



# Operation Purple® AT HOME

## ... Activity Ten ...

### CROSS THE RIVER

**Time: 30 minutes | Participants: Minimum of 4, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and up**

Enhance your family’s verbal communication and problem-solving skills by navigating a blindfolded family member across the rushing rapids of the river, avoiding debris and other obstacles!

#### FAMILY MISSION VALUES

Teamwork and Communication

#### WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- A space big enough for everyone to move around (like a large living room or backyard)
- Any household items with no sharp edges or corners (like Tupperware bowls, socks, towels, sports balls, etc.)
- A blindfold (or use a kitchen towel, t-shirt, or scarf instead)
- A stopwatch or a phone timer

#### INSTRUCTIONS

**1. Gather your “debris” and set up the playing field (the “River”).**

Each participant will gather 2-3 items from around the house to use as the River debris that you’ll navigate around. Bring your items to the designated playing field. As a family, create the boundaries of your River maze. Pick a start and finish line, then decide: is your River wide, long, short, or narrow? Once your River is defined, each family member can take turns placing the various pieces of debris within the River maze between the start and finish line.

**2. Blindfold a family member.**

Blindfold the first family member at the start of the maze. You may want to rearrange some of the debris between the start and finish line, so they do not remember the layout. You can even give the blindfolded family member a few gentle spins before they start!

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### 3. Start the journey to cross the river.

Pick another family member to be the “guide” who will navigate the blindfolded person across the River from outside the maze, giving only verbal directions so they don’t hit any debris. When the blindfolded family member is ready, start the timer and start giving directions to them. If the blindfolded family member touches any of the items on the course, they must restart at the start line with the timer running. Record each finishing time for the record, then take turns and play again with a new blindfolded person and guide.

**TIP for younger kids:** You may want to provide 3 lives/item touches as an accommodation.

**Mission Accomplished!**

## WRAP UP

*Sit down with your family in a circle or at a table and chat about the activity experience using these questions! Take turns reading a question and listen to each person’s response.*

- How is communicating difficult when you can’t see?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What are some challenges to those that may be visually impaired?
- It’s important to note that the perspectives of the blindfolded family member and the one giving the directions are different. How did this affect the way you communicated with each other?