

MONTH

DAY

YEAR

09

03

17

MISSION

KNOW WHAT  
WORSHIPPING GOD  
MEANS AND WHO  
CAN WORSHIP GOD.  
ACTS 16:9-15



**FAITH  
DETECTIVES**

FILE NAME

# Surviving the SUGAR CRASH

Part 1

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Sheldon, you've gotta come to the church campout," Zane pleaded with his cousin. "Labor Day weekend will be boring without you." Sheldon bit off another chunk of his king-size Snickers and chewed thoughtfully.

"You've almost convinced me. I just have one question. How many top-pings will there be for our ice cream?"

Zane laughed. "I love your sense of humor. As if someone would try to carry a freezer into Wildcat Creek Campground."

Sheldon frowned. "I have to have ice cream to fall asleep. Count me out."

Brenna, Zane's sister, giggled. "Sheldon, why don't you think with your brain instead of your stomach for a change?"

Sheldon patted his belly. "My brain can't function without a well-fed stomach."

Zane went on, "There may not be ice cream, but you can carry in other snacks. Everything tastes better in the great outdoors."

Sheldon's eyebrows shot up. "Really? I hadn't noticed." He reached for the patio door. "I'll have to try it."

Brenna rolled her eyeballs. "Not outside here, silly. Only when you're hiking or camping."

"No kidding?" Sheldon licked his lips. "Count me in."

"Yay!" Zane whooped.

Brenna grinned. "Sheldon, when you get back there, you'll forget about food. You'll be too busy being awed at God's greatness in His creation."

Sheldon snorted. "Me—forget about food? You're the funny one, Brenna."

He wadded up his empty candy wrapper. "I'm gonna tell Mom and Dad. They wanted me to go with you and Uncle Trent while they stay home and catch up on some stuff."

Sheldon bought a jumbo backpack for the trip. Still, he couldn't fit all his favorite foods in. He patted the Twinkies. "Poor things, you don't deserve to be smashed. Rest on top of the soda cans until you're safe in my mouth."

Finally, he yanked on the zipper. It wouldn't close. Sheldon reached into the backpack and grabbed his socks.

"Gotta make room. My feet can make the sacrifice."

He slid the zipper shut. "Yes! Have food, will travel."

The next morning, Sheldon panted as he followed Uncle Trent and his cousins up the trail. His backpack felt like fifty pounds. The straps cut into his shoulders.

Zane turned around. "C'mon, Sheldon. Keep up."

"M-maybe a snack would help," Sheldon puffed.

Uncle Trent stopped. "Here's a good place to chill for a minute. Under these trees beside the trail—but be careful! Don't go near the edge!"

Sheldon dropped his backpack with a thud. He looked over the edge of the cliff and gulped. It was a long way down to the river below.

Two sodas and four Twinkies later, he felt energized again. He reached into his pocket for his gum. It was gone!

He hollered to Zane that he was going to look for it. He ran back down the trail until he spotted the bright pink container. When he returned, he heard hushed voices.

Brenna was saying, "Dad, I'm worried about Sheldon. He comes to church, but he never talks about God. His lips hardly move when we sing praises to God."

Uncle Trent replied, "Only God knows Sheldon's heart. But you're right to be concerned. Let's pray he'll put his faith in Jesus if he hasn't yet."

Sheldon squirmed. He knew he was a good kid. He believed in God. Why couldn't Brenna mind her own business?

When Sheldon rejoined his cousins and uncle, Brenna tried to help him with his backpack.

"Ugh, this thing weighs a ton!" she exclaimed, lifting it. "Let me adjust the straps."

She lost her balance and stumbled. The backpack went flying. Then it rolled off the side of the mountain.

Sheldon watched it drop into the river below. "No!"

...CLOSER  
EXAMINATION

**Sheldon is an enthusiastic, funny kid. Who do you know who has that kind of personality?**

**What do you notice about Sheldon that he doesn't seem to know about himself?**



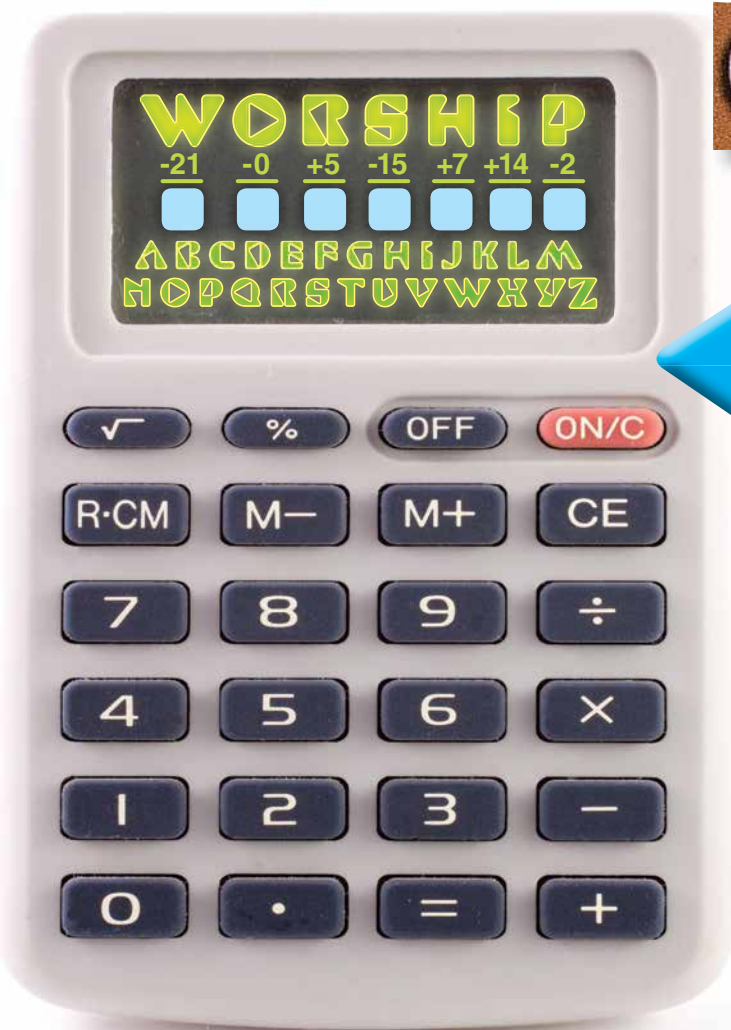
# CONundrum!

## THE FIRST STEPS IN WORSHIP by Agnes Maddy

Add by counting forward in the alphabet by the number given. Subtract by counting backward. For example, M+2 would be O. M-2 would be K. Your answers will spell one of the original meanings of the word translated WORSHIP in English.

Use letters from the word WORSHIP to complete these sentences about how to begin worshipping God.

1. Know that G  d is   e  fect and   ghte  u  .
2.   realize you are a   ne  . It is   mp  ble to   ave yourself.
3. Bel  eve that C  t d  ed to take the   un  ment for your   n, and rose from the dead to give you l  fe.
4. Put your t  t in C  t.
5. Give Him   a  e and t  ank  .



## PARENT STUMPER



What was the name of the seller of purple whom Paul witnessed to outside the city of Philippi?

**Answer:**  
Lydia  
(Acts 16:14).

CONundrum solutions:  
BOW DOWN  
(1) God, perfect, righteous; (2) Realize, sinner, impossible, save; (3) Believe, Christ, died; punishment, sin, life; (4) Trust; Christ; (5) Praise, thanks.

