

OPENING PRAYER: Made and Known by God, Psalm 139:1-18

Divide the group into a right and left side; instruct each side to read accordingly.

Right: LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
You know when I sit and stand;
You understand my thoughts from afar.

Left: You sift through my travels and my rest;
with all my ways you are familiar.

Right: Even before a word is on my tongue,
LORD, you know it all.

Left: Behind and before you encircle me
and rest your hand upon me.

Right: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
far too lofty for me to reach.

Left: Where can I go from your spirit?
From your presence, where can I flee?
If I ascend to the heavens, you are there;
if I lie down in Sheol, there you are.

Right: If I take the wings of dawn
and dwell beyond the sea,
Even there your hand guides me,
Your right hand holds me fast.

Left: If I say, "Surely darkness shall hide me,
and night shall be my light"—
Darkness is not dark for you,
and night shines as the day.
Darkness and light are but one.

Right: You formed my inmost being;
You knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works!
My very self you know.

Left: My bones are not hidden from you,
When I was being made in secret,
fashioned in the depths of the earth.

Right: Your eyes saw me unformed;
in your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came to be.

Left: How precious to me are your designs, O God;
how vast the sum of them!
Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the sands;
when I complete them,
still you are with me.

SCAVENGER HUNT: Everyone's Contribution Counts

By adding up things that belong to each person in the group, participants see that each person's contribution is important and necessary to the group's outcome.

Materials:

Copies of the lower portion of this page, one per group

Instructions:

Divide participants into groups, with the same number of people in each group. Distribute one handout to each group. After 10 minutes, ask groups to tally their points.

Comments: It was the combined contributions of simple items that achieved each group's final score. Each person's contribution was important and necessary to the group's outcome.

Instructions for Participants: Your group can acquire points **ONLY** from the items on people in your group. (You cannot leave your place to find items.)

1 point for every belt loop	_____	1 point for every brown eye	_____
1 point for every shoelace	_____	1 point for every library card	_____
1 point for every button	_____	1 point for every pair of jeans	_____
1 point for every piece of jewelry	_____	1 point for every sweatshirt	_____
1 point for every cell phone	_____	1 point for every item with school logo	_____
1 point for every painted nail	_____	1 point for every key	_____
1 point for every penny	_____	2 points for every religious item	_____

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS

OPENING ACTIVITY: Buyers and Sellers

By simulating a buyer, and farmers trying to sell their beans, participants learn that both parties can benefit by working together.

Materials:

Copies of the activity portion below, beads in four colors (red, blue, green, yellow)—enough for each student to have a total of six beads— play money (\$1 bills)

Instructions:

- Assign participants to one of the four groups listed below and instruct them to sit with their group.
- Distribute beads and candies to the vendor groups, and tell them that they must pick six beads of any color combination.
- Give each participant a square from the sheet below (corresponding to his or her group).
- Give each member of the buyer group \$40 in fake money.
- Explain to the vendor groups that they all must make \$20.
- Tell participants that they are going to buy and sell their beads, but they must follow the instructions on their square. Give students 5–10 minutes to do the activity.

BUYER GROUP

You get \$40. You must buy 10 items to feed your family.

Which products are you buying?
(What color bead?)

VENDOR GROUP A

You must make \$20 to feed your family.

In this village, one person decides how much each product costs and how you will sell it. The prices they decided upon are below:

blue beads are \$10 each
green beads are \$10 each
red beads are \$5 each
yellow beads are \$1 each

VENDOR GROUP B

You must make \$20 to feed your family.

In this village, everyone sells their beads at the price they want.

Decide on a price for each color bead that you have.

VENDOR GROUP C

You must make \$20 to feed your family.

In this village, you have all joined together to set a fair price for each bead and you split the money at the end of the day. The prices you have decided upon are below:

red beads are \$8 each
blue beads are \$6 each
green beads are \$4 each
yellow beads are \$2 each

CLOSING PRAYER: All of Us Can Do Something

Leader: Inspired by human stories of faith and triumph, we gather in prayer. Standing before you, Our Father, we recognize, and are in awe of, the incredible value you instilled in each and every person, and the great responsibility we have to show our love for you through how we treat others. Sometimes the problems of poverty, hunger, disease and violence seem so overwhelming that it is difficult to see what one person or one group can do to make a difference. But you have taught us that every person “counts,” and individually and collectively, we can make a difference.

Reader 1: Our eyes can look for instances of injustice and see what others may choose to ignore.

ALL: All of us can do something.

Reader 2: Our hands can build, comfort and heal.

ALL: All of us can do something.

Reader 3: Our minds can think of possible solutions.

ALL: All of us can do something.

Reader 4: Our feet can walk in solidarity with those who suffer and are oppressed.

ALL: All of us can do something.

Reader 5: Our arms can reach out to welcome and include others.

ALL:: All of us can do something.

Reader 6: Our tongues can speak truth and advocate for change.

ALL: All of us can do something.

Reader 7: Our hearts can open to truly care about what happens to others who seem different from us.

ALL: All of us can do something, in the name of your loving son, Jesus.
All of us can do something to create your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen