

COMMUNICATION (LARGE GROUP)

Lesson 3: How do we live in community?

Objective: To introduce the idea of neighbor and how God says to treat our neighbor.



TIME: 90-120 minutes

ICEBREAKER: Human Bingo. Create a grid with 16-25 squares. In each square mark a quality/characteristic or skill that a person may or may not have. Make copies and give a sheet and pencil to each person. When you say go, the students and leaders run around and ask people if the statements in the boxes are true of them. If so, they sign their name in the box, and the person moves on to fill the rest. The first person to get a "bingo" and then a "bingo blackout" win. Make sure you have prizes for participation and share with the group ahead of time so that they are motivated to get to know their "neighbors."

Ideas for bingo grid:

- Has 4 or more siblings
- Can sing
- Is going to college
- Can drive a car manually
- Is an artist
- Was born in a different country
- Has traveled to 3 or more states
- Doesn't like chocolate
- Loves anime
- Can dance
- Has moved more than 3 times in their life

Time: 10 minutes

Supplies: paper, bingo grid, and pencils

At the end you can ask the winners to share who had filled each of their boxes, or the leader could go through one box at a time and ask people to raise their hand if that statement was true of them! It is intended as a group learning tool!

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Time: 15-30 minutes

Supplies: PowerPoint with your verse on it and maybe some pictures of the speaker's neighborhood or neighbors.

Recap: spend a few minutes asking the students what they remember about last week's talk. You can even have a few small prizes to encourage participation. If they don't hit on them, you can wrap up with a few reminders of the significant points from last week. It's always best to have the students interact and remember first though.

Facilitator can say: how many of you know what neighborhood or hoods are full of???

NEIGHBORS! Share a few stories about the people you've lived around in your neighborhood/hood (funny, sad, crazy, etc.). Get the students laughing and engaging in this thought of neighbors.

Our communities and neighborhoods are just areas that are full of people. People who the Bible says are special because they are created in the image of God, by God, and with a purpose...just like we are (Genesis 1:27 and Romans 8:28). When we start to look at people how God does (with value and purpose in our communities/churches), it's harder to bully someone, ignore someone, sleep around with random people, steal from them, etc. Maybe share a story here?

So how do we do this? How do we allow God into our thinking and help us to see others with his eyes?

***Have a student read out loud Matthew 22:36-40 (if possible have on a PowerPoint too):**

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Ask: what did you hear in this passage?

NOTE: when students give answers, practice active listening by repeating back to them what you heard them say. This helps them feel heard, understood, and models healthy interpersonal communication skills for them!

Facilitator wraps up:

Our neighborhoods and communities are full of people

People are all made in special by God

We need to focus on God in order to get ourselves right with him and grow



When we understand who God is and how he sees us, we can better see how and why we can care about and love the people around us better (our neighbors).

TESTIMONY:

Time: 15-30 Minutes

Invite a leader or person of faith from your community (or a leader from your group) to come and share their personal testimony of faith and how their experience in your community has gone. This could be a pastor, a single mom, a community leader, a local business owner, etc. Have share the following:

Who are they and what do they do?

How they came to faith?

How they are involved in the community you live in and why?

How have they living in a neighborhood in a way that God didn't create it to be?

How have they experienced living in a neighborhood in a way that God did create it to be?

What is their hope and prayer for your students as they understand the purpose and importance of a healthy, "God centered," community?

QUESTIONS:

Invite the students and leaders to ask the guest questions about their life, work, faith, etc.

PRAY:

Invite a student or leader (or a group of them) to come and pray over the guest! Thank them for coming and sharing.

REFLECTION:

Invite the students to share 1 thing they learned or that stood out to them from the talk tonight. If the group is small, go around the room, but if it is large, have only 3-5 share!

