



ORANGE GROUP IDEAS

MAIN IDEAS FOR THE NIGHT

God wants us to be the kinds of people who look for the good in others and in every circumstance, instead of pointing out and criticizing what isn't good or what we don't like. We should pray the same kinds of blessings for people that we hope others are praying for us.

KEY VERSE:

The whole law is fulfilled by obeying this one command: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." 15 If you say or do things that harm one another, watch out! You could end up destroying one another
Galatians 5:14-15 (NIRV)

ICE BREAKERS

Orange Group Leader: Please read the following suggested ice breaking activities for your first meeting. Choose the icebreaker that you believe will work best for your group.

Solo Cup Pyramid Challenge

(This is an awesome and active ice breaker that leads beautifully into this week's main idea. Thus, you will find it described below in that section of the material. Use it whenever you wish to do so.)

Affirming Words

Before giving everyone a name tag for the evening, do this ice breaker to encourage everyone.

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING: Name tags for everyone (available at Welcome Desk in MCC's Foyer); a marker; a "recorder" who can print clearly; a timekeeper – beware that this ice breaker will take about 1 minute for every two people in your group.

WHAT TO DO: Designate one person around the group circle to be "It" for 20 seconds. Have the "recorder" write the person's name on a name tag. For the next 20 seconds, everyone in the room is invited to speak out an affirming word that describes that person (Ex. happy, wise, handsome, funny, smart, etc.) Don't go around the circle, just have people speak it out. The recorder should write as many of these affirming words as will fit onto the name tag, around the person's name. Give the name tag to that individual to wear for the remainder of the night and have the group move on to the next person.

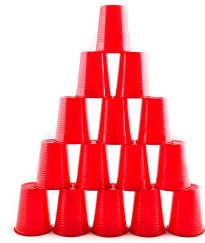


ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE MAIN IDEAS:

SOLO CUP PYRAMID CHALLENGE

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:

30 plastic solo cups, two end tables (or a single table at least 5-6 ft. wide with easy access to both ends), two to four bean bags (or corn hole bags) or tennis balls.



HOW TO PLAY:

Divide the group into two teams and position each team at either end of the table(s). The object is for each team to attempt to be first to build their solo cup pyramid (see figure at right). The first team to build its tower wins. BUT, each team builder has the option of tearing down the opposing team's tower by throwing a bag (or ball) at it. If a team's tower is knocked down, that team's builder must pick up all of the cups and place them on the table and forfeits his/her turn to his next teammate. Likewise, the person who throws the ball and knocks down the tower also stops building and must retrieve the ball from the other side, return it to his own team, and allow his next teammate to start building.

The moment one team completes its pyramid, everyone on the team must shout "WE HAVE BUILT A PYRAMID!" All play stops and no balls can be thrown. If the pyramid is complete and remains standing, the team has won that round!

THE POINT:

Point out the fact that it was much easier to tear down the other team's tower than it was to build one of your own. And if your team spent all of its time tearing down other team's tower, it would never accomplish its own goals. It's the same for us. It's much easier to criticize other people (tearing them down) than it is to focus on our own growth and development. And while it may make us feel better about ourselves to criticize others, it is a poor substitute for true progress in our own lives. God does not want us to tear other people down with our words, but instead to build them up.

DO YOU MEASURE UP?

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:

A measuring tape at least 7 ft. long; post-it notes (one for each adult & child); pen; candy as a prize (have two or three available)

HOW TO PLAY:

Everyone (adults & kids) takes a turn being measured for height using the measuring tape. Each person's first name and height is written on his/her post-it note. Then, put the post-it notes on a host-approved wall or door with the top-edge of the note at the height that's written on it. (See example.) The game leader then announces the winner, which is determined by whoever's first name is longest! (If there's a tie, either award all the winners with candy or use the length of last names to break the tie.)



SAY: Most of you expected that the tallest person, or perhaps the shortest person, would win, right? When we look at the wall we see how well we "measure up" to everyone else by height. It's really easy to point out where other people fall short, mess up, or don't measure up to what WE THINK they should be like or do, isn't it. Our old world always sends children and moms & dads the message that they just don't measure up to what it says is "perfection." But God looks at us all individually and doesn't measure us the way people do (just like in our activity).

THE POINT: God doesn't want us to be the kind of people who walk around sizing up everyone else and criticizing them for the ways that they fall short. No, he wants us to use our mouths to build up and encourage others. We can even pray for them when they know that they've not measured up to God's desire for them. The Bible calls this "speaking life" to others rather than "speaking death".

Let's say our verse together: *Proverbs 18:21a "The tongue has the power of life and death."* God help us to always use our tongues to encourage and to build others up!



FIVE-FINGER PRAYER

(Leader Tip: You may wish to break the group up into family units for this activity that is intended to help children learn how to pray for others.)

Have your child hold out one hand. Each finger from the thumb to the pinky can be used to represent someone in their life for whom to pray. For example:

The thumb: Pray for someone close to them — perhaps a family member.

The index finger: Say a prayer for someone who points them in the right direction, perhaps a teacher or a babysitter.

The middle finger: Pray for someone who is in a position of leadership, like the president of our country, your governor or your pastor.

The ring finger: Say a prayer for a kid who is having family problems. Perhaps his mom and dad are experiencing marriage problems. Pray for the healing of their relationship.

The pinky finger: Pray for a friend and for himself.



PRAYER BY HEIGHT

(Parents may wish to try this activity at home this week with their children. It's another way to make praying for others seem fun or creative.)

Little kids are very observant. Use their natural bent as a fun way to have them pray for people in their lives based on the person's height. One day have them pray for those in their life, starting from the tallest to the shortest person. The next day reverse the order—the shortest to the tallest person is the order of their prayers.