

With Strings Attached

All day VBS, Sunday, August 7, 2005

Group activities should take about 20 minutes; classes 40 minutes.

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at the building

9:15 a.m. [Activity #1 End to End](#)
Reaching farther by reaching together

Sunday a.m. Bible classes on theme (regular a.m. schedule, VBS theme)

Noon Lunch at the building

1:30 p.m. [Activity #2 Side by Side](#)
Strength in unity

Sunday afternoon class on theme (Children; Women; All others together in Auditorium)

2:30 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. [Activity #3 You Lift Me Up](#)
Strength from above

Sunday afternoon class on theme (Children; All others in one group)

4:00 p.m. Break (and dinner preparation)

5:30 p.m. Dinner at the building

6:30 p.m. [Activity #4 The Big Picture](#)
Part of something beautiful (in the dining room)

Sunday evening group lesson (all together in the dining room)

Activity #1 End to End – Reaching farther by reaching together

(At about 9:15 a.m. in the auditorium)

(Followed by Sunday a.m. Bible classes on theme, about 40 minutes)

Activity: We will distribute pieces of string (probably red yarn), about 24" long to everyone. Gerald will demonstrate a few knots for us with rope. Then we will ask the children to tie their pieces of yarn around the communion table (too short). By asking others to help pieces of red yarn/string will be joined together and tied around the table, emphasizing the value of helping each other..

Teachers:

Preschoolers – Julie and Jodi

Elementary – Lorie

Life App. – Chad & Melissa

Audit. – Joshua

Story – Mark 2:1-12/Luke 5:18-26 Jesus heals a paralyzed man whose friends work together to bring him to Jesus.

Lessons: after reading/telling the story, review the facts and circumstances. Then discuss the faith of the four friends, and how they worked and cooperated to do what none of them could have done alone. What are other ways Christians can work together to help others and serve God that one alone may not be able to do?

Other scriptures: 3 John 5-8, 1 Corinthians 9:14, Romans 10:13-15, Acts 11:22 (reaching out by helping those who preach)

1 Corinthians 3:5-9, 12:28-31, different workers, different jobs, complementing each other, one goal

Others who reached farther by making connections: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (Paul-Timothy); Philippians 2:25-30 (Philippi-Epaphroditus); Acts 23:12-24 (Paul's nephew-Paul-Centurion-Roman commander)

Classroom activities might include tying simple knots to join short strings together.

Potluck/sandwich lunch following the morning services at about noon.

Afternoon activity times will take about 20 minutes each, and will include some singing.

Activity #2 Side by Side – Strength in unity

(At about 1:30 after lunch)

(Followed by Sunday afternoon class on theme, about 40 minutes)

Activity: Begin with several pieces of string or yarn, about 3 ft long

Tie a loop in one end of one string, and add weights until it breaks.

Twist two pieces of string together, and repeat.

Braid three pieces of string together and repeat.

Observe the difference in strength of 1, 2 and 3 pieces together.

Teachers:

Preschoolers – Sue

Elementary – Christie

Women – Karen

Audit. – Bob

Story – Luke 5:1-11, the miracle of the fish, needing partners and a second boat to harvest the catch. Another possible story to consider is that of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who together stood for God against the king and all he could do to them – Daniel 3 with Daniel 1:6-17, 2:14-20.

Lessons: After reading/telling the story, review the facts and circumstances, and what it meant to the people there, especially Peter and Jesus. Then discuss the importance of these fishing partners – having partners – and how they continued to work together for Jesus afterward. Things to discuss might include any special value in having partners of similar age, same sex, common interests, or vice-versa fellow workers who differ in important ways..

Other scriptures: Ecclesiastes 4:7-12; Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 18:19-20; James 5:13-16; Acts 1:14; Ephesians 4:3

Classroom activities might include braiding short chords. Or short braided lanyards might be given to the children with discussion of how they are made and reminder of the extra strength thus produced.

Thirty minute break at about 2:30

Activity #3 You Lift Me Up – Strength from above

(At about 3:00 after break)

(Followed by Sunday afternoon class on theme, about 40 minutes)

Activity: A demonstration of how a string puppet has no strength of its own, but must be lifted up by a “higher power.”

Teachers:

Preschoolers – Lorie

Elementary – Ben

Audit. – Chuck

Story: Paul in a basket (Acts 9:19b-25) OR Rahab and the spies (Joshua 2:1-24). These stories both illustrate being in a helpless and defenseless position, and needing help “from above” to survive and escape. We often depend on the strength of others, and God is our true source of strength from above.

Lessons: After reading/telling the story, review the facts and circumstances. Why did Paul or the spies need help beyond what they themselves could do? When do we need help from a greater source? When we have challenges too big for our own strength, what should we do?

Other scriptures: James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:5-7, Psalm 35:10, Psalm 69:13-19, 2 Timothy 4:16-18, 2 Peter 2:4-9, Galatians 1:3-4, Philippians 4:13, Hebrews 11:32-34

Classroom activities might include giving the children paper puppets with movable arms (jumping jacks) and strings attached to reaffirm the idea. Activities involving baskets dangling on strings might also clarify the story and lessons.

Break at about 4:00, dinner prep time.

Spaghetti dinner at the building at about 5:30

Activity #4 The Big Picture – Part of something beautiful

(At about 6:30 after dinner, in the dining room)

(Followed by Sunday evening group lesson, everyone together in the dining room)

Activity: We will create a piece of string art, everyone adding to the pattern

Teacher:

Group – Charles

Story: The high priest's clothes, Exodus 28:1-41. This story illustrates God's desire for beauty and dignity in his service. He "dressed up" his priests and put them in a fine structure. He's working on beautifying his people today as well, each one of us, and all of us together.

Suggested Songs

704 Bind Us Together

202 Joyful, Joyful

711 Blest Be The Tie

705 A Common Love

703 I Love You With The Love of The Lord

709 How Sweet, How Heavenly

732 The Family of God (refrain only)

739 God's Wonderful People

744 God's Family

364 Come Share The Lord

Dare to Be A Daniel

We Are One in The Spirit (They'll Know We Are Christians)