

Shopping in the Dark

Last week, I took my three kids to a store that we go to on occasion. When we walked through the door, I immediately noticed that some of the lights were off. It was enough to make me pause, wondering what was happening. And as soon as I did, I heard a voice to my left from a smiling young girl say, "Welcome to Five Below," which was the usual greeting we received when entering. Then I noticed a handful of other shoppers in the store, so I assumed everything was ok and we went about our shopping.

Well, our browsing only lasted a couple of minutes before another employee appeared from the back of the store. I was the first customer he saw, and he raised both arms in the air and said, "Ma'am, you must leave the store. We are having a power outage." He then went around telling the other customers the same, some having several items they had to set down before leaving. They had obviously been there for much longer than I had. As we were leaving, I heard him tell the young girl at the front to stop letting people in the door since the cash registers weren't working.

Honestly, after leaving, I was annoyed at the young girl who welcomed us in. I thought,

Why did she do that? How could she let all those people in the door, letting them waste their time shopping, instead of telling them the power was out? It was almost like I was blaming her for the power outage.

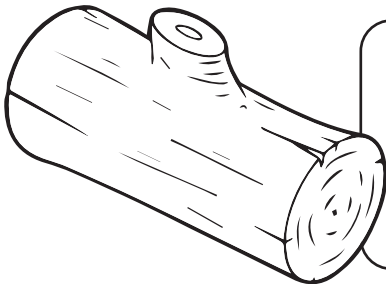
But then my next thought was, I had a feeling something was not right, why didn't I just ask the girl instead of assuming everything was ok?

Have you ever been quick to blame someone else for something that happened?

In the Garden of Eden, do you remember what Adam said after God asked him why he ate the fruit? Adam said, "It's the fault of the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it." And then what did Eve say? She said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit" (Genesis 3:12-13 NIV).

Adam and Eve blamed someone else when they disobeyed God. Sure, there were other people that played a part. And the serpent was punished for what he did. But in the end, it was their choice.

Read Matthew 7:3-5 (NLT):



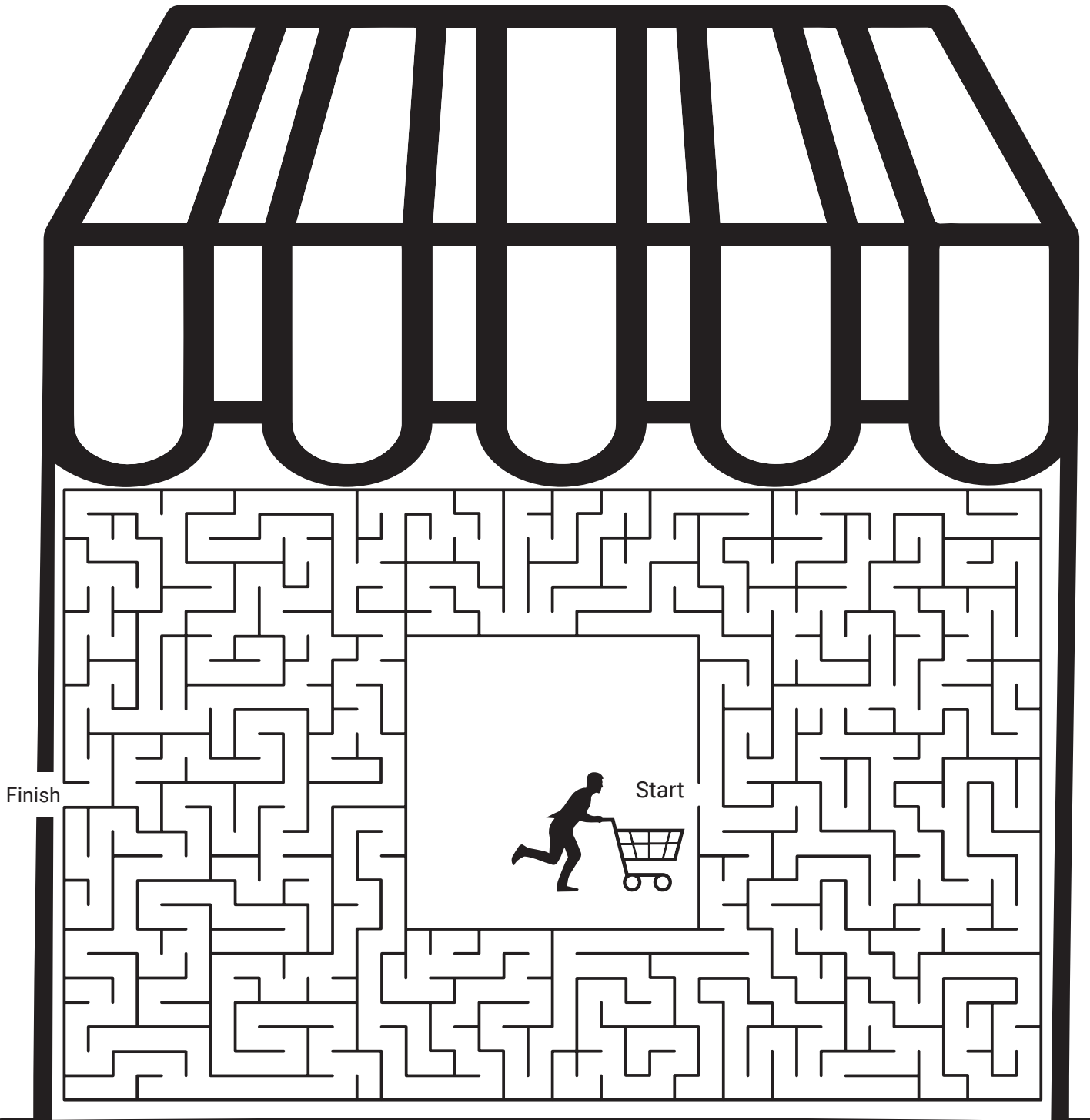
"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."

Sometimes we all need to remember that we have a log in our own eye.

And I also need to remember not to go in stores that don't have all the light on. 😊

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Help the people find their way out of the store.



Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8 NIV