

"Getting to Know One Another"

Pre-session Activity

Who Am I?

Materials: Blank circles and markers

Encourage the children to create a self portrait.

Also have prayer request slips available for those who want to fill out a prayer request.

Gathering Circle

- ♥ Welcome
- ♥ Share the Daily Word
- ♥ Announcements
- ♥ Collect the Love Offering

Prayer Focus

Bible Quote:

Mark 11:24

So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

Introduce the prayer box and the prayer request slips and encourage the children to write or draw out their prayer requests and place them in the prayer box. Each class will be taking turns each week to say prayers for the requests in the box.

LESSON INTENTION

Today we will get to know one another because creating a caring community is the first step to creating a peacemaking community.

Issue: How can we build a caring community if we are all different?

Unity Principle: #2- "I am naturally good because God's divinity is in me and in everyone."

Affirmation: The same or different, we are all part of God's community.

12 Powers: The same or different, we are all part of God's community.

Early Elementary Lesson: *"Making Friends"*

We make friends and get to know people by learning something about them that they are proud of. This creates the beginning of friendship.

PRAYER LEADERS:

Prayer Box Prayer

Materials: Prayer box, prayer cloth, and candle

Ask the children to help set up the prayer area. Gather them around the prayer box and invite them to share a prayer or good thoughts for the requests in the box.

Silent Unity Call

Encourage the group to choose a prayer request. Explain that Silent Unity is a place that prays 24 hours a day and we can call them anytime we want to. They will ask us for our prayer request and then will pray with us. They will continue to pray for us for 30 days. Make a group call to Silent Unity and use the speaker phone so all can hear.
1-816-969-2000.

Opening Activity..

My Friend

Materials: "My Friend" sheet & markers.

Invite the children to complete the sheets and then introduce their friends.

(Use the pictures the children created to post on bulletin boards as a beginning to the Villages.)

Story Quote...

Galatians 6:10

Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.

Discussion Questions..

- ◆ What does it mean to work together? Why is it important?
- ◆ How can our community be like our family?
- ◆ What do we get from working together?

Creative Expression..

Let's All Pull Together

Materials: Strong rope, gloves for children and a heavy object

Tie the rope around the heavy object so that there is enough rope for two groups of children to hold onto it. The object should be heavy enough so that the children working together can only move it with great effort.

Divide the children into two groups, put their gloves on and take a hold of the ropes. Working together encourage the children to try to move the object.

When they are finished, ask them:

- ◆ What would it have been like if they had to move the object by themselves? Let them try it if they think they can move it.
- ◆ What was it like to work together?
- ◆ What benefits do we get from working together?
- ◆ In what ways can we work together as a class?

Elementary Lesson:

"Finding Common Ground"

When people identify with each other and begin to know one another it makes it more difficult to hurt or exclude one another. By emphasizing similarities we promote a caring community.

Opening Activities..

What Makes a Community?

Materials: Flip Chart and markers

We are going to be creating a peacemaking community. In order to do that we need to understand what a community is and how it works.

Ask the children: (Brainstorm and write the answers to each question on the flipchart)

- ◆ What does community mean?
- ◆ Why is it important to create a classroom community?

Who is In Our Community?

Materials: "Who Am I?" sheet and pencils

Hand out the sheets and pencils and ask the students to answer the two questions, which are:

1. Write a sentence that describes something they like to do.
2. Write a sentence that explains something special about them.

Then invite them to illustrate each answer on same sheet of paper.

(The sentences will be used during the discussion time and the drawings will be used later to post on our bulletin boards to show the differences and similarities of the people in our communities.)

Story Quote...

1 Corinthians 5:4

Assemble the community - I'll be present in spirit with you and our Master Jesus will be present in power.

Discussion Questions..

- ◆ What does this quote say about community?
- ◆ Why is it important to get to know one another in our classroom?
- ◆ Referring back to the above exercises, what things do we have in common? In what ways are we different?
- ◆ How can our similarities and our differences make our community richer?
- ◆ Looking at our strengths and differences – how is our community strong?

Creative Expression..

Building Our Community

Materials: For every 3 people: four ounces of uncooked spaghetti and 10 gumdrops

Divide the group into teams of 3 and invite them to build something together out of the materials. The only thing is there can be no talking. Allow about 10 minutes.

Discuss:

- ◆ What was it like to work together without talking?
- ◆ How did you decide what you were going to do?
- ◆ What was it like to work together?
- ◆ How is this like our youth group works together?
- ◆ What role did you have in the construction? How is this like how you are in life?
- ◆ How did you feel about how well your group did or did not work together?
- ◆ Why is it important to work together in a community?

Uniteen Lesson:

"Finding Common Ground"

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Opening Activities..

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Getting to Know You Bingo

Materials: "Bingo" sheet and pencils

Complete the BINGO sheets to see how the group is alike and different. Share the results during the discussion time.

Story Quote...

Acts 20:32

"Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvelous God whose gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends.

Discussion Questions..

- ♦ What does this quote say about a community?
- ♦ What does it say about us?
- ♦ What does it mean to be part of a community?
- ♦ How is your class a community?
- ♦ What blessings do we receive from being part of a community
- ♦ What characteristics (from the BINGO exercise) are part of our community?

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Prayer Circles

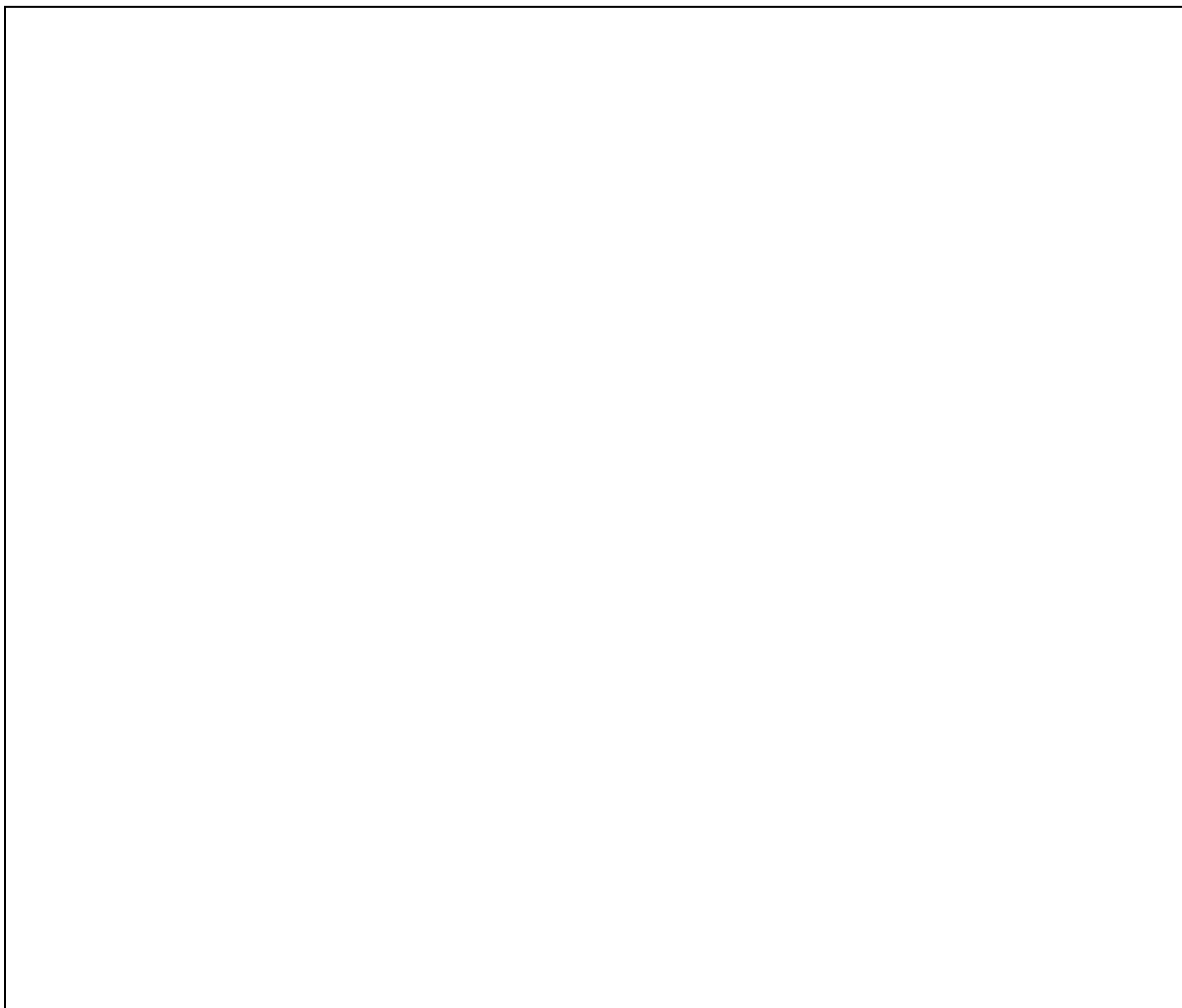
This can be done in individual classrooms or the group can come back together at the end of class time. Assign someone to speak aloud a prayer from the heart.

- ♥ Invite everyone to form a circle and join hands and then invite each person to state a simple prayer affirmation (they may pass if they need to.)
- ♥ Prayer Circle Affirmation: ***"The same or different, we are all a part of God's community."***

Close with the Prayer for Protection.

My Friend

1. Pair children up with someone they do not know very well.
2. Invite the partners to share their names and find out one thing the other one likes to do.
3. Ask each person to draw a picture of what their new friend likes to do in the box below.



4. After the drawings are created invite each student to introduce their new friend by saying "My new friend's name is _____ and he/she likes to

_____.

Who Am I?

Name: _____

Write a sentence about something you like to do and then draw a picture of it in the box below.

Write a sentence about something special about you and then draw a picture of it in the box below.

B I N G O

Plays Sports	Likes a movie you like	Can play a musical instrument	Wears braces	Belongs to a club
Likes to shop	Has gone to summer school	Has flown in an airplane	Sings in a choir	Has attended a family reunion
Was born in the same month you were.	Has a pet	BINGO Put your Name here.	Likes pizza	Has broken a body part
Surfs the net	Has ridden a horse	Likes to sing	Enjoys coming to church	Has their own computer
Has the same favorite subject in school	Has visited another country	Knows how to look up a Bible passage	Likes the same season of the year that you do	Can recite the alphabet backwards

Share the results and look at the similarities and differences in your community.