stop him, **Christian** fled toward the distant light, accompanied by his neighbor **Pliable**.

As they travelled on, **Christian** and **Pliable** stumbled into a muddy swamp, the **Slough of Despond**. While **Christian** began to sink because of the heavy burden on his back, **Pliable** scrambled out and ran home. **Christian** struggled across the bog, where he was drawn out by **Help**, and continued on toward the wicket-gate. He met a gentleman on the way, **Mr. Worldly Wiseman**, who directed him to an easier way. **Christian** turned off as **Worldly Wiseman** suggested, but just as he discovered the dangers of the road, **Evangelist** appeared to point him back to the straight path he had left.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

Some of these words may be unfamiliar to your group. You might want to define them. Or better yet, supply a few dictionaries and put the group to work exploring the words for themselves.

lamentable	pliable	despond	legality
wicket-gate	fantastical	worldly	judicious
obstinate	slough	carnal	

MAIN CHARACTERS

Christian - Frantic to escape the coming destruction and rid himself of his crushing burden of sin and guilt, Christian fled from his home and began a long and exciting trip to the place of deliverance and, finally, the rewards of the Celestial City. His dangerous journey is the story of every one who turns to God and follows His pathway through life toward the Heavenly City.

Evangelist - An evangelist preaches the Gospel. In this story, Evangelist was the one who showed Christian the way to find deliverance, and directed him back to the right road when he had lost his way.

Obstinate - A proud and stubborn resident of the City of Destruction, Obstinate had no use for God's Word when it interfered with his comfortable life. He dismissed Christian and Pliable as fools.

Pliable - Easily swayed by what he heard and saw, Pliable was quick to join Christian on his trip to the rewards of the Celestial City. But with their first misfortune, when they encountered the Slough of Despond, Pliable was just as quick to turn back and abandon the journey.

Help - Help is one of the King's officers (preachers, pastors, evangelists, etc.) who, like Evangelist, are stationed along the way to the Celestial City to assist pilgrims as they journey. He helped Christian climb out of the Slough of Despond.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman - A successful, well-respected gentleman, Worldly Wiseman had a high respect for his type of morality. But his main interest was in the enjoyment of his worldly pleasures, and he had no regard for the difficult and dangerous road to the Celestial City. He directed Christian to a "better way," where Mr. Legality would relieve him of his burden and he could find a happy and easy life.

MAJOR SETTINGS

City of Destruction - This was Christian's home town, from which he fled to escape the coming judgment from heaven. The City of Destruction represents this present world, where people go about their lives without regard for God and the life He calls them to.

Slough of Despond - This miry swamp was filled with the scum and slime that come with the realization of sin. When those who seek God realize the evil that is within them, the fears, doubts and discouragements that arise may threaten to engulf them.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Point out the "hidden meanings" in the story. Explain the symbolism of a few specific details--e.g. the book Christian is reading (the Bible), Christian's burden (his sin and guilt), and Evangelist (preachers and others who point out the way to God). As the children catch on, they will be intrigued with the search for "hidden meanings" in each film segment.
2. How did Christian first learn of the danger he was in? He knew he must do something, but didn't know which way to go. Who showed him the way?
3. Who are the "Evangelists" that you know of? (This could be anyone who shows others how to turn to God--not just those who are evangelists by profession.) Was there someone in your life who helped you in this way?
4. How did Christian's family and neighbors react to his leaving? Why wouldn't his family join him? Why did Obstinate refuse to go?
5. Pliable was quite happy to go with Christian when he heard of the wonderful Celestial City ahead. How did he react, though, when he encountered the swampy Slough of Despond? Has God promised to make the road to heaven easy and comfortable? How did Christian escape the dangerous Slough? Can you think of a time when you were "sinking" in a problem, and God sent someone to be "Help" to you?

2

THE INTERPRETER'S HOUSE

After three sleeping men rejected Christian's offer to unfetter them, he continued on his way to the **wicket-gate**. Narrowly escaping the arrows from **Beelzebub's** castle, Christian knocked at the gate and was admitted by **Goodwill**. The straight and narrow path led first to the **House of the Interpreter**, where Christian learned several crucial lessons: the effectiveness of God's grace for cleansing men's souls; the empty promises of worldly pleasures; and the power of simple courage.

