



VICTOR'S DREAM

Devotional Curriculum

7 Leadership Lessons for
Children and Young Teens

Victor's Dream written by Deborah Ehler Polston

Devotional Curriculum written by Harlene Hill

About the Authors



Deborah Ehler Polston is a strong children's advocate who has served on the Florida Department of Children and Families Task Force on Fostering Success, and as director on boards of non-profit child protection and permanency organizations. She holds a mass communications degree, using her writing and speaking skills to advocate for children. Deborah speaks about children's issues for a variety of government, civic, non-profit, and church groups and the media. Florida's governor named Deborah as Florida's Point of Light Recipient for demonstrating exemplary service to the community by speaking to churches, civic groups, the media, and the Florida Legislature on behalf of foster children, also encouraging families to pursue special needs adoptions.

She and her husband, Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston, reside in Tallahassee and are the parents of 10 children, including a sibling group of six boys they have fostered and adopted. Her books carry a strong message of hope combined with real life application of biblical principles. For more information, visit www.deborahpolston.com.



Harlene Hill has been married for over 30 years and is the proud mother of two sons. She has spent her entire adult life in full-time Christian ministry. As a mother, teacher, youth leader, and pastor's wife, she has a heart for mentoring people. As an educator, she has toured the United States speaking at teaching conventions, writing curriculum and serving at international student conventions. In 2007, she began her ministry with Florida Baptist Children's Homes where she and her husband currently serve as statewide lead house parents.



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Leader's Guide

Welcome to Victor's Dream devotional curriculum! Below are some suggestions, ideas, and helpful hints as you navigate your way through the curriculum. We are excited that you will be sharing with your children the lessons learned from the book, Victor's Dream, and, more importantly, from God's Word! May God bless you as you minister and serve children.

SOME PREPARATION REQUIRED

Please read the entire lesson in advance. Some of the icebreakers, worksheets, and art projects require some advanced preparations.

LESSON TIME FRAME

Each lesson takes about one hour to complete all the activities. The lessons are designed where you can do each lesson at one time or you can break up each activity. Perhaps do the icebreakers on day one, the devotion and worksheets on day two, and the art project on day three. Again, you decide!

ALL-AGE FRIENDLY

You will find that the writing level is mostly geared toward the elementary age child (specifically grades 4-6). However, the curriculum can be used for younger children as well as teens. Worksheets are already divided into three categories: early elementary (K-grade 3), elementary (grades 4-6), and teen. Please be aware that as you read the devotion, ask the discussion questions, and do the activities, you may need to adjust them a bit to fit your specific age range. If you have the available staff, you could divide the group by age groups in order to specifically reach the needs of each child. However, you can still be effective if you keep all the age groups together - just remember to adjust as you move through the curriculum.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We have included discussion questions on the right-side margin beside the devotion. Depending on your children, you may want to tell the story and then ask all the questions at the end of the story or you may want to ask them intermittently throughout the story. That is up to you...you know how your children will respond the best. Most of the devotional questions do not have just one right or wrong answer. Some may ask how a person feels or thinks. You may get many different answers from the children. We have added some possible answers so you can help steer the conversation back to the main lesson in the story.

TEEN WORKSHEETS

We realize that teens are unique! Some like to write, some like to talk, and some like to do both! If you have teens who would rather have a discussion than write, adjust the activity. Instead of having them share the information in writing, lead the group to talk about the writing assignment. Do what will work best for your teens.

ART PROJECTS

To keep your supply costs to a minimum, most of the art projects are designed for younger children. If you have teenagers, who may find the projects too childish, assign them as helpers for the younger children. Since the younger children will need closer supervision during the art projects, this will help you too!

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION

Icebreakers

Devotion

Discussion Questions

Lessons Learned Review

Take-Away Truth

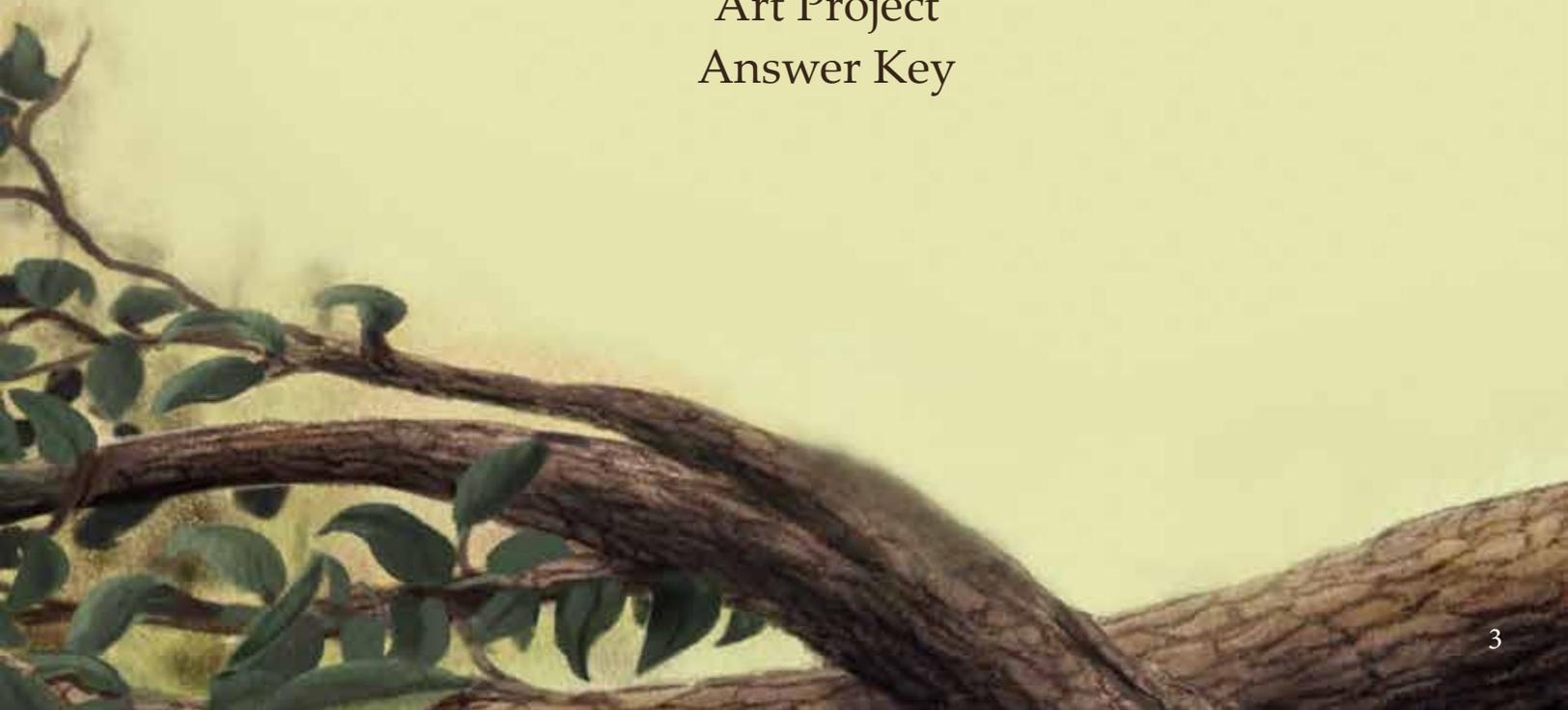
Prayer

Comprehension Games

Worksheets

Art Project

Answer Key



Icebreakers

Idea #1 – Birdie on a Perch Game

Tell the children that they will find a partner in a few minutes. Before pairing up into groups of two, discuss the feelings associated with being “left out” and the importance of helping everyone to feel that they are a welcomed part of the game.

Direct children to find a partner and decide who will be the birdie and who will be the perch. (Depending on the ages of the group, you may need to quickly discuss what a perch is). Have all the birdies stand in a circle and all the perches stand in an outside circle surrounding the birdies. Have some music ready.

When the music starts, the birdies walk clockwise around the circle and the perches walk counter-clockwise.

When the music stops, the birdies must find their perches and sit on them (the perch kneels on one knee, making a perch out of the other leg.)

If you don't have music, you can just have a leader yell, “Birdie on a Perch!”

The last couple to pair up is eliminated. The object is to be the last couple left.

It's more fun if the children move quickly in their circles!

Idea #2 - Letter Name Game

Set up a circle of chairs with one extra chair than the amount of children present. Before starting the game, have each child take turns saying the beginning letter of their first name. Choose one child to be “it.” The “it” person calls out a letter of the alphabet. Children with that beginning letter of their first name (i.e., “A” for Alex) must switch seats. The “it” person can also call two or three different letters all at once. If the “it” person would like everyone to switch seats, they call out “Letter Mixup!”

Devotion

(GENESIS 37:39-45)

In the story of Victor's Dream, we will find a young man, named Victor, who has lived with many struggles. One day, in a dream, he meets a man named Joseph. Joseph, too, had many challenges in his life. Yet, Joseph knew that God would always be faithful and He had a purpose for his life. Joseph had confidence in Jeremiah 29:11 that says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV). Before we learn lessons from Victor's story, let's take a look at the story of Joseph. *(Have the children show thumbs-up when they hear an event that is positive/happy and a thumbs-down when they hear a negative/sad event. For fun, you can also have the children act out the story as you read it aloud.)*

"Good morning, little lamb," Joseph said as he patted the lamb on his soft, furry head. "Baa, baa" replied the little lamb. Joseph loved taking care of his father's flocks. Joseph lived with his father, Jacob, his mother, and his brothers. Joseph was a good shepherd and his father loved him very much. One day, his father gave Joseph a beautiful coat. The coat was very colorful. When Joseph's brothers saw the coat, they became very jealous, hateful, and rude. "Why did Father give Joseph a coat and did not give me a coat?" asked one of his brothers. "I want a colorful coat too!" demanded another brother. His brothers got so angry at Joseph; they began to make evil plans. "Let's kill him and throw his body into a well. We can tell our father that a wild animal killed him," thought his brothers. However, one of Joseph's brothers named Reuben had a different idea. "We should not kill our brother. We can sell him as a slave to travelers passing by." And so they all agreed to Reuben's plan.

When the travelers came by, Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave. The travelers took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to a man named Potiphar. Potiphar was the king's helper and a captain of the king's palace. All this time, the Lord was with Joseph. God was faithful to Joseph and made him successful in everything he did. Potiphar was happy with Joseph's work and it was not long before he put Joseph in charge of the entire house! Potiphar trusted Joseph with everything he owned.

Potiphar's wife was an evil woman. Every day she would try to make Joseph do bad things, but each time she tried, Joseph refused to do the bad things. This made Potiphar's wife angry with Joseph. She went to her husband and told awful lies about Joseph. Potiphar believed the lies and arrested Joseph. Now, Joseph was in prison for something he did not do. But, during all this time, the Lord was still with Joseph. Again, God was faithful and before long, Joseph was put in charge of all the prisoners. When the King heard about Joseph and all of his success, he was very pleased. Joseph helped the king in many ways so

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JOSEPH

1. Why do you think Joseph's brothers felt jealous toward Joseph? *(his father gave him something his brothers did not get)*
2. In what ways would you like to be like Joseph? *(his leadership, patience, and optimistic outlook on life)*
3. What are some things you can do now in order to grow up to be like Joseph? *(grow close to Christ, practice serving others, practice leadership skills)*

VICTOR

1. What are some similarities between Joseph and Victor? (*they both wanted to follow Christ, they were both accused of something they did not do, God used both of their bad situations to turn out for the good*)
2. How is Victor different from the other kids at his school? (*V. Dream p. 6 - he is in foster care, he is separated from his parents, he lives in a group home*)
3. How is Victor the same as the other kids at his school? (*they have hurts inside, they feel the same emotions*)
4. When Victor was sitting in the tree, why do you think he was crying? (*V. Dream p. 9 - he was sad about the circumstances of his life*)
5. Do you believe that most people believe that God is always faithful? (*only those who believe that God's Word is true because they trust Christ*)

LESSONS LEARNED

Victor learned many lessons from Joseph:

1. He is special and God loves him.
2. He is made to overcome every obstacle with God's help.
3. God has given him favor so he can fulfill His purpose.
4. It doesn't matter where God puts him, all that mattered was how he handled it.
5. God will never leave him.
6. He belongs!

the king brought him out of prison, gave him many gifts, and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt! God blessed Joseph throughout his life.

As you heard in this story, many terrible things happened to Joseph during his lifetime. But, no matter what, God took those bad things and turned them into good. Through the years, Joseph was able to save the lives of many Egyptians while he was in charge of the land. Joseph believed that God made him for a very special purpose. God helped Joseph overcome many obstacles. All the time, Joseph knew that God would always be faithful and would never leave him.

Now read the book, Victor's Dream. As you read, discuss how the book toggles between present time (full color pages) and the past (sepia color pages).

Just like Joseph, Victor had many obstacles to overcome. Victor learned many lessons from Joseph. He learned that 1) he is special and God loves him, 2) he is made to overcome every obstacle with God's help, 3) God has given him favor so he can fulfill His purpose,

TAKE-AWAY TRUTH:

We can overcome any obstacle with God's help!

4) it didn't matter where God put him, all that mattered was how he handled it, 5) God loves him and will never leave him, and 6) he belongs now! Those same lessons that were true for Joseph and Victor are true for you today!

