

7

PAIR OLDER CHILDREN WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

Objective

Offer an opportunity for older children to assist younger children with a project as a way to care about others

Background

When children have a chance to help other children, they begin to see the possibilities for reaching out to other people. There are many things older and younger children can do together, such as a craft project, church-year activity, prayer service, learning a song, or acting out a Bible story.

Make arrangements with another catechist or teacher for your group to help younger children. This works best when the little ones have a planned activity to do.

Materials

- NAME TAGS AND MARKERS

Lesson starter

Ask: Did someone ever help you when you were younger? What did they do? Did you appreciate the help?

Explain that they are going to have the opportunity to help a group of younger children today. Point out that younger children look up to older children and enjoy learning from them. Talk about the project and how they will be providing assistance.

Activity

1 Remind the older children to help the younger children, but not do the project for them. Invite each child to make a nametag so that the other catechist will know their names. Before proceeding to the children's area, answer any questions the children have about the project and what they will be expected to do.

2 After they have returned to their own classroom, invite the children to talk about their experience. What did they enjoy about the process? Did they feel awkward or unsure of themselves? What do they appreciate about the roles of a teacher/catechist of young children?

3 Make a circle and offer the following prayer together.

Pray together

Jesus,
you were a compassionate person
who reached out to people in need.
Open our hearts and our lives
to the needs of other people.
Show us opportunities that we may
reach out a helping hand to others.
Give us willing hearts so that
we can help where we are needed.
In this way, we follow in your footsteps
and live as caring people.
Amen.

Option

Use the handout to teach the action prayer. Have them practice a few times so that they can share the action prayer with younger children as part of this class project.

Action prayer



Say the words and do the actions line by line.
Children repeat the words and actions.

Lord Jesus Christ,(*point to palms*)

help us to walk in your way(*walk in place*)

May we listen to your voice(*hands behind ears*)

speaking in our hearts.....(*hands on heart*)

Help us to see the needs of others(*point to eyes*)

and reach out to help them.(*hands palms up*)

In this way we give glory(*arms over head*)

to your holy Name.(*hands over heart*)

Amen(*bow head*)