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How to stay on the right track

I recently walked the Camino Ingles, one of the lesser known pilgrim routes to Santiago de Compostela. Here are some lessons I have learned along the way:

Be sure that you know where you are heading: There are thousands of signposts all along the path, but not every signpost would have led me to Santiago. I needed to pay attention and consult my guidebook because signposts that would have got me off-track sometimes looked similar to the ones I needed to heed. At times it was helpful to consult a compass– but a compass is useless if you don't know in which direction you are meant to be going.

Let the “why” determine the “how”: Those who walked on the same path were not necessarily on the same journey. There were many walkers who treated the Camino as a physical challenge. For the sake of speed and convenience, some let others transport their rucksacks or took short-cuts to save a few miles. If I had followed their lead, I might have reached Santiago more quickly, but I would have missed my goal. As a pilgrim, the daily journey was as important as the destination. Pilgrimage also meant carrying my own load. In the process I learned to travel lightly and to focus on the challenges and opportunities of each day.

It is easy to get lost, not just on the Camino. Do you know where you are heading and why and how to get there? The Bible is my first starting point when I am making decisions. It is full of advice on how to find the right road in life and how to stay on track. As a Christian, I can also rely on God's Spirit to be my guide and compass.