

# Cross The River

## OVERVIEW

Help your students grow in their ability to lead and communicate as a team through this game where you must safely "cross the river."

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- masking tape
- 5 large sheets of white paper (11"x17" OR tape several letter-size pieces together)
- several blindfolds (optional)

## SET-UP

- Mark two "riverbeds" with masking tape about 5 feet apart.
- Place the white sheets of paper in random locations between the "riverbeds" and tape them to the floor.

## HOW TO PLAY

- **CIRCLE UP.** Gather your students along one "riverbed."
- **SAY SOMETHING LIKE.** Your team has been on a wilderness trip and your campsite is on this side of the river. A wildfire is raging out of control and heading towards your camp. You must evacuate the area as quickly as possible by crossing the river to safety.
- **GROUND RULES.**
  - The sides of the river are represented by masking tape. The riverbeds are approximately 5 feet apart.
  - There are 5 giant marshmallows (sheets of white paper) floating on top of the river.
  - Your mission is to get everyone on your team across the river using only teamwork and the 5 marshmallows.
  - If anyone steps off of a marshmallow and touches the river, then the 5 marshmallows are washed downstream, and the entire team must start over again.
- **LET THE CROSSING COMMENCE.** Say, "Are you ready? Go!" Monitor whether players touch the river.
- **REPEAT & CHALLENGE.** After the team has successfully crossed the river, start again and pick any of the options on the right to increase the challenge.

## DEBRIEF

Ask some of the following questions:

- What have you learned about your team's ability to communicate?
- Did your group have a single leader, or was everyone part of the leadership?
- What are some areas where your team struggled and some areas where you did well?
- What level of trust did you need in your teammates to help you, especially if you were blinded or muted? Why do you think that?



games

TEAM-BUILDING GAME

## PREP LEVEL

no/low

## SPACE

indoor/outdoor, large space

## PLAYERS

all play

## INCREASE THE CHALLENGE

- Blindfold several of the team members
- Mute some of the team members
- Make the marshmallows smaller / spaced further apart

## DISCIPLESHIP CONNECTION

This game helps students work on communication, leadership, and trust.