



FAITH DETECTIVES

MISSION

DETERMINE THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING
TO KNOW GOD. PSALM 42

FILE NAME

Lost & Found Part 1

For about the millionth time that day, Carlos Rodriguez glanced up from the stick he was carving and gazed across the desert. All he could see was Arizona sand, rocks, cactus, and scrub brush. Beyond those rose the mountains.

"What are you staring at?" his sister, Marta, asked. She had been helping Mom get supper started inside the pop-up camper. Now, though, she sat down on a rock beside Carlos and looked in the same direction.

"Just checking to see if Professor Hawley is coming back. That's the direction he left to explore this morning."

Carlos stood and swept his eyes in a huge circle around their campsite. Except for their family's blue pickup truck and camper, the only sign of civilization was the little white car and olive-colored tent that belonged to Professor Hawley. Carlos sat back down.

"Remember what he said at the campfire last night?" Carlos asked. "He thinks an unknown Native American tribe once lived around here. He was going to hunt for evidence of their civilization today."

Marta rolled her eyes. "Yes, but don't forget the rest of it. He's been combing the mountains and desert every summer for a decade. Sounds like a wild goose chase to me."

"I don't care," Carlos replied. With his pocketknife, he trimmed away a few flakes of wood from the figure he was carving of a man. "He's so sure they were here. It would be awesome to find artifacts or something."

Marta nodded. "Almost anything would be more interesting than baking out here. When Dad said he wanted to vacation 'someplace quiet, away from it all,' I never dreamed he meant the desert!"

The sound of a dirt bike approaching signaled Dad's return from town.

"Supper time!" Marta said, leaping to her feet. She went to meet Dad and to carry his backpack of groceries into the camper.

Later, when the Rodriguez family was feeling well fed and darkness settled over the desert, the four set up their lawn chairs around the campfire. By flickering firelight, Dad strummed his guitar. Soon the whole family was singing "How Great Thou Art"



MONTH DAY YEAR

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AUTHOR

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as stars twinkled in the black dome overhead.

After the hymn Dad said, "Let's have prayer time. Any requests?"

"Maybe we should pray for Professor Hawley," Carlos said.

"He's been gone all day."

"I wouldn't worry too much," Mom replied. "He has lots of experience in the desert. But we still should pray for him, especially since he doesn't seem to know the Lord."

Dad nodded. "From what our neighbor told us, he's been so busy hunting for signs of an ancient tribe that he hasn't given much thought to knowing God, Who is much more important."

Carlos could relate. Until this year he had so busy with soccer and his wood-carving hobby that he hadn't paid attention to God. Even though he had gone to church most of his life, it wasn't until recently that he realized he could know God personally, the way one person knows another. . . .

"Hello, neighbors!" called a voice. From the darkness Professor Gregory Hawley appeared, wearing his khaki shirt, khaki shorts, and a hat to keep the sun off his head. Now the man who always seemed so serious wore a huge grin.

"Welcome, Professor," Dad called. "How did your search go today?"

"Perfect! In fact, I'm done searching for the lost tribe."

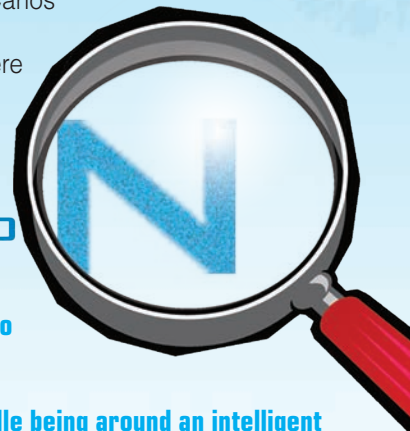
"What do you mean, 'done'?" Carlos asked.

"Today I discovered caves where they used to live! This is the happiest day of my life!"

...CLOSER EXAMINATION

What makes Professor Hawley seem like an interesting person to know?

How should a kid like Carlos handle being around an intelligent person who is not interested in God? Why? What does God's Word say to help Christians with the problem of unbelief?

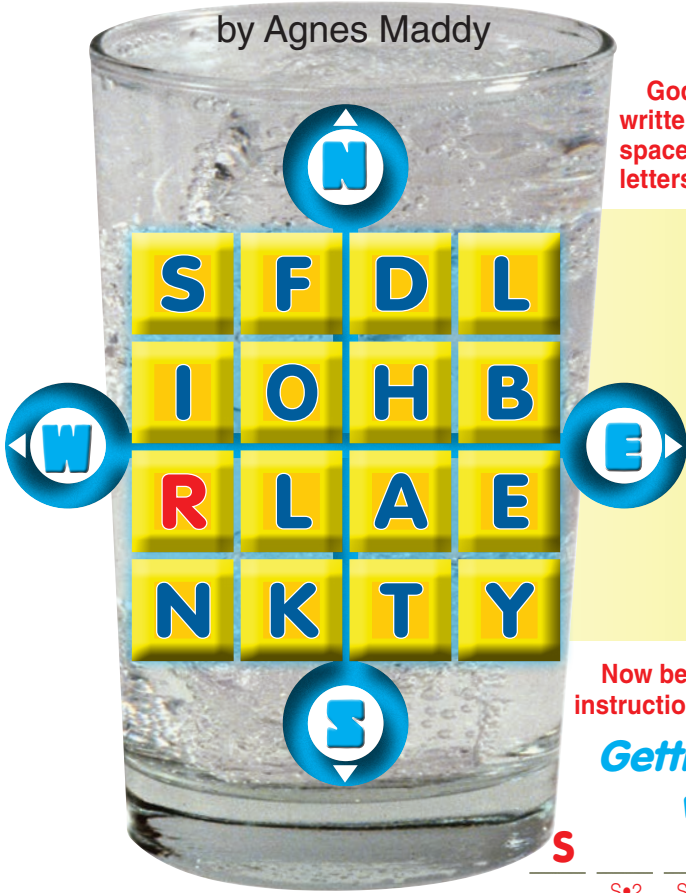


ARE YOU THIRSTY?

by Agnes Maddy

CONundrum!

God will satisfy your thirst. Begin at letter **R** in the puzzle; it is already written on the first blank for you. To find the second letter, go "E•3" (east-3 spaces). Continue following the directions under each blank, writing the letters on the blanks.



How Can You Know God Better?

R _____ God's Word.
 E•3 W•1 N•2

_____ about Him.
 E•1 S•2 W•1 W•2 S•1

_____ to Him.
 E•2 N•1 W•1 S•1

_____ about Him.
 E•1 N•2 W•2 S•2 E•1

_____ Him.
 N•2 E•2 S•1 S•1

Now begin at the **S**. This time you may have to follow more than one instruction to get the right letter.

Getting to know God better will help you to be

S _____
 S•2 S•1 W•2 N•1 E•1 W•1 S•1 N•2
 E•2 N•2 S•1 S•1 W•1

PARENT STUMPER

The title to Psalm 42 mentions the Sons of Korah. The Sons of Korah were singers from which tribe of Israel?

Answer:
Levi.

Conundrum solutions:
 READ, LEARN, TALK,
 THINK, OBEY, SATISFIED.

