

LEADER GUIDE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

RESCUED!



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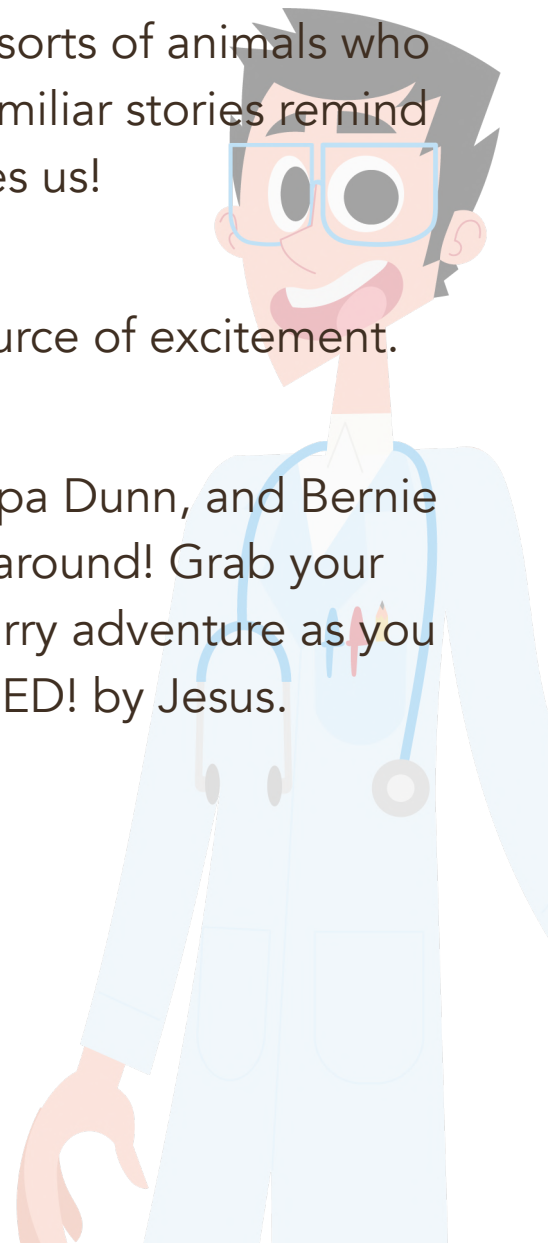
INTRODUCTION

Every day is a new adventure at the Agape Animal Rescue!

Dr. Dunn and his assistant, Greta, care for all sorts of animals who find themselves in difficult situations. Their familiar stories remind us of all the ways Jesus rescues us!

But the animals at Agape aren't the only source of excitement.

Between Dr. Dunn's daughter Dorothy, Grandpa Dunn, and Bernie the Animal Whisperer, there's plenty to go around! Grab your Bibles, hold on tight, and prepare for some furry adventure as you learn about all the ways we are RESCUED! by Jesus.



5-DAY SCOPE OF LEARNING

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Jesus Connection	JESUS RESCUES US FROM SIN	JESUS RESCUES US FROM DEATH	JESUS RESCUES US FROM FEAR	JESUS RESCUES US FROM FAILURE	JESUS RESCUES US FROM LONELINESS
Theme Verse	ACTS 2:36-41	HEBREWS 2:14-15	PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7	JOHN 21:15-17	ACTS 2:42-47
Assembly Skit	THE GREEN PIG	THE BEAR TRAP	THE TRASH DOG	THE BROKEN HORN	PLAYING DEAD
Vet School Learning Center	JESUS HEALS AND FORGIVES THE PARALYTIC	JESUS RAISES LAZARUS	JESUS CALMS THE STORM	JESUS HELPS PETER UP	JESUS HEALS 10 LEPERS
Rescue Roundup Games	FIND THE SNAKE	AIM AT HEAVEN	CASTING CARES	TODDLER/ PRESCHOOL: BALANCE BEAM K-HIGH SCHOOL: BLIND DRAWING	LIFEBUOY RELAY
Critter Cafe	EDIBLE PARALYTIC	EDIBLE LAZARUS	STORM ON GALILEE EDIBLE FLAT-LAY	FISH NET SNACK	EDIBLE CHURCH BUILDING
Canine Cinema Puppets	THE COVERUP	ZOMBIES!	SLEEPTROUBLE	FINISH LINE	FRIEND SEARCH

4-DAY SCOPE OF LEARNING

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Jesus Connection	JESUS RESCUES US FROM SIN	JESUS RESCUES US FROM DEATH	JESUS RESCUES US FROM FEAR	JESUS RESCUES US FROM FAILURE
Theme Verse	ACTS 2:36-41	HEBREWS 2:14-15	PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7	JOHN 21:15-17
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Rescue Roundup Games	FIND THE SNAKE	AIM AT HEAVEN	CASTING CARES	TODDLER/ PRESCHOOL: BALANCE BEAM K-HIGH SCHOOL: BLIND DRAWING
Critter Cafe	EDIBLE PARALYTIC	EDIBLE LAZARUS	STORM ON GALILEE EDIBLE FLAT-LAY	FISH NET SNACK
Canine Cinema Puppets	THE COVERUP	ZOMBIES!	SLEEP TROUBLE	FINISH LINE

3-DAY SCOPE OF LEARNING

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Jesus Connection	JESUS RESCUES US FROM SIN	JESUS RESCUES US FROM DEATH	JESUS RESCUES US FROM FEAR
Theme Verse	ACTS 2:36-41	HEBREWS 2:14-15	PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7
Assembly Skit	THE GREEN PIG	THE BEAR TRAP	THE TRASH DOG
Vet School Learning Center	JESUS HEALS AND FORGIVES THE PARALYTIC	JESUS RAISES LAZARUS	JESUS CALMS THE STORM
Rescue Roundup Games	FIND THE SNAKE	AIM AT HEAVEN	CASTING CARES
Critter Cafe	EDIBLE PARALYTIC	EDIBLE LAZARUS	STORM ON GALILEE EDIBLE FLAT-LAY
Canine Cinema Puppets	THE COVERUP	ZOMBIES!	SLEEP TROUBLE

2-DAY SCOPE OF LEARNING

Day 1

Day 2

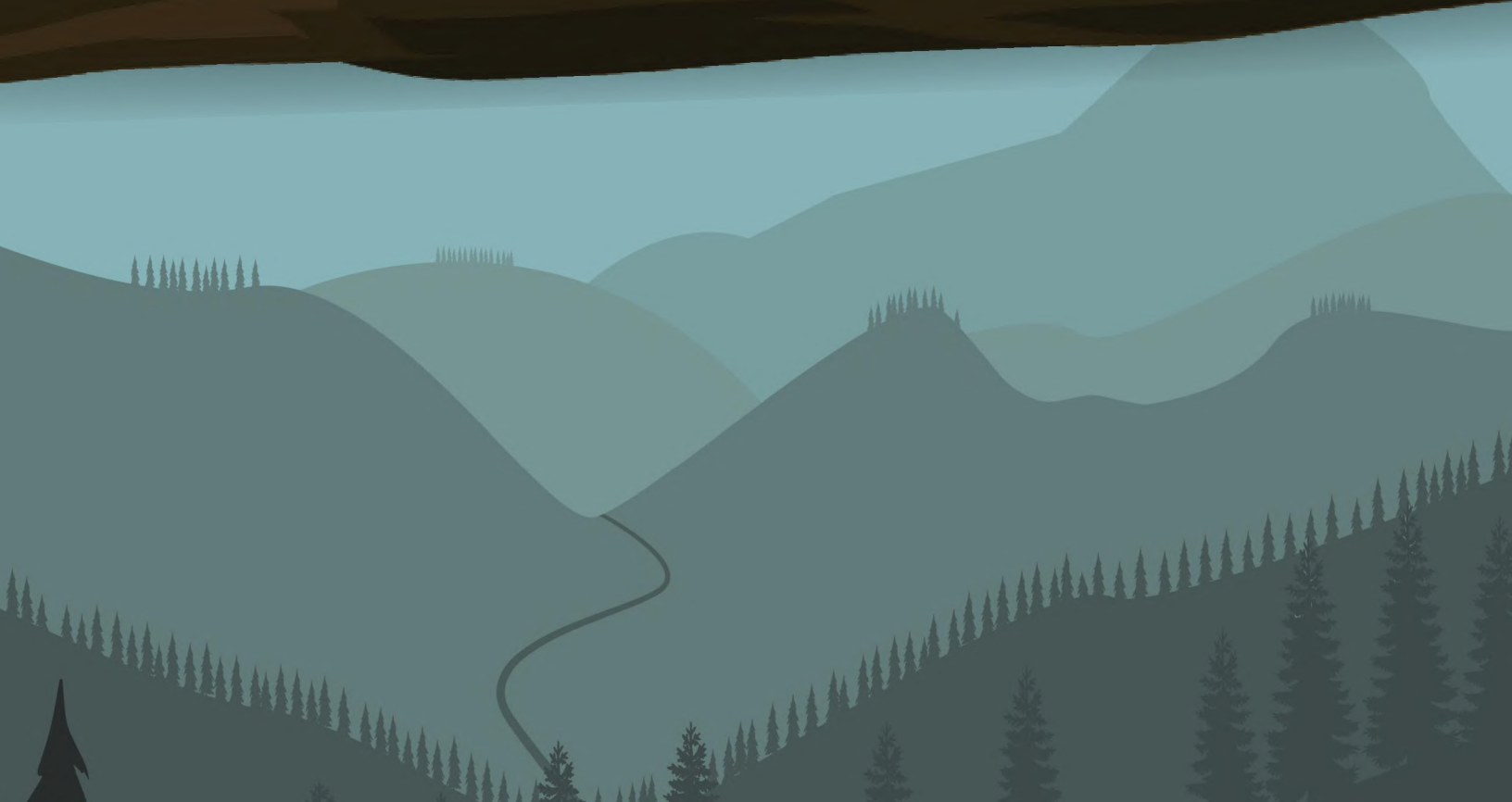
Jesus Connection	JESUS RESCUES US FROM SIN	JESUS RESCUES US FROM DEATH
Theme Verse	ACTS 2:36-41	HEBREWS 2:14-15
Assembly Skit	THE GREEN PIG	THE BEAR TRAP
Vet School Learning Center	JESUS HEALS AND FORGIVES THE PARALYTIC	JESUS RAISES LAZARUS
Rescue Roundup Games	FIND THE SNAKE	AIM AT HEAVEN
Critter Cafe	EDIBLE PARALYTIC	EDIBLE LAZARUS
Canine Cinema Puppets	THE COVERUP	ZOMBIES!

