

"Building Our Village"

Pre-session Activity

Treasure Hearts

Materials: Blank hearts and art materials.

Share the Bible quote: **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**
Matthew 6:21

Invite the children to decorate the blank hearts with all the treasures they hold in their hearts.

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:

2 Chronicles 6:19

But please listen to my prayer and my request, because I am your servant. Lord my God, hear this prayer your servant prays 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 begin to create our villages. Each classroom will create their own identity.

Issue: How do we work together to build a village, incorporating each person's gifts?

Unity Principle: #1 - "There is only one power and one presence in the universe, God, who is all good and active in everything, everywhere."

Affirmation: Working together we create a powerful force for good.

12 Powers: The power of ORDER shows us that we must first build a strong foundation in order to build a strong community.

Early Elementary Lesson:

"What Makes A Village?"

Today we will look at the components of our village and where we each fit into it. What do our villages say about who we are? How do we work together to create the village?

Opening Activity..

Village Puzzle

Materials: Poster board made into puzzle pieces – one piece per child

Before class begins:

Determine how many children will be in your class for this day. Draw a puzzle made of random shapes, one piece for each child. Then write each child's name on one of the pieces. *(This is one way to make sure you have the appropriate number of puzzle pieces in a classroom where the attendance constantly changes. Since the name will be written on the back of the puzzle piece, new children will not be able to tell who created the puzzle and will not feel excluded.)*

Activity:

Without the children noticing, hide the puzzle pieces around the room. Let them know that they will be assembling a puzzle but in order to do so they must:

- ♦ Find the piece with their name on it.
- ♦ Do so in an orderly fashion.
- ♦ Be courteous.

When they have found their piece they are to sit back down in their seat.

Ask: What is special about you? and then invite them to create a picture of it on their piece of the puzzle. Then one by one invite them to put the puzzle back together so we have a picture of the beginning of our community.

Story Quote...

1 Col 15:41

"There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory."

Discussion Questions..

- ♦ What does "glory" mean?
- ♦ What is this quote telling us about the sun and moon?
- ♦ What does it say about the stars?
- ♦ What does it mean that they differ in glory from one another?
- ♦ How are the people in our community like the stars?
- ♦ How can we honor our differences and still be part of a community?

Creative Expression..

Our Village

Materials: Paper, pencils, markers, Flip-chart & attached form.

In this activity we will identify some things that make up our village. We will refer to the Village puzzle in order to identify:

- ♦ **Who we are?** *Names of those present.*
- ♦ **What are our special gifts?** *Those listed on puzzle + **brainstorm for other characteristics.***
- ♦ **What is the role of each individual in the village?** *(If you choose to you can have a leadership council for your village with officers or the children can choose different roles based on their interests. Examples include: prayer team, leadership team, fun team, help team etc. **If you give me a list of possible teams I will create name tags that can be worn each Sunday. This way the children can choose who they want to be each week.**)*
- ♦ **What we do in our village, (our special purpose)?** *(Examples: ask for help, give help, share ideas, pray together, work together, support one another, acknowledge ideas, create things...*
- ♦ **What are some of our favorite things?**
- ♦ **What is your Village name?** *Create a name for our village that reflects who you are.*

Please list the above information on the attached sheets so that posters and name tags can be made for your bulletin boards and classrooms.

Elementary Lesson:

"What Makes A Village?"

Today we will look at the components of our village and where we each fit into it. What do our villages say about who we are? How do we work together to create the village?

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. Determine what your prayer request is. 1-816-969-2000.

Story Quote...

1 Kings 9:3

The Lord said to him: "I have heard your prayer and what you have asked me to do. You built this Temple, and I have made it a holy place. I will be worshiped there forever and will watch over it and protect it always."

Discussion Questions..

- ♦ What does this quote say about prayer?
- ♦ What is the temple they are referring to?
- ♦ What does the Lord say will be the results of praying?
- ♦ How does praying with and for people help?
- ♦ Who or what does prayer change?
- ♦ What is your prayer life like?

Creative Expression..

Our Village

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- ♦ **What are our special gifts?** *Those listed on puzzle + **brainstorm for other characteristics.***
- ♦ **What is the role of each individual in the village?** *(If you choose to you can have a leadership council for your village with officers or the children can choose different roles based on their interests. Examples include: prayer team, leadership team, fun team, help team etc. **If you give me a list of possible teams I will create name tags that can be worn each Sunday. This way the children can choose who they want to be each week.**)*
- ♦ **What we do in our village, (our special purpose)?** *(Examples: ask for help, give help, share ideas, pray together, work together, support one another, acknowledge ideas, create things...)*
- ♦ **What are some of our favorite things?**
- ♦ **What is your Village name?** *Create a name for our village that reflects who you are.*

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Uniteen Lesson:

"What Makes A Village?"

Today we will look at the components of our village and where we each fit into it. What do our villages say about who we are? How do we work together to create the village?

Opening Activities..

Sacred Space

Materials: Something that is meaningful from each teen: they can bring it with them, choose it from the room or it can be an idea or something they want to write down & meditation CD.

Create a sense of Sacredness by playing meditative music and lighting a central candle. One by one invite the teens to place something meaningful to them into the center of the circle. After everyone has had a turn – sit a moment in silence contemplating the gifts we all bring to the table.

Story Quote...

1 Col 15:41

"There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory."

Discussion Questions..

- ♦ What is this quote saying about the glory of the sun, moon and stars?
- ♦ What does it mean when it says "one star differs from another star in glory"?
- ♦ How are we like the stars?
- ♦ What is the importance in recognizing our individual glory?
- ♦ How do our differences and "glories" contribute to the whole of our community?

Creative Expression..

Our Village

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- ♦ **What is your Village name?** *Create a name for our village that reflects who you are.*
- ♦ **Who we are?** *Names of those present.*

- ♦ **What are our special gifts?** *Those listed on puzzle + **brainstorm for other characteristics.***
- ♦ **What is the role of each individual in the village?** *(If you choose to you can have a leadership council for your village with officers or the children can choose different roles based on their interests. Examples include: prayer team, leadership team, fun team, help team etc. **If you give me a list of possible teams I will create name tags that can be worn each Sunday. This way the children can choose who they want to be each week.**)*
- ♦ **What we do in our village, (our special purpose)?** *(Examples: ask for help, give help, share ideas, pray together, work together, support one another, acknowledge ideas, create things...)*
- ♦ **What are some of our favorite things?**

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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: ***"Working together we create a powerful force for good."***

Close with the Prayer for Protection.

OUR VILLAGE

Today we formed our villages. Please fill in the information below so we can create signs, posters, name tags and other things that will be a part of our villages.

Our Village Name: _____

Members of Our Village: *(Include kids names so I can create pictures of each to hang on the board. We will add new children as they arrive.)*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Special gifts of Village members:

Role of the Individual: *(List "team" you would like in your Village – prayer, leaders, readers, helpers, etc. I will make name tags for the groups and children can choose who they want to be each week. Define the roles and if you want use creative names.)*

List role, description & name:

What do we do in our Village: *(Help people, pray & work together, support one another, create things...)*

What are some of our favorite things:
