

# Finding God's Fingerprints

By Rich Nelson



Take your family outdoors to spend time in nature, slow down, and see the evidence of the awesomeness of God through the world the Creator has made.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Fall

## Needed

Bible or Bible app, Fingerprint Hunt worksheet (see last page), pens, digital camera or phone with camera for each person. Optional: place to display photos in your home, computer/tablet with photo slideshow software



## Prepare in Advance

Mark Matthew 14:13-23 in your Bible.

Make a copy of the Fingerprint Hunt worksheet for each person.

Choose a park, nature preserve, or other outdoor area where you can take nature photos.

## Activity Plan

1. Begin by asking someone to read aloud the following prayer:

*God, thank you for the beautiful world you have created. As we go out to spend time in your creation, help us to find signs of your presence with us. Help us to reconnect with you the way Jesus did. In his holy name we pray. Amen.*

2. Ask someone to read aloud Matthew 14:13-23 from your Bible (or see the next page). Discuss the story: Why do you think Jesus went to “a desolate place” and to “the mountain” by himself? Have you ever felt close to God when you were in an outdoor place? If so, where? What is it about being in an outdoor place that helps people feel closer to God?
3. Explain that you are going outdoors to go on a camera hunt for “God’s fingerprints”—signs of God’s presence. Be sure each person has a digital camera, a copy of the Fingerprint Hunt worksheet, and a pen. Read through the directions together and make sure everyone understands that they are looking for things to photograph that fall into the categories listed. Emphasize that the things you will find are evidence of God’s love and beauty—God’s fingerprints. You may want to pair younger family members with older family members for this activity.
4. After the agreed-upon time limit, huddle together and scroll through each person’s photos. You might even offer impromptu awards for “most beautiful” or “most surprising” or “most colorful” photos. Ask each person to tell about his or her favorite photo of God’s fingerprint. End your Fingerprint Hunt by praying aloud:

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:6)*

5. Option: Back home, print your best fingerprint photos and arrange them on a display board or closet door. Invite older children to compile everyone’s photos into a slideshow and watch it together.



# Fingerprint Hunt

There are many places where you can find “God’s fingerprints”—signs that tell you, “God has been here!” Take at least one photo of something for each of the categories below. How many fingerprints can you find in 30 minutes?

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Something <b>BIG</b>                         |
|  | Something small                              |
|  | A plant                                      |
|  | An animal                                    |
|  | Something old                                |
|  | Something new                                |
|  | Something made by humans                     |
|  | Something that will last a long time         |
|  | Something that will soon be gone             |
|  | Something that’s your favorite color         |
|  | Something that begins with the letter B      |
|  | Something <sup>high</sup>                    |
|  | Something <sub>low</sub>                     |
|  | Something you are surprised to find          |
|  | Something pretty                             |
|  | Something not so pretty                      |
|  | Something hidden from plain sight            |
|  | Something that moves fast                    |
|  | Something that moves slow                    |
|  | Something that is growing                    |
|  | Something that is dying                      |
|  | Something you can carry home                 |
|  | Something you should leave where you find it |
|  | Other:                                       |
|  | Other:                                       |

### **Matthew 14:13-23**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup> They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” <sup>18</sup> And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

