

FaithTrek

Children's Ministry for 3 Year Olds through 5th Grade

February 2019



February Word of the Month

PARTICIPATE

The word "participate" means to take part, engage in, join with or have a share. We know God loves us no matter what, but to really be in a relationship we need to be active participants. The Bible has many stories about participating. Jesus taught his disciples to participate by listening and then telling others the stories, by not wasting time worrying, by loving our neighbors and learning to ask for help. Using four New Testament stories, we will be practicing Jesus' lessons about participating. Get ready to engage and participate with your child as a lifelong learner, faithful role model and growing disciple.

Chocolate Covered Pretzels for Valentine Gifts



Everyone can help make chocolate covered pretzels for Valentine's Day sharing!

You will need a bag large pretzels/rods, one 10 to 12-ounce bag white chocolate chips and an assortment of colored sprinkles or colored sugar. If gift giving, have ribbon, jar or box for delivering.

Place chocolate chips in a microwave-safe dish and microwave on high for about two minutes. Stir chocolate and continue to microwave for 30-60 second intervals until chocolate is completely melted. Place the melted chocolate and plates with different colored sprinkles on the counter. Setting up an assembly line works best with younger children. They can be in charge of the sprinkles and avoid the hot chocolate. Dip pretzel sticks in chocolate to cover, then quickly roll in the colored sprinkles or decorating sugar. Lay covered pretzels on wax paper and let set completely for about 30 minutes. Place decorated pretzels in gift boxes layered with waxed paper and refrigerate until you are ready to take them to their recipients.

Make a Participate Banner

Help the whole family focus on participating by making a Participate Banner or Poster. Write out the word PARTICIPATE. You can use this as an alphabet activity by naming ways you could participate individually or as a family. Add the ideas to your poster or banner and post someplace visible.

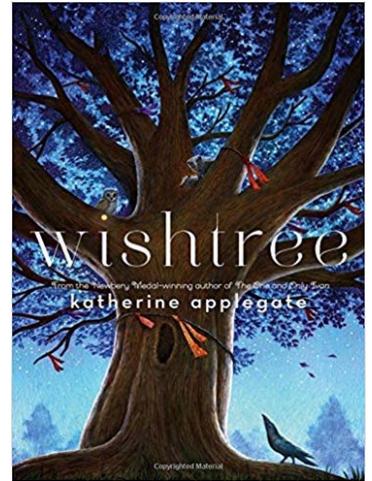
Examples: P = food Pantry donations, I = Invite someone to come play, E = Entertain a senior with songs or dance.

Story Books and Video

Wishtree, by Katherine Applegate, is a story of acceptance and community told from the perspective of a wise 216-year-old northern red oak tree named, Red. The book raises questions related to community, religious bigotry, friendship and the environment. This is a great chapter book for elementary age children. How did each character in the story choose to participate?

The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein, first published 50 years ago, continues to be a favorite of all ages. The story of the tree and the boy is a story of love and giving which is how we can participate in God's world as disciples. If the story is familiar to your children turn it in to a play with a narrator reading while others act out the story.

Check out this 3-minute video on making a difference - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9PXmj8k7NQ>. You may have seen it on Facebook. It takes place in Thailand. The follow up conversation will vary based on the age of your child, but even the youngest kids will pick up on the random acts of kindness and the fact the man made a difference.



Follow the Leader



Sometimes participating means you follow another. Gather the family for a game of Follow the Leader. You need one person to be the leader and everyone else follows. Take turns being the leader. When you finish gather for a snack and conversation.

Read, tell or act out the story of Jesus calling the first disciple found in Matthew 5:1-11. Talk through the story with an emphasis on Jesus telling Simon what to do and the fact that Simon followed Jesus' directions. In verse 8, Simon falls at Jesus' knees. He says, "Go away from me. I am a sinful man." What do you think Simon meant? Do

you think he was afraid? Why would he follow Jesus if he was afraid? Have you ever been asked to do something that was scary? Why did you do it? What can we learn from this story?

Zoom Conversations for Adults

Wanting to talk faith, but don't want to leave the house once you get home with the kids? Then join a Zoom conversation. Using online technology on your tablet, phone or laptop, you can engage in a faith-filled conversation with a group of 4-5 other disciples. Conversations are at 9:00 or 9:30 pm, for just 30 minutes, once a week, for a 4-6 week time period. You can get the kids settled, start the dishwasher, put in a load of laundry, get comfy and tune in. New groups are forming. Conversation will start the week of February 18 and go through the last week of March. Contact Sunni at sunni@flclincoln.org to sign up or learn more.

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.