SCOPE OF LEARNING

Jesus Connection	JESUS RESCUES US FROM SIN
Theme Verse	ACTS 2:36-41
Assembly Skit	THE GREEN PIG
Vet School Learning Center	JESUS HEALS AND FORGIVES THE PARALYTIC
Rescue Roundup Games	FIND THE SNAKE
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ASSEMBLY SKITS



The Green Pig

CHARACTERS:

DR. DUNN (dressed in a lab coat with a stethoscope and glasses)

DOROTHY (dressed how you choose- regular clothes will work since she is typically coming from school or other normal activities)

GRETA (dressed in scrubs)

GRANDPA DUNN (dressed however you choose- overalls would be a nice choice)

BERNIE (dressed in coveralls and a straw hat)

HENRY THE DOG (a human in full dog costume or dog ears and nose. It can be as much or as little as you choose to make the point. Henry can either run on two legs or the actor may go on their hands and knees)

PROPS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

-Set supplies (see "Scene" description below)

-costumes (see "Characters" above)

-newspaper

-backpack

-stuffed pig with green spots/blotches on it (this can be done with a green marker)

SCENE:

Agape Animal Rescue is a veterinarian's office on a larger animal reserve in a more off-grind, rustic setting. The play area should have an examination table in the center. It will be the centerpiece of the skits. Around it could be different fake or real trees and shrubbery to



fill out the space. Recommended are: some closed plastic or wooden cabinets or shelves that would house medical equipment, wooden crates, stuffed domestic animals that stay put, stuffed animals in cages (these could be metal or even wooden, such as rustic bamboo chutes tied together with jute- see figure A), simple wooden sign for "Agape Animal Rescue" (see figure B). A chair is needed off to one side for Grandpa Dunn to sit. This could be a rocking chair or regular chair. A couple other chairs are needed that can pose as waiting chairs for pet owners who might sometimes come into the exam room. They will remain empty until some of the characters (like Dr. Dunn and Dorothy) use them to sit and talk.

At the opening of your VBS, before players take the stage, it would be good to read the following description to set the stage:

"Every day is a new adventure at the Agape Animal Rescue! Dr. Dunn and his assistant, Greta, care for all sorts of animals who find themselves in difficult situations, in need of rescue! Their familiar stories remind us of all the ways Jesus rescues us. But the animals at Agape aren't the only source of excitement. Between Dr. Dunn's daughter Dorothy, Grandpa Dunn, and Bernie the Animal Whisperer, there's plenty to go around! So grab your Bibles, hold on tight, and prepare for some furry adventure as you learn about all the ways we are RESCUED! by Jesus."

This scene starts with Grandpa Dunn sitting in his chair reading a newspaper. Dorothy comes in wearing her backpack and falls onto the ground and lays facedown, sprawled out, groaning slightly.

Grandpa lowers his newspaper. He looks over at her but she ignores her and starts reading again.

Dorothy groans even louder. Grandpa shushes her. After a few seconds, she groans even louder. Grandpa throws his newspaper on the ground.

GRANDPA: Alright, what's the matter?!

Dorothy starts talking in a muffled, unrecognizable voice.

GRANDPA: I can't understand you!

Dorothy does the same thing but louder.

GRANDPA: I said "I can't understand you", not "I can't hear you".



Dorothy rolls over onto her back.

DOROTHY: I'm done, grandpa.

GRANDPA: With what? School? You can't skip school. You'll end up like me, barely able to understand what in the world people are talking about half the time.

DOROTHY: But you finished school.

GRANDPA: I know. So, just imagine what I'd be like if I didn't even finish!

DOROTHY: I'm not talking about school.

GRANDPA: Then what are you done with? Is it a boy? Because you're not old enough to be dating boys anyways. Ain't none of them good enough for you either.

DOROTHY: It's not a boy.

GRANDPA: Then what is it? Chores? You can't be done with chores. You need to pitch in, missy.

DOROTHY: It's not chores.

GRANDPA: Wait a minute. It's not my foot massages is it? Because I need those foot massages. I have a new bunion that's really going to need it.

DOROTHY: Gross! And no, it's not that. Although I'm thinking about it.

GRANDPA: Don't you dare.

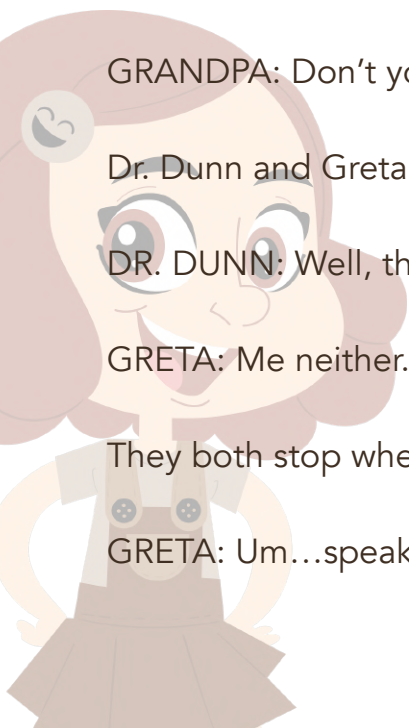
Dr. Dunn and Greta come in, talking to one another.

DR. DUNN: Well, that one was a doozy. I've never seen that many sick puppies at one time.

GRETA: Me neither.

They both stop when they see Dorothy.

GRETA: Um...speaking of sick puppies.



DR. DUNN: What's wrong, Dorothy? Are you sick?

GRANDPA: She's sick of something, but I can't figure it out.

DR. DUNN: Why don't you get off the floor and tell me what's wrong?

Dorothy gets up. She and Dr. Dunn sit in two of the chairs while Greta pretends to organize things and tidy up.

DOROTHY: It's my friend, Hannah. She's been lying to be about lying to me. She knew I would be upset but instead of just telling me the truth, she kept making up more and more lies to try to cover it up. I would have forgiven her. But she just made it worse by trying to hide it and cover it up.

Bernie should run in yelling and holding a stuffed pig with green spots and blotches all over it.

BERNIE: Got a rescue pig coming through! Out of the way!

DR. DUNN: Greta!

Greta should run in and join Dr. Dunn at the table. Bernie should place the pig on the table. Grandpa and Dorothy both get up and gather around the table as well. Dr. Dunn and Greta should be carefully examining the pig to see what is the matter. Dorothy should suddenly hold her nose.

DOROTHY: Ew! What stinks?!

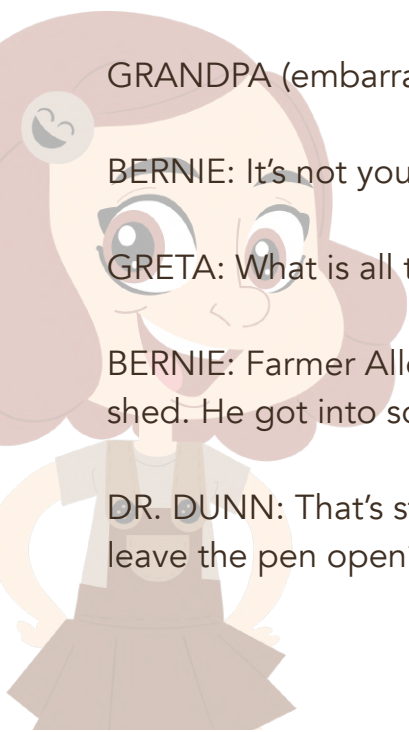
GRANDPA (embarrassed): Sorry...

BERNIE: It's not you. Well...not *just* you. It's this here, pig.

GRETA: What is all that green stuff all over him?

BERNIE: Farmer Allen said the little guy got loose from his pen and wandered into his tool shed. He got into some chemicals and got it all over him. Now, he's sick.

DR. DUNN: That's strange. Farmer Allen builds really sturdy fences and pens. Did someone leave the pen open?



BERNIE: Nope. Said the little guy had to have worked really hard to get out. Broke straight through. All the other pigs stayed put.

GRETA: I wonder why?

GRANDPA: Sounds like a job for Doctor Dolittle here.

BERNIE: Hey! I do a lot!

GRANDPA: No, no. I don't mean that you do little. I'm talking about the book character Doctor Dolittle.

BERNIE: Who?

GRANDPA: Just talk to the little porker!

DR. DUNN: Yes, Bernie. I think that may be best. We can get this little guy cleaned up and get him some medicine. But if we don't figure out why he's breaking out of the pen, this may just happen again.

