

"Responsibility"

Pre-session Activity

Toothpick Brainstorm

Materials: Toothpicks, paper and markers.

Invite the children to play with the toothpicks to see how many ways they can be used to create peace or peaceful things.

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:

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

I am responsible for the world I create through the power of my words, thoughts and actions.

Issue: To discover how to create a life I am proud of.

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 make choices that benefit the greater good.

1 2 Powers: **RELEASE:** I release and let go of all things that are in the past so that I can create a positive future.

Early Elementary Lesson:

"I Am Responsible for my choices.

I choose to cooperate with others."

When we work together everyone can participate in creating something good.

Opening Activity..

Jumping Stars (*Adventures in Peacemaking pg 97*)

Materials: One 10 to 24 foot rope (yarn) per person, tied into circles.

Explain to the group that each person is unique and has a lot to offer each other. We are all stars with our own special place in the universe. Find a spot on the floor, spread your rope into a circle and stand in it.

The universe is constantly changing. In order to take care of one another, we will need to work together and share our stars.

1. When I say GO, you will need to move around the room and find a new star. Don't run. Give everyone enough time to find a new star.
2. Remind the stars that the universe is constantly changing and remove one of the circles. Say Go again and tell them to find a new star. Some confusion may occur. Let them figure out what to do since no one can be eliminated and everyone needs to be in a circle.
3. Repeat for several more rounds, each time removing one of the circles.

4. On the final round leave only one circle. Leave on of the bigger ones but not so big that they all easily fit. They must be creative.

Discuss:

- ◆ What did it feel like to not have a circle to stand in at first?
- ◆ Did someone invite you into their circle or did you just go in?
- ◆ What did it feel like to have someone come into your circle?
- ◆ What was it like to cooperate?
- ◆ Why is cooperation important?
- ◆ How can we work together to help the world?

StoryQuote...

Luke 5:17-26

Jesus is inside a house teaching a large group of people. A paralyzed man wants to be healed but cannot get inside. His friends carry him to the roof of the house, cut a hole in the roof and lower him into the house. Jesus recognizes the great faith of the man and his friends and heals him.

Discussion Questions...

- ◆ How do you know the paralyzed man believed in Jesus' power to heal?
- ◆ How did the man get into the house?
- ◆ Who helped him?
- ◆ What could have happened if the friends hadn't helped him?
- ◆ How does working together bring about good?

Creative Expression...

Cooperative Playdough

Materials: 3 cups flour, ¾ cups salt, Powdered tempura paint, ½ cup water, large bowl

Divide the ingredients up among the children. If your group has more than 6 children, bring supplies enough for 2 groups.

Explain that cooperation means working together to accomplish something that will benefit everyone in the group.

Give one of the ingredients to each member of the group (those who do not have an ingredient can stir.) They are to take turns adding their piece to the bowl and then take turns mixing it together.

The playdough can then be shared among the group members.

Discuss:

- ◆ What was it like to work together?
- ◆ How important was your contribution?
- ◆ What are some other ways we can work together to create something good?

Elementary Lesson:

*"I Am Responsible for my choices.
I choose to cooperate with others."*

When we work together everyone can participate in creating something good.

Opening Activity..

One Common Goal

Materials: Paper & pencils

Break the group up into teams of 3 to 5 people. Give each team a piece of paper and pencil and ask them to make a list of all the things that are common traits among all team members. Set a time limit. Share the list with the other groups.

The point of this exercise is to look for common ground among diverse groups. We are not as different as we think. When we can recognize the things we have in common then it is easier for us to cooperate with each other.

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Creative Expression...

Cooperative Problem Solving

Materials: Bowl, liquid dish soap, water, straws and yarn for each group of 3 or 4 participants

The object of this activity is for the group to work together to find the solution to a problem. They will probably have to try again and again before they arrive

at the answer. This demonstrates the importance of cooperation, everyone working together for a common goal and each person has a responsibility to assist the group.

Divide the kids into teams of 3 or 4 people. Give each group the supplies listed and invite them to use the supplies to create bubbles that float in the air. Also challenge them to make the biggest bubble possible.

Hints: Only give them hints if they are unable to solve the problem on their own. The water and bubbles must be mixed together in the proper proportions – they must experiment to figure it out. Use the straws and yarn to make bubble wands.

Discuss

- ◆ What was it like to participate in this activity?
- ◆ How did the group come up with their solution?
- ◆ Was it necessary to work with others to solve the problem? Why or why not?
- ◆ How did working with others make it easier or harder?
- ◆ What did you contribute to the group?
- ◆ How did you feel about this experience?
- ◆ How can world leaders work together to solve the problem of a lack of peace in the world?

Uniteen Lesson:

"I Am a Responsible Part of the Team I Cooperate"

Working together helps us to create solutions to problems. As we each recognize our individual responsibility we help the team to be more effective.

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Creative Expression...

Option #1

COOPERATIVE PEACE POEM

Material: 1 sheet of paper and pencils.

Fold a sheet of blank paper accordion-style. Use as many pleats as there are kids in the class.

Explain that this will be a cooperative poem about peacemaking and each person will be responsible for contributing their line of the poem.

The first person begins by writing the first line of the poem on the first fold of the paper. Remember the poem is about peacemaking. *(If the first person is having trouble beginning, the group can brainstorm for ideas.)*

After the first person has completed their line they pass the fan-folded paper to the second person, who reads the first line and then contributes their line on the second fold of the paper. After they have finished they fold the paper so the third person can only read the second line of the poem.

The third person contributes their line, folds the paper so the next person can only see the line before theirs and it continues until all students have contributed a line.

When it is completed, unfold the paper and read the entire poem.

Discuss:

- ◆ How is this poem different from one you would have created by yourself?
- ◆ What was it like to have to contribute a line when you could not read all of the lines that came before yours?
- ◆ How important was each contribution?
- ◆ How does working together cooperatively benefit the group?
- ◆ How can world leaders cooperate to create a more peaceful world?

Option #2

Cooperative Problem Solving

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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 make choices that benefit the greater good.**

Close with the Prayer for Protection.