



My Community

Mentor Information

The community of 24-36 month old children has grown noticeably over the past year as they become more involved in child centered activities. Their world now includes more than family. Children are now in relationship with people who are influencing their lives that are outside of their family. A child's knowledge of self and others is developed through these interactions and they are rapidly observing and experiencing the value of others. Children this age have an innate drive to explore and grow within this community. Anchored in their primary relationships with God and family, children can expand the circle of their community.

Purpose

To give parents an understanding of the role other people play in the life of their children

Child/Family/Faith Formation

- Children are most powerfully influenced by the primary relationships of faith and family
- At this age the circle of community naturally expands as opportunities for activities and relationships increase

Word

The context, connection and related conversation in this meeting are found in the scripture of Matthew 4:18-22

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Context

- When Jesus called the disciples, they left their fishing and their families and followed Jesus into a new community of friends
- Through these new relationships, the disciples became who God called them to be

Connections

- As children grow, they too will be invited into new communities of friendship
- Through these new relationships, children can expand their understanding of who they are

Conversation

- Who in your community has shaped your understanding of who you are?
- How did your community change when you had a child?
- How did your identity in you community change when you had a child?
- How do you see your child's community shaping their identity?



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For this meeting you will need:

- ☐ Flipchart
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Copy of the book: The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories (2005)
- ☐ One large circle cut from card stock for each family
- ☐ 8-12 card stock hand shapes for each family
- ☐ Glue or glue stick for each family
- ☐ 24-30 large beads of different shapes, sizes and colors for each family.
- ☐ String for beads



My Community

Allow 15 minutes
for the Gathering.

Gathering

Begin the meeting with the Passing of the Peace.

Say: ***The peace of the Lord be with you all.***

Group responds: ***And also with you.***

Use the questions below to continue.

- Are there any milestones that took place for your family that you would like to share?
- How has faith been a part of your life since we last met?

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22

For the scripture read: Jesus Chooses His Disciples to the children.

(Beginner's Bible, page 308)

Engaging the Word

Ritual

Just as God cares for you there are also many other people who care about you. All of the people in your life help you learn and grow. Jesus called his Disciples to tell them about God. The people in your life are people who can also tell you about God. With the help of your mom or dad, you are now going to think about all of the people who are in your life and celebrate the gifts they each bring to you.

Allow 20 minutes
for the Ritual.

Pass out the circle and 8-12 hand shapes to each family and say:

On each hand, ask your mom or dad to write the names of each person who loves and cares for you. When you are finished, glue the hands around the circle.

When everyone is finished, ask each family to share something about the community who loves and cares for their child.



My Community

Connecting the Word

You just celebrated the people in your life. All of these people are a gift from God. As you grow you will have more and more people in your life—all who be like the disciples—they will be your helpers.

Celebrating the Word

Begin the activity by saying:

One of the ways you can honor the people in your life is to pray and thank God for them. You are special to all of these people just as you are to God. You are now going to make a prayer necklace with a bead for each special person in your life.

Pass out beads and string to each family. Ask parents to guide their children in making the prayer necklace. Remind parents to have their children place a bead on the necklace to represent God.

When everyone has finished ask families to share their prayer necklace with the group.

Allow 25 minutes
for this activity.

Make your own
prayer bead
necklace as the
children make
theirs. Use your
necklace in the
sending as an
example for how
children can use it
to pray.

Sending

Ask the children to hold their prayer necklaces as you pray with yours.