

and the forgiveness pictures on the other side of the Bible study space. Discuss the distance between confession and forgiveness. Create a cross to connect the confession and forgiveness pictures. You may have the campers create the cross out of materials around them, using their bodies, drawing on the ground, using tape, or any other way to create a cross. Discuss how the cross reconciles us and builds a bridge between our confession and how we are forgiven. Emphasize that this is not by what we have done, but by what Christ has done for us on the cross.

Human pyramid

J S

Have the campers work together to build a human pyramid. To limit the risk of injury, try this exercise with campers lying down rather than on their hands and knees. For increased difficulty, try this exercise blindfolded or without speaking. Afterward, discuss the different roles each person played to build the pyramid. How did each person work together to support the whole group? Confession to another person can be helpful to our feeling of forgiveness.

The potter's hands

U J S A I

Materials and Preparation: Playdough or modeling clay, Bible. Decide whether the campers will keep their creations or not.

Invite someone in the group to read aloud Jeremiah 18:1-6. Explain that God is addressing the nation of Israel, but it also can apply to us individually (that God is able to shape and mold us). Invite campers to take a lump of playdough or clay and create something (provide no further explanation). Encourage their creativity and, as read in the passage, suggest they rework and refine it into a simple creation. When finished, have everyone briefly share his or her new creation. Close by reading Jeremiah 18:5-6 and praying that they would allow God to shape and mold them.

Forgiveness litany prayer

J S A

Materials: Paper, pens or pencils.

Have campers write a litany prayer—individually or as a group—in which God is asked for forgiveness. Ask them to write petitions that an individual or group of people might ask. (*Examples include: dishonesty, addictions, not caring for our neighbor, poor stewardship of the earth, racism.*) Then write a simple phrase that can be repeated by all after each petition. (*For example: "Forgive us, compassionate God" or "Lord, change our ways."*)

If shared as part of worship, the prayers do not have to be copied. The worship leader can simply explain the prayer and introduce the response that is repeated after each petition.

Day 4: Persisting

Bible basis

Luke 18:1-14 (Persistent and humble pray-ers get noticed.)

Inchworm magnet

U I

Materials: Craft foam cut in 1" x 12" (3 cm x 30 cm) strips, paper punch, chenille craft stems, pom-poms, googly eyes, glue, ½" x 2" (1.25 cm x 5 cm) magnet strips; paint or markers (optional).

Begin by having campers punch holes in the middle of their foam strip at roughly 2" (5 cm) intervals. If they like, they can decorate one side of the foam strip using paint or markers. Thread a chenille craft stem through the holes, making a wave-like shape. When the inchworm is at the desired length, twist the chenille craft stem at each end to secure the foam. Glue a pom-pom at one end of the



inchworm for a head and attach googly eyes. Finally, attach a magnet on the bottom side of the inchworm. Talk about why an inchworm embodies “persisting.” Encourage campers to stick the inchworm on the refrigerator at home as a reminder of a critter that embodies “persisting.”

Candle in the window

U J S A I

Materials: Various colors of tissue paper, scissors, clear self-adhesive paper, large sheets of black (or other dark color) construction paper.

Encourage campers to make their own signal of persistence: a stained-glass candle in the window. First, draw a one-piece picture of a candle on the dark construction paper (or multiple candles if they fit). Then have campers carefully pinch the paper together in the middle of the candle area and cut a small slit. Ask campers to insert their scissors into the slit to cut out the candle from the dark sheet. Next, have campers cut a piece of clear self-adhesive paper the same size as the construction paper with the candle opening and remove the backing. Laying the self-adhesive paper on the table, sticky side up, have campers place the dark sheet with the candle opening on the self-adhesive paper. Have campers cut small pieces of tissue paper and stick them to the remaining exposed self-adhesive paper. Once all sticky areas have been covered, have campers trim the remaining self-adhesive paper from the outside of the frame. Encourage them to take their candles home and hang in a window to catch the sunlight as a reminder of the need to be persistent.

Newspaper collages

U J S A I

Materials: Current newspapers, scissors, glue, large piece of mural paper.

