

**Parents - If you haven't already read the pages on already read the pages on "Developing Character in Your Children," you might want to go there first before reading these pages.**



### Chart a Course

Use the visual analogy of maps to illustrate the importance of making a plan to reach a goal. Here are some suggestions:

1. Use a map to plan a trip, or let the children observe and participate while you use a GPS. Let them help you find the road signs, identify landmarks.
2. Find directions by using an internet feature such as "google maps." Let them use the printed directions, as well as the maps produced at different magnifications. Help them understand the value of having directions along the way, even when they cannot see the final goal.
3. Let them make a board game where a final goal is desired. Perhaps they might think of problems that could be encountered, turns that must be taken, directions that must be followed, right choices that must be made to reach the destination, etc. They could make cards that represent right or wrong choices.

### Tips for Parents to Encourage Faith

**Faith can guide and protect your children from fear and failure. When they are able to have confidence that they can choose a right path and make a plan to reach their goals, they can learn optimism and perseverance.**

**When they hear encouraging words and see the steps you take to follow the right choices, they will imitate your model. A home where listening to each other's dreams, without pointing out the flaws, is the norm can nurture a lifestyle of faith.**

**Encouraging your children to have vision for the future is vital, even if their ideas seem extravagant or silly to you. They will value your advice as you show them support and praise.**

**Rather than condemning their shortcomings, exalt the opposite character qualities and praise any little effort to reach those positive qualities. When they have stumbled, help them learn from the experience rather than feeling defeated by it.**

**Reading together stories of people of faith can give them vision for their own lives. Stories of family members or ancestors who showed faith are especially effective for building faith in children.**



**Faith Scrapbook**  
Why not make a scrapbook showing people of faith, with related pictures, scenes, and stickers? Events from the Olympics, sports activities, inventors, Nobel prize awards, local human interest stories often provide good role models for faith.