



# Daily Map

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. – Mark 1:35*

As a youth minister I loved our summer trips. Trips to Colorado, or to Florida, or even to Missouri. Here's just something about jumping in the church van to head hours away of the trek. Most people believe that the "Summer Trip" begins when you get where you're going; to the conference or whatever. But it truly starts six months in advance.

After sending in the preregistration in late January/early February, I would begin mapping out the directions. How far? What are the best roads? Bathroom breaks? Etc. When I found the best roads, I would look at how long we'd be in the van at a time. Going, you can ride longer because you are excited. Returning is in smaller steps due to being so tired. Where can we spend the night if needed?

Once that is fairly done (it is always subject to change), I look at costs. How much will gas cost for 2 vans? Hotels? Churches? Excursions? Cost is such a determining factor in whether a youth can go so I spend quite a bit of time on this.

Then I call churches and hotels. Can we sleep in a classroom or gym for free or should we stay at a hotel? Does breakfast come with the place we stay? Then I start looking at sponsors. You can't take twenty kids all by yourself. And you don't want sponsors to miss work AND have to pay their expenses so you have to look at how it breaks down.

All this, and yet in my every day, I just try to wing it. Why don't we map out our day in some manner, any manner? I don't know about you but I find myself trying to catch up with myself instead of mapping and preparing ahead of time. Time in planning and, more importantly, time in prayer. Jesus did this. Even after a late night of healing. He gets up early ("still dark") and meets with God to map out His day. We should make the time also. How can we know what His plans are if we don't take time to listen?

We plan so many areas of our life (trips, vacations, etc) but ignore the daily needs and instructions of our Lord. Take time today to listen for His voice and map out your day. You may find yourself amazed!!

From My Heart,

*Billy*