Not far ahead, Christian came to the **Place of Deliverance**. There, as he gazed at a wayside cross, his burden slipped from his back and disappeared into the open tomb. Three Shining Ones announced his cleansing and presented him with bright new clothes and a valuable parchment. Leaping for joy and singing, Christian set off again.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

presumption	celestial	interpreter	salvation
sloth	deliverance	valiant	parchment

MAIN CHARACTERS

Simple, Sloth and Presumption - These three men began the journey, but before they had even reached the Place of Deliverance they were lulled to sleep. Fettered by their lack of concern, and seeing no compelling reason to go on, they have abandoned their quest, and sleep on.

Goodwill - Goodwill, the gatekeeper at the wicket-gate, embodies God's gracious acceptance of sinners who come to Christ.

Beelzebub - This prince of the castle just outside the wicket-gate, who is Satan himself, opposed those who approached the gate, doing his best to prevent their entry.

Interpreter - The Interpreter represents the teaching of God and His ways that comes to new believers through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and human teachers, through Scripture and daily experience.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Wicket-gate - The gate through which we enter into acceptance with God is a wicket, a very small gate--for "small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life" (Matthew 7:14).

Interpreter's House - After entering the wicket-gate, Christian was ready to receive instruction about the road he had chosen. At this place of learning, he received many valuable lessons for the journey ahead.

Place of Deliverance - As Christian reached the hill top of the Salvation road and gazed at the cross standing there, the burden of guilt on his back rolled off and was swallowed forever by an open tomb. It is when

we finally understand Christ's death for sinners, and the forgiveness that it brings, that we find relief from the crushing guilt of our sinfulness.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why weren't Simple, Sloth and Presumption interested in going on?
2. When Christian reached the wicket-gate, what did he have to do to be let in? Read Matthew 7:7. What does Jesus mean when he says we should "knock"? How do we do this?
3. Christian learned several valuable lessons at the Interpreter's House. What did he learn from seeing:

- the dusty room swept clean?
- the professor in a cage?
- the courageous man who fought his way through the guarded doorway?

Where have you found lessons for your journey through life? Who have been "Interpreters" for you?

4. Christian wasn't able to budge the huge burden on his back. How was it finally removed? What happened to it?
5. What did the burden represent? Have you ever felt so bad about the wrong you have done that you felt like you were carrying a heavy load? What can we do about it when we feel like that? What has God done to remove our sin and guilt? What do we have to do?

3

THE HILL DIFFICULTY

Formalist and **Hypocrisy**, considering the wicket-gate too far out of the way, jumped over the wall onto the narrow road and landed right in front of Christian. It wasn't long before they had both turned off onto cross roads. Christian, however, followed the narrow path straight on up the **Hill Difficulty**. He rested from the wearying climb at a pleasant **arbour** placed midway up the mountain by the Lord of the **Hill**. His rest turned to a deep sleep. Awaking in the late evening, Christian hurried on, only to discover that he had lost his parchment while he slept. In the dark of night he had to return to the **arbour**. At the end of his strenuous climb Christian found food and rest in the **Palace Beautiful** -- but only after facing the lions chained at the entrance.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

formalist	hummock	furlong
hypocrisy	timorous	discretion
vain-glory	benighted	pilgrim

MAIN CHARACTERS

Formalist and **Hypocrisy** - The wicket-gate was too far away for Formalist and Hypocrisy; they simply jumped over the wall to enter the road to the Heavenly City. The cleansing and relief that Christian found at the Place of Deliverance was not part of their experience. Echoes of these fellows can be found in those who take part in religious observances without the inward experience of sincerely seeking God and His way. When the road became difficult they turned off and met with destruction.

Timorous and **Mistrust** - The lions outside the Palace sent Timorous and Mistrust running back for fear of being torn to pieces. They did not trust the Lord of the way to provide safe passage. Bunyan may have had in mind the lions which many early Christians faced quite literally. In Bunyan's day the methods of persecution had changed, but many still faced arrest and death for their faithfulness.

Watchful - This porter at the Palace Beautiful encouraged Christian to continue on past the lions, explaining that they were chained, and could not reach him if he kept to the middle of the path.