BERNIE: Yes, sir, Dr. Dunn. Step back, everyone.

Everyone should take a step back from the table. Bernie should get close to the pig and begin make ridiculous pig snorts and squeals. The goofier, the better. In between noises, he should put his ear to the pig to listen. He should say things like "yes", "no", and "I understand." After a minute, Bernie should stand up straight and be done.

BERNIE: Well, what we have here is a classic stink on stink.

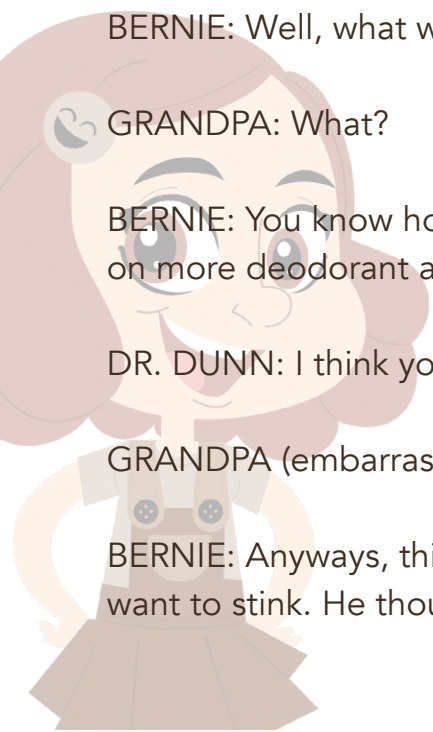
GRANDPA: What?

BERNIE: You know how when you start to stink and instead of taking a shower you just put on more deodorant and it starts to make it worse?

DR. DUNN: I think you may be the only one here that does that, Bernie.

GRANDPA (embarrassed): No, he's not.

BERNIE: Anyways, this little guy here was tired of smelling like...well...like a pig. He didn't want to stink. He thought maybe he could find something better smelling in the shed to



cover it up. But it just got all over him and made it even worse.

GRANDPA: Messing around in that shed with all them chemicals could put him in major danger.

Henry the Dog should come running in and barking like crazy.

GRANDPA: Not again! There's no danger, Henry!

Grandpa should run off stage shouting, with Henry chasing him.

DOROTHY (yelling to Grandpa): You have to stop saying that word so loudly! You know how Henry gets when he hears it!

Dorothy speaks to the others.

DOROTHY: Henry wants to be a good guard dog so badly. But he's a mess.

DR. DUNN: Anyways...thanks, Bernie. I'm not exactly sure how Farmer Allen is going to deal with this one. But at least this information will give him a good place to start. Greta, let's get this guy over to a bath to start off with.

GRETA: Yes, Dr. Dunn.

Greta should carry the pig away offstage.

DR. DUNN: You know, this pig reminds me of your friend, Dorothy.

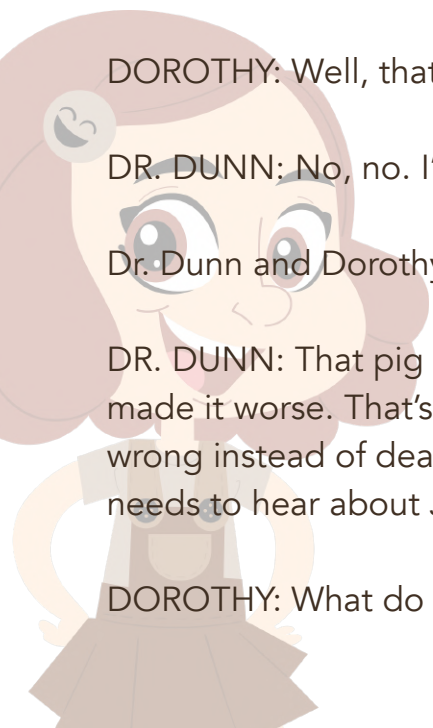
DOROTHY: Well, that's rude.

DR. DUNN: No, no. I'm not calling her a pig. Let's sit down.

Dr. Dunn and Dorothy sit.

DR. DUNN: That pig tried to cover up his stink instead of being washed away. But that just made it worse. That's kind of like how your friend kept trying to cover up what she did wrong instead of dealing with it and asking you for forgiveness. It sounds like your friend needs to hear about Jesus.

DOROTHY: What do you mean?



DR. DUNN: Do you remember when the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, sinned in the Garden of Eden and ate from the tree God told them not to?

DOROTHY: Yes.

DR. DUNN: They hid from God, remember? That's sort of what we try to do sometimes. We try to cover up or hide the things we've done wrong. But no matter how much we may hide it from other people, no one can hide anything from God. He knows our hearts.

DOROTHY: Where does Jesus fit into that?

DR. DUNN: Well, God wants to forgive us because he loves us. But he also needs to make sure that he's just and does the right thing. So, bad things we do need to be punished. But instead of us being punished, God came to earth in the person of Jesus and died on the cross. He never did anything wrong so he didn't deserve to be punished. But that punishment he had was actually for us! He took the punishment we deserve, kind of like someone paying a bill for someone else. The bill gets paid, what needs to be right is made right, and the person who should have paid can now be free from it. Jesus rescues us from sin by paying for our sins so anyone who chooses to follow him can be saved and be with God in heaven.

DOROTHY: Oh, wow! That's amazing!

DR. DUNN: It definitely is.

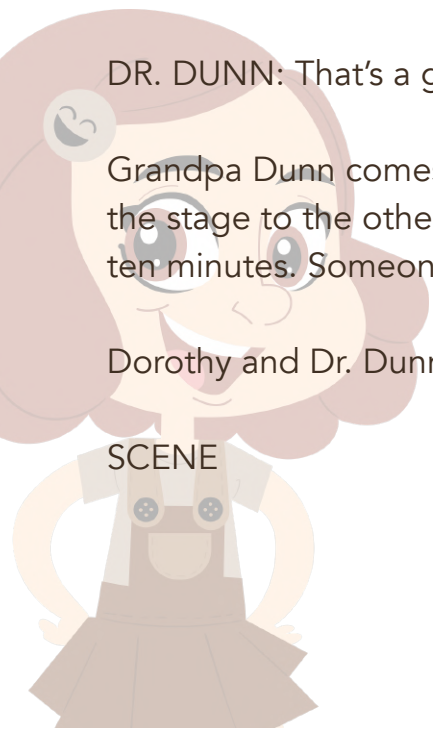
DOROTHY: I'm going to talk to Hannah about coming to church where we can talk more about Jesus. She needs to know.

DR. DUNN: That's a great idea.

Grandpa Dunn comes running in with Henry on his tail, barking. He runs from one side of the stage to the other and offstage. While he runs across, he yells: "I've been running for ten minutes. Someone help me!"

Dorothy and Dr. Dunn chase them off stage. Dorothy yells: "Henry, leave him alone!"

SCENE





CANINE CINEMA

PUPPETS



Finish Line

PUPPETS AND PROPS NEEDED:

-Carl puppet (this is a narrator puppet- if you so choose, you can exchange it for another puppet and even change the name to suit available puppets)

-Joseph puppet

-Nancy puppet

-James puppet

-Announcer voice offstage

-Derrick puppet

-Saul of Tarsus puppet

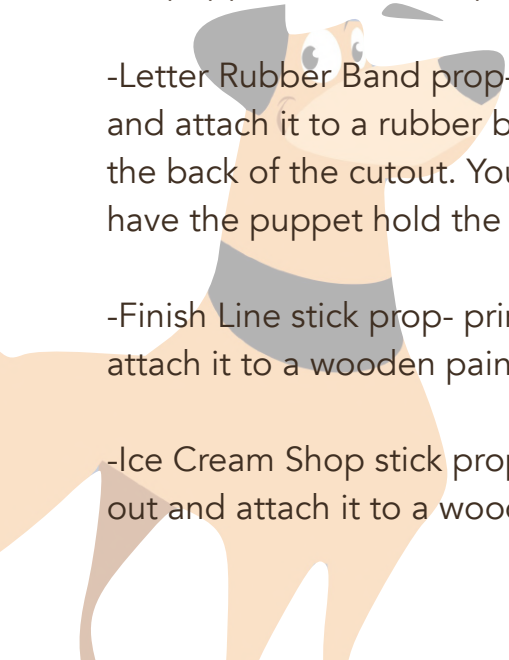
-Voice of Jesus offstage

-Ice Cream Cone Rubber Band prop- print this file from the Digital Resources on cardstock. Cut it out and attach it to a rubber band by using duct tape to attach one side of the rubber band to the back of the cutout. You can wrap this rubber band around the hand of the puppet to have the puppet hold the item.

-Letter Rubber Band prop- print this file from the Digital Resources on cardstock. Cut it out and attach it to a rubber band by using duct tape to attach one side of the rubber band to the back of the cutout. You can wrap this rubber band around the hand of the puppet to have the puppet hold the item.

-Finish Line stick prop- print this file from the Digital Resources on cardstock. Cut it out and attach it to a wooden paint stirrer.

-Ice Cream Shop stick prop- print this file from the Digital Resources on cardstock. Cut it out and attach it to a wooden paint stirrer.



-Damascus Light stick prop- print this file from the Digital Resources on cardstock. Cut it out and attach it to a wooden paint stirrer.

SKIT:

Carl puppet raises up and shushes the crowd.

CARL: The race is about to begin!

Carl puppet lowers. James, Nancy, and Joseph puppets raise up on one side of the stage, close together.

ANNOUNCER (from behind the stage): On your marks! Get set! Go!

