

"Effective Communication"

Pre-session Activity

Communication Skills

Materials: Blank sheets

Create a prayer for the prayer box.

Gathering Circle

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

Prayer Focus

Bible Quote:

Luke 6:12

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

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

Effective communication skills help us to understand one another.

Issue: How can I identify my own and others feelings?

Unity Principle: #3 - "I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe."

#4 - "Through affirmative prayer and meditation I connect with God and bring out the good in my life."

Affirmation: I use the power of my words to create good.

1 2 Powers: ZEAL: Is the force that propels me forward when my mind is aligned with God's.

Early Elementary Lesson:

"What Words Do I Use?"

Using caring instead of hurtful words helps us to connect with one another.

Opening Activity..

Telephone

Materials: None

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Choose a simple phrase and whisper it into the ear of the first child. Then that child whispers it into the ear of the next child and so on. The last child to hear the phrase then says it out loud. Chances are it will be nothing like the original phrase.

Discuss:

- ♥ How different was the ending phrase from what was originally said?
- ♥ What do you think caused the differences?
- ♥ How is this exercise similar to having a conversation with someone who doesn't understand you?
- ♥ How can we be clear communicators?

StoryQuote...

Matt 13:13

This is why I use stories to teach the people: They see, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really hear or understand.

Discussion Questions...

- ♦ What does it mean to see but not really see?
- ♦ What does it mean to hear but not understand? How can that be?
- ♦ What happens when we don't understand directions our teachers or parents give us?
- ♦ What are the important parts of a conversation?
- ♦ Why is it important to communicate?

Creative Expression...

OPTION #1

Figure It Out

Materials: None

This exercise looks at different ways to communicate. We can not only communicate with our speech but also with sounds. ***This exercise is similar to "hotter/colder."***

Ask 2 volunteers to step out of the classroom. Ask the rest of the class to come up with a simple direction such as, ***"Put the markers back in the container."*** Then explain the rules to the class:

1. The group cannot talk when the volunteers return.
2. The group can only communicate by clapping – **loud clapping** when the volunteers are close to following the direction and **softer clapping** when they are not close.
3. Make sure the direction given is simple.
4. Invite the volunteers back into the room. The teacher instructs them that they must figure out what they are to do by just beginning somewhere, such as, picking up a piece of paper. If they are close to the doing the direction the group will clap louder and if they are way off the clapping will be softer.
5. If they seem stumped give them a hint.
6. Try it with several different volunteers.

Discuss:

- ♥ What was it like to be the volunteer and not have any idea what you were to do?
- ♥ How did not being allowed to ask questions affect your ability to communicate? What did you have to do instead?
- ♥ What was it like to be in the group but not be allowed to talk?
- ♥ How did the restrictions affect your communication? Were things clear?
- ♥ What is so important about good communication.

OPTION #2

Peacemaker Flags CONTINUES UNTIL THEY ARE COMPLETED

Materials: Fabric paint or fabric markers; felt squares in lots of colors, scissors, fabric glue, paintbrushes; 3' x 4' piece of felt for flag.

This flag will represent your village and the people in it and how it is a peacemaking village. It will be a group project. So, as a group, decide what symbols, artwork or designs you want to put on your flag, remembering that it represents the people in your village and all of their peacemaking skills. It may take some time to decide upon the exact design. This is OK as we will be working on these flags for a few weeks. It can be one joint design or symbol or it can be individual pieces that work together. Put your village name in a prominent place on the flag. You can use fabric paint or you can cut your symbols, designs and letters from the felt and make a collage-type design. We will hang them in each of our classroom areas.

Another Way to Create the Flag:

Materials: as above but add – drawing paper and pencils.

1. Create a story about peace. It can be from your life or a compilation of stories collected from your "village."
2. Draw the picture on the drawing paper. If you can't draw then collect the ideas and the story from the students and I will create a drawing for you.
3. Cut out the main shapes of the story out of paper. Then use them as patterns to cut them out of the felt.
4. Use fabric glue or fusible interfacing to attach them to the flag.
5. Use fabric paint or markers to add words to help tell your story.

This week we will concentrate on creating our STORY of peace.

Elementary Lesson:

"Effective Communication"

Good communication skills help us to get our ideas across and help to connect us with others.

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 in the CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE so all can hear. Determine what your prayer request is. 1-816-969-2000.

Communication Activity..

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- ♥ How can we be clear communicators?

StoryQuote...

Luke 9:45

But the followers did not understand what this meant; the meaning was hidden from them so they could not understand. But they were afraid to ask Jesus about it.

Discussion Questions...

- ♦ When have you been in a situation where you did not understand what someone was trying to tell you?
- ♦ How did you feel?
- ♦ What did you do about it?
- ♦ Why is it important to communicate clearly?

Creative Expression...

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Uniteen Lesson:

"Assertive Communication"

When we communicate effectively we can avoid most of our conflicts.

Opening Activity..

Alternative Ways to Communicate

Materials: Playdough

Invite the teens to explore how playdough can be used to communicate. Invite them to use their imaginations.

StoryQuote...

Luke 8:10

Jesus said, "You have been chosen to know the secrets about the kingdom of God. But I use stories to speak to other people so that: 'They will look, but they may not see. They will listen, but they may not understand.'

Discussion Questions...

- ♦ What does it mean that they looked but could not see? Give examples from your life.
- ♦ How could they listen but not understand? When has this happened to you?
- ♦ Why is good communication important?
- ♦ What do we need to do to communicate effectively?

Creative Expression...

Good communication skills are necessary in order to work together cooperatively...

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Another Way to Create the Flag:

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6. Create a story about peace. It can be from your life or a compilation of stories collected from your “village.”
7. Draw the picture on the drawing paper. If you can’t draw then collect the ideas and the story from the students and I will create a drawing for you.
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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: ***I use the power of my words to create good.***

Close with the Prayer for Protection.