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you that we are so special to you that you sent your son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Help us remember that you love each one of us the same and that you have a special plan for each of our lives that is filled with hope and good. We praise you that, like Joseph and Victor, we can overcome any obstacle with your help.

We love you and praise you, Lord.

Amen.

Comprehension Idea #1 - Chronological Card Game

Supplies: 8 sheets (approx. 9" x 12") of cardstock paper, dark-colored marker

Using cardstock paper, write the following events from the book:

- * Jake made fun of Victor on the school bus.
- * Victor fell out of the tree.
- * Victor dreamt of working in Potiphar's barn.
- * Coach Jacobs sent Victor to the Principal's office.
- * Ms. Emily made Victor's favorite dinner.
- * Victor read a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Jacobs.
- * The Jacobs gave adoption rings to Victor, Chase, and Gracie.
- * Victor learned that God is always faithful.

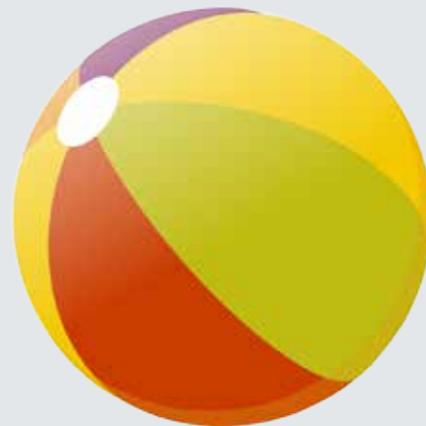
Place the cards, face down, on the floor. Choose the youngest player and allow him to choose a card, read it out loud, and stand in a designated area while facing the group and holding up his card. Choose the next youngest player and allow him to choose a card, read it out loud, and have him stand next to the first child, lining up in the correct chronological order of the book. Note: If needed, older children can help younger children read their cards and/or stand in the correct place. Continue until all the cards have been picked and the children are lined up correctly.

Comprehension Idea #2 - Question Ball Game

Supplies: permanent marker, standard beach ball

Using a permanent marker, divide a beach ball into eight sections. In each section, write one of the following questions on the ball with a permanent marker (Answers in parentheses are for reference only. Do not write them on the beach ball.):

- * Where did Victor live? (Safe Haven Children's Home)
- * How old was Victor? (15)
- * What was Victor's sister's name? (Gracie)
- * What was Victor's brother's name? (Chase)
- * What was the name of Victor's teacher? (Coach Jacobs)
- * What did Victor get accused of doing? (stealing the principal's purse)
- * Who did Victor meet in his dream? (Joseph)
- * What gift did Mr. & Mrs. Jacobs give to Victor? (adoption rings)



Have the group sit in a large circle. Play music while the group tosses the ball to each other. When the music stops, the person holding the ball answers one of the questions. You may allow the child to choose the question or you can have the child read the question closest to his right thumb when he caught the ball. Continue this until all the questions have been read and/or each child has had a turn answering a question.

Introduction

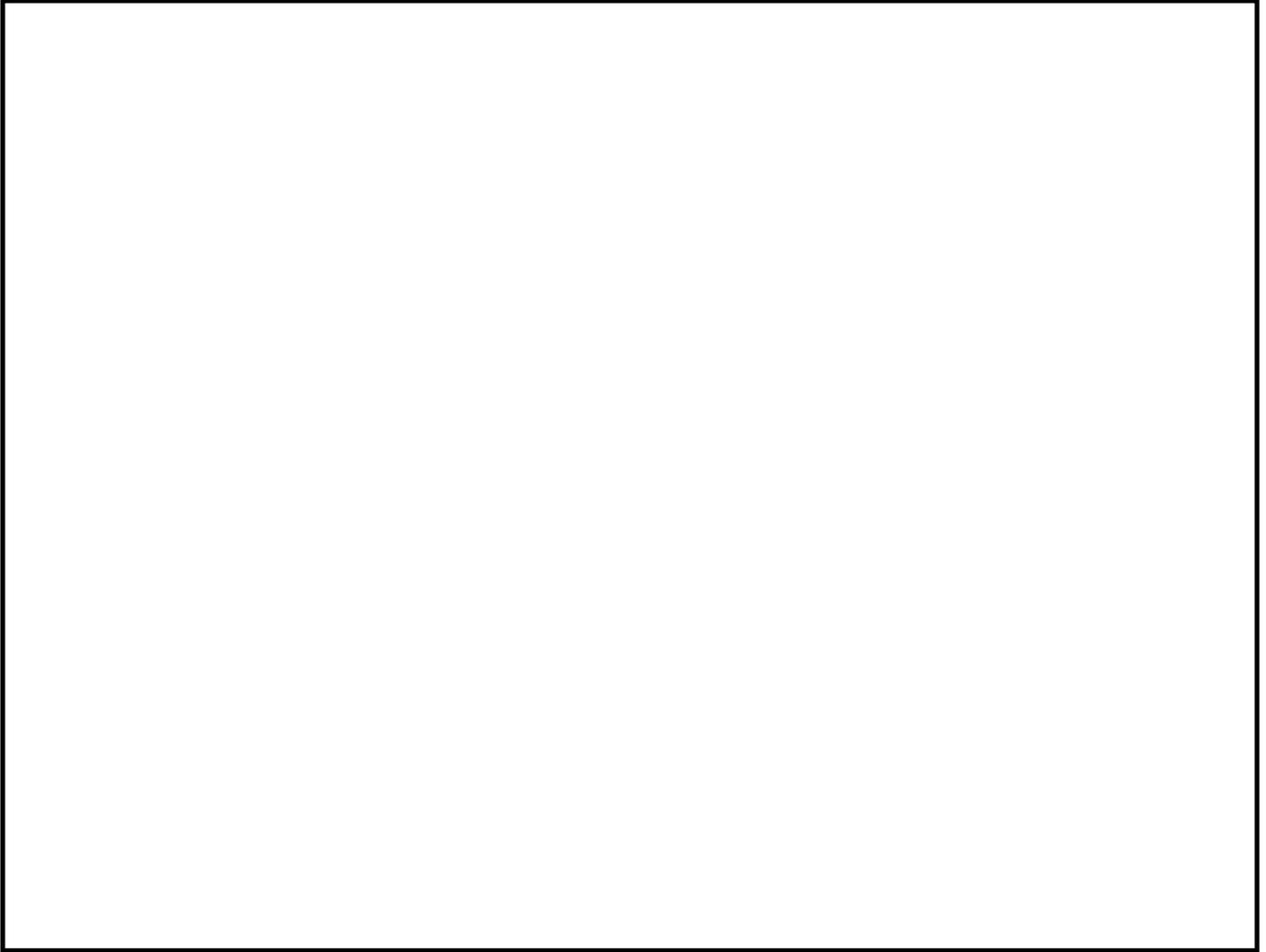
WORKSHEET #1

Early Elementary

Materials needed: crayons

Jacob loved his son Joseph very much. Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors.

1. Using crayons, draw a picture of Joseph's coat with many colors.



2. Write the words: GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Introduction

WORKSHEET #1

Elementary

Materials needed: pencil

What can we learn from Victor's Dream?

1. Crack the code! Look at the alphabet below. Write the correct numbers under the remaining letters.
2. Once the code has been successfully broken, you can fill in the letters in the next section to reveal the secret phrase.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1						7					12	
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				18					23			

7 15 4

9 19

1 12 23 1 25 19

6 1 9 20 8 6 21 12

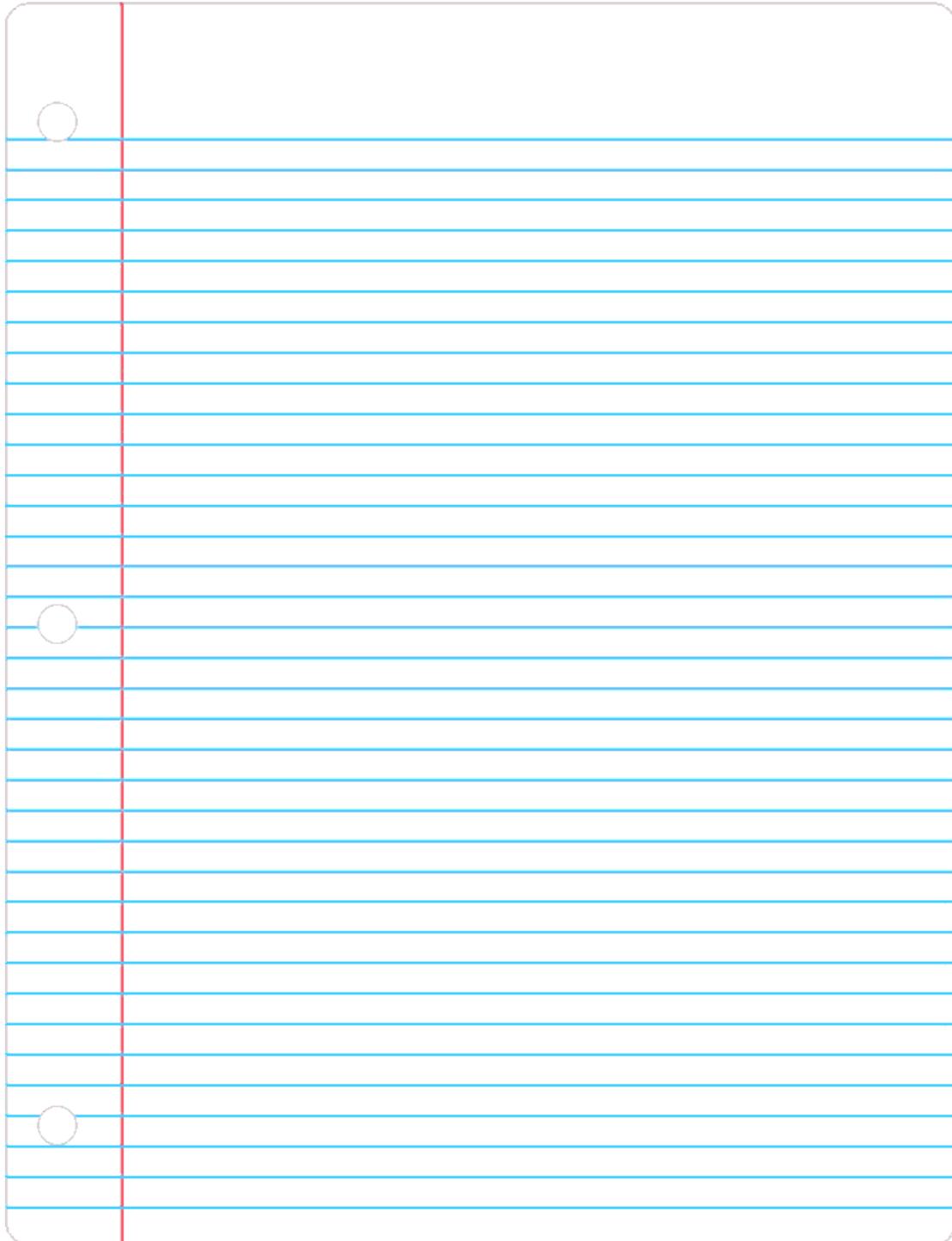
Introduction

WORKSHEET #1

Teen

Materials needed: pencil or pen

Imagine you were put into prison for something you did not do. What would you think? How would you feel? Write your thoughts on the journal page below.



God Is Always Faithful

Art Project

Jeremiah 29:11 Mosaic Wall Hanging

Materials needed:

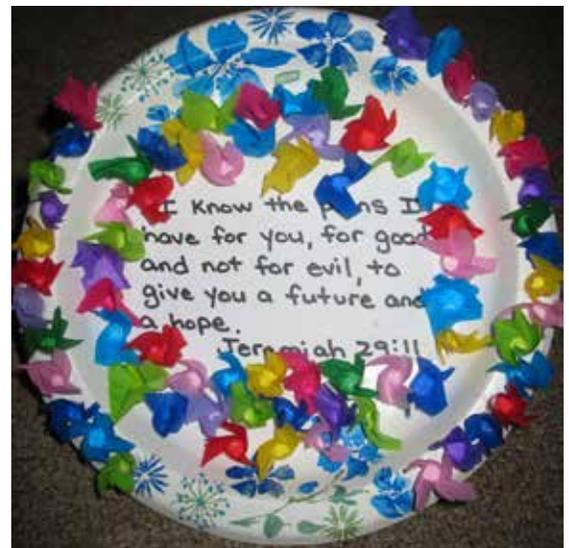
- * small paper plate (one per person)
- * different colored tissue squares (1 inch) (about 50 squares per person)
- * glue (if possible, one per individual)
- * 3 x 5 card (one per individual)
- * assortment of markers or crayons
- * pencil, with flat eraser top (one per individual)
- * 12" piece of yarn (one per individual)

1. Using markers or crayons, write Jeremiah 29:11 on the 3 x 5 card.
2. Glue the card to the center of the plate.
3. One at a time, wrap a tissue square around the top of the pencil.
4. Dab a small drop of glue on the empty part of the plate.
5. Ease the tissue from the pencil top, keeping the shape intact.
6. Gently place the tissue on the glue drop.
7. Continue steps 3-5 until the plate is covered with tissue.
8. Glue the ends of the yarn to the back of the plate, making a loop for hanging.

While the children are gluing their tissue squares, explain how each square can represent something in their life (good or bad).

God can take each of our situations and make them into something beautiful.

Allow the children to share what types of life situations and experiences may happen that God can turn into something beautiful.



Answer key to worksheets

Lesson 1: Elementary

Code: God is always faithful

Lesson 2

COMPASSION

Icebreakers

Devotion

Discussion Questions

Take-Away Truth

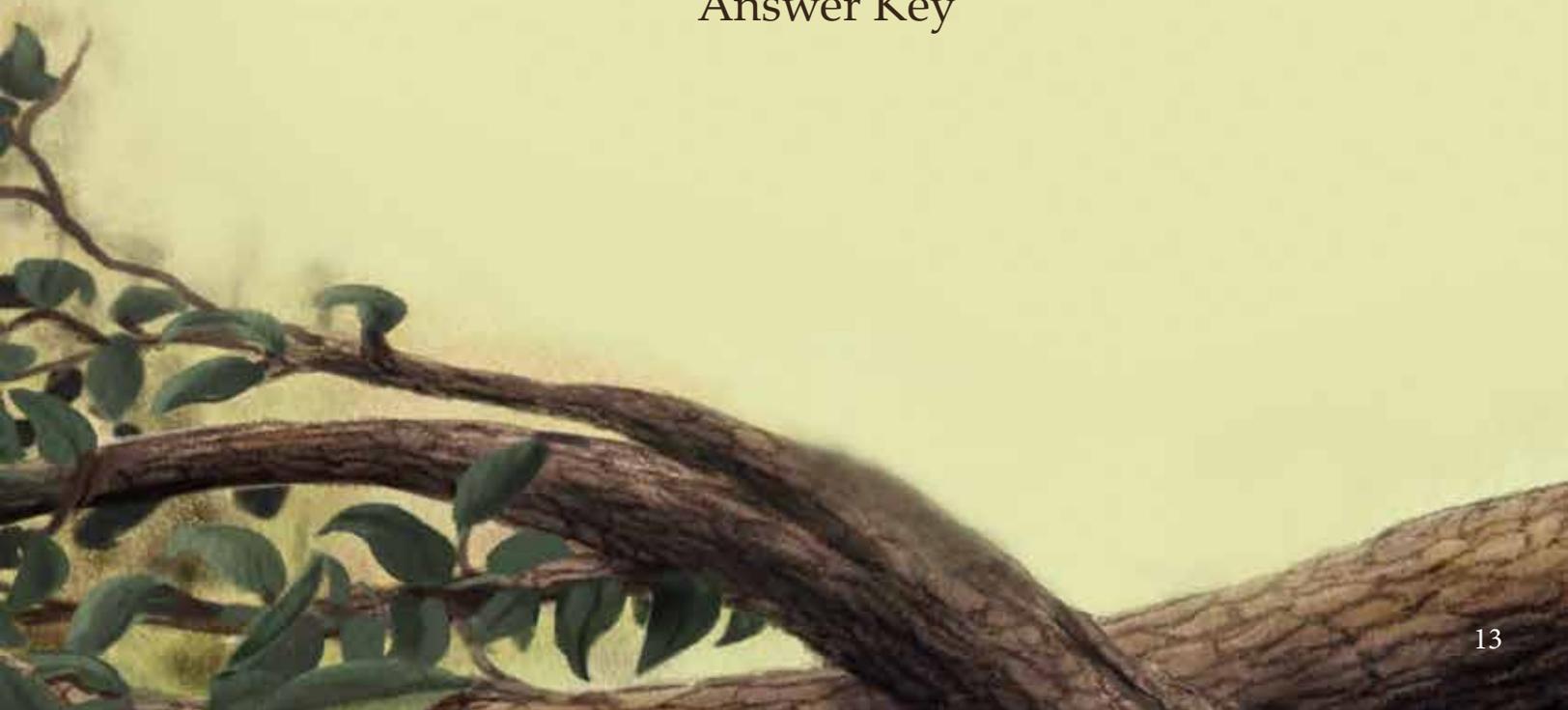
Lessons Learned Review

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Icebreakers

Idea #1 – Compassion Quiz

Supplies: index cards (3 per individual), dark-colored marker

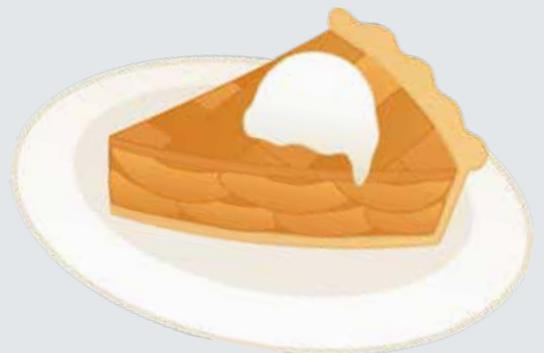
Give each child 3 index cards. Mark one card “1” with a marker. Mark one card “2” and one card “3.” As you read the following situations, have each child hold up a card which best represents how sad the situation makes them feel (1 = not sad at all, 2 = a little sad, 3 = very sad). Allow the children to talk about their feelings in each situation.

- Seeing a homeless person on the street
- Seeing a hungry child on television
- Hearing a baby cry
- Seeing a hurt animal on the road
- Hearing a fire truck, police, or ambulance siren
- Hearing someone make fun of another person
- Watching the news
- Being separated from a loved one
- Seeing a hurt child
- Having a pet run away
- Seeing someone having car trouble
- Watching a fight at school
- Seeing litter in the streets

Idea #2 – Compassion Pie

Supplies: disposable pie tin, permanent marker, small magnet, glue

Working as a team, create a recipe for Compassion Pie. Allow children to take turns adding “ingredients” (such as $\frac{1}{2}$ cup kindness, 3 teaspoons empathy, etc.). As a visual, you can write the recipe suggestions on a disposable pie tin, using a permanent marker. Glue a magnet on the back of the pie tin and place on the refrigerator as a reminder to show compassion to others.



Devotion

(GENESIS 39-45; LUKE 10:30-37; JEREMIAH 29:11; JOHN 3:16)

*In the book, Victor's Dream, we learn how God is always faithful. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (NIV). Victor learned some valuable lessons from the life of Joseph. We can learn these same lessons. God used Joseph, through both his challenges and victories, to develop six godly character traits. These character traits enabled Joseph to become the great leader that God intended him to be. Joseph's leadership saved his family and an entire nation. In the next lessons, we will learn about these six characteristics: **compassion, courage, confidence, character, commitment, calling**. Today's lesson is **COMPASSION**. Compassion means to have concern when someone or something is hurting or suffering to the point that you want to help.*

We see many examples of compassion in Victor's Dream. As a foster child, separated from his parents and living in a group home, Victor sometimes felt sad and rejected. However, he had several people in his life who loved him, took care of him, and showed compassion toward him. For example, the Connors cared for the children in their cottage (V. Dream p.7), Mr. Conner encouraged Victor to be a leader (p.16-17), Coach Jacobs put his arm around Victor (p.28), Mrs. Conner made Victor's favorite meal (p.31), the Jacobs adopted Victor and his siblings (p.33-34), God showed his compassion on everyone, Joseph forgave his brothers (p.37).

God has put different people in our lives to whom we could show compassion. Think about who you know that may feel sad or rejected, as Victor did. Think of ways you can show compassion.

We can learn to show compassion to others because God is compassionate to us. You are special to God and He loves you very much. The Bible shows us how much God loves us. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Jesus taught us about compassion by telling a story in the Bible. We call these stories parables. A parable is a story that has a lesson to be learned. Let's read Luke 10:30-37. Jesus ended this story with a command. He wants us to show the same compassion for others as the Samaritan showed to the man on the side of the road. Sometimes showing compassion is difficult, but compassion is an important characteristic if we want to be a great leader. Perhaps, one day, you will grow up to save a nation, just as Joseph did!

TAKE-AWAY TRUTH:

We can learn to show
compassion to others because God is
compassionate to us.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the six characteristics of a great leader? (*compassion, courage, confidence, character, commitment, calling*)
2. What are other words we can use for compassion? (*sympathy, caring, loving, serving, helping*)
3. Who were the people in Victor's life who showed him compassion? (*God, the Connors, the Jacobs*)
4. What are some ways that other children can make fun of people? (*skin color, size, disability, appearance*)
5. What are some things that can cause people to feel sad or rejected? (*being made fun of, yelling, violence, loneliness*)
6. How does it make you feel when other children make fun of you or others? (*sad, angry, frustrated, want to give up*)
7. In what ways has God shown you compassion? (*died on the cross, brought people in my life who love me*)
8. What kinds of things can you do for others who need compassion?

LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW

Review Lessons Learned on p. 6. This time change “he” and “him” (referring to Victor) to “I” and “me.” Write these lessons out on cards and keep to review in upcoming lessons.

1. I am special and God loves me.
2. I am made to overcome every obstacle with God’s help.
3. God has given me favor so I can fulfill His purpose.
4. It doesn’t matter where God puts me, all that matters is how I handle it.
5. God will never leave me.
6. I belong!

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us. Thank you for being compassionate to us by giving your own Son to die on the cross for our sins. Help us become great leaders by showing compassion to others who need your help, even when it is difficult.

We love and praise you, Lord.

Amen.

Compassion

WORKSHEET #2

Early Elementary

Materials needed: yellow crayon

Today we learned about compassion. Compassion starts with the letter "C." Start at the green box. Follow all the "C" boxes through the maze in order until you get to the red box. Color the "C" boxes yellow.

	c	c	c	b	o	e	h	c	c	c	c	c	c
z	r	t	c	w	q	l	o	c	j	m	g	h	c
y	p	l	c	d	s	v	c	c	x	n	e	w	c
i	g	d	c	c	c	c	c	m	j	d	c	c	c
a	p	r	e	m	n	i	s	q	u	o	c	v	h
y	c	c	c	c	c	w	s	o	p	m	c	b	d
c	c	h	j	e	c	r	u	o	q	v	c	n	s
c	t	k	n	p	c	s	d	i	j	k	c	t	h
c	c	x	i	r	c	j	k	p	f	d	c	h	u
e	c	g	f	s	c	c	c	c	c	l	c	m	p
z	c	c	c	x	q	e	u	y	c	t	c	k	f
d	d	r	c	y	i	j	j	f	c	p	c	s	i
c	c	c	c	m	t	r	e	o	c	g	c	d	k
c	e	u	k	l	b	c	d	i	c	c	c	p	k
c	s	z	x	c	c	c	c	a	q	h	k	t	j
c	i	r	t	c	s	f	c	h	k	m	r	w	o
c	l	q	v	c	d	y	c	c	c	c	c	c	x
c	c	c	c	c	i	g	h	x	q	o	k	c	

Compassion

WORKSHEET #2

Elementary

Materials needed: pencil or pen or highlighter

B	T	E	P	O	S	D	K	H	T	E	D	B	X	M	L	A	F	I
C	W	Q	V	N	K	O	I	S	W	R	J	U	I	R	U	C	R	D
F	S	S	U	O	R	E	N	E	G	A	X	N	O	P	R	A	I	C
Y	M	C	G	Y	L	R	D	E	S	I	D	W	T	K	J	N	E	K
T	U	S	C	E	Z	E	N	G	T	I	V	L	P	M	U	W	N	A
I	B	N	A	C	I	H	E	T	L	P	S	I	R	Y	T	W	D	M
R	S	U	D	N	P	O	S	E	H	N	K	L	N	M	X	E	L	S
A	Q	E	D	E	T	R	S	I	N	G	J	D	E	G	W	C	Y	B
H	L	U	S	I	R	W	G	Q	Z	S	H	J	O	O	T	E	K	L
C	O	U	R	T	E	S	Y	C	R	E	M	I	M	O	S	Q	V	M
O	L	F	S	A	W	U	T	W	B	X	J	R	O	D	F	D	M	E
C	N	K	E	P	W	U	L	A	K	F	N	Z	S	N	F	I	L	W
M	I	O	D	F	H	E	U	L	N	C	F	U	S	E	Q	I	T	K
W	C	G	J	D	U	O	P	T	M	D	L	S	R	S	M	W	H	M
Z	L	K	P	O	S	R	T	U	Y	N	I	H	G	S	W	G	M	L
T	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	N	U	P	D	N	M	E
A	S	A	F	R	J	O	E	B	O	Y	O	P	G	V	N	J	U	M
W	T	P	O	A	B	C	Z	M	I	I	E	Y	K	S	W	U	O	P
B	E	W	G	C	J	I	S	T	L	M	S	D	E	U	P	G	L	A
Y	T	R	A	E	H	L	O	R	D	S	D	S	U	Y	N	U	M	T
O	I	S	G	J	L	Y	I	E	S	B	M	N	A	E	F	A	X	H
I	S	W	H	K	F	N	U	D	A	X	C	G	R	P	Y	S	J	Y
H	A	G	I	P	N	O	R	N	G	E	T	H	L	E	M	B	N	W
U	Y	P	O	L	M	V	E	E	G	K	R	E	E	A	U	O	M	P
G	Q	J	S	Y	M	P	A	T	H	Y	H	V	M	O	P	D	C	A

charity

compassion

courtesy

empathy

forgiveness

friendly

generous

giving

goodness

grace

heart

helpful

hug

kindness

love

mercy

patience

smile

sympathy

tender

understanding

Compassion

WORKSHEET #2

Teen

Materials needed: dictionary, pencil or pen, Bible with concordance



Look up the word compassion in the dictionary. Write the definition below.

In the last week, what opportunity did you have to show compassion? What action did you take?



Why do you think some people do not take action when an opportunity for compassion arises?

Look up three verses that deal with showing compassion to others. Write the references below.



Art Project

Compassion Hand

Materials needed:

- * foam sheet or construction paper (any color; one per individual)
- * scissors (if possible, one per individual)
- * glue
- * paint stir stick or tongue depressor (one per individual)
- * washable markers

1. Using a washable marker, draw the child's hand on a foam sheet or construction paper.
2. Cut out the hand pattern.
3. Write the word "compassion" on the palm of the hand.
4. On each finger, write something you can do to show compassion.
5. Glue the hand to the end of the paint stir stick or tongue depressor.
6. Use as a daily reminder to show compassion to others.



Answer key to worksheets

Lesson 2: Early Elementary

	c	c	c	b	o	e	h	c	c	c	c	c	c
z	r	t	c	w	q	l	o	c	j	m	g	h	c
y	p	l	c	d	s	v	c	c	x	n	e	w	c
i	g	d	c	c	c	c	c	m	j	d	c	c	c
a	p	r	e	m	n	i	s	q	u	o	c	v	h
y	c	c	c	c	c	w	s	o	p	m	c	b	d
c	c	h	j	e	c	r	u	o	q	v	c	n	s
c	t	k	n	p	c	s	d	i	j	k	e	t	h
c	c	x	i	r	c	j	k	p	f	d	c	h	u
e	c	g	f	s	c	c	c	c	l	e	m	p	
z	c	c	c	x	q	e	u	y	e	t	c	k	f
d	d	r	c	y	i	j	j	f	c	p	c	s	i
c	c	c	c	m	t	r	e	o	c	g	c	d	k
c	e	u	k	l	b	c	d	i	c	c	c	p	k
c	s	z	x	c	c	c	c	a	q	h	k	t	j
c	i	r	t	e	s	f	c	h	k	m	r	w	o
c	l	q	v	c	d	y	c	c	c	c	c	c	x
c	c	c	c	c	i	g	h	x	q	o	k	c	

Lesson 2: Elementary

B	T	E	P	O	S	D	K	H	T	E	D	B	X	M	L	A	F	I
C	W	Q	V	N	K	O	I	S	W	R	J	U	I	R	U	C	R	D
F	S	S	U	O	R	E	N	E	G	A	X	N	O	P	R	A	I	C
Y	M	C	G	Y	L	R	D	E	S	I	D	W	T	K	J	N	E	K
T	U	S	C	E	Z	E	N	G	T	I	V	L	P	M	U	W	N	A
I	B	N	A	C	I	H	E	T	L	P	S	I	R	Y	T	W	D	M
R	S	U	D	N	P	O	S	E	H	N	K	L	N	M	X	E	L	S
A	Q	E	D	E	T	R	S	I	N	G	J	D	E	G	W	C	Y	B
H	L	U	S	I	R	W	G	Q	Z	S	H	J	O	O	T	E	K	L
C	O	U	R	T	E	S	Y	C	R	E	M	I	M	O	S	Q	V	M
O	L	F	S	A	W	U	T	W	B	X	J	R	O	D	F	D	M	E
C	N	K	E	P	W	U	L	A	K	F	N	Z	S	N	F	I	L	W
M	I	O	D	F	H	E	U	L	N	C	F	U	S	E	Q	I	T	K
W	C	G	J	D	U	O	P	T	M	D	L	S	R	S	M	W	H	M
Z	L	K	P	O	S	R	T	U	Y	N	I	H	G	S	W	G	M	L
T	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	N	U	P	D	N	M	E
A	S	A	F	R	J	O	E	B	O	Y	O	P	G	V	N	J	U	M
W	T	P	O	A	B	C	Z	M	I	I	E	Y	K	S	W	U	O	P
B	E	W	G	C	J	I	S	T	L	M	S	D	E	U	P	G	L	A
Y	T	R	A	E	H	L	O	R	D	S	D	S	U	Y	N	U	M	T
O	I	S	G	J	L	Y	I	E	S	B	M	N	A	E	F	A	X	H
I	S	W	H	K	F	N	U	D	A	X	C	G	R	P	Y	S	J	Y
H	A	G	I	P	N	O	R	N	G	E	T	H	L	E	M	B	N	W
U	Y	P	O	L	M	V	E	E	G	K	R	E	E	A	U	O	M	P
G	Q	J	S	Y	M	P	A	T	H	Y	H	V	M	O	P	D	C	A

Lesson 3

COURAGE

Icebreakers

Devotion

Discussion Questions

Take-Away Truth

Lessons Learned Review

Prayer

Worksheets

Art Project

Answer Key

Icebreakers

Idea #1 – Comfort Zone

Supplies: chalk or masking tape

Using chalk (outside) or tape (inside) make a circle large enough in which your group can stand. If you have a large group, you may divide them up into smaller groups. Explain that the circle represents your comfort zone. It is an area you feel comfortable standing in and do not feel any fear. As you read the following situations one at a time, ask the children to think about how they would feel in that situation. If the situation would not cause any anxiety, they are to stay inside the circle. If it causes a little anxiety, they just take one step outside the circle. The more uncomfortable they feel in that situation, the farther they step from the circle. After each situation, have them all return inside the circle before you read the next situation. Have the children share about their feelings with what scares them and why.

- Trying a new food
- Talking with a stranger
- Going to a new school
- Learning a new sport
- Standing in a large crowd
- Flying in an airplane
- Meeting a new friend
- Holding a snake
- Climbing a tall mountain
- Giving a speech
- Hugging someone
- Riding fast in a boat
- Talking to someone about Jesus
- Visiting an old person
- Riding in an elevator
- Standing on the edge of a cliff
- Being in the dark
- Going to the doctor

Idea #2 – Phobia Checklist

Supplies: Phobia Checklist (p. 25 - one per individual), pen/pencil (one per individual)

Print one copy of the Phobia Checklist on p. 25 for each person. Have each person rate their top 10 fears (1 being their least fear, 10 being their biggest fear). Once everyone has completed the checklist, allow the children to share some of their answers and talk about their fears.

Rate your top 10 fears: 1=least fear, 10=biggest fear

Rate your top 10 fears: 1=least fear, 10=biggest fear

- _____ Fear of darkness (Achluophobia)
- _____ Fear of heights (Acrophobia)
- _____ Fear of chickens (Alektorophobia)
- _____ Fear of spiders (Arachnophobia)
- _____ Fear of thunder and lightning (Brontophobia)
- _____ Fear of confined spaces (Claustrophobia)
- _____ Fear of clowns (Coulrophobia)
- _____ Fear of crowds (Demophobia)
- _____ Fear of going to the dentist (Dentophobia)
- _____ Fear of insects (Entomophobia)
- _____ Fear of old people (Gerontophobia)
- _____ Fear of speaking in public (Glossophobia)
- _____ Fear of reptiles or creepy, crawly things (Herpetophobia)
- _____ Fear of forests (Hylophobia)
- _____ Fear of going to the doctor (Iatrophobia)
- _____ Fear of loud noises (Ligyrophobia)
- _____ Fear of tornadoes and hurricanes (Lilapsophobia)
- _____ Fear of being contaminated with dirt or germs (Mysophobia)
- _____ Fear of clouds (Nephophobia)
- _____ Fear of belly buttons (Omphalophobia)
- _____ Fear of snakes (Ophidiophobia)
- _____ Fear of being stared at (Ophthalmophobia)
- _____ Fear of bald people (Peladophobia)
- _____ Fear of being tickled by feathers (Pteronophobia)
- _____ Fear of wasps (Spheksophobia)

Devotion

(GENESIS 39; PHILIPPIANS 4:13; JOSHUA 1:6-9)

*The leadership trait we are learning about today is **COURAGE**. As a leader, a person must have courage. A leader stands up for what is right and defends others who are standing up for what is right. This takes courage. Someone who lives with courage is an honest, truthful person. A courageous person knows how to correct others, in love, and can also be corrected by others.*

In Victor's Dream, Victor showed courage. Although he had many challenges in his life, he cared for his brother and sister and stood up for the truth. He stood up for what was right and handled his frustration appropriately (Victor's Dream p. 22-26). Victor learned a valuable lesson from the life of Joseph. He did not give up when things went wrong and he made the best of every situation. He learned that he was made to overcome every obstacle with God's help. God made him to be successful! Philippians 4:13 (NIV) says, "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." God will give us exactly what we need to do whatever He wants us to do. But first, we must be willing to tell God we will do whatever He wants us to do. We must give our whole life to Jesus and let Him control our circumstances. Sometimes it is hard to have this kind of faith. It takes courage to have faith like Joseph and Victor.

Let's read Joshua 1:6-9. In this passage, the Lord was talking to Moses' helper, Joshua. Moses, their leader, had just died and now Joshua was the new leader. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. The Lord's instruction to Joshua was to follow all that Moses had taught him – never wavering, and that God would give Joshua success throughout his life. Do you want the secret to success? Follow these same instructions that God gave to young Joshua...be strong and have courage. Do everything that God wants you to do and you will be successful – just like Victor...just like Joseph...and just like Joshua!

TAKE-AWAY TRUTH:

**"I can do all things through Him
who gives me strength."
- Philippians 4:13 (NIV)**

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it takes more courage to tell the truth or to tell a lie? (*the truth may lead to undesirable consequences, the truth may hurt others*)
2. What obstacles might keep someone from being courageous? (*fear of rejection or getting hurt, laziness, peer pressure*)
3. What are some things a person can do to overcome these obstacles? (*memorize scripture about courage and God's faithfulness, be willing to learn more about what makes you afraid*)
4. What do you think Philippians 4:13 means? (*God will help you overcome anything, but you must rely on Him and not on yourself*)
5. According to Joshua 1:6-9, what is the secret to success? (*being strong and courageous, following the Bible*)

LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW

Review “Lessons Learned” cards made on p. 16.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you that through your son, Jesus, we can do all things. Help us to be strong leaders by having the courage to stand up for what is right, to care for others, to be honest and truthful people, and to always have faith in you.

We love you and praise you, Lord.

Amen.

Courage

WORKSHEET #3

Early Elementary

Materials needed: scissors, glue stick

Cut out the squares at the bottom of the page. Paste the words in the correct order in the blank boxes.

I	can	do	all
---	-----	----	-----

things	through	Christ
--------	---------	--------

who	strengthens	me
-----	-------------	----

Philippians	4:13
-------------	------

things	do	strengthens	
who	me	through	can
all	Christ	I	
4:13	Philippians		

Courage

WORKSHEET #3

Elementary

Materials needed: pencil or pen

Fill in the blanks below using the correct word.

mistake

help

pray

right

easy

give

quit

new

honest

defend

-
1. I will _____ to God when I am afraid.
 2. I will ask for _____ when I don't understand something.
 3. I will try something _____ even if I've never done it before.
 4. I will admit when I make a _____.
 5. I will do the _____ thing even if others laugh at me.
 6. I will do what is right, not just what is _____.
 7. I will not _____ up because something becomes hard.
 8. I will be _____ even if I may get into trouble.
 9. I will _____ others when they stand up for what is right.
 10. I will not _____ until the job is finished.

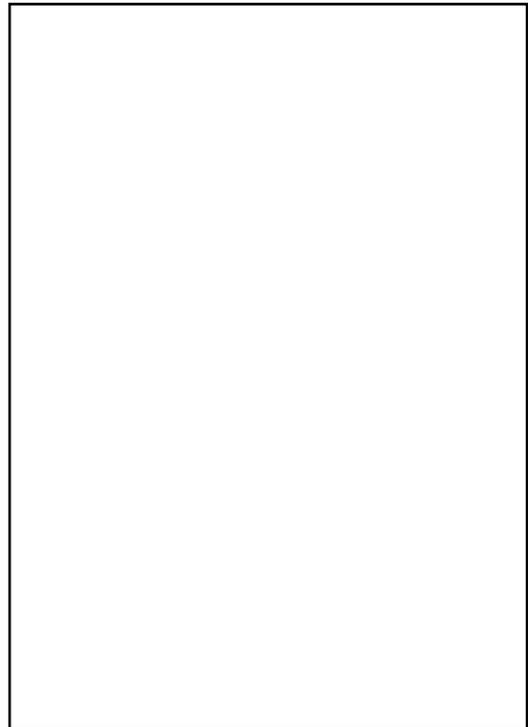
Courage

WORKSHEET #3

Teen

Materials needed: pencil or pen

Using yourself as the main character, make up a story of true courage. Write a newspaper article, including a heading, picture, and article. Include a testimony and Bible verse sharing how God gave you the courage. Share your story and article with the group.