All three puppets should start pretending to run, but in a way that makes it take a bit to get across the stage area. They should pant like they are running fast. James and Nancy should stick close together. Joseph puppet should suddenly start breaking away in the lead. The finish line stick prop should raise at the far end of the stage.

JOSEPH: I've got this!

Suddenly, the Joseph puppet should trip and all puppets should move in slow motion while Joseph makes a low-pitched slow motion noise saying the word "Nooooo!" until he falls on his face right in front of the finish line. Then Nancy and James run at normal speed again and pass around him to cross the finish line. You can have them touch the stick prop and then it lowers.

ANNOUNCER: It's a tie between James and Nancy!

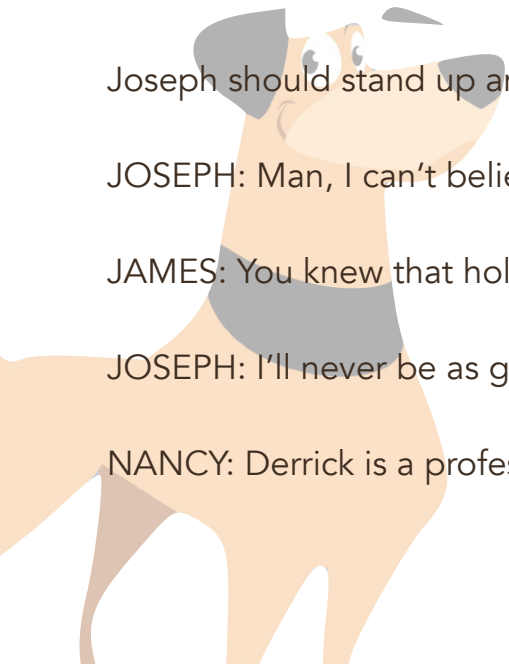
Joseph should stand up and all three puppets walk toward the center of the stage.

JOSEPH: Man, I can't believe I tripped again! Why haven't they fixed that hole yet?

JAMES: You knew that hole was there. You've tripped on it three times now.

JOSEPH: I'll never be as great as Derrick Betterman if I can't even finish a race.

NANCY: Derrick is a professional runner.



JOSEPH: I know, I know. But he graduated from this very high school first. I could be the next...well...him! But not if I can't pull it together and start finishing.

JAMES: I know what will cheer you up. Let's go get a post-race milkshake.

NANCY: Yeah, let's go!

All three puppets exit.

Ice Cream shop stick prop raises on one side of the stage. Derrick puppet with the ice cream cone rubber band prop on his hand should raise beside the shop. He should pretend to be licking it. The three friend puppets pop up again on the opposite side of the stage and pretend to walk toward the shop.

JOSEPH: I need to start running 50 laps a day!

JAMES: That seems like a lot.

NANCY: Are you sure you can take falling 50 times in one day?

JOSEPH (sarcastically): Ha ha ha. Very funny.

JAMES: Hey, wait! Look!

James puppet stops the other two puppets.

JAMES: Is that who I think it is?

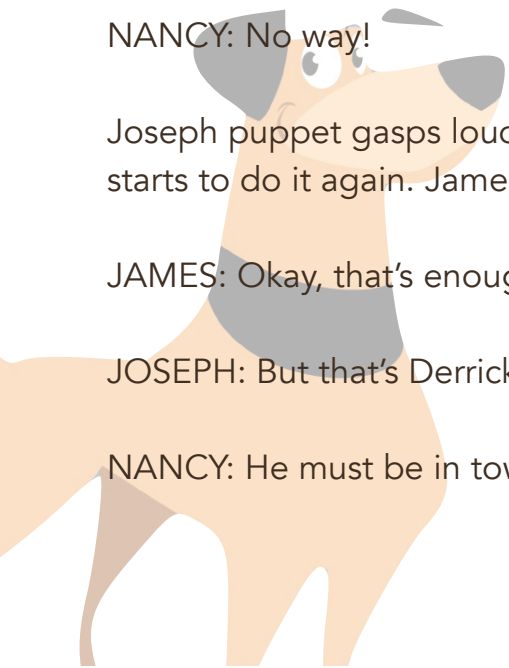
NANCY: No way!

Joseph puppet gasps loud and long until he's out of breath. He takes a big breath and then starts to do it again. James stops him.

JAMES: Okay, that's enough! You're going to pass out.

JOSEPH: But that's Derrick Betterman!

NANCY: He must be in town visiting family. Let's go talk to him.



Joseph puppets quickly moves in front of James and Nancy, between them and Derrick.

JOSEPH: Wait, wait, wait! You can't just talk to Derrick Betterman!

NANCY: Why not? He's just a person.

JOSEPH: Just a person?! Can a regular person run as fast as him?!

JAMES: Yes. Because he can. And he's a person.

JOSEPH: Okay, you're right about that. But still, he's a legend. He probably wouldn't even notice little nobodies like us were talking to him.

James passes Joseph, headed toward Derrick.

JAMES: Oh, come on. You're being ridiculous.

Joseph gasps and follows after James. Nancy follows as well.

JOSEPH: Wait, James. You can't just say anything. You have to play it cool.

James stops.

JAMES: Okay, fine. You say something.

JOSEPH (suddenly confident): Alright, I will.

Joseph cautiously approaches Derrick. He takes a deep breath.

JOSEPH: Hi.

DERRICK: Hi. How are you?

JOSEPH (babbling): Uh...me likey your racey things and stuffs.

Joseph drops his head, embarrassed. Derrick chuckles.

DERRICK (playing along): Well, me appreciates that. That's very nicey of you.



JAMES: You'll have to excuse him, he's a huge fan. I mean, we are too. But he's a little over the top about you.

DERRICK: That's okay. Always good to meet a fan. But I'm just a regular guy like you.

JOSEPH: How can you say that?! You've won three medals, competed in the Olympics, and traveled the world!

DERRICK: Well, that's true. But you can do things like that too if you really put your mind to it. Are you an athlete?

JOSEPH: Barely. I've tripped four times over the same hole in our track.

DERRICK: Ouch.

NANCY: But he's pretty fast!

JAMES: And trains hard.

DERRICK: Sounds like you've got a supportive team. That's one big piece. Nobody succeeds all on their own. It takes a team of helpers.

NANCY: Do you have any advice?

JOSEPH: I know. I bet you run 100 laps a day! Or an hour!

DERRICK: Not quite.

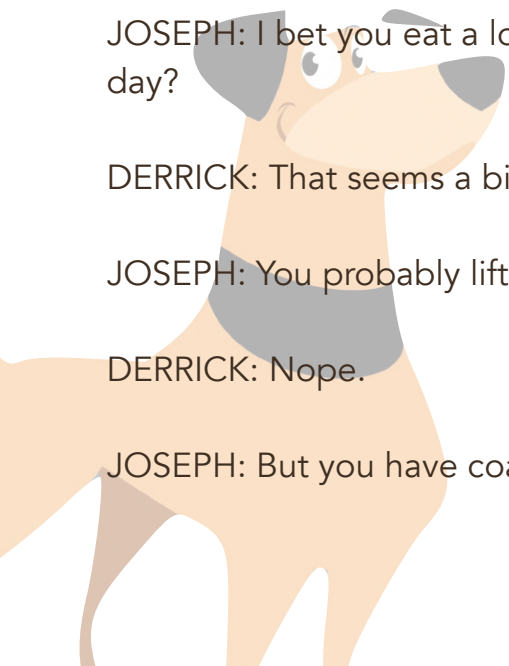
JOSEPH: I bet you eat a lot of protein, don't you?! Probably like three whole chickens a day?

DERRICK: That seems a bit much.

JOSEPH: You probably lift weights like six times a day!

DERRICK: Nope.

JOSEPH: But you have coaches! Probably like 50 of them!



DERRICK: Not that many.

JOSEPH: Do you do yoga? Meditation? How do you get your mind focused?

DERRICK: Well, I—

JOSEPH: You probably even dream about racing, don't you?

DERRICK: Sometimes. But—

Joseph gasps.

JOSEPH: You probably run with weights on, don't you? So you're really fast when you take them off? Or, no, maybe you tie a rope around your waist and pull a car! Or a bus! Or a giant gold statue of yourself!

Joseph gasps again then begs.

JOSEPH: Ooh. Can I touch the golden statue? Please?

DERRICK: Slow down, kid. There's no golden statue. And I think you're confusing me with Hercules or something. I definitely have good coaches, eat well, and train a lot. But there's another piece it sounds like you're missing.

JAMES: Part of his brain?

JOSEPH (sarcastically): Ha ha. Laugh it up.

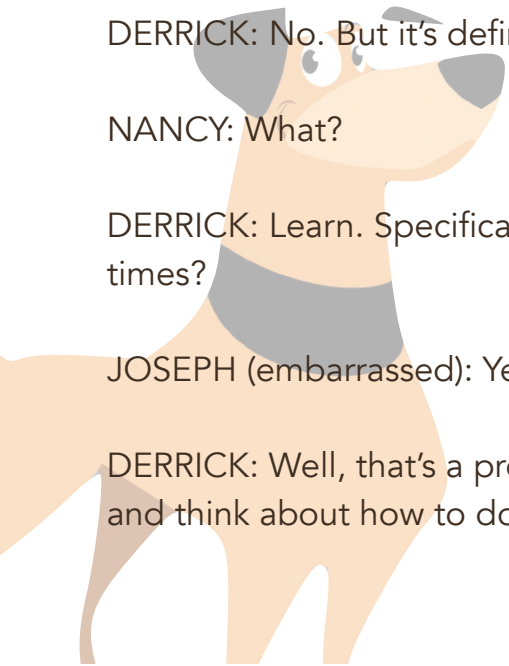
DERRICK: No. But it's definitely something you have to use your brain to do.

NANCY: What?

DERRICK: Learn. Specifically, from the past. You said you've tripped on the same hole four times?

JOSEPH (embarrassed): Yes.

DERRICK: Well, that's a problem. When you make a mistake, you have to look back on it and think about how to do it differently. We even watch films.



JOSEPH: Films? Oh, you mean like movies about great runners!

DERRICK: No, no, no. Films of my races. I watch them with my coaches and we talk about things I can do better next time. That's how you grow.

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH: I just feel like I may never get better, even if I do that. I've fallen so many times now that I honestly have thought about giving up.

NANCY: What? You never told us that.

JOSEPH: I didn't want to admit it.

DERRICK: You have two choices with failure and mistakes. You can let it bring you down or you can learn from it. Just like Saul of Tarsus.

JOSEPH: Who?

DERRICK: Saul of Tarsus, in the Bible. He once tried to stop Christians who followed Jesus. But then Jesus appeared to him while he was on the road to a city called Damascus when a light shined down from heaven around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice...

All puppets lower. Saul puppet rises and sits on his knees. Damascus light stick prop rises in front of him.

VOICE OF JESUS: Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

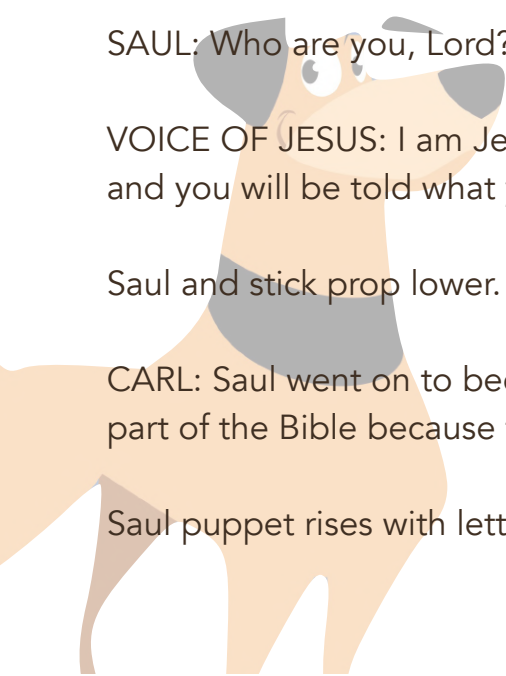
SAUL: Who are you, Lord?

VOICE OF JESUS: I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

Saul and stick prop lower. Carl puppet rises.

CARL: Saul went on to become a follower of Jesus! He wrote lots of letters that became part of the Bible because they were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Saul puppet rises with letter rubber band prop attached to his hand.



CARL: In a letter he wrote to a young man named Timothy, called 1 Timothy, in chapter 1, verses 12-14, he wrote...

SAUL (pretending to read the letter): I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Saul and Carl puppets lower.

Ice cream shop stick prop, Derrick, James, Joseph, and Nancy rise back in their previous spots.

DERRICK: So, you see, Saul made some mistakes. But in the end, he learned from those mistakes, changed, and did better, with God's help. And even if your mistake isn't something that's wrong, the lesson is still the same. When it comes to those mistakes, the most important thing is that we learn from them and try again to do better.

JOSEPH: You're right. I'm not going to quit. That hole can't stop me!

NANCY: You know what they say! Fifth times a charm!

JOSEPH: Very funny.

NANCY: I'm kidding. We believe in you, Joseph. You just have to believe in yourself, pick back up, and try again.

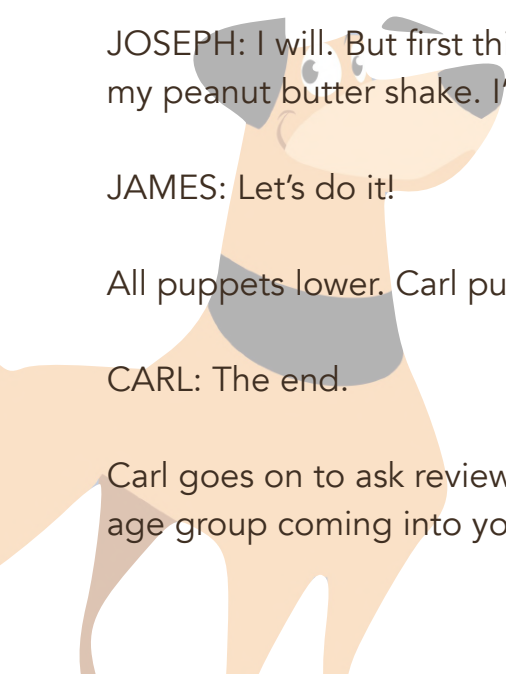
JOSEPH: I will. But first things first. I'm going to need a double scoop of peanut butter in my peanut butter shake. I'm going need the protein for all the work I'm about to put in!

JAMES: Let's do it!

All puppets lower. Carl puppet rises.

CARL: The end.

Carl goes on to ask review and discussion questions (be sure to adjust the language for the age group coming into your center).



QUESTIONS:

What mistake did Joseph keep making during the races?

What famous racer did Joseph, James, and Nancy meet?

What kinds of things did Joseph ask Derrick if he did to get ready for races?

What did Derrick say he did to get better at racing?

Which character in the Bible did Derrick use as an example of learning from our mistakes?

What did Saul of Tarsus do to Christians before he became one himself?

What city was Saul headed to when Jesus appeared to him?

How did Jesus appear to Saul?

What did Jesus tell Saul to do?

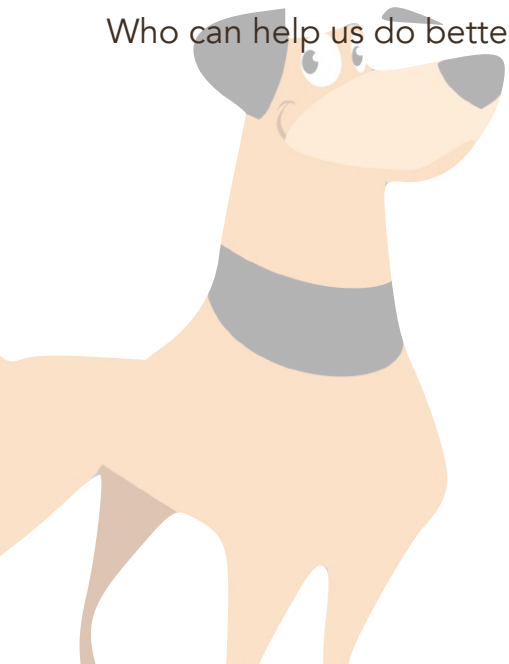
Did Saul listen?

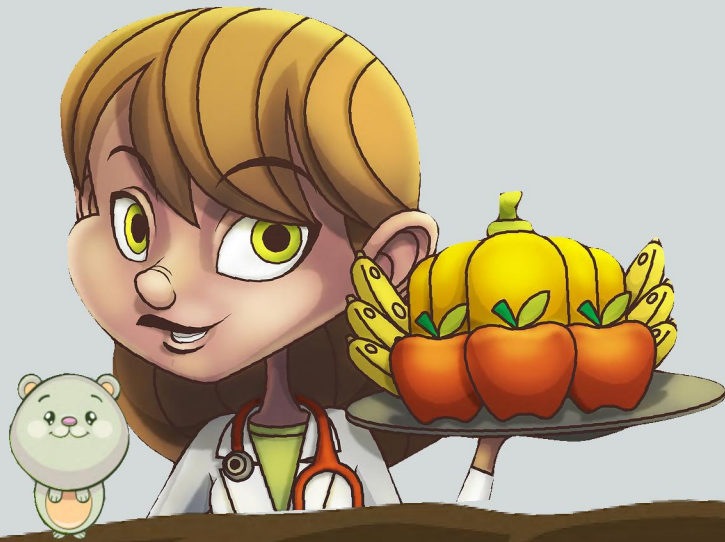
What kinds of things did Saul do later for Jesus?

What did Paul (Saul's name later) write about in 1 Timothy 1?

How can we learn from our mistakes?

Who can help us do better if we're willing to try again?





CRITTER CAFE

BIBLE FOOD & FUN

OLDER KIDS

Storm on Galilee

Edible Flat-Lay

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- sugar cookies, cut in half
- red licorice ropes
- triangle, cheese flavored tortilla chips
- bear graham crackers
- white icing
- blue sprinkles
- condiment cups or comparable item
- paper plates, napkins, and paper cups for water
- 5 index cards with the words: boat, water, storm, afraid, still

INTRODUCTION:

Ask the students to tell you some common fears that people have.

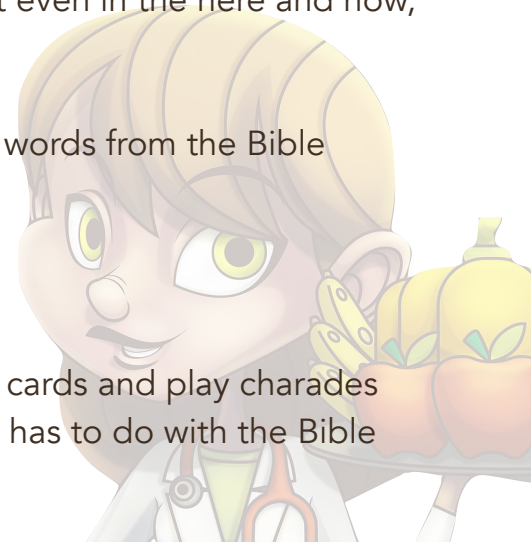
After a few students answer, tell them that one time, when Jesus and his disciples were out on a boat on the Sea of Galilee, a storm came up. Jesus was sleeping. But the disciples were afraid. Jesus was able to say to the storm, "be still!" and it stopped! There are different times when we are afraid too and Jesus can still help us today.

Talk to them about the peace we can have in Jesus through fear and worry. Jesus can rescue us from it! Because of the hope we have in Christ, no matter what happens in this life, we have a greater life to look forward to because of him! But even in the here and now, we can have peace from God.

Tell the students that they are going to play some charades with words from the Bible lesson about the disciples and their fear on the Sea of Galilee.

ACTIVITY:

Have students volunteer, one-at-a-time, to take one of the index cards and play charades with them. After they guess each one, have them tell you what it has to do with the Bible



lesson.

After they tell you what each word has to do with the Bible lesson, they earn one of the following:

- napkin, cup, and plate with a streak of icing across the bottom third horizontally (this will be the water for their ship later on (see below))
- half of a sugar cookie
- half of a red licorice rope
- 1 cheese flavored tortilla chip and a few bear graham crackers
- blue sprinkles in a condiment cup or comparable item

Tell the students that they are going to build a storm on Galilee.

First, have them shake their sprinkles onto the plate to cover the icing. Tell the students that shaking these sprinkles on the plate is like the chaos of the storm of Galilee. But after Jesus awoke and told it to be still, it was! Have them fold their plate slightly and shake the excess sprinkles back into their cup or into a trash can you carry around to them. Tell them the blue stripe on their plate is the Sea of Galilee and is now still and calm. The water won't even move!

Next, have them place the half sugar cookie laying flat on the plate like a ship, with the round side facing down and just touching the "water".

Next, have them arrange the red licorice piece like a mast and the triangle chip like a sail at the top of the mast.

Have them place the bear crackers on the ship to be disciples.

Afterward, let them eat!

DISCUSSION:-

While they eat, ask the students for any to share some of their fears. Talk about how God can help us through those different fears and talk about the difference between healthy and unhealthy fear when that comes up in their individual fears.





RESCUE ROUNDUP

BIBLE GAMES

TODDLER &
PRESCHOOL

Balance Beam

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

-2x4 board about 6-8 feet long

INTRODUCTION:

Ask the students to tell you some things that are really hard to do.

When things are hard to do, sometimes we mess up. Do you remember the bull in today's skit? What was he doing? He kept running into things and broke his horn. Sometimes we mess up. Maybe it's something we do that's bad. Maybe we just try so hard to do something and can't seem to do it.

But Jesus wants us to try again! And he wants to help us do better every time!

Let's play a game about that.

GAME TIME:

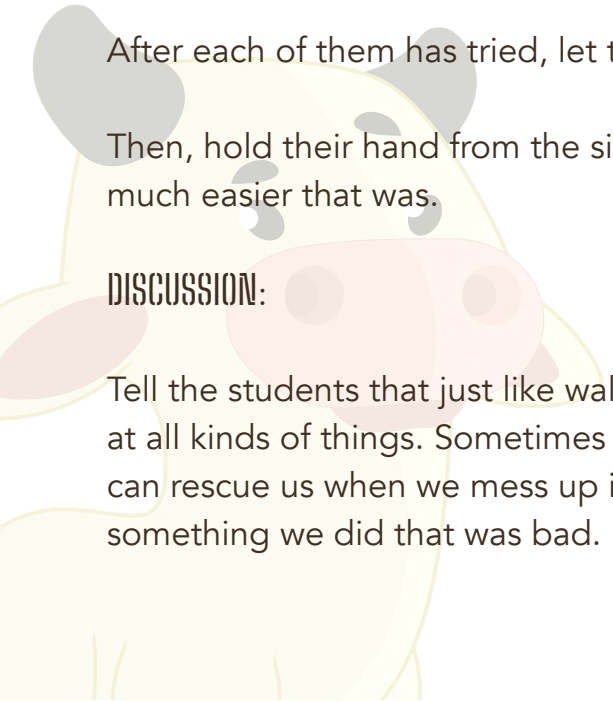
Let the students try to walk across the board with falling off. You can walk alongside of them in case someone goes to fall so no one gets hurt.

After each of them has tried, let them try again. Ask them if it was easier the second time.

Then, hold their hand from the side and let them walk holding your hand. Ask them how much easier that was.

DISCUSSION:

Tell the students that just like walking on that board and falling off, we sometimes mess up at all kinds of things. Sometimes we do bad things instead of good things too. But Jesus can rescue us when we mess up if we try again to do better and say we're sorry when it's something we did that was bad.





VET SCHOOL

LEARNING CENTER

YOUNGER KIDS

Jesus Raises Lazarus

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 2 rolls of toilet paper
- paper and decorating items for making cards (crayons, markers, pencils, stickers, etc.)
- whiteboard, blackboard, or posterboard and chalk or marker

WARM-UP:

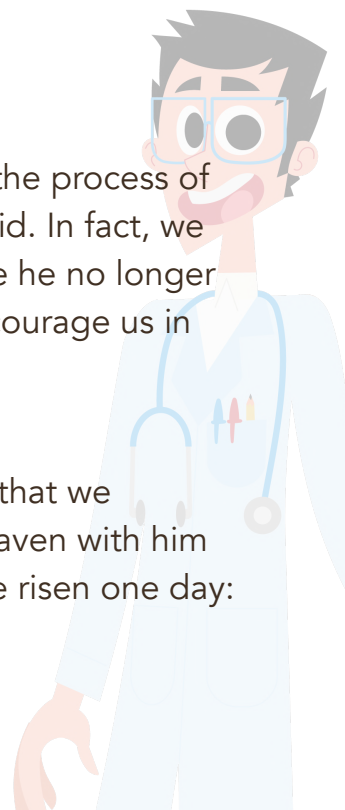
Get 4 student volunteers, two teams of two. One person on each team will be wrapped and the other will do the wrapping. This will be a classic race of making toilet paper mummies! The student being wrapped should take hold of the end of the toilet paper and hold their hands at the stomach. Then, they should spin while the other person holds the toilet paper and lets it wrap them up. If the toilet paper breaks, they have to stop spinning, tuck the end of the roll into the paper already on their body to secure it, and then start again.

The first team who finishes their toilet paper roll wins.

MAIN CONTENT:

Tell the students that mummies are often associated with ancient Egypt but the process of wrapping a body or putting on grave clothes wasn't something only Egypt did. In fact, we see someone in the Bible whose grave clothes were taken off. Why? Because he no longer needed them! And that story, the story of the raising of Lazarus, helps to encourage us in the face of death.

Jesus wants to rescue us from the fear of death. He rescues us from the fear that we sometimes have when we think about death if we don't have the hope of heaven with him (Hebrews 2:15). And he will rescue us from death in a literal way when we are risen one day:



READ 1 Corinthians 15:50-55

Sometimes, we might avoid talking about or thinking about death, which can actually make it scarier. If we thought about it more, we might get more used to the idea.

Some people just pretend like it's not going to happen. Alfred Krupp was apparently one of those guys who tried to ignore death. It has been said that everyone throughout his entire company was told they could not talk about it. He ran from his own house because a family member of his wife's suddenly died there. During his last sickness, he offered his doctor a million dollars to keep him alive. But that was impossible.

But God doesn't want us to always be afraid of death. He wants us to be able to have peace and faith, knowing the we have heaven to look forward to.

READ: Luke 17:11-17

Why do you think Jesus told the widow not to cry?

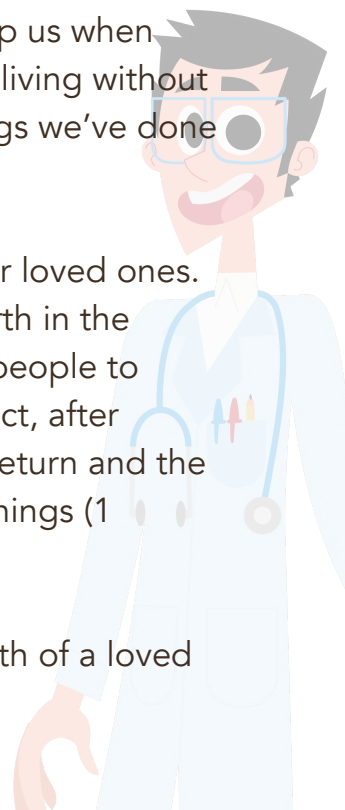
It might seem strange to some for Jesus to tell her not to cry, given that crying and sadness can be healthy and crying after a death is natural. Even Jesus did it! (John 11:35) It doesn't appear Jesus is discouraging healthy sadness. However, he speaks knowing what he is about to do that will end her tears.

What do you think it would have been like for those who were there and saw this happen?

The power of faith in Jesus and the hope of heaven still has the ability to help us when thinking about death. None of this is to say that there are no fears at all. But living without any hope and in fear of meeting God without being forgiven of the bad things we've done can be gone.

Since the beginning of time, after Adam and Eve sinned, death has taken our loved ones. But while we may be hurting, we are not alone. God himself has come to earth in the person of Jesus and died. He understands what it means to die and to lose people to death. But we are also not alone because God has given us the Church. In fact, after speaking to the people from the city of Thessalonica about when Jesus will return and the hope of being with God, he tells them to encourage each other with those things (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

What are some ways we can be there for someone who is sad about the death of a loved



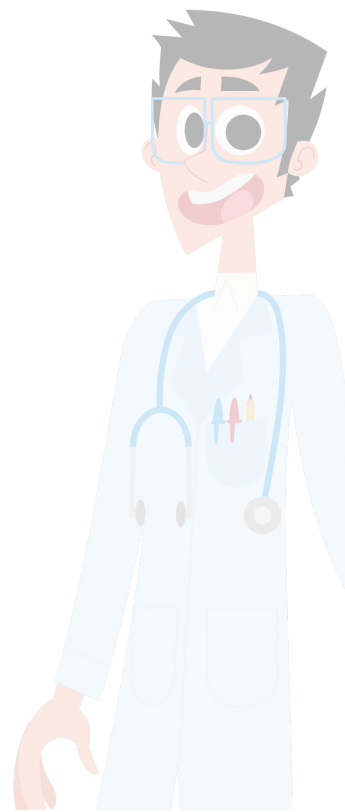
one?

Sadly, many people do not have the hope of Jesus rescuing them from death. This makes it all the more important that we reach out with the message of Jesus so that they too can know the hope that we have.

REINFORCE:

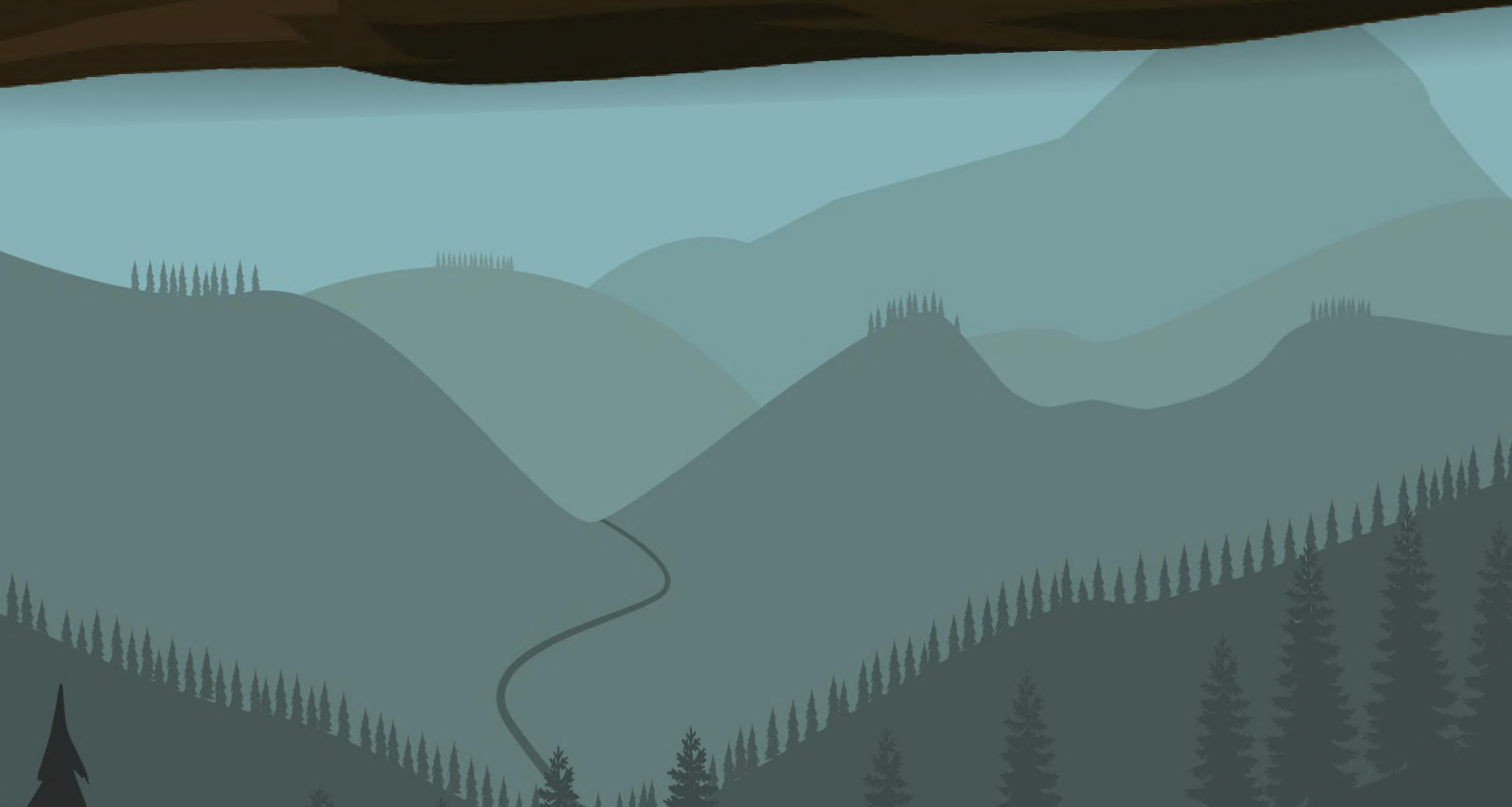
Provide paper and decorating items for making cards. Have the kids make cards to encourage someone at your congregation or in their own families who has lost a loved one. Ensure these cards get where they need to go.

While they work, review the lesson.





ADULTS LESSONS



Jesus Rescues Us from Loneliness

WARM-UP:

A Thousand Words Game: most of us are all familiar with the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words”. You’re going to start class with a warm-up exercise of drawing terms and trying to “draw” a connection between them.

Have someone volunteer to pull one of the following words from a box and draw it on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or even large poster board without talking. The audience will try to guess what they are drawing. You may choose to set a timer for them to guess if you wish:

- broken leg
- running a fever
- headache
- bandage
- vomit

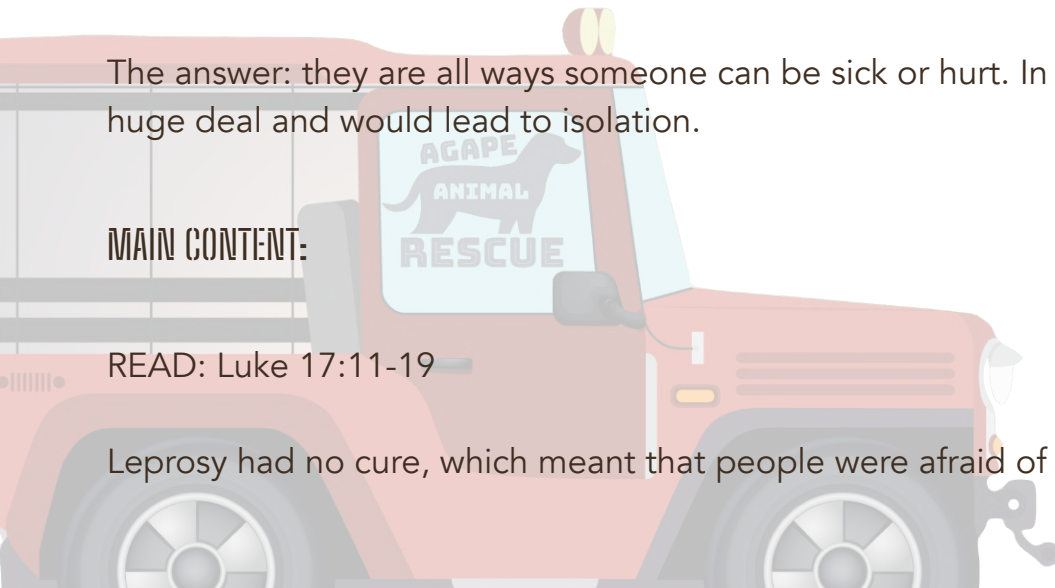
Have volunteers draw each of the terms in the box. After each one, write it on the board. When all of the terms have been drawn, ask the class what connection they think you are trying to draw from these terms.

The answer: they are all ways someone can be sick or hurt. In Jesus’ day, leprosy was a huge deal and would lead to isolation.

MAIN CONTENT:

READ: Luke 17:11-19

Leprosy had no cure, which meant that people were afraid of catching the disease. This



meant lepers had to live away from family and friends (Leviticus 13:35-36). They had to cry out, “unclean, unclean!” when they came near anyone so people would know to stay away. What do you think life separated from people was like?

Being healed by Jesus in this passage meant more than just not having the physical disease anymore. It also meant they could worship in the temple again. They could walk among people, go to the marketplace, hug their family and friends, etc.

Loneliness is something many people struggle with. During the medical quarantine of 2020, people responded in different ways to the growing isolation. For example, in Derbyshire, UK, at one point, at a certain time of day, everyone came out and started mooing. In towns in Canada and the Western US, some people walked out of their houses late at night and started howling. Seniors in nursing homes were becoming DJs. The online radio show Radio Recliner featured only elderly nursing home residents as DJs.

While those examples may put smile on our faces, other ways isolation affected us are not so happy. While it was amplified for some during the quarantine, we aren't new to loneliness. What are some different ways people cope with it?

People turn to technology and the internet to find companionship. Or to pornography to fantasize that they are wanted. Or to drugs or alcohol to dull the pain and find people who share our problem. Or clubs, social groups, sports teams, hobbies, to avoid loneliness. But we can be lonely in a crowd.

One definition of loneliness is *“the feeling of not being meaningfully related.”* It's not the same thing as being alone—you can feel lonely in a crowd. It's feeling that you're not “meaningfully related” to people, to enough people, to the right people.

