

Hide- And- Seek

Theme: Presence of God, Childlikeness

Scripture References: Psalm 139: 1-4; Matthew 18:3; Acts 17:28; Colossians 3:3

During this exercise your students will play a game of hide- and – seek with God, which will show them that they cannot hide from God and they will be asked to interact with that truth.

Things to know:

You will need crayons/pencils and paper for drawing pictures or journaling.

Pass out the 3x5 (included) cards to each student. (you will need to make copies ahead of time. Preferably on cardstock paper)

Each time the student hides during the game, they will read their three cards.

Activity:

Read the following:

(Read aloud Matthew 18:3) Jesus encourages us to become like children, so that is what we are going to be doing for the next several minutes. We are going to play a game of hide-and-seek. In a few minutes, I will instruct you to hide. You won't be hiding from me; you will be hiding from God. We are going to play hide-and-seek with God.

First, I will give you three cards, but don't look at them yet. I am going to start by leading you in a deep breathing exercise to slow your mind down to help you prepare for this exercise. This is how it will work: I will start counting and you will leave quietly and find a place to hide. Settle into your place, remain quiet, and try not to move. When you feel settled and calm, read the first card- let the words sink in and reflect on how the words make you feel. Do not hurry.

When you are finished, move to another hiding spot, sit quietly, and read your second card. Remember to take your time. Continue playing hide-and-seek until you have finished all three cards. Then return here and draw a picture or journal about your experience.

Start counting to 50 and send the youth out to hide and silently read their cards in each of their hiding spots.

After the game ends, invite the youth to draw a picture or journal about their experience.

Offer quiet space for personal reflection

Discussion Questions:

- What was it like to play hide-and- seek with God?
- Which of the cards did you like the best? Why? What words on that card seemed most important for you to hear? Why?
- Has God ever come seeking you? If so, how did it happen? What did it feel like? What did you do in response? Did this seeking change you in any way?
- Where did you hide from God?
- Spend some time thinking about how God is always with you. There is nowhere to hide from God. Does this bring a sense of comfort or discomfort?

Card 1

MY CHILD, YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM ME.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. (Psalm 139: 7-10)

Card 2

MY PRECIOUS LITTLE ONE, I KNOW YOU SO WELL AND I LOVE YOU SO DEEPLY. YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM ME.

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. (Psalm 139: 1-4)

Card 3

MY DELIGHTFUL CHILD- YOU MAKE ME LAUGH WITH JOY. YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM ME.

For you died, and your life is not hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

For in him we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)