

Selfishness Is Absorbed In God's Love AGAPE SMALL GROUP LESSON 4

3. SMALL GROUP Lesson

HOW DO YOU SPELL "ISH"?

PROPS NEEDED: Put the letters M-Y-S-E-L-F-I-S-H each on a piece of paper, a bag of individually wrapped candy.

LESSON:

- Hand out the letters (not everyone will get a chance at the same time.)
- Spell MYSELF. Explain, the word myself is a way to describe you. Use the word in a sentence (let the kids see you have a bag of candy) I have a bag of candy all for myself, I bought this bag of candy myself so it's all for me! Ask the kids what they think you should do with the bag of candy (they should respond that you should share).
- Second, have the kids with the M and Y sit down. Point out that the letters that are left spell the word: SELF. Explain when you don't want to share or you don't put others first all you care about is: SELF. You only care about me, or I, or SELF. Have them point to themselves and say "self" and tell them that is you. Ask if any of the kids like it when others keep things to their "self" instead of sharing (allow time to respond).
- Ask the question, what do you call it when someone won't share? (Have the kids with the I-S-H letters to stand up next to the kids with the S-E-L-F letters). Ask, does anyone know what word we have now? It's selfish. When we don't share or prefer others we are being

selfish. We have God's love in us, which means we can prefer others and we can share. We don't have to be selfish!

 Last, have the kids with the letters S-E-L-F sit down. Does anyone know what I-S-H spells? That's right, it spells "ish". Don't be an "ISH" and not share, prefer others just like God did by sharing His Son with us. Tell the kids you won't be an "ish" and not share your candy because you have God's love on the inside and you like to share (pass out a piece to each child)!

PUT INTO PRACTICE:

• Decide you are not going to be an "ish" to others, you are going to prefer others and share. Next time you have a treat decide to share with your brother or sister and you'll see how fun it is to not be selfish!

TALK ABOUT IT:

- I. Do you think it's hard to share?
- 2. Do you think it's ishy when people won't share with you?

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SCHEDULE:

- I. Pre-Service Activity
- 2. Bible Time
- 3. Small Group Lesson
- 4. Activity Page
- 5. Dismiss

AGAPE SELFISHNESS IS ABSORBED IN GOD'S LOVE

MEMORY VERSE: I Corinthians 13:5, "...

love does not insist on its own rights or its own way...'' (AMP)

BOTTOM LINE

Love is never selfish.



1. PRE-SERVICE Activity

- During the Pre-Service Activity, group leaders will direct conversation and games to help kids make friends at church.
- As a group leader you have the choice of Ice Breaker Questions or Game to use as the children arrive.

ICE BREAKER *Questions:*

Question #32:

• What size shoe do you wear?

Question #349:

• How many bathrooms do you have in your house?

ICE BREAKER *Game:*

"LOOK WHO'S SILLY"

- Starting with the first child, have each take turns sharing their goofiest face with the group.
- Take a vote on who has the silliest face.
- If time allows go again, having each one share their most serious face.



2. BIBLE Time READ THE BIBLE:

Ist-2nd Grade - Day by Day Bible: The Arrow (pages 61 & 62) 3rd Grade and up - NIV Bible: I Samuel 20

- Have each child read one verse out loud.
- Go around the room.
- This works best if everyone uses the same, easy-to-read translation of the Bible.

BIBLE STORY:

On The Run

BIBLE CONNECTION:

King Saul began to hate David and he had to leave his home and hide from the King. He traveled at night and hid in caves. David and Jonathan continued to be friends. One night David was waiting for Jonathan. Jonathan gave David the signal that the King still wanted to kill him. David would have to continue to run and hide. Jonathan could have been selfish but he risked his life to help David.

BIBLE QUESTIONS:

- Who was David's best friend? (Jonathan)
- 2. What was David doing when Jonathan was going to give him a signal? (hiding)
- What did Jonathan do for David? (asked the King to stop chasing him and not kill him)
- 4. What was the signal Jonathan gave to David? (an arrow)
- Why did Jonathan talk to King Saul about David? (because he loved him)

POINT TO MAKE: Jonathan was the rightful heir to the throne. He would have been king after Saul. However, God had anointed David to be king. Jonathan was not jealous of David. In fact, he was unselfish when it came to his friendship.