Because we have sometimes associated loneliness with being a loner or an outcast, we can be afraid to admit that we're struggling with it, which of course, continues to make us feel isolated, making things even worse. But we aren't the first people to feel alone and Jesus wants to rescue us from loneliness!

READ: 1 Kgs 19:8-10

75 years. That's a long time to be married. Charles was 100 years old, Sara was 98 years old when they celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. The Rippeys met in grade school and were together ever since. Even in death, they did it together. After wildfires ravaged their community, one of their sons discovered their bodies. Charles fought through the intense

heat and smoke and almost made it to his wife's side. His son found their remains near each other. Only metal & porcelain survived in the charred remains of their home—coffee cups, a porcelain tea set, and 2 metal chairs side-by-side.

One of the reasons that their story makes us smile is because we all long for a connection like that. But for some, the idea of deep connection with others can also be frightening. One of our greatest fears is that others will not like us. That's why we dress to conform, act to conform, and are more concerned with who "likes" who than anything else in our lives. We fear being unpopular and learn not to risk loving people or seeking their love. We'd rather be lonely. Some learn to fear their rejection above all else. We are afraid to love and seek love because we may be rejected.

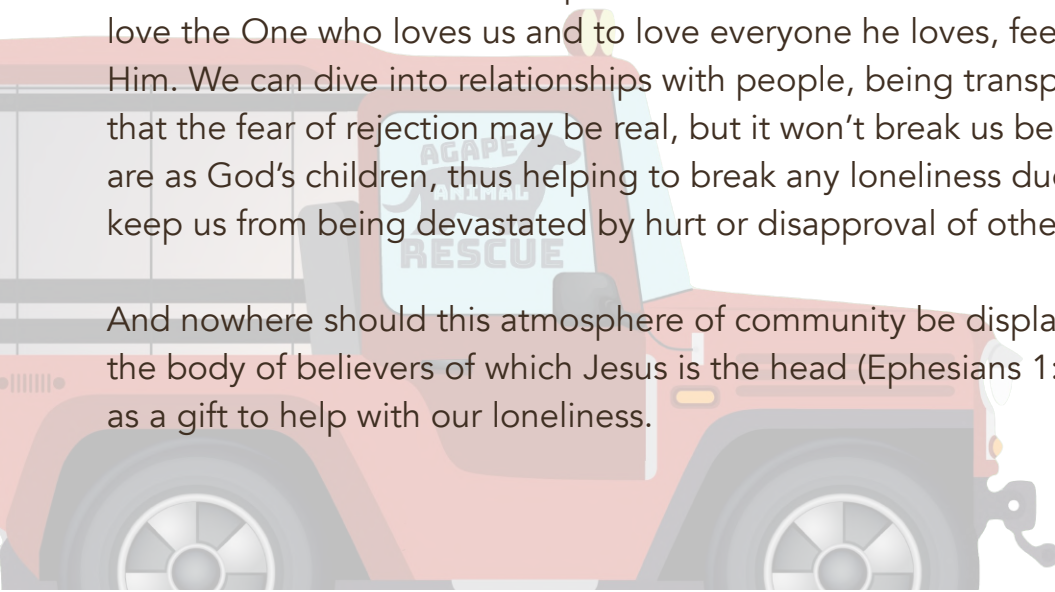
This is why it's so crucial that we find our identity and security in the love of God to help us love and be loved by others better and handle rejection and human disappointment without being destroyed. Because of God's love for us, which we see in Jesus (Romans 5:8), we can know that we are secure, loved, and valuable apart from anything anyone else may do to us or think about us.

It's interesting that God leads Elijah all the way to Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God (vs. 8). This is the same place Moses saw the burning bush where God said he had seen the affliction of his people and not forsaken them. It's the same place God gave Moses the Law and declared Israel as his treasured possession:

READ: Exodus 19:3-6

The starting place for solving loneliness is a genuine relationship with our Father. When we understand how deeply and passionately we are loved by our Father, as is evidenced most profoundly in the person of Jesus Christ, God entering flesh to go to the cross for us, we are freed from the need to impress others in order to find value and worth. We are freed to love the One who loves us and to love everyone he loves, feeling secure in our identity in Him. We can dive into relationships with people, being transparent and ourselves, knowing that the fear of rejection may be real, but it won't break us because we're secure in who we are as God's children, thus helping to break any loneliness due to walls we've created to keep us from being devastated by hurt or disapproval of others.

And nowhere should this atmosphere of community be displayed more than in the Church, the body of believers of which Jesus is the head (Ephesians 1:22), and which he gives to us as a gift to help with our loneliness.



Humans weren't the only ones whose routines were thrown off during the 2020 quarantine. Fungie, a dolphin living off the coast of Ireland since 1983, is normally surrounded by tourists and photographers. With the lockdown, he started hanging around fishing boats leaving port, maybe hoping for a treat. So fisherman Jimmy Flannery headed out twice a day on a boat to keep him company.

Does it feel like a parable? When we find ourselves in an environment where we lack interaction, we can find ourselves wondering from place to place to find it and fill the hole. God made us in his image and likeness. He made us for relationships with himself and others. Nothing has changed. We need each other.

One of the most life-giving dimensions of Christianity is its emphasis on solidarity. The church in the New Testament is collective—a vine with many branches (John 15:5), a body with many members (1 Cor. 12:27), God's word calls us to *"bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"* (Gal. 6:2).

Notice this type of atmosphere that Paul describes as ideal for God's people:

READ: Ephesians 4:25-32

Let's take this even further: beyond these core strategies of grounding ourselves in a relationship with God, finding our identity in him, & connecting with his people, what are some other ways we can help with loneliness?

Here are some suggestions:

-if your loneliness is chronic or possibly related to issues relationally or traumatic or difficult things that have triggered these feelings, you might could use someone professional who is trained to counsel you. Don't be ashamed to seek help! God has blessed us with great services from people with those talents and qualifications.

-you may need to take a break from social media. It can affect us negatively in multiple ways here:

-One way is to disconnect us from true, meaningful relationships in favor of just digital ones

-another is that we can be on devices instead of talking to people right in front of us

-another is that it can make us feel left out from things going on or make us feel like everyone else is doing well and we aren't if people are only posting the

good things. You may need to enlist someone else who will lovingly push you to do that.

-Slow down. When we're overbusied, overworked, schedules are too full, we can become disconnected from people.

-be there for someone else. We're not the only ones struggling with it and when we reach out to someone else, we will mutually benefit. Though we shouldn't give just to get, as a general rule, as we love, we are loved. As we offer grace, we find it. As we serve, we are served.

-find like-minded peers who enjoy the same things you do. This might be looking up a group that shares your hobbies or asking around Church for people who might share your interests. Of course, Church in itself provides us with the most meaningful commonalities there are in Christ. But you can also find people who share your hobbies and likes. Remember that often loneliness isn't about not having friends but not having meaningful connection.

-redeem alone time. Expect to be alone at times, and to feel lonely. Then choose to redeem time alone to produce meaningful connection with God rather than chronic loneliness. Henri Nouwen said: *"To live a spiritual life, we must first find the courage to enter into the desert of loneliness and to change it by gentle and persistent efforts into the garden of solitude."* Use alone time to read Scripture, to pray, to journal about how you're feeling, to sing praises, to be in nature and see the beauty of what God has created and then remind yourself of David's words after looking into creation: (Ps. 8:3-4), & remember who you are in God's eyes and how valuable he has made you above the rest of creation.

So many inspiring moments take place during competitions as fierce as the Olympics. But some of the most inspiring have nothing to do with athleticism and everything to do with sportsmanship and personal struggle/endurance. Olympic sprinter Derek Redmond massively injured his hamstring midway through his race in the 1992 Barcelona games. He started hopping toward the finish line as he boldly tried to finish the race, even though he had no hope of winning a medal. Even more touching is what Redmond's father did next. Jim Redmond leapt out of the stands and shook off security guards as he ran to help his son reach his goal. The picture of a father holding up his son as he wept in pain and disappointment makes it one of the most inspiring moments in Olympic history.

This is a clear visual of the raw, messy, beautiful lengths we go to in order to show our love for someone. We like to identify with the father but there are times we are the runner and in need of help. We like to pretend we can go on by ourselves sometimes but there are people in God's family who can help us and are willing to hold us up and help us in time of need. This is a gift God has given us through the Church and is one of the primary ways Jesus rescues us from loneliness.

REINFORCE:

Using the phrases from Bible verses at the bottom, one-at-a-time, draw lines on the board for each letter, making a puzzle to be guessed. Divide the class into two sides to make two teams. Have someone from team one guess a letter. If the letter is on the board, write it above all the lines that correspond to it, filling in the words. Record a point for team one on the board. If the letter that is guessed is not in the puzzle, record a point for the opposing team. Write the guessed letter at the bottom of the board regardless so that everyone remembers what has already been guessed.

Move to team two and have someone guess another letter. Repeat this process until a team can solve the puzzle instead of guessing a letter. Teams should not yell out the solved puzzle until it is their team's turn. Also, if a team guesses the puzzle incorrectly (saying any part of it incorrectly), their team loses that round. The goal is to be the team that solves the puzzle.

After each puzzle is solved, discuss where this passage of Scripture comes from and how it relates to the lesson. How can we learn from this passage?

PHRASES:

"Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal..." (from 1 Kings 19:18)

"Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" (from Luke 17:17)

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." (from Hebrews 13:5)

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)