

KIDS Community Group Lesson
2.01.15
Live Fully Alive / Stay Humble, Stay Hungry
Leader's Guide

Engaging one another: What is something you crave or want very badly all the time? What good feelings do you get from having it or how are you better when you get it?

Engaging God:

- Through Worship

John 15:13 NLT *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Give the children an opportunity to thank God for what He has done for them this week. If some of them can't think of anything, remind them of all that God does each day.

- Through Prayer

1 John 5:14-1 NIV *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

Give each of the children an opportunity to pray. Talk to the children about prayer; that when they pray they are talking to a friend. It's just that this friend created the universe and that's why it's important to show respect to Him. Talk with them about how they would feel as a friend if someone only talked to them when they needed something. Remind them that although God loves to hear from us about our needs, it's also important to Praise God for who He is, ask God to help others, and thank God for hearing our prayer.

Try a popcorn style prayer. Tell the children that you will open and close the prayer and give time in between for them to say something to God. Explain that it doesn't have to be anything special or big. They can just share something they're worried about or just thank God for something good in their lives.

-Through the Word

God's Word: Read Matthew 8:5-13. Have the children retell or act the story out to make sure they understand God wants us to come to Him, and trust Him to meet all our needs.

Discussion: What do you think it means when people say, "we are born with a 'God-shaped hole' in our hearts"? If you had a hole in your heart and it wouldn't work unless you filled it, don't you think you'd want that badly? God made us perfectly to have a relationship with him. He wants to fill that hole in our hearts with His love and the

abundant life that He has planned for us. The centurion understood that God was the only one who could give him what he really needed so he humbled himself by saying, I need your help Lord. Jesus told him something that we should all hear for ourselves. He explained that all believers need to have faith that makes us search for Jesus and trust Him to meet all our needs. He wants to give us a better life than we can ever imagine and live fully alive because we put our total trust in Him!

Activities:

- Cut out a large heart for each child. Have them fold it over and cut a hole about half the size of the original heart. On the cut out piece write, Faith in Jesus, Trust Jesus, Pray, Humble Yourself, Read His Word etc, anything that reminds us that God will give us all we need if we just trust in Him.

-Scripture Meditation

...I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance. John 10:10

Start a challenge with a reward system for memory verses in your group. Find out how most of the children learn verses best. Some do well with hand motions of sign language, through songs or beats or art/drawing.

Here are some ideas:

<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/1243/teaching-aids/assorted-ideas-for-memorizing-verses-part-1.php>

Explain the context of the verse so that the children understand how important it is to know God's word.

Supplies: Crayons/Paper

Activity: Have the children write out the verse on a sheet of paper. Pray with them asking that the Holy Spirit reveal the truth of this verse.

Give the children 5-10 minutes to draw pictures and/or write words about what God is sharing with them. After they have time to color/draw/write, have the children explain what God has shared with them.

***If children explain the pictures in ways that are not Biblical (lovingly), help them understand what the verse means.**

Engaging the World:

Isaiah 58:7 NLT *Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.*

What's your next step? Baptism? Serving? Inviting a friend? Using your gifts? Think about it. Pray about it. Next week, share with the group what your next step will be.

Pray for someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus. Draw them a picture, or write them a letter letting them know that God loves them.