

ACTIVITY #1

Materials: Blindfold, large marshmallows and a grocery sack

It's the Marshmallow Toss Game! Player #1 is blindfolded and holds ten marshmallows. Their goal is to get marshmallows into the bag. Player #2 holds the bag and wants to be helpful. But they can only whisper and must stand still wherever the rest of the players place them. The rest of the players try to confuse Player #1 with wrong advice about where to throw (without touching Player #1 or the Marshmallows). Go! When player one is out of marshmallows, trade places and try again.

A Thought to Ponder: This game was a lot like listening for God's voice. Sometimes there are many different voices to listen to, but you have to work hard at hearing God's voice. Was it frustrating that the helpful voice was only whispering when the other voices were loud? We have to listen carefully for God's voice, because so many other voices can get in the way.

ACTIVITY #2

Materials: penny, glass, water

Do you know whose picture is on this penny? I wonder how many people were able to see or imagine Abraham Lincoln being the President of The United States when he was only a boy. Let's put this coin under the glass. Still see him? Ok. Now, Let's fill the glass with water to represent all the years of his life before he became president. Can you still see the image of Mr. Lincoln? (Let them answer.) You are right. When we look directly down into the glass, the water changes the angle at which the light is reflected into our eyes. When looking from the side of the glass, we can't see him at all. Now, focus your eyes directly down into the glass. A long-term perspective comes from seeing how he was supposed to end up. God sees us the same way. He sees our whole life at once before it has even happened. To get a better glimpse of God's perspective, we need to look directly at Him through reading His word daily to learn His thoughts and by talking to Him in prayer. Let's pray right now that God will help us to see His perspective and help us to think like He does.

ACTIVITY #3

Materials: Bible, ice cream, banana split toppings

Play a short guessing game of any kind where the prizes are the toppings for a banana split. In the end, each person should win a "prize." After the game, take out a family-sized portion of ice cream for yourself and announce that everyone may start eating his or her own dessert. Comment on how plain it is to eat the ice cream all by itself. Ask leading questions to encourage each person to choose to contribute his/her item to create family banana splits for everyone with all the toppings. As you were blessed with a part of the dessert, you had a chance to bless others with what you had been given.

ACTIVITY #4

Materials: One piece of paper and scissors for everyone

Hold up a piece of paper. Ask the children how many corners the paper has. (Have the children count them out loud.) Blessing someone is like me giving a corner of this paper.) I gave "Ann" only one corner of my paper, but how many corners do I have left? (Count them out loud.) There are now five corners. Now how many corners does "Ann" have? I only gave one corner of my paper away, but it became three corners that "Ann" received. Now "Ann" can keep her corner and still give away two. (Have the child cut two corners from her triangle and give it to two other family members.) With surprise say, "But wait!" Now "Ann" has five corners and they each now have three and I still have more corners of my own to give away! (Have everyone cut corners from their paper till everyone has a corner from each person.) Could you give away a corner without receiving one? How does this remind us of God's promises about blessing? God wants us to use what He gives us to bless others. When we are obedient to God's will, God continues to multiply back blessings to us. What do you have right now that God wants you to bless someone else with?