



ICE BREAKER – CONNECTING KIDS TO OTHERS

Have the children gather in a circle around you. Tell them to say their name and then ask the following icebreaker questions.

- What's your favorite song?
- What's your favorite movie?
- What's your favorite candy?

MINI-GAME – EMOJI FACE

Now have the children play the “Emoji Face” game. Review the directions below before playing.

- *Directions:*
 - *Pull out a cell phone and ask the kids if they would rather choose to talk on the phone or text. Then, ask the kids if they have ever used emojis or what their their favorite emoji is and have them describe it to you.*
 - *Pull out a piece of paper with different emojis on it and tell the kids that the object of the game is to decode/figure out what each emoji phrase on the piece of paper says.*
 - *Show each phrase to the group and see if they can figure out what it says.*
 - *Once the connect group has successfully decoded all of the phrases, talk about how emojis are fun ways to talk with people because they allow you to easily communicate what you're feeling.*
- *Answer Key (as listed)*
 - *Page 1:*
 - *Lunch time, Happy Halloween, green eggs and ham, Noah's ark, Happy Birthday, counting sheep*
 - *Page 2:*
 - *Lion King, don't feed the bears, Christmas time, Jingle Bell Rock, hot dog, creation*

TRANSITION TO GROUP DISCUSSION – CONNECTION BETWEEN MINI-GAME AND TEACHING OBJECTIVE

- Great job decoding the emojis! You know, this game reminds me of the story we have been learning about with Moses. In our Bible story, when things were getting rough for Moses, he intentionally reached out to God through prayer. In fact, Moses would talk to God all the time!
- Just like in the game, we sometimes talk to each other through texting using emojis to express how we are feeling. But the Bible tells us that we can also reach out to God in prayer!
- We can talk to God about what we're feeling or going through and He promises to listen. He listens to us and wants us to tell Him everything we're feeling.
- We can always talk to God through prayer! God wants us to talk to Him because He loves us so much. He is always there for us and promises to meet our needs.

GROUP DISCUSSION – CONNECTING KIDS TO GOD AND OTHERS

TEACHING OBJECTIVE: WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WRONG, I CAN TALK TO GOD.

BIBLICAL TEXT: EXODUS 6:4-14

1. Why did God send the different plagues on Pharaoh and the Egyptians?

Answer: God sent the different plagues on Pharaoh and the Egyptians because Pharaoh would not listen to what God was telling him through Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh's heart was hard before God, and he did not want to let go of what he wanted (pride) so that God's freedom and love could rule.

2. How many plagues came on the Egyptians before Pharaoh let the Israelites go?

Answer: God sent 10 plagues down on Pharaoh and the Egyptians before Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go. This must have been so frustrating for Moses and the Israelites, but God knew that His plan would prevail and that they could trust in Him to save them.

3. What do you think it means to be patient?

Answer: Being patient means to accept frustration and waiting without complaining or being angry. Being patient is often a very hard thing to do because we love when things happen immediately. But even when things don't happen right away, we can trust that God is still working for our good and that they will happen in His perfect timing.

4. What do you think it means to talk to God?

Answer: Talking to God means opening up to Him about everything we're going through and everything we're feeling. We never have to feel ashamed or embarrassed about what we want to tell God because He will never reject us or think differently of us. He wants to hear about everything we have to say because He wants to develop a deep and loving relationship with us. God wants us to talk to Him all the time about everything going on in our hearts and lives!

5. Do you believe that God hears you when you talk to Him?

Answer: No matter what it may feel like, GOD HEARS YOU. He listens to every word, every tear, and prayer you offer up to Him and He cares about every single thing that matters to

you! You can put your trust in God knowing that no matter what your circumstances may look like, He listens to and cares about you.

6. When things are going wrong what do you normally do?

Answer: Most of the time our first response is to turn to our friends or family when something goes wrong because we want their comfort and advice. That is okay! But God wants us to go to Him FIRST because He is the only one who can make the wrong things in our lives right. This action will benefit us and grow us not only as individuals, but in deeper relationship with Him.

7. Why do you think God wants us to talk to Him when things are going wrong?

Answer: God wants us to talk to Him when things are going wrong because He cares about every single thing that matters to us. He wants to have the opportunity to give us peace and speak truth and life over every situation that we go through!

8. How can we get closer to God and trust Him more?

Answer: We can grow closer to God and trust Him more by choosing to talk and cry out to Him when things in our lives seem to be going wrong. Even though it may not look like things are getting better, we can trust that God is always working on our behalf. When things are going wrong, we can find peace and release our anxiety to God.

WRAP UP - PRAYER

- *Wrap up your time by passing out the prayer request cards.*
- *If a child does not have a prayer request, have them write down the things they can talk to God about through prayer.*
- *Close in a quick prayer including the prayer requests of the children in your group. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind the kids that no matter what's going on in their lives, they can always talk to God about every situation because He listens to and cares for them.*