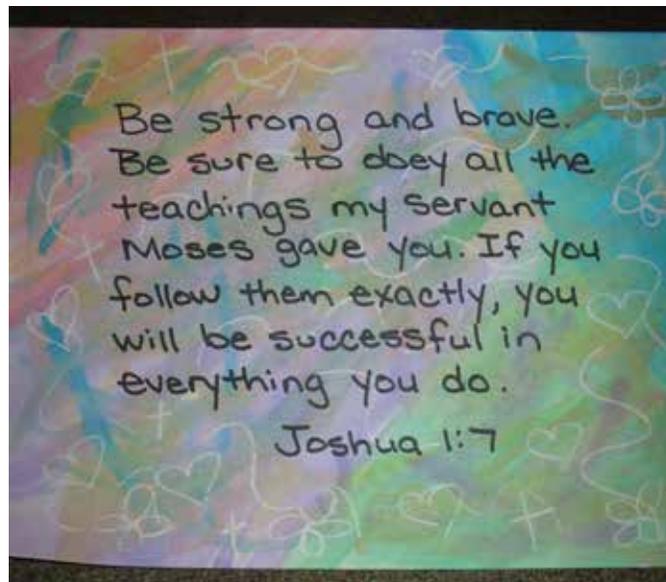
Art Project

Wax-Resistant Watercolor Verse

Materials needed:

- * sheet of white cardstock (one per individual)
- * dark-colored crayon or marker (one per individual)
- * white crayon (one per individual)
- * assortment of watercolors
- * assortment of medium-size brushes

1. Choose the verse Philippians 4:13 or Joshua 1:7.
2. Using the dark-colored crayon or marker, write the verse on the cardstock.
3. Using the white crayon, draw simple designs and lines around the verse (flowers, hearts, etc.). Be sure to press hard with the crayon.
4. Using watercolors, paint over the entire piece of cardstock. (Darker colors work best.)
5. You may use either one color or many colors.
6. Allow time for the watercolor to dry.
7. The paint will resist the wax crayon, creating a beautiful picture.



Answer key to worksheets

Lesson 3: Elementary

1. pray
2. help
3. new
4. mistake
5. right
6. easy
7. give
8. honest
9. defend
10. quit

Lesson 4

CONFIDENCE

Icebreakers
Devotion
Discussion Questions
Take-Away Truth
Lessons Learned Review
Prayer
Worksheets
Art Project

Icebreakers

Idea #1 – Bean Bag Toss

Supplies: large poster board OR Twister game board and index cards; dark-colored marker; small, heavy object (bean bag, set of keys, large eraser, necklace, etc.)

On a large poster board, draw 12 circles (4 rows of 3 circles in each row). Make the circles large enough to use the entire poster board. In each circle, write the following topics. Use each topic twice. The topics can be in any order.

School
Chores
Creativity
Friends
Hobbies
Sports

Place the poster board on the floor. Depending on the age of the children, have them stand 5-15 feet away from the poster board. Using a small bean bag (or another small heavy object such as keys on key chain, pink eraser, necklace, etc.), allow each child to toss the object onto the poster board. Choose the circle that is closest to where the object lands. The child must share one way they excel in that category. For example, if they land on “school,” they could share how they got a 100% on their last spelling test. Continue until each child has at least one turn.

Idea #2 – Guess A Minute

Supplies: stopwatch

Have the children sit quietly – no talking or communicating at all. On the command of, “on your mark, get set, go” start a stopwatch. The children try to guess when one minute has passed. When they have confidence that exactly one minute has passed, they will quietly stand. Explain that they should not just follow the crowd but stand up when THEY alone think that one minute has passed. The object is to be the one who stands closest to the actual time of one minute. After a couple of rounds at one minute, you may want to try a couple of rounds of two minutes.

Devotion

(GENESIS 40-41; ACTS 7:54-8:1; PHILIPPIANS 4:13; ROMANS 8:28)

Today's lesson is about having **CONFIDENCE**. God has created each of us to be successful in the ways of God. As a child of God, we can have confidence that God's plan for us is full of good things. Romans 8:28 tells us that all things (even the bad things) work together for the good for those who are called according to His purpose. We can be confident in that! In Victor's life, he went through circumstances that could have made it difficult for him to believe God's plan was full of good things. Victor did not have his parents to love and care for him. He was accused of doing something wrong that he did not do. Like Victor, sometimes our circumstances make it difficult for us to believe that God wants good things for us. It is important to remember that when bad things happen in our life, we can learn good lessons that can help us in the future. Difficulties can make us stronger.

In the book of Acts, we learn about a man named Paul. As a young man, he hated Christians and helped put them in jail. One time, he even helped others kill a Christian named Stephen. One day, Jesus changed Paul's life. Paul started living by doing good things for God. However, a lot of bad things happened to Paul while he lived for Jesus. He was beaten, put in prison, and shipwrecked. But just like Joseph and Victor, Paul continued to have a positive attitude. He waited on God's timing for the good to happen from the bad, all the while preaching the gospel to others. As a result, others came to know God as their Savior.

We must be careful to keep our confidence focused on the right thing. We must remember that God is the one who gives us the talents and abilities to do the things we do best. Our confidence should never be in ourselves alone, but in God who will give us favor so we can fulfill His purpose! No matter what is going on in your life today, remember that God's timing is perfect. He will make great things of your life!

TAKE-AWAY TRUTH:

Our confidence should never be in ourselves alone, but in God who will give us favor so we can fulfill His purpose!

Discussion Questions

1. How did Victor show confidence? (*V. Dream p. 23 - walking to the principal's office, he remembered that God will take care of him no matter what happens, he prayed to God*)
2. How did Joseph show confidence? (*V. Dream p. 12, 20-21, 27 - he was calm when his brothers sold him as a slave, he worked hard and praised God every day, he knew the truth will set him free*)
3. What are some examples of bad things that happened to Paul? (*beaten, shipwrecked, put in prison*)
4. How did Paul use those bad things to accomplish God's purpose? (*the people who knew Paul before he got saved saw the change in his life and that helped him to influence others to get saved*)
5. What does it mean when God shows us favor? (*he blesses whatever we do, he shows mercy*)
6. When bad things happen to us, what are some good lessons we can learn? (*patience, God's faithfulness*)
7. When we talk about confidence, what should be our focus? (*God is the one who gives us the talents and abilities to do the things we do best, our confidence should never be in ourselves alone, but in God*)

LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW

Review “Lessons Learned” cards made on p. 16.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for creating us to have confidence in knowing that all things work together for good to fulfill your purpose. Help us to be a leader by remembering that our talents and abilities are not because of our own doing, but are a GIFT from you. Thank you, God, for showing favor on our lives even when we don't deserve it.

We love you and praise you, Lord.

Amen.

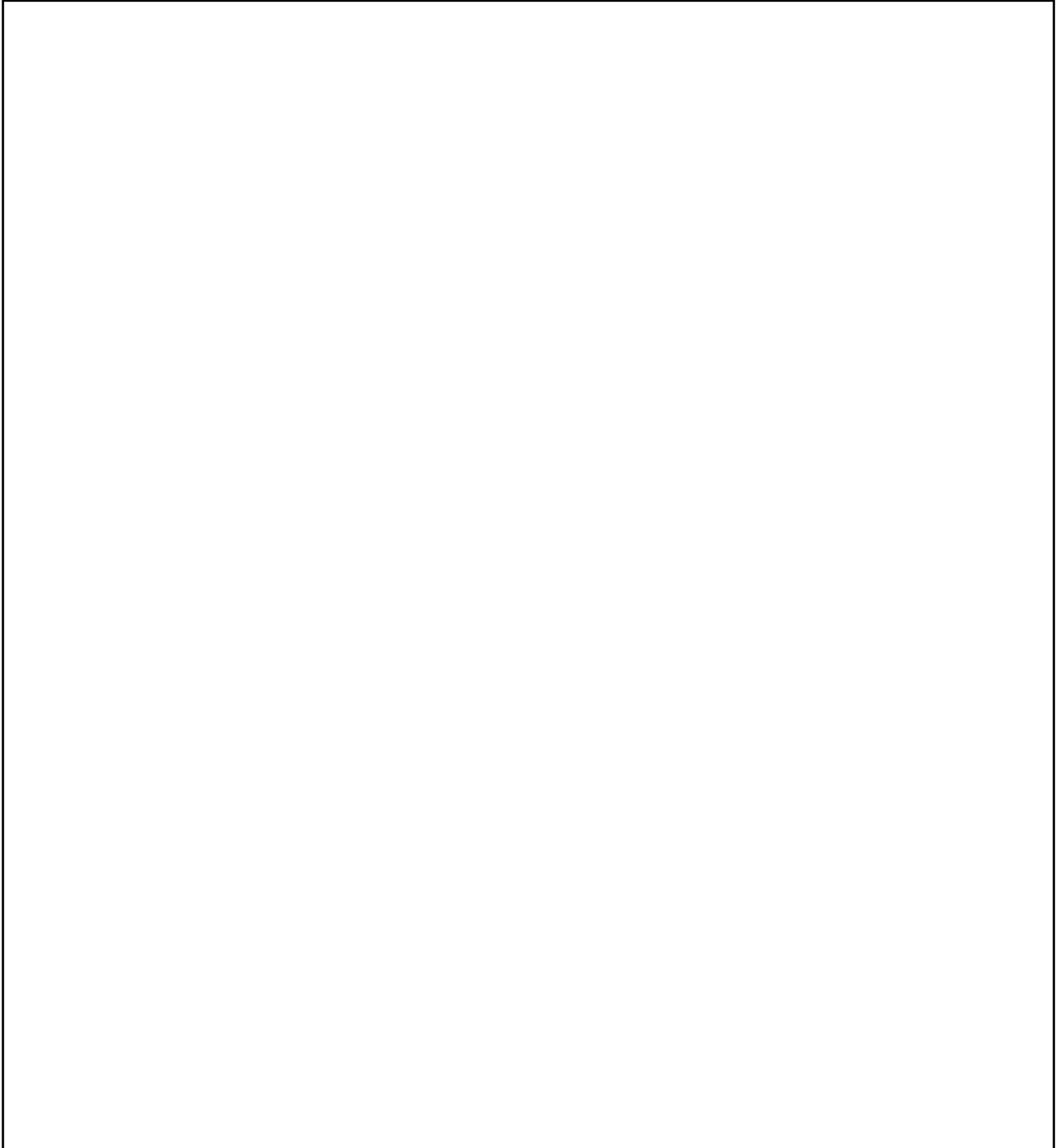
Confidence

WORKSHEET #4

Early Elementary

Materials needed: crayons or pencil or pen

In the box below, draw a picture of what you want to be when you grow up.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a child to draw a picture of their future career or profession.

Whatever God has planned for me, He will help me to be the best I can be!

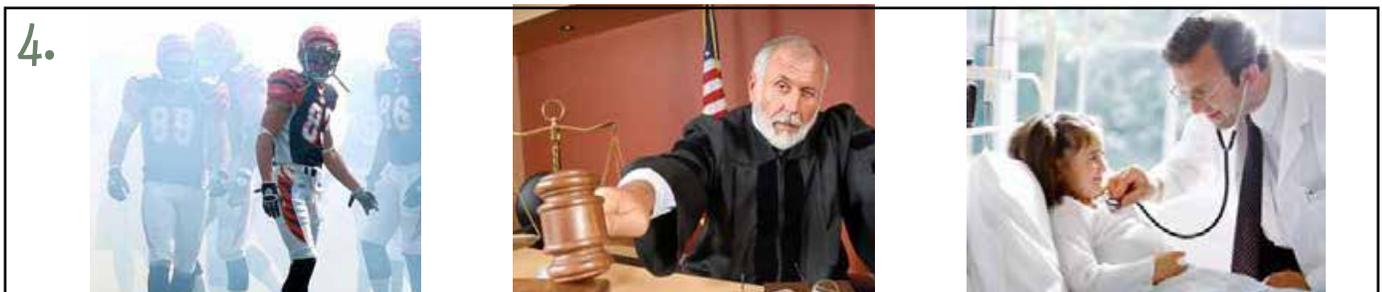
Confidence

WORKSHEET #4

Elementary

Materials needed: pencil or pen

On each line, look at the three different pictures. Circle the picture that shows which job you would like the most.



Choose one of the pictures you circled. On the back, write at least four sentences about the job and why you would want to do that job.

Remember, God can give you favor so you can fulfill His purpose!

Confidence

WORKSHEET #4

Teen

Materials needed: pencil or pen

Find a partner. Take turns interviewing each other using the questions below. Using the chart, write their answers in the appropriate boxes.

1. What do you think God wants you to be when you grow up?
2. What do you need to do in the next five years to fulfill that purpose?
3. What do you need to do in the next ten years to fulfill that purpose?
4. What challenges do you think you might face to fulfill that purpose?
5. What will you do to overcome those challenges?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Art Project

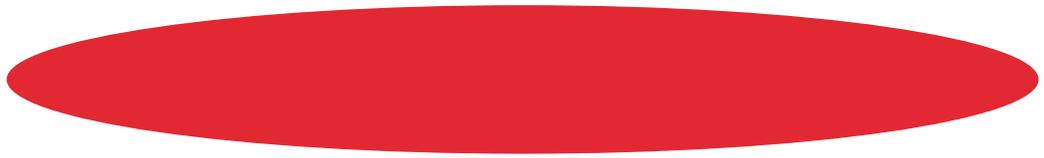
F.R.O.G. Visor

Materials needed:

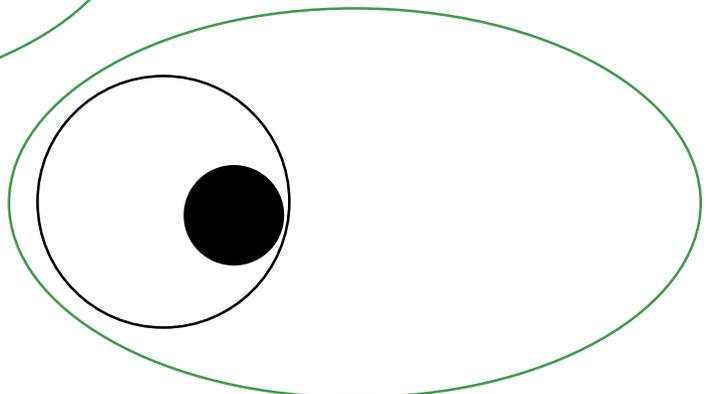
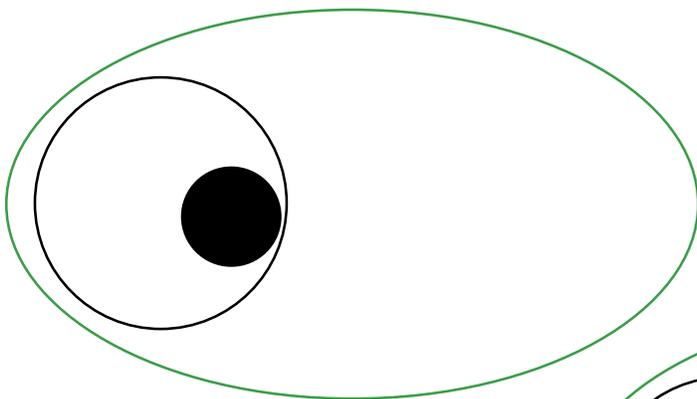
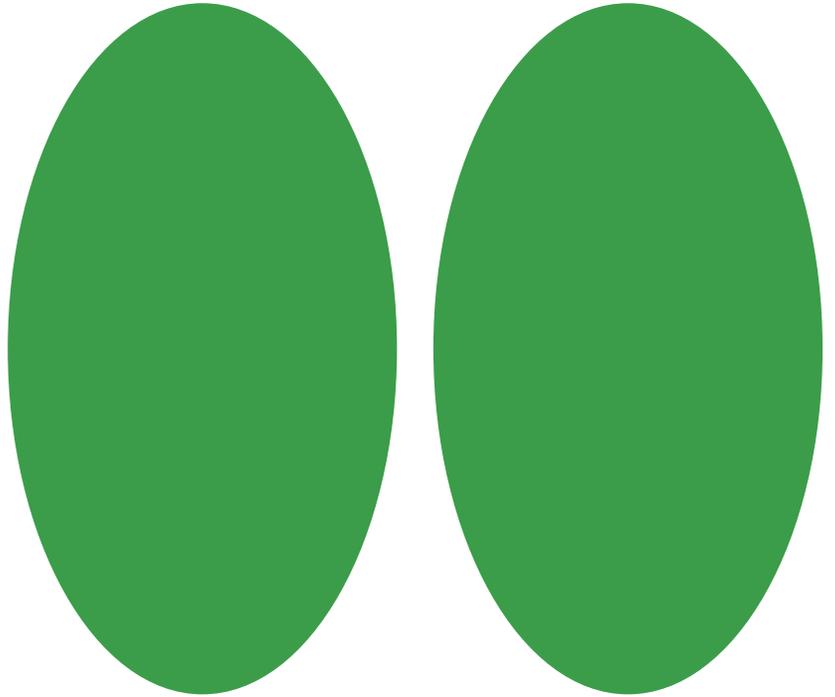
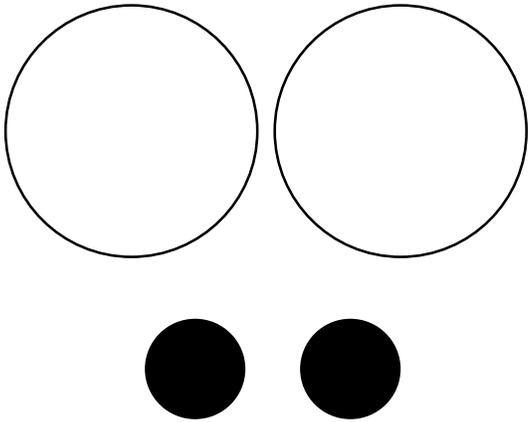
- Green visor (fabric, foam or plastic; one per individual)
 - Assortment of fabric pens or permanent markers
 - Green foam sheet (one sheet per four individuals)
 - Red foam sheet (one sheet per eight individuals)
 - White foam sheet (one sheet per eight individuals)
 - Black foam sheet (one sheet per eight individuals)
 - Glue (if possible, one per individual)
 - Scissors (if possible, one per individual)
 - Pattern sheet (one per individual)
 - Paper clips
1. Using the pattern sheet, cut out the frog face shapes.
 2. Glue the white piece on the top portion of the green piece.
 3. Glue the black piece on the bottom of the white piece.
 4. Glue the eyes to the front top (headband) part of the visor. You may need to paper clip the eyes to the visor to keep the piece in place while the glue dries.
 5. Glue the tongue piece to the middle portion of the visor, letting it hang down the visor.
 6. Using fabric pens or markers, write "F.R.O.G." across the visor.
 7. Under F.R.O.G., write "Fully Rely on God."



tongue



eyes



Lesson 5

CHARACTER

Icebreakers
Devotion
Discussion Questions
Take-Away Truth
Lessons Learned Review
Prayer
Worksheets
Art Project

Icebreakers

Idea #1 – Following Directions Quiz

SUPPLIES: Following Directions Quiz found on p. 44 (one per individual), pen/pencil (one per individual)

Explain that good leaders know how to follow directions. They will be taking a quiz that will show how well they can follow directions. Hand out the Following Directions Quiz on p. 44 and a pencil for each child. Explain the test is not timed and they should take as long as they need. The quiz will test how well they follow directions, not how quickly they can complete the quiz. Allow the children to have enough time for everyone to complete the quiz.

NOTE: The initial directions tell the child to read all the instructions before completing the quiz. If they read the entire sheet FIRST, they will realize they do not need to complete any of the tasks. They simply need to write their name at the top of the page and turn in the paper to the leader. Discuss with the group the importance of following directions, not just assuming we know what to do.

Following Directions Quiz

Read this entire sheet before completing the quiz. When you have followed these instructions and completed the necessary tasks, you may turn in the paper to your leader.

1. Stand up and say your name out loud.
2. Yawn.
3. Pretend you are burping a baby for 10 seconds.
4. Yell “Yippee” to the person next to you.
5. Write the answer: $2 + 2 =$ _____
6. Circle instruction #1.
7. Pat your head six times.
8. Write your favorite color: _____
9. Bark like a dog twice and meow like a cat once.
10. Do not do steps 1-9. Only follow instruction #11.
11. Write your name at the top of the paper and turn it in to your leader.

Idea #2 – Character Sticker Voting

Supplies: large poster board, permanent marker, one sheet of any kind of colored dots or stickers per individual

Using a marker, divide a large poster board into 8 squares. On the top of each square, write the following character phrases:

- I love you
- I am sorry
- I will do my best
- I can be trusted
- I will keep my word
- I will respect you
- I will be a good example
- I will make the right choice

Give each child a sheet of stickers (any kind will do). One at a time, allow each child to place their stickers on the phrases they feel are most important. They can choose to divide their stickers into different categories or put all their stickers in one category. They choose which categories are important to them. After each child has placed their stickers on the poster board, talk about the results. Allow children to share where they placed their stickers and why they think that phrase is important.

Devotion

(GENESIS 39:12; GALATIANS 5:22-26)

*In Victor's Dream, we learn that if you want to be a leader used by God, you must have **CHARACTER**. Character is the kind of person you are when no one else is watching. It is easier to have a good attitude, to work hard, and to be kind when others are watching you. However, when you are alone and no one is watching you, do you still have a good attitude? Do you still work hard? Are you still kind to others?*

Both Joseph and Victor showed real character in their lives. No matter what was happening in their own circumstance, they showed the character of Christ. Christians should try to follow their example. We should be different from those who do not follow Jesus. Many people who do not follow Jesus choose to live their lives only for themselves. They do not have good attitudes, they do not work hard, and they are not kind to others. They only do things to please themselves. But that does not bring real joy. If you want to live a joyful life, practice having good character. When things go wrong, keep a good attitude! When you have a job to do, work hard at it! When others are unkind to you, be kind to them! We must learn from Joseph's and Victor's examples that it doesn't matter where God puts you, it only matters how you handle it. Handle it with character!

In Galatians, the Apostle Paul teaches us about character. Let's read Galatians 5:22-26. Verses 22 and 23 give us a list of character traits called the Fruit of the Spirit that are shown in the lives of those who follow Jesus. Sometimes it is difficult to be loving or patient or kind, but if we have Christ in our lives, we should want to be loving, patient, and kind. Having godly character takes a lot of hard work. But, God can give us what we need to make the right choices in our lives. Pray each day and ask God to help you have these character traits in your life...just like Joseph and Victor!

TAKE-AWAY TRUTH:

**If you want to live a joyful life,
practice having good character.**

Discussion Questions

1. What is character? (*the kind of person you are when no one else is watching*)
2. Why should those who follow Christ show character? (*we are told to follow Christ's example and Christ showed godly character*)
3. How did Joseph show godly character? (*he allowed God to work out the bad circumstances, he did what was right no matter what*)
4. How did Victor show godly character? (*V. Dream p. 22-29 - he did not seek revenge on Jake, he was patient until the truth won*)
5. What are the character traits we find in Galatians 5:22-23? (*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*)
6. What are some other character traits? (*friendliness, courage, righteousness, servanthood, good example*)
7. Why do you think it is sometimes easier to live a life that is selfish? (*we are born selfish so it is natural to us, we don't have to work hard, we don't have to sacrifice anything*)
8. If we live for Christ, what will we gain? (*joy and happiness, success, influencing others to trust Christ*)

LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW

Review “Lessons Learned” cards made on p. 16.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us your son, Jesus, as an example to follow of someone who had perfect character. While we know that we are not perfect, help us be a leader by showing strong, Christian character even when no one is watching. Help us to keep a good attitude, work hard and strive to show the Fruit of the Spirit in all we say and do.

We love and praise you, Lord.

Amen.

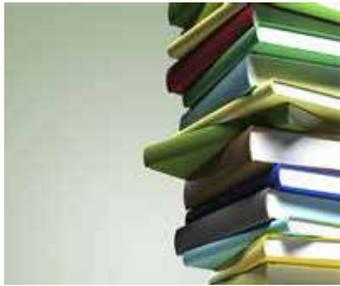
Character

WORKSHEET #5 Early Elementary

Materials needed: crayons or pencil or pen

Read the word in each box. Look at the pictures next to the word. Circle the correct picture.

Love



Joy



Kind



Obey



Character

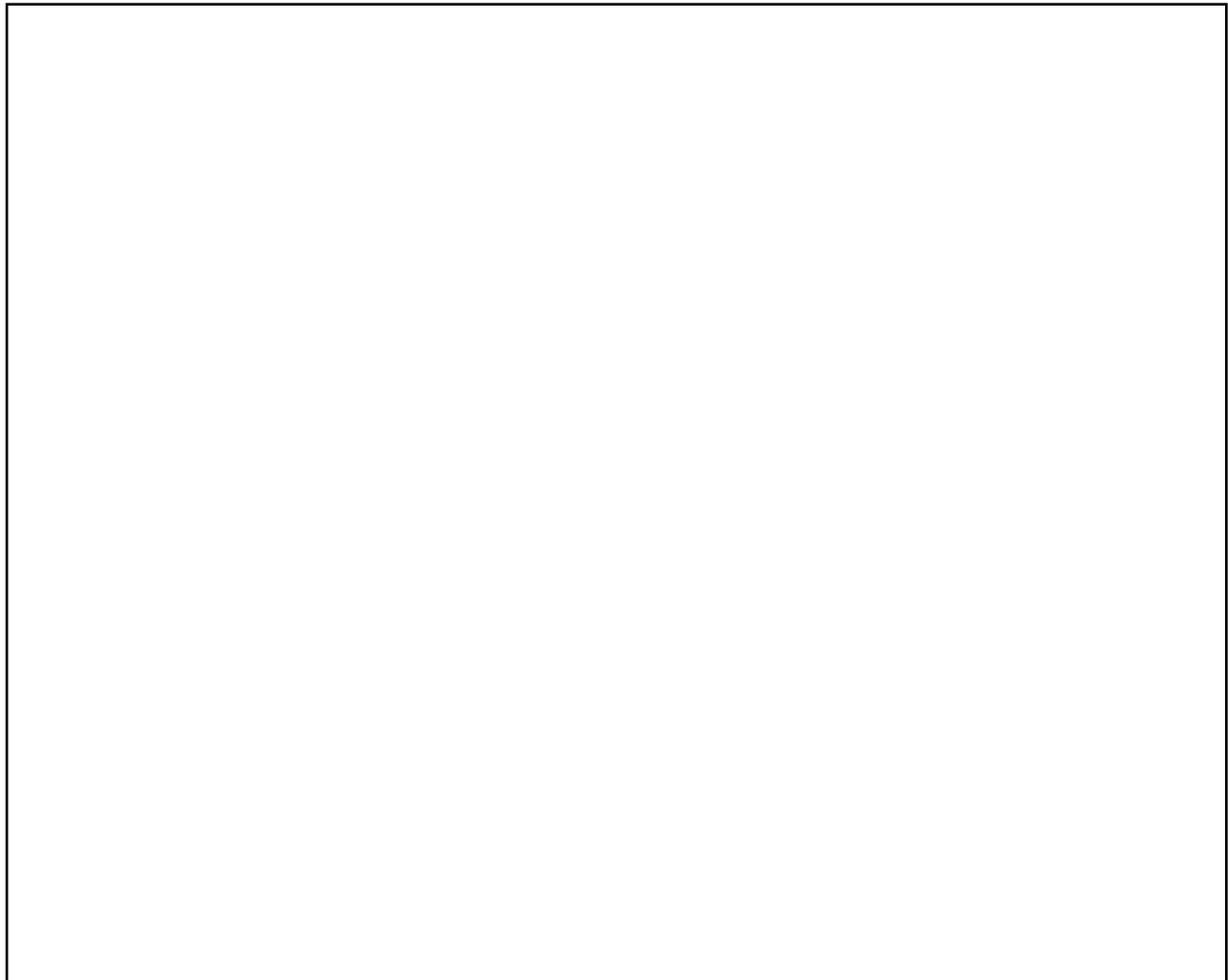
WORKSHEET #5 Elementary

Materials needed: crayons

Create your own map of a make-believe town using the following landmarks.



Draw a picture of your house somewhere on the map.



Character

WORKSHEET #5

Teen

Materials needed: pencil or pen

Try to think of at least one Godly character trait starting with each letter of the alphabet.

A _____ N _____

B _____ O _____

C _____ P _____

D _____ Q _____

E _____ R _____

F _____ S _____

G _____ T _____

H _____ U _____

I _____ V _____

J _____ W _____

K _____ X _____

L _____ Y _____

M _____ Z _____

Art Project

Character Trait Praise Box

Materials needed:

- * Shoebox with lid
- * Contact paper or wrapping paper (solid color; enough to cover the shoebox)
- * Foam letter or shapes, assorted stickers, assorted markers
- * Glitter
- * Box cutter or scissors
- * Index cards (one pack)



1. Ahead of time, wrap the shoebox with contact paper or wrapping paper. Wrap the lid separately so the lid can be removed.
2. Cut a slit on the lid, about 1" x 5".
3. Using foam letters or markers, have the children write "Character Trait Praise Box" on one of the long sides of the box.
4. Have the children help decorate the box using foam shapes, glitter, stickers, etc.
5. Place the box somewhere that is accessible to everyone. Place the blank index cards near the box.
6. Explain that as the days (or weeks) progress, the children should be watching for others to display godly Christian character traits. As they notice these behaviors, they may write the child's name on the card, along with the character trait that was displayed.
7. Drop the card in the box.
8. Occasionally, open the box and read the cards out loud to the group. As a leader, keep track of who has cards in the box and who does not. Be sure that each child has at least one card with their name on it. *(Take into account that children who do not get a card may be ones who are left out and may not have any friends. Make it a priority to intentionally look for opportunities to set them up for success and then praise them to the group. Help the group see the good in everyone!)*
9. Use the box for as long as you would like.

Lesson 6

COMMITMENT

Icebreakers

Devotion

Discussion Questions

Take-Away Truth

Lessons Learned Review

Prayer

Worksheets

Art Project

Answer Key

Icebreakers

Idea #1 – Hide & Seek Commitment Cards

Supplies: 10 index cards, permanent marker

Using index cards, write the word “commitment” (one letter on each card). Hide the cards somewhere in a large room or house. Have the group look for and locate all of the cards. As the cards are found, have them bring the cards to a central location. Working as a team, place the cards in the proper order to spell the word “commitment.”

Idea #2 – Commitment Knot

Supplies: 24” piece of yarn, twine, or string (one per two individuals)

Divide the group into pairs. Gently tie the pair together by the wrists, using string, twine or yarn. Give each pair one of the following tasks:

- Make a bed
- Rake some leaves
- Make a PB&J sandwich
- Draw a picture
- Play a video game
- Set a table
- Take out the trash
- Make a paper airplane

When all pairs have completed the tasks, gather them together for a discussion. What made it difficult to complete the task? How did it feel to be “stuck” with someone the entire time? How does this game relate to commitment?

Devotion

(GENESIS 39:2-6; GENESIS 39:20-23; GENESIS 41:37-43; MATTHEW 26:36-46)

Great leaders show **COMMITMENT** in their lives. Being committed to something is like keeping a promise. A good leader always keeps his promises. It is being true to your word. When you are committed, that means people can trust you. They can trust you will work hard and do whatever it takes to complete the task. When you have a job, you are committed to go to work when you are supposed to and do the tasks you are assigned. When you are a parent, you are committed to loving and teaching your children. A husband and wife are committed to each other. That commitment is for life! When you commit yourself to something, never give up! Keep going until you have fulfilled your promise. Be trustworthy!

In Victor's Dream, many people showed us an example of commitment. Victor was committed to God, Coach and his wife committed their lives to Victor, Mr. Don and Ms. Emily were committed to the children in their care, Joseph was committed to each of the tasks God gave him, and most importantly, God was committed to both Joseph and Victor.

Let's read Matthew 26:36-46. In this passage, we find two opposite examples of commitment. In the garden, three of the disciples were asked to watch and pray, but they did not. They fell asleep, not once, but three different times! They did not stay committed to Jesus. They were tired and it was hard to stay committed so they just gave up. However, Jesus shows us a perfect example of commitment. Jesus knew that his death was coming shortly. He knew the suffering he would face. As a man, he did not want to suffer like that. But, Jesus knew that the only way people could be forgiven of their sins was that he would have to suffer and die. Although it was hard, Jesus stayed committed to his heavenly Father and followed through on this difficult commitment. Jesus kept his promise because he loves us so much!

God is committed to you! Remember, God loves you and will never leave you. Sometimes people can let us down, but God will never let you down. It may be hard to understand that when it seems things are not going your way, but in the end, God will take care of you. If you have not already done so, commit your life to Jesus. Give Jesus a promise that you will follow Him no matter what! Joseph and Victor gave God that promise and their lives turned out pretty great!

TAKE-AWAY TRUTH:

God loves you and will never leave you. Sometimes people can let us down, but God will never let you down.

Discussion Questions

1. What is commitment? (keeping a promise, no matter what)
2. What can keep us from being committed to something? (selfishness, laziness, fear)
3. How were some of the characters in Victor's Dream committed? (V. Dream p. 6-9, 14-17, 30-31, 33-35 - the Connors were committed to caring for the children, the Jacobs were committed to being Victor's forever family, Joseph was committed to serving God and doing his best no matter what)
4. How can a person show commitment at home and school? (be responsible with chores, obey parents, be respectful)
5. How can a person show commitment on their job? (be on time, work hard, be faithful, don't quit)
6. How can a person show commitment to their friends? (be kind, stand up for them, express your feelings appropriately, share the gospel)
7. How can a person show commitment to God? (trust Him, read and obey His Word, serve others, attend church, tithe)
8. How does God show commitment to us? (He never leaves us, He died for our sins, He gave us His Word)

LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW

Review “Lessons Learned” cards made on p. 16.

PRAYER

Dear God,

*Even though people may let us down, thank you for committing to always love us and never leave us.
Help us be a leader by committing our lives to loving you back by following you no matter what.*

We love you and praise you, Lord.

Amen.

Commitment

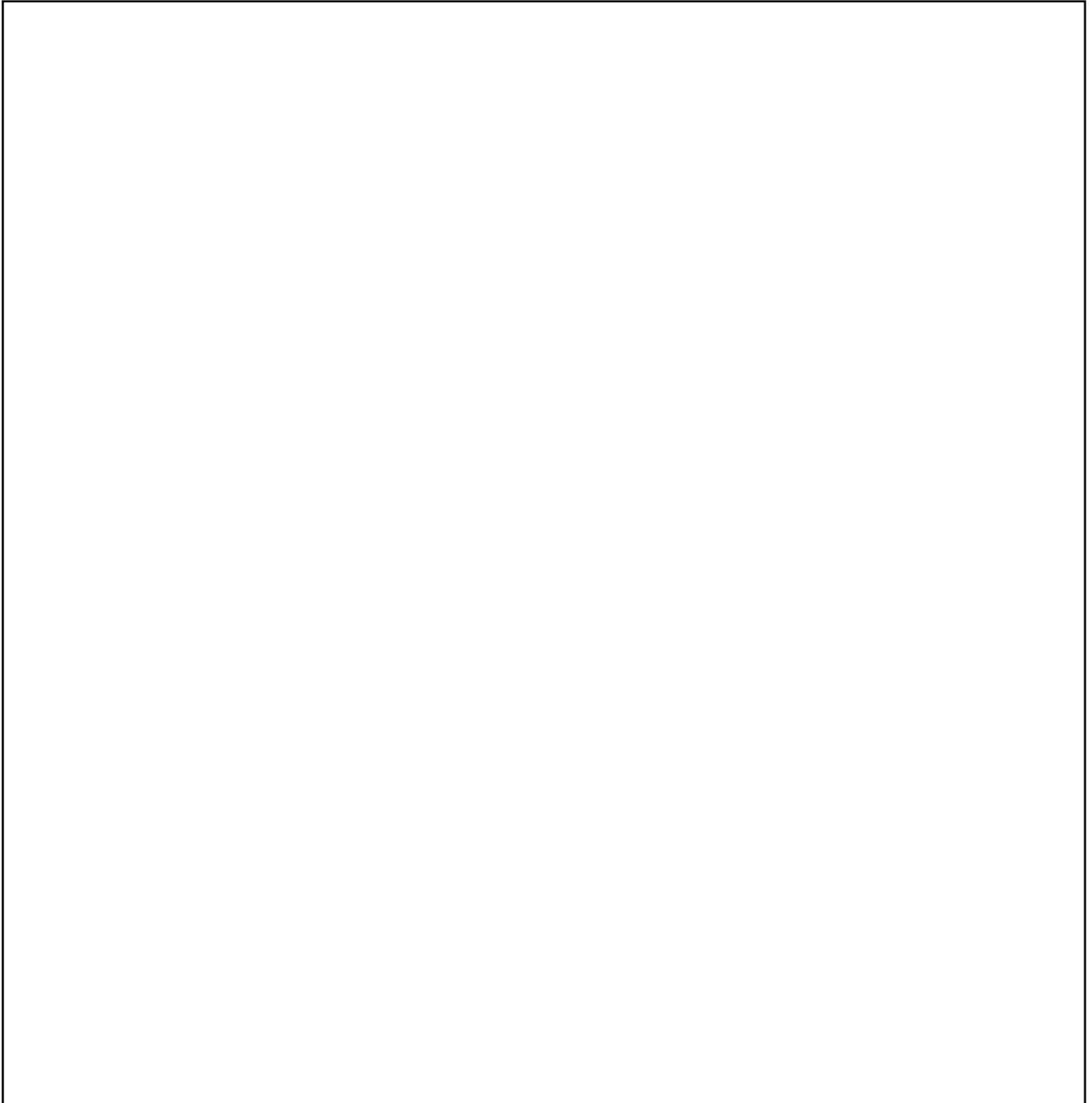
WORKSHEET #6

Early Elementary

Materials needed: crayons or pencil

Draw a picture of you being committed (keeping a promise) to a person, a task, or an activity.

Copy in the box: **Commit your way to the Lord. Trust in Him and He will help you. Psalm 37:5**



Commitment

WORKSHEET #6

Elementary

Materials needed: pencil or pen

Read the stories of how people showed commitment. Draw a line from the story to the person who matches the story.

1. While serving as a missionary in Ecuador, this woman's husband was murdered by the very tribe they were trying to reach. Despite her sadness, she stayed in Ecuador to continue the work with the Indians. Through her hard work and commitment, many of those men, and their tribe, became Christians.
2. This man spent many years teaching others that all people should have the same rights, no matter what the color of their skin. He was committed to share this message in love not violence.
3. This woman spent her life committed to helping the sick and orphans in the country of India.
4. This man made history as the first African-American to play major league baseball. Many hated him and threatened his life. Despite this hardship, he kept his commitment to never fight back.
5. He was an American inventor and scientist. He is most famous for his inventions with the light bulb. It took 1,000 attempts before the light bulb worked. He stayed committed and did not give up!
6. He was a famous pianist and composer. He committed his life to writing beautiful music. He wrote five of his most famous symphonies while completely deaf.

Jackie Robinson

Thomas Edison

Elisabeth Elliot

Martin Luther King Jr.

Beethoven

Mother Teresa

Commitment

WORKSHEET #6

Teen

Materials needed: pencil or pen

- In the following situations below, think about how commitment is important.
- What would the effect be with someone who was committed in that area?
- What would the effect be with someone who was not committed in that area?
- Write your thoughts.

ON THE JOB

Committed:

Uncommitted:

IN A MARRIAGE

Committed:

Uncommitted:

AS A PARENT

Committed:

Uncommitted:

AS A CHRISTIAN

Committed:

Uncommitted:

Art Project

30 Day Prayer Promise Bracelet

Materials needed:

- * Twine (about 8" long; two per individual)
- * Variety of pony and jewelry beads
- * Index card (one per individual)
- * Assortment of markers or crayons
- * Scissors (one pair total)

1. Think of a person for whom you want to pray.
2. Write the name on the index card.
3. Color and decorate the card.
4. Make a knot 1/3 of the way from the end of the twine.
5. Thread beads through the twine, stopping at the knot. Make any pattern you would like. Stop 1/3 of the way from the other end of the twine.
6. Tie a knot at the end of the beads. The knots will hold the beads in place.
7. Make a second bracelet identical to the one you just made.
8. Tie one of the bracelets around your wrist (cut off the excess twine).
9. Give the second bracelet to the person whose name you wrote on the card.
10. Explain that you promise to pray for them every day for the next 30 days.
11. Ask them to wear the bracelet for 30 days. Each time they look at the bracelet, they will know someone is praying for them.
12. Keep the card somewhere to remind you about the promise (commitment) you have made to pray every day for that person.



Answer key to worksheets

Lesson 6: Elementary

1. Elisabeth Elliot
2. Martin Luther King Jr.
3. Mother Teresa
4. Jackie Robinson
5. Thomas Edison
6. Beethoven

Lesson 7

CALLING

Icebreakers

Devotion

Discussion Questions

Take-Away Truth

Lessons Learned Review

Prayer

Worksheets

Art Project

Answer Key

Icebreakers

Idea #1 – The Calling Game

Supplies: Blindfold (one per two individuals)

Go outside into a large field. Divide your group into pairs. One person is the caller and one person is the listener. Blindfold the listener and place them on one side of the field. Place the caller on the other side of the field. On “go” the caller begins to call to the listener who moves toward the voice of the caller. The first listener to get to the other side and touch the caller is the winner.

Idea #2 – In My Suitcase

Have the group sit in a circle (on chairs or on the floor). Explain to the group that we are going to pretend we are going on vacation. The first person says, “In my suitcase, I will pack...” and then chooses an unusual item to pack in the suitcase. The person next to them says, “In my suitcase, I will pack...” and repeats what the first person packed and then adds a new item. Continue around the circle until everyone gets a chance to repeat all the previous items while adding their new item.

Devotion

(GENESIS 45:7-8; 1 KINGS 19)

*Our last lesson from Victor's Dream is about God's **CALLING** on our life. It is God's desire for all to love Him and follow Him. God calls each one of us to follow Him. Sometimes it may be hard to know when God is calling us. It's not like when a friend calls you on the phone or when your mom calls you for dinner. God's calling may not come to us in a loud voice. Sometimes it is more like a quiet feeling in our heart.*

In chapter 19 of I Kings, Elijah learned this important lesson. Elijah was a prophet that told the people what God wanted them to know. The people hated Elijah and wanted him killed. He ran away from the city and went to a cave. He was sad and felt very sorry for himself. He prayed and told God how he felt. God told him to go to the top of the mountain and wait for him. Elijah did what God told him to do. He waited...and waited...and waited. Suddenly, a great and mighty wind blew. The wind blew so hard that the mountain began to break apart and the rocks crumbled! Elijah thought that was God calling him. But God was not in the wind. Then there was a great earthquake. Elijah thought, for sure, God would be in the earthquake, but He was not. After the earthquake, there was a tremendous fire. Elijah was certain that God would be in the fire, but God was not in the fire. After the wind, the earthquake, and the fire, everything was quiet. Suddenly, Elijah heard a still, small voice. A still, small voice is a very quiet voice, like a whisper. It was God! God was in the still, small voice!

Sometimes we think that God only calls us when something big happens in our lives. But many times God wants to teach us things in the little things. But we have to be still and calm to hear that still, small voice of God's.

God calls each one of us to salvation. Have you listened for that call? Have you answered Him and given Him your heart and life to Jesus? If not, please don't wait any longer. God wants you in His family today! If you have accepted His call to salvation, don't stop there. God continues to call each one of us to service. How is God calling you today? What kind of service does He want you to give? How does He want you to help others today? Don't forget to listen to His still, small voice.

TAKE-AWAY TRUTH:

God sometimes speaks in a still, small voice. Remember to listen to it.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some examples in the Bible of when Jesus called men and women? (*Elijah in the still, small voice, His disciples, the woman at the well*)
2. Who was in the story in I Kings, chapter 19? (*Elijah*)
3. Why was Elijah sad? (*people hated him and wanted him dead, he felt sorry for himself*)
4. What did God tell Elijah to do? (*go to the top of the mountain and wait for Him*)
5. What was the first thing that came that Elijah thought was the Lord? (*great and mighty wind*)
6. What was the second thing that came that Elijah thought was the Lord? (*great earthquake*)
7. What was the third thing that came that Elijah thought was the Lord? (*tremendous fire*)
8. What finally came that actually was the Lord? (*still, small voice*)

LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW

Review “Lessons Learned” cards made on p. 16.

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for calling each one of us to follow you. Help us to always listen to your still, small voice through the quiet feeling in our hearts so that you can teach us how to love you more.

(Pause then say:)

If you have never asked Jesus to come live in your heart, you can do it right now. Just say, ‘Dear Jesus, I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and rose on the third day. I’m sorry for my sins. Come into my heart so that I can live with you in Heaven one day.’

I thank you and praise you Lord.

Amen.

(With heads still bowed, ask those who prayed with you to raise their hands so that you can follow up with them individually.)

Calling

WORKSHEET #7

Early Elementary

Materials needed: pencil or pen

Finish the sentences by choosing one of the words below each line.

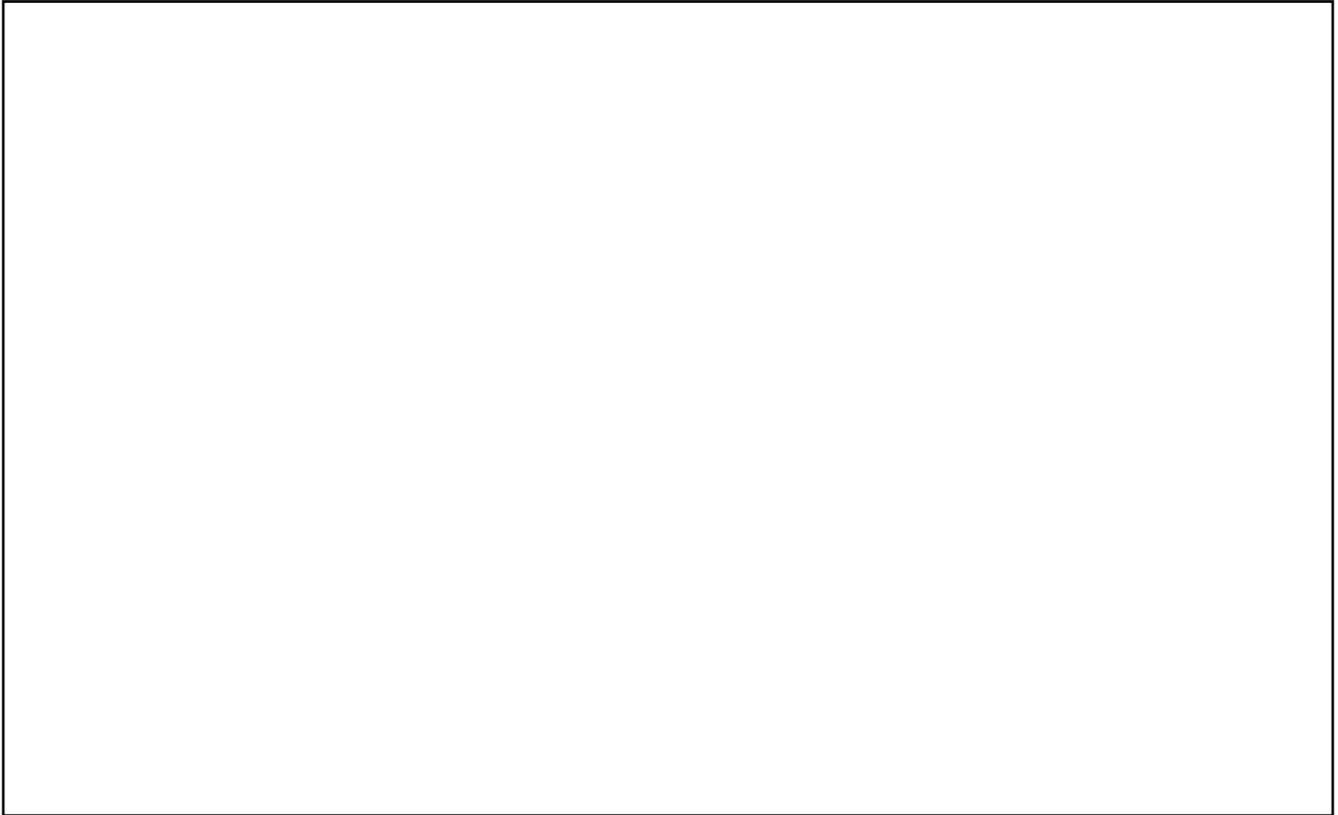
1. Elijah was called a _____.
(prophet, king)
2. Elijah followed God to a _____.
(river, mountain)
3. Elijah thought God was in the _____.
(clouds, wind)
4. Elijah thought God was in the _____.
(earthquake, tornado)
5. Elijah thought God was in the _____.
(fire, water)
6. Elijah found God in a _____ voice.
(very loud, still small)

Calling

WORKSHEET #7 Elementary

Materials needed: crayons or pencil or pen

Draw a picture of Elijah sitting on the mountain, listening to God's still, small voice.



Write what you think God is telling Elijah.

Art Project

Leadership Windssock

Materials needed:

- * Cardboard paper towel tube (one per individual)
- * Decorative duct tape or contact paper
- * Crepe paper, any light color (6 strips per individual, each about 6" long)
- * Dark-colored markers
- * Scissors (one pair)
- * Stapler (one)
- * Hole punch (one)
- * String or yarn (12" long, one per individual)

1. Using the duct tape or contact paper, wrap the outside of the tube.
2. Using a marker, write one of the following lesson traits of each strip of crepe paper: compassion, courage, confidence, character, commitment, calling.
3. Staple the crepe paper strips evenly at the bottom of the paper towel tube. You will need to overlap the strips in order to fit them on the tube.
4. Punch two holes evenly around the top of the paper towel tube.
5. Thread the string or yarn through the holes, bringing the two ends together at the top.
6. Tie the two ends together, forming a large knot at the top.
7. Hang the windssock outside and enjoy!



Answer key to worksheets

Lesson 7: Early Elementary

1. prophet
2. mountain
3. wind
4. earthquake
5. fire
6. still small

CULMINATING ACTIVITY

Reread the book, *Victor's Dream*, then play this fun board game!

VICTOR'S DREAM BOARD GAME INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place your token (any small object) on the "START HERE" square.
2. Take turns (youngest to oldest) rolling the dice.
3. Count the number of squares, matching the number on the dice. Do not move your token yet.
4. Answer the question in the square.
5. If you answer correctly, move your token to that square.
6. If you answer incorrectly, you must wait until your next turn.

What was the name of the children's home?	FINISH
-------------------------------------------	---------------

What was Victor's favorite meal?	
In the Bible, what does it say will set us free?	

Who were the Conners?	In what book in the Bible can you read about Joseph?	Who came over for dinner?	Finish this sentence: God is always....	What did Joseph's brothers do to Joseph?	Quote or read Romans 8:28	How old was Victor?
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What did Victor help with every day after school?

In what class was Victor when his troubles began?	Whom did Victor see in his dream?	Why was Joseph so calm and peaceful?	What did the letter from Jacob say?	What was Mrs. Conners' first name?
---------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------------------

How did Victor get the scrapes on his arms?

What is the name of Victor's brother?

What country did the traders take Joseph and Victor to?	What object was Victor accused of stealing?	Who made fun of Victor on the bus?
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In his dream, where did they take Victor?

What is the name of Victor's sister?	Who was sitting at Joseph's table?	What was the name of the principal?
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Quote or read Jeremiah 29:11

What gift did the Jacobs give Victor?



START HERE	Why was Joseph in prison?	Who accused Victor of stealing?	What was the last name of Victor's coach?	What did Victor eat for his afternoon snack?	What did Officer Beckett find in Jake's locker?	Where did Victor have lunch with Joseph?
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Victor's Dream Board Game

ANSWER KEY

Safe Haven's Children's Homes	FINISH					
Lasagna						
The truth						
House parents at the children's home	Genesis	Mr. & Mrs. Jacobs	Faithful	Sold him into slavery	Romans 8:28	15
						He helped the children with their homework
History class	Joseph	He knew God would take care of him	They wanted to adopt Victor and his siblings	Emily		
He fell out of a tree						
Chase						
Egypt	A purse	Jake				
		To the stables				
		Gracie	Joseph's brothers and Victor	Principal Tripp		
						Jeremiah 29:11
						A ring
START HERE	He was accused of something he did not do	Jake	Jacobs	Apple and cookie	Principal Tripp's wallet, keys and cell phone	In Potiphar's house

Buy One, Give One

Florida Baptist Children's Homes and the Leslie and Bonnie Trawick Foundation have joined together to make Victor's Dream available to all children in FBCH's foster care program. When someone purchases a copy of Victor's Dream, a second book will be provided free of charge to a child in foster care.

The Trawick family has supported the Children's Homes ministry for more than 40 years and has generously provided the resources for this project. We are delighted to be able to put this wonderful book in the hands of thousands of foster children in Florida and beyond. We pray that the book's message of hope will inspire and encourage children in foster care everywhere to live in the light of Christ and His ability to transform their lives into a beautiful testimony of God's grace.

Florida Baptist Children's Homes provides Christ-centered services to abused, neglected and orphaned children in Florida and in the developing world through our international childcare program. FBCH has been ministering to orphaned and disadvantaged children since 1904. Learn more about foster care, adoption and the ministry of Florida Baptist Children's Homes at www.FBCHomes.org.