

WEEK 3: REPRESENT

MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS! THE BEST WAY TO BUILD THOSE RELATIONSHIPS IS THROUGH CONVERSATION. AS KIDS ARRIVE, BRING THEM INTO THE CHAT USING THE CONVERSATION STARTERS BELOW. BEING HEARD HELPS KIDS FEEL CONNECTED AND CONVERSATION WILL HELP BREAK THE ICE! MAKE SURE YOU GET IN ON THE FUN AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS TOO!

Conversation Starters

1. What was the best part of your week?
2. What was your least favorite part of your week?
3. Have you ever gotten in trouble for something someone else did?
4. Have you ever let someone else get in trouble for something you did?
5. Have you ever had to do a group project? What is it like relying on others to do a good job?

ONCE THE MAJORITY OF THE KIDS ARRIVE, INVITE THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE GROUP GAME/GROUP ACTIVITY SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS.

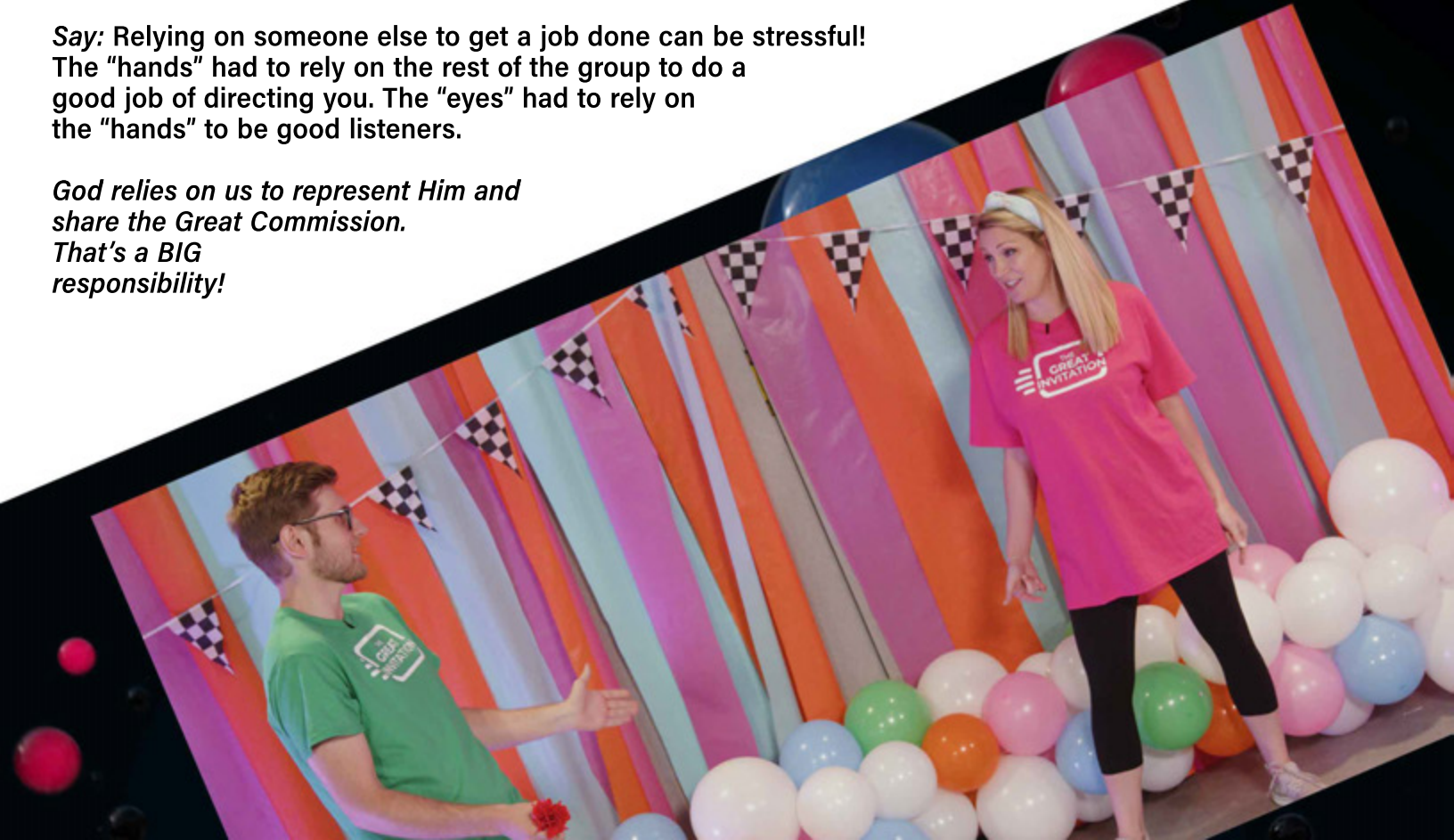
Opening Group Activity

Say: Today you will have to rely on others to complete a task as we play "Caution: Construction Zone."
Supplies: enough blindfolds for half of your group and a simple puzzle.

Half of the group will wear a blindfold and represent the hands, and the other half represents the eyes. The "hands" will try and put together the puzzle using the guidance of the "eyes." The "eyes" cannot touch a single puzzle piece. If they do, you have to rescrumble the pieces and start over. If time allows, let the kids switch roles.

