

FILL THEM WITH GOD'S KINDNESS

A demonstration to show what can happen when we display God's kindness, mercy, and love without favoritism.

TOPICS:

Anger, Favoritism, Kindness, Love, Mercy

MATERIALS:

Two clear plastic cups
Popped popcorn
Pitcher of water
Flat tray for collecting water
Marker



DURATION:

Approximately 12 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Start by labeling the two cups "Jed" and "Ted" with the marker. Then, place the two empty cups on the flat tray. You will add a small amount of popcorn into the cup labeled "Ted." Then you will pour water into both cups until the water overflows into the flat container, demonstrating how overflowing someone with kindness, mercy, and love (water) can remove anger and hate (popcorn) from a person's life.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

We are going to demonstrate what can happen when we fill up a person with God's kindness, mercy, and love. The water in this pitcher represents God's kindness, mercy, and love, while this popcorn represents anger, bitterness, and bad choices. These two cups look about the same. Let's pretend these cups are babies that were just born. One is named Jed, and the other is named Ted. They were born in homes that were very different. Jed grew up with a very loving and God-fearing family. Meanwhile, Ted grew up in a home filled with violence and anger.

As these two boys grew up, Jed became a nice person, loved by everyone. *(Fill Jed's cup 1/2 full with water.)*

However, Ted had a hard time at home and became bitter and angry. *(Add a little popcorn to Ted's cup.)*

As the children grew older, they started to go to school together. Jed did well at school and at home. Many people were kind to him and loved him. *(Add more water to Jed's cup to make it overflow.)* Jed was overflowing with God's kindness, mercy, and love.

On the other hand, Ted didn't do so well at school, or at home. People didn't want to be his friend. Teachers yelled at him, and he was grounded most of the time for making bad choices. *(Add a little more popcorn into Ted's cup.)*

One year, the two boys had the same class together. Jed felt badly for Ted. Ted was mean to everyone, and no one was ever nice to him. Then, one day, Jed got an idea. Maybe Ted might

start becoming nice if he was shown God's kindness, mercy, and love, no matter how mean Ted was.

Jed began to share his lunch with Ted every day, although Ted just threw it back at him. *(Pour a little water into Ted's cup.)* Jed asked Ted to be his partner in math class, although Ted just moved to the other side of the table. *(Pour some more water into Ted's cup.)* Jed would sharpen Ted's pencils for him, although Ted continued to break all of Jed's pencils. *(Pour more water into Ted's cup until it is about to overflow. The popcorn should be floating at the top.)*

Finally, Jed was just about to give up showing God's kindness, mercy, and love to Ted when Jed decided to try one more time. Jed walked up to Ted and said, "I would like to be your friend, Ted. Would you like to be mine?" *(Pour more water into Ted's cup until it overflows and the popcorn is pouring out of the cup.)*

Ted thought for a moment, and then something happened. He looked at Ted and blurted out, "OK!"

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Ted kept being mean when Jed tried to be nice?
2. Why do you think Ted finally decided to be nice and become Jed's friend?
3. Why should we show kindness, mercy, and love, even to someone who is mean? *(Our Father in Heaven is kind, merciful, and loving to the ungrateful and the wicked. He does not show favoritism. He wants us to be the same way to others.)*

TELL ME NO MORE LIES

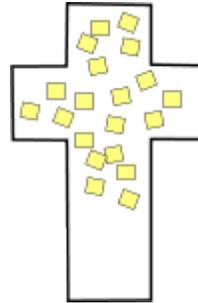
In this activity, children will feel the freedom to give their sin to Jesus and turn from their old ways.

TOPICS:

Accountability, Honesty, Promises, Reputation, Trust

MATERIALS:

White poster board
Post-it Notes®
Tape, scissors, pencils



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Use white poster board to create a large cross. Tape the cross to the wall at the front of the class.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have each child write down a time he or she broke a promise, made an excuse, or lied. Each student will then stick his or her note to the cross, pray silently for forgiveness, and then remove his or her note from the cross and throw it away.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Breaking promises, making excuses, and lying are many times hidden and hurtful sins. We cannot see them or touch them, but it definitely hurts others when we do these things. Sins like these keep us from God, but the Good News is that Jesus died so that we can be free from all sin.

"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy." Proverbs 12:22 NIV

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a lie? *(Allow for discussion.)*
2. What is a promise? *(Allow for discussion.)*
3. What happens when you break a promise to a friend or family member? *(Allow for discussion.)*

I will give each of you a Post-it Note® and a pencil. