

Reflect God 2010 Bible Study

Week at a Glance

	Concept	Objectives	Verses
Monday	Mirror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn that we are made in God’s image. • To understand that we share characteristics with God, like loving, forgiving, etc. • To understand what it means to have dominion over creation. 	Genesis 1:24 – 2:3, Creation - created in God's image
Tuesday	Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To define covenant • To learn that God’s covenant with Noah was a covenant with us as well. 	Genesis 9:8-17, Noah & God's covenant
Wednesday	Abundance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To define abundance. • To understand that God gives us many things in abundance. • To recognize that the number of material things we have doesn’t define how blessed we are. 	John 6:26-38, Bread of life and Manna from heaven
Thursday	Praise and Thanksgiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize all that we have to be thankful for. • List ways that we can thank God. • Become excited about loudly thanking God. 	Psalms 100, Psalm 95:1-7a, Psalm 96, Psalm 150
Friday	Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand compassion. • To understand that how we act can reflect God’s love to others. • To share affirmations with each other. 	2 Corinthians 5:13-19, A new creation in Christ

Monday – Day 1

Mirror

Materials: journals, mirrors, paper & pencils

Objectives:

- To learn that we are made in God's image.
- To understand that we share characteristics with God, like loving, forgiving, etc.
- To understand what it means to have dominion over creation.

Get to Know You

ESP

In pairs campers will stand back to back. On your count of three the campers will turn to face their partner making the sign of one of three characters. Giant – arms raised above their head. Wizard – arms waving in front of them "casting a spell". Dwarf – crouched down with each index finger on head. As you give directions really play up the ESP part. ***Stand back to back. Try to get into your partners head. Read their mind. Your object is to be the same character.***

After three times with the same partner check in...ask which pairs got one, two and three right. Switch partners and repeat two more times.

Mirror, Mirror

In pairs campers will mirror each other. Each pair will choose one person to be the actor...the other person mirrors them. After some time tell them to switch parts. Encourage them to stay with each other. Instruct them that they can work in 3D, that is the actor can move their arm toward their mirror as well as away. This will increase the challenge.

Discussion

- Was this activity easy or difficult?
- Did you want your mirror to succeed or did you try to catch them up?

Hook

You Remind Me of Someone

Pair up campers. Give them a few minutes to share three or more things about themselves that they have in common with someone from their family. These could be:

Physical similarities (*hair color/texture, shape of a nose, stature, left cheek dimple*)

Talent or hobby interest (*music, singing, sports, interest in cars, dance, scrapbooking, writing*)

Resemblance (*hair color, sound of someone's voice or laugh, or the way they walk or run*)

After time is up, allow time for campers to share some of their stories. Ask follow up questions to deepen their stories and draw them out.

Discussion

- Do you like resembling your family members?
- Have you been told you look exactly like a long lost relative?
- Are there traits or similarities you wish you shared with your family members?
- If you look like one of your family members do people expect you to act like them too?

Today we're going to learn that we were created in God's image. God thinks so much of us that God made us in God's image. It's an amazing thing to think about.

Book

In God's Image

Read Genesis 1:24 – 2:3

Have campers read their different versions of Genesis 1:27 aloud. While the NRSV uses the word "image," the Contemporary English Version states "God created humans to be like himself " while the Message version states God created human beings to "reflect God's nature."

Discussion

- What does it mean to be made in the likeness of God, to reflect God's nature? (*We are created out of love and called to reflect God's love by caring for creation.*)
- Sometimes mirrors can distort the truth, like a carnival mirror. Do you see what God created in your mirror? Or do you see what others say about you reflected in the mirror?

Identify a continuum line between two trees, two rocks, or whatever you have. Designate one end of the line as "I totally agree" and the other end as "I totally disagree." As you read the following statements, invite each camper to stand in a place on the line that indicates his or her response to the question. Encourage discussion when there is a diversity of response.

- In today's Bible passage God created human beings.
- Human beings were created male and female.
- Human beings were created in God's image.
- Because I'm created in God's image I am expected to act a certain way. (Discuss.)
- I can totally explain what it means to be created in God's image. (Ask for answers.)
- God gave humans dominion over all of creation.
- Having dominion means it belongs to us, so we can do whatever we want with it.
- Having dominion means that we care for that which belongs to another (God).
- I have acted at one time or another like creation belonged to me. (Ask for examples.)
- I have acted at one time or another as a care-taker for creation.
- I can see God in myself.
- I reflect God in all I do. (Discuss.)

Have a seat in a circle.

The word dominion is weird. It sounds like we've been asked to stand over creation, to dominate it, and that creation becomes ours. A clearer definition comes if we focus on "God's image." Just like we often bear likeness to members in our own families, God looks to us to reflect his own image. We should look at how God cares for the earth to answer the question of how we should care for the earth. God has put us here to become care-takers of creation.

- What are some examples of ways that we, as humans have taken advantage of creation?
- How are we taking care of creation right now?
- What "green" movement do you care about the most?

Look

Mirror Writing

In pairs or small groups, place a mirror next to a piece of paper. Look into the mirror (not at the paper) and see if you can write or draw something!

Next, one person in the group should make a simple maze, then let each person see if they can follow the maze while looking in the mirror!

Discussion

Sometimes we try to create ourselves. We try to be just like someone else.

- How difficult did you find creating something in a mirror?
- Share a time when you've tried to be like someone else. Did it work? Fail?
- Who does God want you to be like?

Took

Characteristics of God

In two small groups make a list of all the characteristics of God, ie. Loving, forgiving. After a few minutes of brainstorming have each group act out each characteristic while the other group guesses the characteristic.

If we are made in God's image then we have all these characteristics too. Take a few minutes to write in your journal which of the characteristics you think you have and use.

Journal Time

Name three characteristics of God that you see in yourself. Which characteristics should be stronger?

Catechism Connection

Water stories

- Can anyone tell us a story that happened to them where they were terrified of water?
- Can anyone tell us a story that happened to them when water was helpful?
- How many Bible stories can you name that have water as a major character?

Read the baptismal prayer on page 122 in the Lutheran Book of Worship or in your Bible study appendix.

- Were there any stories listed that we didn't come up with?
- What role did water play in a few of these stories? (*God saves the Israelites from the Egyptian army. In baptism God washes away our sins. Jesus calms the raging waters of the stormy sea. Through river water and a few brave women God rescued the baby Moses.*)

Closing Prayer

Use some alternate names for God today in your prayer. Suggestions include: nurturer, mother, creator.

Tuesday – Day 2

Covenant

Materials: Journals, paper and pencils

Objectives:

- To define covenant
- To learn that God's covenant with Noah was a covenant with us as well.

Hook

Partner Sit and Stand

In pairs have the campers sit back to back with their partner (do not link arms). Their task is to stand up and sit down together by relying on each other. When they have successfully worked as partners with one another, have them join another group of two and attempt to sit/stand with four people. Keep adding groups together until the entire Bible study group is working together to stand and sit while remaining linked. It is best to form two lines so that people are still back-to-back.

Alternate: Have pairs sit down together, face each other with toes touching, grasp hands. Now try to stand together.

Debriefing

- Who did you work with during these activities?
- What was it like to work in partnership with someone else?
- Did you have expectations of each other? Did you say the expectations out loud? (for example, push hard with your back)
- Did you give each other encouragement? (for example, we're close, good job!)

Promises, Promises

In pairs talk about a time you made a promise to someone. Did you keep it? Was it hard? What happened when you didn't keep the promise? Has anyone made a promise to you? Did they keep it?

Book

Noah's Ark in Review

Who remembers the story of Noah and the Ark from Sunday school? What happened in the story?

Now, in small groups ask campers to recreate the story of Noah's Ark and the Flood from their memory. Each group will naturally hit on the high points. Through conversation and discussion the pieces that have been left out can be integrated into their memories. Give them a few minutes to practice their re-creation. Next ask each group to perform for the other group.

Discussion

(Ask a camper to read the answers directly from the Bible in a few cases.)

- Why did Noah build an ark? (*God told him to, people were not being good, so God sent a flood*)
- Why did God send the flood? (*Genesis 6:5-7*)
- Who was saved on the ark? (*Genesis 7:13, Noah's family, two (or 7) animals of every kind*)
- How long did it rain? (*40 days*)
- What birds did Noah send out? (*Raven first, Dove second*)
- How did Noah know the flood had receded? (*the dove first brought an olive branch and then didn't come back*)
- What did God say about the possibility of another flood? (*God promised not to send another flood*)

Today's Bible story comes to us after the flood

Read Genesis 9:8-17 and encourage the rest of the campers to follow along.

In our verses today, God makes a covenant, a promise with Noah, and everyone after Noah. A covenant establishes a relationship between two or more parties.

Discussion

- What is a covenant? (*Toss ideas around.*)
- What is the difference between a promise and a covenant?
- How many times is the word *covenant* used in the text? (*Seven*)
- Who does God create this covenant with? (*Noah, all of Noah's descendants, every living creature*)

There are two kinds of covenants in the Old Testament. The first is a 'Divine Commitment' which is unconditional. It doesn't matter what we do God will still keep the covenant. The second is a commitment of 'Human Obligation' which means that there are expectations or obligations that need to be met on the part of people and consequences for keeping or not keeping these obligations. An example of this is the Ten Commandments. The covenant God makes with Noah is a Divine Commitment, no matter what Noah does or the rest of creation, God will always keep God's promise.

- What is the covenant according to verse 11? (*A flood will never again destroy the earth*)
- What is this promise really about? What more is God saying? (*God promises to always love and protect us. It is a symbol of our relationship with God.*)
- What does God provide as a sign of the covenant? (*A rainbow*)
- Is God living up to God's covenant? How do we answer this question in light of the New Orleans hurricane and earthquakes in Haiti and Chile? (Some may ask where God is during the time that some disaster happens. Yet we are to be the hands and feet (body of Christ) in the world today. *Disasters give us a chance to glorify God. What's the human element in these disasters? Did greed or global warming cause the disaster rather than God? Take some lead from your confirmation pastors on this. They'll give you lots of ideas on how to navigate this discussion. Take notes for later in the summer.*)
- Since we are included in this covenant or partnership, what is our responsibility? (*To care for and protect the earth and all of God's creation. In doing so, we share God's love.*)

Biblically speaking, the making of a covenant was a sign of both commitment and relationship. God's covenant in Genesis is unconditional. It doesn't matter what we do or don't do, God promises no matter what.

In pairs or small groups give each one of the verses below.

Each of these verses describes the covenant.

- Genesis 9:9 Who is the covenant for? (*It is for all people—God establishes the covenant with Noah, his three sons, and all their descendants. That includes all of us.*)
- Genesis 9:16 Who is the covenant for? (*It is for every living creature*)
- Genesis 9:16 How long will the covenant last? (*It is everlasting*)

God's covenant with us is much more than never sending a flood to the earth again. God's covenant is a promise to always love and protect us. When we see the symbol of this promise, the rainbow, we are reminded of this promise of protection. In essence, we are reminded of God's love.

Look

Water Promises

Water plays a very important role in today's Bible study story. God sends the rainbow right after the Flood, just like a rainbow appears after it rains. Let's challenge ourselves. How many ways do we use water? Let's see how many we can name in three minutes. List them.

Because we live in North America, water is plentiful and easy to get. Even in drier places, like the southwest United States, most people have enough water to lead a good and healthy life. There are many places in the world, however, that don't have enough fresh water for the people who live there. Changes in our climate mean that in some places there is too much water, while in others there isn't enough. Even though it seems like we have enough water, we still shouldn't waste it. Using less water for our everyday activities means that the water cycle can stay in better balance. Over time, if we use our water wisely, we might be able to help the earth restore the water balance.

As individuals ask campers to choose one item from the list created earlier, challenge them to figure out a way to use less water for that activity. Some simple ideas are turning off the faucet when brushing our teeth, wearing our clothes more than one time if they are not dirty to reduce laundry, and taking a five-minute shower instead of a 20 minute shower.

Journal Time: Invite each camper to write a promise statement in their journal, regarding saving water. I promise to...

Took

Covenant Keeping

Note for Confirmation Camp: this portion can still be discussed. There will be campers from different cabins but they can still answer the questions. This is a nice way for the pastors to see how it's going in the cabins. It may NOT be going well...you'll need to determine how to follow up in a few cases. Speak to your Program Director if you are concerned.

It has been a few days since we wrote our covenant for the week together.

- How is it going?
- Has your group been getting along?
- Has your group been able to follow their covenant?
 - Why? *(The rules make sense, everyone here gets along.)*
 - Why not? *(They aren't fair, they're hard to remember, some campers don't follow them.)*
- Now that a few days at camp have passed, are there any things you'd like to add or change? Give everyone a few minutes to discuss if anything needs to be added to the list. Write down any ideas to add to the covenant later, if you are not meeting near where the covenant is hanging.
- Are there ways that we can get rid of or destroy our written covenant. *(Tear it down, throw it away, throw it in the campfire, etc.)*
- Would any of those things really end their covenant with each other? *(No. The covenant would live on in their minds, hearts, and memories)*

Catechism Connection

Sacrament Introduction

- **What is grace?** (Campers may offer their own interpretation. Some will be guesses, others will have learned the meaning in confirmation class)
- ***Grace is God's love and forgiveness. It's a gift. A free gift. No strings attached. We didn't earn God's love and frankly we don't deserve it, yet God gives it to us over and over. As Lutherans we recognize two ways that we receive God's grace, we call them sacraments. A sacrament is a way that Jesus becomes present with us.***
- **What two sacraments does the Lutheran church have?** *(Holy Baptism and Holy Communion)*
We recognize that you need two things to qualify for a sacrament.
- **Does anybody know what those things are?** *(element(s) and words spoken)*

Sacramental Family Feud

In two teams play a short version of Family Feud. 100 Pastors were interviewed. The top 5 answers are on the board. The points are given depending on the importance.

What elements are present in baptism?

75 points – water
10 points – baby/person
7 points – congregation
4 points – pastor
4 points – family

What words are used in baptism?

30 points – sealed by the Holy Spirit
30 points – marked with the cross of Christ
15 points – in the name of the Father (Son and Holy Spirit)
15 points – the child's name
10 points – I believe in ...

What elements are present in communion?

40 points – wine/grape juice
40 points – bread/wafers
15 points – congregation
3 points – pastor
2 points – communion rail

What words are used for communion?

40 points – broke bread
40 points – poured the wine
10 points – do this in remembrance of me
10 points – Our Father who are in heaven
5 points – night in which he was betrayed

Wednesday – Day 3

Abundance

Materials: journals, balls and objects for group juggling, larger strip of paper, smaller strips per camper, tape, scissors, or big newsprint

Objectives:

- To define abundance.
- To understand that God gives us many things in abundance.
- To recognize that the number of material things we have doesn't define how blessed we are.

Get to Know Ya

Group Juggling

Use the craziness of this activity, having lots of objects in the air at once, to introduce the concept of God's abundance. Develop a tossing pattern by having the leader say the name of another camper and toss the ball to that camper. The camper, in turn, says the name of a new camper and tosses the ball to that camper. Campers continue throwing the ball to someone who hasn't received it yet. At the end, the ball should return to the leader. Now, ask the campers to:

- Point to the person they received the ball from.
- Point to the person they threw the ball to.

This is the pattern we will utilize for this activity. How many objects do you think we can keep going at once without dropping any?

The leader will add an additional object once the campers have mastered each additional object. If an object drops, start the activity again from the beginning.

Hook

Put campers in groups of twos or threes. Mix up your usual groups. Ask campers to tell each other about a time they've had too little, just enough, or too much.

Book

- What is the definition of *abundance*? (Take ideas from the group.)

A dictionary defines abundance as "a great plenty" or "amply supplied."

- Where do you see signs of abundance around this spot? (*Leaves on trees, flowers, grass, water*)
- Are there signs of abundance around the camp? (*People, buildings, food, etc.*)
- What are areas of abundance in your lives at home? (*Clothing, food, MP3 players, houses, school, travel, etc.*)
- What signs of abundance do you see in your church? (people, flowers at Easter)

The people who lived during Bible times had much simpler homes, food, and clothing. They could not imagine the abundance that is available to us today. They still had abundance it was just the abundance of intangible things.

- What intangible things might have been in abundance? (*Love, family, friends, faith, creation*)
- Do you have these things in abundance?

Read John 6:26-38

This can be a confusing passage because Jesus is talking in metaphors. Let's break it down together. Jesus talks about the food that perishes and the food that endures for eternal life.

- What is food that perishes? (*actual food, material things*)
- What is food that endures? (*the love of God, eternal life*)

So, just like we were saying before. Jesus is saying don't worry about the material things look for the things that God has given you in abundance.

- According to Jesus, who gives the gift of the bread? (*God*)
- What does the bread of life do? (*Gives life to the world*)
- Who is the bread of life? (*Jesus*)
- What do you think this means? (*Jesus is the true Word of God; a gift of love, sent by God to give us eternal life*)
- If we believe this is a part of what Jesus promises for abundant life, why are there people hungry and thirsty in our world?
- When Jesus says that we will never be hungry, what does he mean? (*Through Jesus we have an everlasting gift of eternal love*)
- How does Jesus ensure that we will not be thirsty or hungry today? (*We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to energize and empower us to serve all of creation*)
- What does Jesus mean by promising an abundant life?
- What is an abundant life? What does it look like? Encourage campers to share and brainstorm what an abundant life looks like.

Journal Questions: What do I have in abundance?

Look

Mobius Strip (Choice #1)

A strip of paper approximately 24" x 2", a smaller strip for each camper, tape, scissors

God's love and faithfulness is so abundant that it is forever and has no ending.

Hold up two strips of paper.

- Where's the beginning? Where's the end?

Tape the strips together to make one long strip.

- Where's the beginning? Where's the end?

Now, flip one end of the strip over and tape it to the other end so the paper loop has a twist in it. Make sure the joined ends are completely covered with tape. Then cut down the middle of the loop.

- What happened? (*The loop will expand to double the size.*)

Cut down the middle again. Give each person a piece of paper so that they can try it for themselves.

Discussion

- Did it work?
- How does this activity help us learn about God's love?
- How do we know that God's love is never-ending and abundant?
- When the earthquake hit Haiti people could text a \$10 donation...\$100 million dollars was donated in just 5 days. How does this relate to God and God's love?

Flow Chart of Abundance (Choice #2)

Read Isaiah 55:10-12.

On a big sheet of paper ask the campers to create a flow chart to follow the abundance of God. Rain and snow provide moisture and nourishment that helps the seeds grow. The seeds grow wheat. The wheat becomes bread. The bread provides nourishment for the eater. The eater can do God's will and share God's love. Step by step, one can witness not only the abundance, but also the way God fuels us to proclaim God's message. *Use same discussion questions as above.*

Took

What if you were an ad manager and had to create an advertisement to teach people about God's abundance?

Divide campers into two groups. Assign each group a product to market: bread of life or living water. Have each group read its assigned scripture passage—John 6:31-35 (bread of life), John 7:37-39a (living water)—and develop an advertisement to market their product. The advertisement can include a slogan and a song. After campers have developed their advertisements allow them to share their advertisement and interpretation with the group.

Catechism Connection

Hit Refresh

Baptism is a covenant made between God and God's people. The grace of God is abundant and promised to us. There is also a promise made by the one being baptized. The individual (or that person's family and sponsors if they are too young to do so) strive to fulfill the other side of the covenant. When our parents brought us to be baptized they made certain promises about how the we would be raised in the faith.

- What promises did your godparents, your parents, and your congregation make in relation to your faith upbringing?

The promises we made to God are:

- faithfully bring us to the services of God's house
- teach us the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments
- place in our hands the Holy Scriptures
- provide for our instruction in the Christian faith

Thursday – Day 4

Praise and Thanksgiving

Materials: journals, a balloon, water, pop bottle, 1 t. lemon juice or vinegar, 1 t. baking soda

Objectives:

- Recognize all that we have to be thankful for.
- List ways that we can thank God.
- Become excited about loudly thanking God.

Get to know ya

Scream

Gather in a circle, standing shoulder to shoulder. The game is very simple. Instruct each camper to look down. On the count of three everyone look up and look directly at another person's face. If two campers are looking at each other, both scream or shout. If a camper looks up to find the other person not looking at him or her, they say nothing.

OR Pepperoni

Have everyone sit in a circle. Designate a camper to be "IT" and stand in the middle of the circle. Each person on the outside of the circle must take turns and ask the camper who is IT a question.

The goal is to make the person who is IT either laugh or show their teeth. Questions may include:

What is your favorite color? Do you like to swim? The only response IT can ever give is "pepperoni." For example, if asked: What is your favorite musical instrument? IT can only respond "pepperoni." The first person to make IT laugh or show their teeth wins and gets to take a turn in the center of the circle.

Hook

Give campers time to individually make a list of 20 things they like. Next, give them time to write how they show their thankfulness for those things. For example, if they like a particular musician they show their thankfulness by listening to their music and buying their CD.

Book

Invite campers to open their Bibles to Psalms. Ask them to read Psalm 100 silently to themselves. Without even reading any words, they will be able to see that Psalms are poetry and not prose, like much of the rest of the Bible.

Discussion

- How is this psalm written differently than other Bible passages we've read? (*not teaching but just describing, poetry*)
- What does the style of writing remind you of? (*poetry*)
- What's the tone of this passage? How do you think the writer feels? (happy, excited)

This Psalmist is so excited about God and what God has done. Will someone volunteer to read this psalm in a super excited voice?

That is definitely the way the Psalmist felt about God. Just for fun let's read this psalm in some other voices. Who wants to read the psalm sad, fast, angry, giddy, slow, musical?

Many Psalms of thanksgiving remind us that we should respond to all of the good things that God has done in our life, with shouts of praise and thanksgiving.

Discussion

We've had a bunch of worships here at camp.

- How is worship here the same as worship at your church?
- How is it different?

Worship is meant to be in three directions. Upward, toward God, outward, toward people, and inward, who I am when no one is looking. Praise of God is upward.

- How do we praise God in worship?

- **Worship and praise should also be outward, toward people.** How do we praise God outwardly? (share God with others, tell others how great God is)

Divide your group into three small groups. Have one group read Psalm 95:1-7a, one group read Psalm 96, and the third group read Psalm 150. Ask each group to come up with a bumper sticker slogan for their psalm. What word or words would they put on a bumper sticker to get the psalmist's point across?

Journal Question: How can I thank God for my life WITH my life? What can I do?

Look

Blowing Up Balloons With CO₂

Materials: Balloon, water, soda bottle, 1 t. lemon juice or vinegar, 1 t. baking soda

Instructions: Before you begin, make sure that you stretch out the balloon to make it as easy as possible to inflate. Fill your water bottle about half way full (40 ml) with water. Add a teaspoon of baking soda and swish it around until it dissolves. Pour the lemon juice in and quickly put the stretched balloon over the mouth of the bottle.

Discussion

- What's happening? *(If all goes well then your balloon should inflate! Adding the lemon juice to the baking soda creates a chemical reaction. The baking soda is a base, while the lemon juice is an acid, when the two combine they create carbon dioxide (CO₂). The gas rises up and escapes through the soft drink bottle, it doesn't however escape the balloon, pushing it outwards and blowing it up.)*
- How does this experiment help us with today's Bible study? How is the expanding balloon like our praise and thanks? (balloon is filled with the holy spirit, can't see God but know God is there)

OR Sound Amplifier

Materials: balloon

Instructions: Blow up the balloon. Hold the balloon close to your ear while you tap lightly on the other side.

Discussion

- What do you hear? *(tapping on the balloon)*
- Does it sound louder or softer than you thought it would? *(Small sounds can still make a big noise when you use a good sound conductor. Despite you only tapping lightly on the balloon your ears can hear the noise loudly. When you blew up the balloon you forced the air molecules inside the balloon closer to each other. Because the air molecules inside the balloon are closer together, they become a better conductor of sound waves than the ordinary air around you.)*
- What ways can we share our thanks and praise for God loudly?

Took

Rhythmic Praise OR Make Rain

We have a number of different ways that we can praise and thank God. Even if each of us praises God differently it still sounds beautiful to God. We're going to try making a whole bunch of different sounds but still sound good together. Have you ever been part of a drumming circle?

Sit in a circle. Each person in the circle will add a sound that they think could praise God. Each sound should be rhythmic and repetitive. They may use their mouth, their hands, their feet, an instrument or an item from the natural world. Ask one person to start (or as the leader start to show how it is done and to make others more comfortable), then add one person...each of you making your noise together...separately. Continue adding people and their sounds.

This activity may surprisingly take some practice. If you get off course feel free to stop the group, let them know what is going well and what will help them work together even better. Begin again and continue adding people until everyone is making their sound. Continue your praise until it comes to a natural end or use some good "conductor body language" to signal the end.

Discussion

- What did you like about the activity?
- Did you feel a natural connection with the group? With God?
- How did this activity mimic that way that we talk to and praise God? *(everyone is a little different)*

Write a Psalm

Using the lists they made at the beginning of Bible study ask small groups to write a psalm of thanksgiving for the thing they like.

Catechism Connection

Daily Baptismal Remembrance

Help your group make their own daily baptismal remembrance. Some folks remember their baptism when they wash their face each day, or brush their teeth, or take their morning shower. Words/prayer may go along the lines of their sins are forgiven, that God loves them, or that today they will celebrate their new life in Christ. They may add a sign of the cross to their ritual. They will be more likely to stick to the ritual if they are part of the planning process. Lead them through this discussion. Then use this ritual as a cabin each morning.

Baptism happens once, but it is so important that we should remember our baptism daily.

- Can you think of something we can do to remember our baptism daily?
- Maybe we can start by remembering what the elements of baptism are. (water and words)
- Let's use water to start our brainstorming. How do you use water each day? Is there anything we already do involving water that we can use as a baptismal reminder?
- Let's add some words, kind of like a prayer, that we will say while (washing face or ...)

Closing Prayer

Friday – Day 5

Reflect

Materials: journals, 3 small mirrors, clay, black paper

Objectives:

- To understand compassion.
- To understand that how we act can reflect God's love to others.
- To share affirmations with each other.

Hook

Compassion Connection

Choose a favorite spot for your study today. Stand in the middle of your group and have campers spread out in a large circle around you. You will ask some questions, and if the camper's answer is yes they should take a step toward you. The questions you ask should invite them to recall situations where compassion might have been stirred within them. Feel free to add questions of your own. Ask questions until someone reaches you.

- If you've ever seen a pet that was clearly hurt take one step forward.
- Take a step if you've seen a TV commercial asking for money to sponsor children in another country.
- Take a step if you've opened a door for someone in a wheelchair or walking with a cane.
- Take a step if you've talked to a friend who was very sad.
- Take a step if you've prayed for someone that was in the hospital.
- Take a step if you've babysat a child.
- Take a step if you've lent someone money.
- Take a step if you've...

Discussion

- What is compassion? (*a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.*)
- How is compassion different than feeling sorry for someone?

Compassion is not only recognizing that someone needs help, but it includes doing something. God calls us to Reflect God's love.

- How do you feel when you see someone who is suffering?
- How do you react?

Book

Read 2 Corinthians 5:13-19

Discussion

- What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ? (*to be forgiven, God doesn't even remember the wrong we've done, God forgives and forgets completely as if we were a new person*)
- What does the word reconciliation mean? (*to repair a relationship*)
- If we are sinful people, what makes God want to rebuild a relationship with us? (*grace, God loves us*)
- Since we have this wonderful grace, what does this passage call us to do? (*be ambassadors and tell other people that God wants a relationship with them*)
- What does verse 21 say that Jesus was for us? What does this mean? (*sin, he took our sins to the cross with him so that when we die, our sins are already forgiven.*)
- So when we die are we seen as sinful people or as God's righteous? What does this mean for us? (*God's Righteous, we have been promised everlasting life with God*)

God sustains us in life through the Holy Spirit and even sustains us in death through Jesus death on the cross and resurrection because he was responsible for our sin so we don't have to be.

Journal Questions: How do I reflect God's love? What can I do to serve other people?

Look

Reflecting Light

- 3 small mirrors, clay, black paper
1. Try to get light to reflect off of three mirrors and then shine on the back of a book.
 2. Begin by testing one mirror at a time. Shine the flashlight on it to see what direction the light reflects off of it. Keep track of the light directions.
 3. Then, predict how you should arrange the three mirrors so that the light will shine on the back of the book.
 4. Now, set up the three mirrors and the book. You can get the mirrors to stand up by placing some clay on the part of the mirror that's touching your work surface.
 5. Then turn off the lights and shine your flashlight on the first mirror. Does it work?
 6. Not quite? Keep experimenting with the position of the mirrors in order to get it to work.

Now it's time to experiment. Instead of using three mirrors, use four. Were you able to do it?

Took

Affirmation Circle

We are going to practice being ambassadors for God like it says in Corinthians. God wants to have a relationship with us and wants us to know that He loves us. We are going to share the things that God would be proud of each other for. In this way, we are the voice of God, telling others that God loves them.

Have all campers sit in a circle. One at a time, have campers sit in the center of the circle and have the campers on the outside of the circle offer affirmations to the camper. Encourage campers to share their positive impressions of the camper sitting in the middle and the things they noticed about the camper throughout the week (both words and actions). As counselor, think of unique qualities of each camper before this activity begins. Give each camper an opportunity to sit in the middle of the circle and hear affirmations from the entire group. As counselor, take your turn, offering an opportunity for the campers to serve you in love, offering affirmations to you for their time at camp.

Closing Prayer

Baptism Appendix

LBW Baptismal Prayer

Holy God, O Most High: We give you thanks for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection Jesus has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. In this, water became a sign of God's rule and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to Christ's command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed in this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious rule.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through Jesus, our Savior, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Luther's Small Catechism – Baptism

1. What is Baptism?

Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.

What then is this Word?

In Matthew 28 our Lord Jesus Christ says: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

2. What gifts or benefits does God give in Baptism?

It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the Word and promise of God declare.

What is this Word and promise of God?

In mark 16 our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

3. How can water do such great things?

Clearly the water does not do it, but the Word of God, which is with, in, and among the water, and faith, which trusts this word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a grace filled water of life and a "bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit." St Paul writes in Titus 3:5-8, "He saved us...in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."

4. What does Baptism mean for daily living?

It signifies that daily the old person in us with all our sins and evil desires is to be drowned through sorrow for sin and repentance, and that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.