

The Direction Finder

A children's sermon by the Rev. Robert B. Edson in St. John's Episcopal Church, Franklin, Massachusetts on the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 5, 2008.

I have something called a compass. People use it find the direction. It has East, West, North and South directions. The needle always points north, because the North Pole attracts it, to let you know which direction you are going. They are used in boats and cars and when people are hiking in the woods. If we ever get lost, we could also use a road map or a GPS system in the car.

Did you ever get lost and not know where you were or which way to go? When I was nine years old, my brother and I took a walk in the woods one day. We walked and walked along a road and before long we realized we didn't know where we were. We were lost in the woods. So we kept walking along the road and I noticed that we kept passing the same old tree stump. We walked further down the road and we passed that old tree stump again. What were we doing? We were walking in a circle, a road that went around in a large circle. Finally, we went in another direction and found our way back. It would have helped to have a something like a compass to guide us.

We all need to find direction in our lives. We need a safe guide to tell us the right way to go. You will find that guide in the Bible in the Ten Commandments. They point us in the right direction to do the right thing.

The Ten Commandments are a good compass for us to know what is right.

Three of them are:

Honor your mother and your father. Listen to your parents and follow their directions. They know and try to do what is best for you.

Do not steal. Do not take anything that does not belong to you. Don't take away an idea that is not your own or hurt another person's feelings.

Do not lie. Always tell the truth and when you hear someone say something bad about another, speak up and not let people think you agree.

In the Bible we read that Jesus said that we should love God with all our heart soul and mind and to love our neighbor as we would love or respect ourselves. The Bible shows us the right way to go. Like the compass needle or the road map or the GPS system, the Bible points us in the right direction toward God and what God wants for us.