

JOURNEY IN... YEAR ONE

COMMUNITY

KINESTHETIC

This lesson's Big Ideas:

- In a Beloved Community, every individual both brings to and takes from the community something unique and valuable.
- We are more together than we are separately.

Lesson Materials

- Lengths of cardboard tubing or PVC pipe, 1-2 feet in length, diameter allows a marble to roll freely.
- Marble
- Bucket
- Earth-like beach ball or soft ball
- Metal or plastic ring, about 8 inches in diameter.
- 10 to 12 lengths of rope about 5 feet long each, tied to ring
- 2 Mats (posterboard) representing polluting and caring communities

TEACHER REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

🕒 Ahead of time

Unity is not something we are called to create; it's something we are called to recognize.

- William Sloan Coffin

The moving finger of God in human history points ever in the same direction. There must be community.

- Howard Thurman

Our lives extend beyond our skins, in radical interdependence with the rest of the world.

- Joanna Macy

...it starts when you say We and know who you mean, and each day you mean one more.

- Marge Piercy

- What do you bring to your church community? What parts of yourself do you offer up?
- What do you take away when you leave church? What are the blessings of this place and its people?

GATHERING AND FOCUSING

🕒 2-3 minutes

- Sharing of body skills—Going around the circle, ask each child to share something interesting that they can do with their bodies. Maybe they can do a handstand or hum and whistle at the same time or roll their tongue. How many people in the group can do the same thing?

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LESSON

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YOUR FIELD EXPERIENCES: FEEDBACK AND NOTES

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**PRIMARY ACTIVITY ONE
THE HUMAN MACHINE**

⌚ 10-15 minutes

This is a theatre warm-up game. It might take a couple tries for the younger kids to catch on, but once they do, it will be all fun.

- Explain that we are all going to become parts of a joyful, crazy machine. We won't know what it does, but it will sure be busy.
- Each person will select a motion and a sound effect. We'll add one person to the machine at a time. The only rules are 1.) that we have to be safe and avoid making anyone else uncomfortable and 2.) that our motion interacts with someone else's motions. For example, if someone is lifting their right leg up and down, I might swing my arm underneath it. This way, our machine will be integrated and have a rhythm.
- Once everyone is incorporated, let the 'machine' run for a minute.

Wondering Together

- I wonder if this game is anything like a real community of people working together?
- I wonder what our machine's purpose would be?
- I wonder what you know about the purpose of our church?

**PRIMARY ACTIVITY TWO
COOPERATIVE MARBLE TRANSPORT**

⌚ 10-15 minutes

The goal of this activity is to get a marble to a bucket on the far side of the room. The rules are:

1. No one can touch the marble with their hands.
2. The marble can't touch the floor.
3. Everyone in the room has to help somehow.

- Each team member will have a length of PVC pipe or cardboard tube. Ask the kids how they'll have to cooperate to get the marble to the bucket across the room. How can everyone help? Is there more than one way to do it?
- The Workshop Leader will start the marble so that no one has to touch it. The tricky part is that once the marble is in the tube, you

can't see it any more.

- If kids can't think of an idea on their own, suggest that they can make a long tube out of their many short tubes. Kids can move around and leapfrog the line as many times as is necessary to get the job done.

Wondering Together

- What are some good things about working as a group?
- Did everyone use the same technique to move the marble along?
- I wonder if someone was a leader? I wonder if someone was an encourager? I wonder if people did different helpful things to get the job done?
- If somebody in our community gets frustrated or discouraged, what's the best way for us to respond?
- What are some things that people in our church are working together to accomplish?

PRIMARY ACTIVITY THREE

SAVE THE WORLD

🕒 10-15 minutes

The goal of this activity is to rescue the earth from people who make choices that pollute and degrade the Earth and put it into the hands of a community of people who care, like us!

- To prepare for this activity, place the two mats across the room from one another. Lay the ring with its ropes on the 'polluter' mat, spreading the ropes out and set the Earth ball on its ring.
- The kids' task is to cooperatively lift the Earth using the ring and ropes and carry it to the new mat and place it safely down. They'll have to communicate to keep the ropes slack or taut and to walk carefully across the room.

Wondering Together

- I wonder if one person could have played this game alone? Two people? Three?
- I wonder what sorts of things are easier or more enjoyable to do in a community?
- I wonder how do leaders help their communities get things done?
- I wonder what big things our church could do in the future with everyone working together?

CLOSING AND LEAVE-TAKING

🕒 2 minutes

Hold hands, forming a circle. Have the children repeat each line after you, chorally.

In this community, we give and we receive.

May we go forth, now,
to share the bounty of our love.

- Sydney Kay Wilde