Discretion - The young lady Discretion questioned Christian carefully before allowing him to enter the Palace Beautiful for food and rest. The caution which Watchful and Discretion displayed demonstrates the discretion needed in admitting members into the community of the faithful, the church.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Hill Difficulty - The narrow road is not always an easy one, and this monstrous hill became increasingly steep as Christian pressed forward. Though difficult, the climb was not impossible, and provisions for rest and refreshment were found at midpoint and at the summit.

Arbour - Just when Christian felt he could go no further, he came to an arbour halfway up the Hill Difficulty. There he could rest and read his parchment. The Lord provides needed rest and encouragement when life is difficult. But it is easy, like Christian, to relax our diligence at times like these. In spite of the long and rough travel still ahead, he fell fast asleep, thereby making the end of his climb all the more troublesome.

Palace Beautiful - After climbing the Hill Difficulty and braving the terror of lions chained along the path, Christian entered into fellowship with the Lord's people at the Palace Beautiful. Food and peaceful rest refreshed him; victorious stories of the Lord's servants and his own suit of armour prepared him for the next part of his journey.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why did Formalist and Hypocrisy jump over the wall to enter the road? Why do you think they were so ready to turn off when the narrow road became difficult?
2. What experiences have you had that were very difficult, like Christian's encounter with the Hill Difficulty? Along with the difficulty, did you also find rest and encouragement as Christian did in the arbour and Palace Beautiful?
3. Christian found comfort and guidance by reading his parchment. What has God given us to read for our comfort and guidance?
4. Christian trembled for fear of the lions, but if he were to continue toward the Celestial City he had no choice but to keep walking. What are your "lions" -- what part of following Jesus do you find frightening?

4

THE FIGHT WITH APOLLYON

Before leaving the Palace Beautiful, Christian was shown the distant Delectable Mountains and a collection of objects which earlier servants of the Lord had used to win great victories. Then, protected by the armor the Lord provides for His travellers, he hurried on until he found himself in the **Valley of Humiliation**. There he encountered the fiersome fiend **Apollyon**. Challenged to turn back and serve this Prince of his former homeland, Christian resisted and was forced to fight for his life. The battle raged half the day. When it seemed that Christian was near to death, he rose, and dealt his oppressor a mighty blow. Victorious, but severely wounded, Christian found healing for his injuries in the leaves of the Tree of Life.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

prudence	armory	dominions	staunch
delectable	humiliation	allegiance	felicity
countenance	infernal		

MAIN CHARACTERS

Charity - Charity questioned Christian about his family, asking why he had not brought them along. Christian's answer shows his deep concern for his wife and children, and for their spiritual welfare.

Piety and Prudence - Along with Discretion and Charity, these ladies of the Palace Beautiful showed Christian the Delectable Mountains and a number of objects that earlier servants of the Lord had used to win victories over His enemies. Before Christian left they fitted him with armor, his preparation for withstanding the wiles of the Devil.

Apollyon - This terrifying monster, who identified himself as the Prince of the City of Destruction, encouraged Christian to leave his new King and return to his own service. When Christian refused, Apollyon attacked. The battle raged, and it finally appeared that Christian would be defeated. But at the last he ran Apollyon through with his sword, and the dragon flew off dripping blood as he went. In this battle scene Bunyan depicted the inward struggles that believers must endure when Satan attacks with temptations and troubles.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Valley of Humiliation - From the heights of the Palace Beautiful, Christian's road led to the Valley of Humiliation, the site of his battle with the monster Apollyon. He had just learned of God's victorious strength and the provisions available to the Lord's servants. In this Valley he experienced his weakness and need for the Lord's resources.



DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why wouldn't Christian's wife make the journey with him? How about his children?
2. How did the ladies of the Palace help Christian prepare for his battle with Apollyon? How did each of these preparations help him:
 - they pointed out the Delectable Mountains
 - they showed him the objects used in earlier victories
 - they fitted him with armor
3. What is the armor that God provides? Read Ephesians 6:10-17 and identify each piece of Christian's armor.
4. How did Apollyon try to stop Christian's journey? How many ways can you remember?
 - he claimed to be Christian's first Prince
 - he offered to double his wages
 - he attacked violently, trying to kill him

5

THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

The road to the Celestial City led through the dark and treacherous **Valley of the Shadow of Death**. The narrow path wound between a dangerous swamp and a deep ditch, then past the mouth of Hell itself, where the silence was broken by doleful voices and the rush of wings. Tormented by **apparitions** and almost in despair, Christian heard a faithful voice ahead that gave him courage to continue. As morning broke, Christian faced the second part of the **Valley**, with its pitfalls, traps and secret nets. At the **Valley's** edge he was startled, but not hurt, by the giant **Pagan**.

