

Lead on ... Session Eight

We are all special!

Aim: To realise that God has a special place and special jobs for each one of us.

Preparation: Using spatulas or lolly sticks, with a card picture glued onto the top of each. You will need a foot, hand, ear, eye, mouth and head. Create a set of 'puppets' with these.

Prepared sheets of paper to make into cards, pairs of blunt-nosed scissors, crayons, felt-tips, coloured paper, small attractive remnants of material, lace, ribbon, etc. glue sticks.

Warm up Activity: 'Create a story.' Sit in a circle. The leader explains that she will begin a story and then we will all take turns to add on, the person sitting next to her to go next and then following round the circle till everyone has had a chance. The leader begins an exciting story. S/he says a few sentences, builds the picture quickly and then stops half way through a dramatic moment (e.g. 'and there stood ...').

The next child says a sentence or two – and then the story is taken up by the following child – until all have had a chance. The initiating leader then draws the story to a quick and satisfying conclusion.

Discuss how each person added something different to the story. Each one of us is different and we add something different in life that is special.

Looking at the Bible: Create a simple 'puppet show' based on 1 Corinthians 13: 12-30. With older children, continue by reading Romans 12: 4-8

Discussion:

Help the children to discuss what was the message that the 'puppets' were telling us:
Are we all the same?

Imagine if we all looked exactly the same and were good at doing the same things – how would that be? Why?

Is one job more important than another?

Guide children to see that we all need to work in harmony, like each part of the body. Discuss how it is hard to get on with what you want to do if you have a stone in your shoe or a thorn in your foot. If one part of the body isn't working as it should, it affects the rest of the body.

Encourage the children to identify what they are good at, reminding them that each thing is important. (Before the session, make sure you have spent time thinking of the qualities of each child, so that you can encourage them at what they have to offer, if they have difficulty identifying for themselves what they are gifted at. Even a friendly smile is a very important gift that can help others to feel welcome!)

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the gifting of each one (naming specifically). Ask Him to help us use our gifts to be a blessing to others.

Activity: Ask the children to suggest a particular mini-project, which you as a group could undertake to be a blessing to others. This might be a small project for a particular charity or mission, or choosing to prepare a song, banner or something else within the church. Plan how each one will be involved. (You might need to take a session to prepare this. Ensure that any project has the blessing of your church leadership and that you have dealt with any safety/ insurance/ parents' permission issues.)

Use the rest of the session to create cards that can be used as a blessing, an encouragement or as a 'thank you', related to the project you hope to do. (Or the cards could be the project in itself).

Conclusion: Encourage each child to show the group the card s/he made. Express how each one is different / unique / special in its own way because God has made each one of us unique/ different /special.