Have the campers find headlines of world events about which they feel the need to pray. They may also create words or phrases that are about things that they feel require con-

stant prayer. Have them arrange and glue their phrases or pictures on the mural paper. When they have finished, discuss what they have chosen and why they were chosen. Use this visual art in your group prayer time today.

If you did not choose to do the mural activity on Day 1, you can use this activity as an opportunity to create a collage of pictures or phrases that will be a visual representation of the Lord’s Prayer for your group.

Prayer song

J S A

Select a song the campers can agree that they like. It is easier to choose one that is not terribly fast. Throughout the week they have been exposed to different psalms as part of their Bible studies or devotional time. Have them choose one of these psalms and work with them to rewrite the phrases so they can be sung with the music they have picked. To ensure that all campers are involved, have them work on different parts of the song. Decide as a group which parts of the psalm would make a good refrain (usually three or four lines) and what parts can be the stanzas. If this is beyond the scope of your group, consider choosing a refrain the group can work with so the campers can sing their new song in a camp setting.

Puppet theater

S A I

Work in groups of four for this exercise, two campers as puppets and two campers as puppet masters. Give the group a situation it will enact: for example, firefighters putting out a fire, taking a dog for a walk, flying in an airplane when the engine goes out, or a scenario the campers suggest. In this exercise, the puppets may talk but cannot move unless the puppet masters move them. The puppet masters move the puppets’ arms and legs to act out the scene. This exercise takes sensitivity. Request that the puppet masters do not put any of the puppets into uncomplimentary positions or gestures. Don’t say we didn’t



warn you! Be sensitive to time and do not allow the scene to drag out. After getting the idea and juices flowing, ask for volunteers to use the stories from Luke 18:1-8 and Luke 18:9-14 as their situations.

Living tableau

U J S A I

Materials: Instant-developing or digital camera (optional).

Ask for a volunteer to be the “artist” and the rest of the group will be the “paint.” Using Luke 18:1-14, have the artist “paint” the scene by arranging the people into a tableau of the two situations in the text. The artist should position each person in the tableau by moving her or him where the artist wants and arranging their arms and legs into position. The artist should pay attention to expression as well as their bodies. After the people are in place, consider taking a picture of the artist’s creation.

Prayer posters

J S A I

Materials: Markers, crayons, poster board.

As we pray for the needs of the world, we should also encourage others to join our prayer. Have campers design a poster that promotes their prayers for a particular need in the world. Encourage creativity! When completed, have the campers share with each other, explaining the posters’ topics or themes and why they chose them. End the activity by asking campers their thoughts about why and how we “take our prayers public.” If possible, hang the posters in a common area (such as a dining hall) or share them in a large group setting.

“Pray for Justice” bookmarks

U J S A I

Materials and Preparation: Bible, white card stock (or heavy paper) cut into 2" x 6" (5 cm x 15 cm) strips, watercolor paints, hole punch, scissors, dark blue yarn, markers.

Invite a volunteer to read Amos 5:24. Briefly discuss what it means that “justice roll down like waters.” Have campers design a bookmark, drawing their own image of “waters” and “everflowing stream.” Have them write “Pray for justice” and “Amos 5:24” on the back of their bookmark. Punch a hole at one end and tie a piece of yarn through the hole to complete the bookmark. Allow them to dry completely before putting them inside a book.

Day 5: Listening

Bible basis

1 Samuel 3:1—4:1a (Samuel hears God’s voice and listens.)

Wind chimes

U J S A I

Materials and Preparation: ½" diameter (1.25 cm) bamboo poles cut into different lengths, yarn or string, drill, ½"-1" (1.25 cm - 3 cm) beads, items from camp (such as twigs, shells), small log cut into disks, glue, paints (optional).

Wind chimes are a great way to remind campers to listen for God in their lives. To make a wind chime, give each camper a wooden disk cut from a log. Ask campers to draw three holes in the disk in a triangle shape roughly 2"-3" (5 cm - 8 cm) from each point. (The farther the points are from each other, the more wind will be needed to make

