

# MESSAGES IN THE MAZE

Take a step outside your comfort-zone and find some answers.

Maize Quest 2009



Feeling Lost?

## WHO'S ON THE JOURNEY WITH YOU?

**The maze doesn't care if you are black or white, rich or poor, cool or square, nerd or jock, whatever religion, healthy or sick, rural or urban. It's a problem bigger than any one person, and the solution requires teamwork.**

Mazes are a rich metaphor for life. Perhaps this is why mazes have existed in so many forms throughout the centuries. From depictions on ancient pottery, to tiles in European cathedrals, mazes and labyrinths connect deeply with us. We are all on a journey.

Everyone learns differently. Communicating a message to a group of people is not as straightforward as simply saying it or writing it. Each member of a group needs to receive the message in their own particular way to fully understand it.

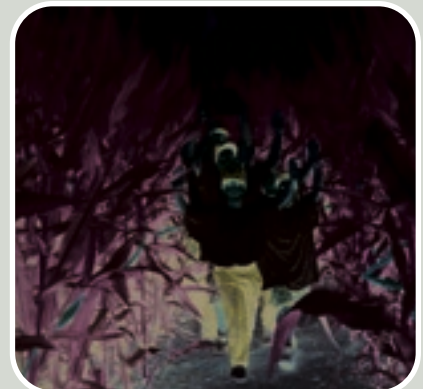
It's often said that immersion is the quickest way to learn a foreign language. Mazes are an immersion tool you as the group leader use to communicate your message. It is

important to note that mazes are the venue and thereby are non-denominational.

Regardless of our faith or your faith, mazes work as communication tools. The maze is not the message; it transfers the message. Mazes, however, can't do everything. Mazes are great for some messages, and less effective for others.

Our message suggestions and conversation starters are just that: a beginning. Where you and your group take the discussion is up to you. This list is also, by no means complete. Plan to spend some time developing your message and referencing other works as appropriate.

The maze is an immersion tool. We hope you see your group give it a try, and we'd love to hear your feedback on your experience.



**Nothing pulls groups of people together like shared experience; shared victory.**

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

Many group leaders end their maze or geocaching adventure connecting the dots with their group. Here are some ideas for your “Message from the Maze”.

## Big Idea:

**What do you do when you feel lost?**

Identifying the need is paramount to enacting solutions. Youth need to know when they are lost, before they begin to decide where to go.

## Questions to ask:

To whom do you turn?

What do you feel physically?

What does feeling lost mean to you?

When do you feel lost?

## Leader Notes:

Who are your members leaning on in tough times?

Where are they looking for strength?

## Big Idea:

**How do you make decisions?**

Look before you leap. We wonder why young people make the choices they do, but few are given an appropriate framework of guiding principles through which to make decisions.

Without a framework, they become “reactors”. They feel compelled to react, and react immediately, because they don’t know how to make decisions.

## Questions to ask:

How did your smaller teams make decisions in the maze?

What are some everyday decisions you make?

What are some “Big Time” decisions you have to make or have already made?

How do you make these decisions?

Who else do you typically involve in the process?

## Leader Notes:

Different than looking for support, examine who is involved in day to day, and Big Time decisions.

Are members facing the decisions you expected?

## Big Idea:

**How do I find the way?**

Different than support or decision-making, what is the framework, or filter, through which your members interact with the world.

No one likes being told what to do, but most people do want to develop a filter through which they can decide on their own.

Much like a coach teaches the fundamentals of a sport, yet cannot kick, throw or shoot the ball for the player, what fundamentals do your members need to learn.



What path will you choose?

## Questions to ask:

Ask about a decision they mentioned before.

Ask them to walk you through the process by which they made that decision.

Throughout the explanation, ask ‘why’ and ‘what other options might there have been’ to get them to fully develop and see their process from the outside.

## Leader Notes:

What fundamentals do your members already possess?

What fundamentals do they lack?

Do you have an example of your ‘framework’ that worked for you? Better yet, do you have an example of a flawed ‘framework’ or decision?

## Begin your journey...

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