Just beyond the **Valley**, Christian met up with an old friend and neighbor **Faithful**, and they passed the hours of their travels talking about their adventures. Evangelist joined them briefly to warn of the enemies they would meet in the town of Vanity where one of them would die.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

doleful	cunningly	wanton	vanity
apparitions	avenger	deridingly	vehement
wench	tribulations		

MAIN CHARACTERS

Apparitions, Wicked Ones, Hobgoblins and Dragons of the Pit - These evil beings flew from the mouth of Hell to torment and test Christian as he passed through the Valley. They represent the powers of evil in their most terrifying forms as they oppose and tempt believers.

Pagan - This giant lived in a cave at the edge of the Valley of the Shadow of Death. A pile of bones remained as evidence of the many pilgrims he had devoured in times past. But he was too old and stiff to cause much harm anymore. Paganism was not the threat to pilgrims that it once had been.

Faithful - Faithful was an old friend and neighbor who left the City of Destruction and began his pilgrimage after Christian had departed. When they met on the road, the two passed the time sharing their experiences and adventures.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Valley of the Shadow of Death - This haunted place was a dreadful part of Christian's journey, but the road led through it and, if he were to reach the Celestial City, he had to go on. The path was dangerously narrow; a misstep in either direction would have been fatal. The Valley was a

place of testing where Christian faced the powers of darkness. It was a battle with demonic forces even more trying than his fight with Apollyon. The terrors of the night, with apparitions and the mouth of Hell, were followed by the treachery of hidden traps, which was less horrifying but no less dangerous.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. John Bunyan, who wrote this story, had faced many struggles with evil -- from imprisonments and threats of death for his beliefs, to inward struggles with doubts and temptations. He used this picture of the Valley of the Shadow of Death to describe a most horrifying time. What kinds of experiences do you think he is talking about? What might you face that could cause such fear?
2. What do you think the apparitions flying from Hell mean? How did Christian deal with them?
3. In this dark and dreadful place Christian found courage to keep going from the voice of someone ahead of him. What was that person saying? (Psalm 23:4) This other man was not aware that he was helping Christian. Do you ever think that others are watching and listening to you, and finding encouragement because of your life?
4. Do you know what Paganism is? Why is the giant Pagan pictured as too old and stiff to do much harm? What "giants" are more of a threat today?

6

VANITY FAIR

The road to the Celestial City led through the town of **Vanity**. There Beelzebub had established a **fair** where goods from around the world were offered for sale. When Christian and **Faithful** refused to buy the merchandise or join in the foolish merrymaking, the townsmen became enraged and the pilgrims were arrested as troublemakers.

Faithful was put on trial, where witnesses testified that he was a vile fellow who spoke contemptuously of **Vanity's** religion, Prince Beelzebub and other officials. **Faithful** agreed that he found their religion and leaders opposed to the Word of God. He was found guilty and burnt at the stake. A waiting chariot carried him through the clouds to the Celestial City.

In the meantime, a townsman named **Hopeful** spirited Christian away to safety and joined him in his travels. They met a group of **citizens from the City of Fair Speech**, who soon met their end at **Demas'** silver mine. Christian wisely led **Hopeful** past the lure of riches, and so escaped that danger.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

vanity	allegations	heretic	commodities
railed	deportment	feigning	mountebanks
runagate	verdict	lucre	stocks
contemptuously			

MAIN CHARACTERS

Faithful - When Christian and his fellow pilgrim Faithful refused to buy the merchandise at Vanity Fair it caused quite a disturbance and the pair were arrested. At the ensuing trial Faithful was found guilty of speaking against the religion and officials of Vanity. He was burned at the stake by his enemies, while a chariot waited to carry him through the clouds to the Celestial City.

Lord Hate-good - Hate-good was the judge at Faithful's trial in Vanity.

Envy, Superstition and Mr. Pickthank - These men were witnesses against Faithful in the court at Vanity. Their names and testimony demonstrate three of the many motivations behind the persecution of believers.

Mr. Blindman, Mr. No-good, Mr. Malice, Mr. Highmind, Mr. Heady and Mr. Cruelty - This jury found Faithful guilty according to the laws of Vanity. The names and responses of each juror represents an attitude which fosters the cruelty of religious persecution.

Hopeful - Hopeful was a resident of Vanity who was deeply moved by the words and behavior of Christian and Faithful during their sufferings there. As a result, he decided to begin the journey to the Celestial

City himself. Freeing Christian, he became his companion for the rest of the trip.

Citizens of Fair Speech - The City of Fair Speech was a place where money ruled. Though its citizens claimed to be headed to the Celestial City, their loyalties were clearly divided. Because of their greed they perished without finishing the journey.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Vanity Fair - Because the road to the Celestial City led through the town of Vanity, Beelzebub had long ago established a fair there. Pilgrims could not help but pass through. Foolish and empty delights from around the world were sold there, and every kind of rogue and scoundrel were present. At Vanity Fair Christian and Faithful were jeered and arrested.

Lucre - Demas owned a silver mine in the hill called Lucre, and offered easy riches to those who went by. Christian and Hopeful hurried past. The citizens of Fair Speech couldn't pass up such an opportunity, but their greed was their undoing.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Beelzebub had started Vanity Fair where pilgrims had to pass through it. It offered empty pleasures and foolish goods from around the world. Compare this to Jesus' statement that His followers are in the world, but "are not of the world" (John 17:15-16).
2. Think of all the things you own and the kinds of things you spend your money on. Which are really important to you? How much of what you have is really rather worthless and foolish, like the merchandise at Vanity Fair? Name some specific things that attract you and your friends, and can distract you from more important activities. Are you able to say "We buy only the truth" like Christian and Faithful did?
3. Christian and Faithful didn't fit in at Vanity Fair, and the crowds were quick to spot them. Have you ever felt out of place because you are a Christian? If so, in what ways were you different? Do you think it is normal for Christians to feel "different" from the rest of the world?
4. Christian and Faithful were laughed at, arrested, and locked up because they followed God's way. Faithful was even tried in court and killed because of his faith. Have you heard of places where Christians are sometimes arrested or killed for their beliefs today? If this could happen to you, would you still be a Christian? How do you think it would change the way you live and worship?
5. How did Christian and Faithful respond to the cruel treatment they received in Vanity? What effect did their attitude during their suffering have on Hopeful?
6. Why was the silver mine and its promise of riches so dangerous? Is it wrong to want money?

7

DOUBTING CASTLE

Discouraged and footsore from the rough road, Christian and Hopeful chose an easier path across a meadow. With nightfall and a heavy rain they lost their way and sought the shelter of an overhanging rock. They were awakened next morning by **Giant Despair**, owner of **Doubting Castle**, who locked them in a dungeon for trespassing on his private grounds. There they languished for days without food or water, enduring beatings and threats from the **Giant**. It seemed that death was the only escape until Christian remembered an old key in his pocket called Promise. The key opened the dungeon door and an iron gate, but the **Giant** was right behind the pair as they fled. They were only saved when the sunlight caused **Despair** to fall into a fit of weakness.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

stile	surly	cudgel	swooned
diffidence	stripes	lamentations	vain-confidence
amain	malevolent	moderated	jurisdiction

MAIN CHARACTERS

Giant Despair - The owner of Doubting Castle imprisoned Christian and Hopeful, beating them and threatening to kill them. These were not empty threats, as a large pile of bones and skulls in the castle yard showed. The Giant Despair had a secret weakness -- on sunny days he sometimes fell into fits and lost the use of his limbs.

Diffidence - The wife of Giant Despair was even more cruel than he. He consulted her about everything he did, and his harsh treatment of Christian and Hopeful was at her suggestion. A lack of trust is thus pictured as a driving force behind despair.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Doubting Castle - Christian and Hopeful were imprisoned and mistreated in this home of Giant Despair and his wife Diffidence. It was the pilgrims' desire for an easier way that led them to leave their appointed path and blunder into Doubting Castle and the Giant's grasp. Doubts about God or one's own acceptance by God can leave a Christian in the grip of despair.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. How did Christian and Hopeful come to be prisoners of Giant Despair? Why did they decide to leave the road?
2. Giant Despair's wife was named Diffidence. What does that mean?
3. The Giant said death was better than their misery, and Christian was beginning to agree. Have you ever felt life is so bad that death seems like the best answer? How did Hopeful answer Christian and encourage him to endure longer?
4. What do you think the Giant's secret weakness teaches about despair in our lives?
5. Christian and Hopeful finally escaped from doubt and despair by using an old key named Promise. What promises from God do you have that encourage you in difficult times?