Say: Relying on someone else to get a job done can be stressful!
The "hands" had to rely on the rest of the group to do a good job of directing you. The "eyes" had to rely on the "hands" to be good listeners.

*God relies on us to represent Him and share the Great Commission.
That's a BIG responsibility!*



WEEK 3: LARGE GROUP TEACHING

Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to week three of The Great Invitation! Whether you know it or not, we have ALL been invited to take part in something great - the Great Commission. Two weeks ago we were introduced to this idea by the host of The Great Invitation, the game show where four contestants accepted the invitation to see if they are ready to do something great. Last week we saw Carol, the orange contestant, win the first round of challenges. Who do you think will win this week? Do you think it will be Orange again? Pink? Green? Blue? Well let's see.

Video

Play "The Great Invitation: Episode 3"

Game

"Balloon Stomp"

Supplies: String and one balloon for each player.

We now have our second winner - BEN! Way to go team green! Green team, do you think you can win our in-person challenge today too? Let's find out! I need two volunteers from each team, one boy and one girl. Make sure you haven't already had a chance to come up and play.

Tie a balloon to each kid's ankle (give them coordinating colors with their team). When you say GO, kids will try and stomp on each other's balloon while protecting their own. They cannot use their hands. The last kid with a balloon standing wins.

Let's give our participants and winners a round of applause as they head back to their seats!

WEEK 3: TEACHING (CONTINUED)

Object Lesson

Supplies: Ladder or step ladder. Climb to the third step of your ladder.

Say: The whole goal of the Great Commission is for everyone to make Jesus the leader of their life. But before they can get to the top step, they have to first hear about Jesus. (*Go down a step.*) But in order for them to hear about Jesus, someone has to TELL them about Jesus. (*Go down another step.*) And in order for someone to TELL them about Jesus, someone has to be SENT to Represent Jesus. (*Go down to the ground.*)

Bible Lesson

As we have learned in the Great Commission, we are already sent to tell others about Jesus! Let's look at a few verses in Romans to help us understand what it means to represent Jesus.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful the feet of those who preach the good news!'" Romans 10:14-15.

Let's look at this verse backwards.

"And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

We know that we have been sent to preach thanks to the Great Commission - *"Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations." (Mt. 28:19).* There is no denying it!

"And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

When we hear the word "preach" we often think of pastors standing in front of a church on Sunday mornings. But this verse just means that we are all supposed to tell others about Jesus! You don't have to be a pastor in front of a church, you can tell others about Jesus on the playground, in the cafeteria, on the soccer field, and anywhere else you spend time.

WEEK 3: TEACHING (CONTINUED) & WORSHIP

Bible Lesson (continued)

"And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?"

What are some ways that you can tell others about Jesus? *(Allow some kids to answer.)* Those are great! You can tell people about God and share with them stories and verses from the Bible. You can also SHOW people Jesus through your actions. When you treat others the way that Jesus treats us, they can see who Jesus is. You can invite your friends to church with you on Sundays or Wednesdays. And there are countless other ways - you can be creative.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?"

Even though we are tasked with representing God to others, the good news is we are not responsible for making people believe in Him. Only God can do that. It is still very important that we tell others about God, because how can they believe in Him if they haven't heard about Him? But we don't have to worry about what they do when they hear about God. We just need to continue to tell others about God and pray that they hear and believe!

Now what about this "beautiful feet" part? Do you think Jesus was talking about pedicures and painted toenails? No! Jesus is saying that in order to GO, you have to move your feet. So "beautiful feet" are feet that are in motion - carrying the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

Worship

Let's all stand and sing our worship song together. This will help us memorize Matthew 28:19-20 while we Worship God!

Play "Go" by Seeds Worship.

Dismiss to Small Groups

I will pray for us and then we will go back to small groups so we can discuss what we just learned.

WEEK 3: SMALL GROUP

Small Group Time

Discussion

1. What challenge do you wish you could play from today's video?
2. What challenge do you think you would lose from today's video?
3. Who do you think will win next week's challenge?

Have everyone look up Romans 10:14-15

4. What is the main problem in these verses? (*How can someone believe in God if they have not heard about God?*)
5. What is the solution to that problem? (*We are called to preach the good news to everyone.*)
6. Where are some places that you can tell others about God?
7. How can you tell others about God?
8. Is it our job to make people believe in God and the Bible? (*No it is only our job to TELL them about God. God is the only one who can make someone believe.*)
9. What are some things that keep you from telling others about God?

Group Game

Say: It's important to be careful what we say and how we say it because everything is an opportunity to share about God.

Telephone Game:

Have players sit in a circle. They need to be close enough that whispering is possible, but not so close that players can hear each other whisper. Pick someone to be first and give them a word or phrase and let them whisper it in the ear of the person sitting to their right. Players whisper the phrase to their neighbors until it reaches the last player. The last player says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it has changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle or line.

Keep letting people take turns being first.

WEEK 3: SMALL GROUP (CONTINUED)

Bible Verse Review

Supplies: any handheld object

Have the kids sit in a circle and give one kid an object. The person with the object says the first word of Matthew 28:19-20. Then they pass it to the next person who will say the second word of the verse. Keep going until you have said the full verse. Let different people be the first to start the verse, go in reverse order, and see how quickly you can do it. Let friends know that they can help remind each other if someone forgets the words.

Pick Up Time

Play Telephone or the blindfold puzzle game again.

