

Leading Other Youth To Christ

"Welcome Mat"

Students will learn the importance of actively participating in bringing others to Christ

Game "All Four One"

Divide youth into teams of 5-6. Instruct youth that they will be playing a game that involves carrying one of their team members. Have each team designate a student to be carried (be conscious not to allow students in dresses and skirts to be carried).

Instruct students that they will be carrying their volunteer on a bed sheet/blanket. Have the volunteer lay down on the sheet/blanket. Instruct the lifters that they are to move the volunteer over ten feet and onto a couch or table in the room. Be sure to instruct them to be very careful with the volunteer. The teams are not allowed to have any direct contact with the volunteer- they are only to use the sheet/blanket to lift them, and the volunteer is not allowed to assist the team in lifting themselves off the ground. For added excitement, have teams race against the clock- try to beat their best time...etc.

Debriefing the game

- 1- What was challenging about the activity?
- 2- Did you get upset with any of your teammates? Why? Did you feel like you were doing most of the work?
- 3- (To the volunteer) How did the activity make you feel? Did you feel useless? Did you feel like a burden?
- 4- How does this sort of thing happen in real life?
- 5- Does this remind you of a Bible story?

Getting into the scripture

Have a volunteer or volunteers read **Mark 2: 1-12**

- 1- How was this story like our activity? How was it different?
- 2- Why do you think such a huge crowd had gathered?

Explain: Mark's gospel is unique in that Christ's ministry through healings and miracles begins in the first chapter.

(FYI- in John, Jesus calls the disciples in chapter 1, but does not perform any miracles or signs until chapter 2).

Quickly have the group look over the three healing stories in Mark 1 (21-28; 29-34; 40-45) Now, why do you think people had gathered around Jesus? People want to be part of something great.

Mark 2 offers great insight as to the purpose of the church and the mission of Christ.

The Purpose of the church

The paralytic was helpless...he had no hope of ever encountering Christ because of his current state. He could not go to Christ...He could only be taken to Christ or hope that Christ would come to him. We believe this story is true, but it is also a wonderful picture of the state of humanity. We are broken and desperately need the help of others to make us whole again. We need God or other followers of Christ to intercede if we are to be saved from our current condition which is hopeless. The men that carry the paralytic also represent the compassion of God. They were not to be denied and went to extreme lengths to bring this man to Christ.

Discuss

- 1- How are people in our schools, community, and church broken?
- 2- How can they become whole again?
- 3- Whose responsibility is it to fix these broken people?
- 4- What are we doing to bring others to Christ in our church?
- 5- What am I doing to bring others to Christ? Think of one person that needs your help to encounter Christ. Spend a few minutes writing down ways to help them come to know Christ...then spend the next few weeks loving that person in a way that brings them into the presence of Christ.
- 6- Are you willing to step outside of your comfort zone to welcome others into the church? Are you willing to go above and beyond expectations to show them God?

Read Mark 2: 13-17 Discuss

- 1- Why did the Pharisees question who Jesus was hanging out with?
- 2- What was wrong with Levi being a tax collector? (Tax collectors reminded the Jews that they were subject to Roman rule, many of them took more than their share of the taxes and became wealthy by over-taxing the people...Jewish tax collectors were the worst of all because they were traitors)
- 3- What does Jesus mean "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."
- 4- If Christ called the "sinners" to follow him. How should we react when people visit our church? What if they're mean to us at school? What if they're different?
- 5- How can we see people as Christ saw them- in need of saving, instead of seeing them as the Pharisees (church-goers) see them- bad people that don't belong?
- 6- What can we do to make people feel more welcome at our church?