8

THE DARK RIVER

At the **Delectable Mountains** Christian and Hopeful found welcome refreshment and had their first glimpse of the **Celestial City** from the topmost peak. As they journeyed on they met **Ignorance**, who refused to listen to their wise advice, the **Flatterer**, who led them into a hidden trap, and **Atheist**, who laughed at their expectations. The pilgrims barely escaped the sleepy spell of the **Enchanted Ground**, then entered the bright and sweet land of Beulah with its perfect view of the **Celestial City**. To reach the dazzling **City**, however, they had to cross a dark, misty **River**. Filled with horror, Christian feared he would drown. But the pilgrims soon reached the other shore. To the sound of bells and trumpets, and welcomed by the Heavenly Host, Christian and Hopeful entered the **City** of their King.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

delectable	flatterer	languished	assailed
squalor	conceit	atheist	discourse
malign intent	vale	Beulah	perspective glass

MAIN CHARACTERS

Shepherds - A party of Shepherds tended the Lord's sheep in His Delectable Mountains. They welcomed Christian and Hopeful and, using their perspective glass, they gave them their first glimpse of the Celestial City. Before sending the pilgrims on their way, the Shepherds warned them of dangers ahead.

Ignorance - This young lad entered the road to the Celestial City by way of a crooked lane from the Country of Conceit. Like Formalist and Hypocrisy, he saw no need to go all the way to the wicket-gate. Ignorance refused to listen to the wise advice Christian offered. When he finally reach the Gate of the Celestial City he could not be admitted.

Flatterer - This evil character disguised himself in white when he offered to guide Hopeful and Christian on their way. Instead, he led them astray until they were trapped in a hidden net.

Atheist - Atheist is just what his name implies -- one who does not believe that the Lord or His Heavenly City exist. He thought the pilgrims were quite ignorant to take such a tedious journey for no purpose.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Delectable Mountains - The Delectable Mountains, belonging to the Lord of the Way, were well provided with gardens, orchards and clear streams. From the heights of these Mountains the Celestial City could

first be seen. This setting represents a period of comfort and peace provided by the Lord, when weary pilgrims could enjoy His care and the joy of His salvation.

Enchanted Ground - The travellers were overcome with drowsiness as they passed through this area. Hopeful would have stopped to sleep, but Christian recognized the danger and urged him on. There are many situations that threaten Christians with dangerous "sleep" in their spiritual lives, including weariness from difficult service, as well as prosperous and easy periods that threaten to lull us to sleep.

Dark River - Bunyan pictures death as a dark, misty River separating the travellers from the Heavenly Gate. Hopeful crossed without too much difficulty. But for Christian, even though he was a man of faith, the crossing was a time of trouble and fear. Yet he was not abandoned, and found strength to reach the opposite shore.

Celestial City - Accompanied by Shining Ones and greeted by the Heavenly Hosts and the King's Trumpeters, Christian and Hopeful entered the Heavenly City, the goal of their long journey. In that golden City with their King they had finally found their true home.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. After the torments of Doubting Castle, Christian and Hopeful enjoyed a time of renewal in the Delectable Mountains. What kinds of experiences does this represent? Who are the "Shepherds" in real life?
2. Christian and Hopeful first saw the Celestial City through the Shepherd's perspective glass. Do we sometimes catch a glimpse of our final glory? In what way?
3. Why did Christian and Hopeful follow the Flatterer? Why didn't they recognize him as a villain?
4. What does the Dark River represent? Has someone you know died (perhaps a grandparent or other relative)? How do you think they felt about crossing the dark river of death? Did they look forward to Heaven? How did their death affect you?
5. How did John Bunyan picture Heaven in this story? Have you ever tried to imagine what Heaven will be like? What does it mean when it says Christian and Hopeful "had come to their true home"?
6. Looking back over Christian's travels, which of his experiences are most like your own life? What part of the journey are you on right now?

