

City SG - September 23 & 24, 2017

Bible Story: We'll Be There for You (Encourage one another)

• 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Job 2:11-13 (Supporting: Job 1-2)

Bottom Line: Friends encourage one another.

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." *Proverbs 17:17, NIV*

1. When There Aren't Words

What You Need: Bible; cardstock strips (one per child); crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils; decorative supplies

What You Do:

- Read Job 2:11-13 aloud.
- Point out that Job was in so much pain that his friends didn't know what to pray or to say.
- Explain that when we don't know what to say, one thing we can do for our friends is to pray a version of the Lord's Prayer.
- Hand out the cardstock strips and supplies.
- Guide the group to write down an outline of the Lord's Prayer acronym: A.C.T.S.
 - A stands for Adoration. Tell God that you remember how great He is.
 - C stands for Confession. Tell God that you are sorry for your sins.
 - T stands for Thanksgiving. Thank God for forgiving you and for everything He has done.
 - S stands for Supplication. Supplication means asking for what we need. Ask God for things that you and your friends need. There's no need too small or too big to take to God.
- Then give kids time to decorate their bookmarks however they choose. Encourage them to take the bookmarks home and place them in their Bibles, devotional book, or another book they're reading.

What You Say:

"The moment with Job's friends that we studied today is actually the best part of their story. Sitting quietly with Job is the best encouragement they gave. Once they opened their mouths and started talking, they messed up big time. They gave Job such bad advice and hurt Job's feelings so much that eventually God himself showed up to tell the friends to be quiet! When our friends are hurting, we need to be very careful what we say. And if we don't know what to say, it's okay to just be with them without saying anything at all, and encourage them without any words. When we don't know what to pray for, we can use the outline of the Lord's prayer—ACTS—to give us some words to pray. After that, we can trust that God will understand our friends' needs better than we do."

2. Tower Attack

What You Need: 40 Plastic or Styrofoam cups, 10 ping-pong balls

What You Do:

- Divide the kids in two groups and give each team half of the supply of cups and half of the supply of ping-pong balls.
- Tell them they're going to compete against each other to build the tallest tower/pyramid of cups.
- The catch is that while they're building the towers, they can also try to knock down the other group's tower by throwing the balls at it.
- Outline some rules before the game starts:
 - Kids can use their bodies to move in front of a ping-pong ball, but they cannot swat it down or block it with their hands.
 - Teams get to decide who will build the tower and who will defend it (and try to knock down the other team's tower), but they can't simply form a continuous wall of people to protect the tower.
- Give them two minutes to work, but don't count down the time or give them any warning about how much time is left. This will challenge them to continuously build and keep their tower tall in an effort to have the biggest tower when time is called.
- As soon as you announce time is over, all building and throwing must stop. Whichever team's tower is the tallest at the moment is the winner.
- Play multiple rounds if time allows, and let teams compete for "best out of three."

What You Say:

"In the game, it was easy to knock off a bunch of cups at once, but putting them back was a slow process. In life, for every time a hurtful thing is said to us or a hurtful thing happens, it usually takes more than one kind thing to build us back up afterward. We need to always practice encouragement because there is never a time when someone doesn't need a little bit."

3. Ping-Pong Memory

What You Need: "Memory Verse Cards" (Activity Pages from previous weeks) and Ping-pong balls from "Tower Attack" activity

What You Do:

- Ask if anyone can say this month's verse (Proverbs 17:17) completely from memory.
- Let a few volunteers recite the verse.
- Then, using the same teams as the previous activity, let kids compete to set out the memory verse cards in order and cover them up completely with the ping-pong balls.
- The trick will be to do this fast while keeping the balls from rolling!
- Once the verse is completely covered, they say the verse all together as a group.
- The first group to cover the entire verse and say the verse together wins!

What You Say:

"We started this month by digging this memory verse out of food, but today you buried it! That's okay because we have buried this verse in your brains so that you won't forget all the lessons of friendship that we learned this month, including: **[Bottom Line] Friends encourage one another.**"

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Bookmarks kids made in “When There Aren’t Words”

What You Do:

- Remind the kids that Job’s friends sat in silence with him when he was at his lowest point.
- Practice sitting in silence and praying through the ACTS prayer outline.
- Instruct the kids to sit in silence. Every 15-30 seconds, call out a letter and describe the type of prayer they can pray.
- Remind the kids to pray this way for their friends as encouragement or anytime they have trouble thinking of what to say in prayer.

What You Say:

“We don’t have to worry about saying just the right words when we are praying to God. However, having an outline like this can help us to stay focused and pray for our friends when, like Job’s friends, we have no idea what to say or pray for. ***[Bottom Line] Friends encourage one another.***”

NOTE: As adults arrive to pick up, be sure to hand out this week’s Parent Cue to inform Parents on what children are learning each week.