Special Supplement

9

STORY OF CHRISTIANA

Christiana's story is not included in the 16mm film version of *Dangerous Journey* but was added to the series for the video release. So, we included this supplement for the video users. Here you will follow what happened to Christian's wife and children who did not go with him on his journey. You will also find this a kind of review of the first eight programs seeing how the different journeys of different people have many things in common as well as new experiences.

WORDS TO EXPLORE

prudently
celebrate
despondency

minions
jocund
timorous

conductor
summons
ill-favored

lute
ebbings
diffidence

MAIN CHARACTERS

Christiana—Christian's wife who decides to join her husband by making the dangerous journey with her four sons, Matthew, Samuel, Joseph, James

Young Mercy—A neighbor lady who goes with Christiana on the dangerous journey.

Mr. Great-Heart—The guardian who guided the travelers on their way after they had reached the Interpreter's House and survived their encounter at Beelzebub's castle. He offered protection and defeated the monster.

Mr. Valiant-for-Truth—A man with a sword drawn and bloody face who had been fighting three villains. But, since he had the truth on his side he was unafraid.

MAJOR SETTINGS

Valley of the Shadow of Death—It was daylight but even so, it was scary and they heard groaning of dead men and saw a shadowy shape, an ugly thing.

Doubting Castle—Here Mr Great-Heart stopped and went to fight the Giant Despair. The boys went with him and used slings and stones to bring the Giant Despair to the ground. They then proceeded to demolish Doubting Castle.

Inn at Beulah—The only inn they could find after encountering deep mud and losing some of their shoes.

Dark River—The last obstacle to cross before reaching the Celestial City. It's depth varied from time to time.

Celestial City—The pilgrim's final destination.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What places did you recognize from previous programs?
2. Do all members of a family begin the journey to the Celestial City at the same time? How did Christian feel about his family left behind?
3. Why was the "Giant Despair" such a dangerous enemy?
4. Can you think of someone who reminds you of Mr. Good-Heart?
5. When did they have a happy party—singing, dancing, eating? What did they have to celebrate?
6. Mr. Valiant-for-Truth wasn't concerned about how many were on which side. Why?
7. What is the map that we can use to find directions to the Celestial City so we are not "sucked into the mud?"
8. What was the river that Christiana crossed? Was it scary? Why can the river be crossed with joy? Why did the trumpets sound after Mr. Valiant-for-Truth crossed the river?

For information on *Dangerous Journey* film, video, book or leader's guide contact:

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1-800-523-0226

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THE AUTHOR AND HIS WORK

DANGEROUS JOURNEY is not a new story—
it is a new version of an old tale that has
delighted and instructed readers for centuries.

JOHN BUNYAN

John Bunyan was born in 1628 to a poor tinker (repairer of pots and pans) near Elstow, Bedfordshire in England. He attended school for a few years, but left at eleven years of age to join his father as an apprentice tinker. During his early life he had a reputation for being profane and irreligious. A stint in the Parliamentary Army probably did little to improve his behavior, though it did expose him to Baptists and others who took their religious profession seriously. In his mid-twenties, Bunyan experienced a conversion, and sought believer's baptism from Andrew Gifford, pastor of a Particular Baptist church in Bedford.

Bunyan soon began to preach publicly and was well received for his abilities to make gospel truths plain and to put his hearers under the spell of his stories. In 1660 nonconformist preachers came under renewed persecution, and Bunyan was imprisoned. During his twelve-year confinement he read, preached to fellow prisoners, and wrote religious works.

After his release in 1672, Bunyan became more active in the Bedford church, eventually becoming its pastor. During another imprisonment in 1675-1676, Bunyan began **THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**, published in 1678.

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

This classic of English literature tells the story of Christian experience, a journey through the trials and triumphs of this life, enroute to the Celestial City. Bunyan's fertile imagination, together with his deep Christian commitment and unusual honesty, created a story that continues to delight and instruct.

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS is an allegory, a story in which the characters, places, and events are symbolic, representing Christian truths and the spiritual struggles of a God-directed life. Bunyan took the people and places of his native Bedfordshire, and with his keen insight into human nature and ironic sense of humor, used them to figuratively depict the Christian experience, that dangerous journey from this world to the next.

The first edition of **PILGRIM'S PROGRESS** in 1678 was a badly printed pamphlet read chiefly by the poorer classes of England. Within ten years, however, more than a dozen reprintings were called for, and the book has now been printed in over one hundred languages and is second in sales only to the Bible as the all time best seller.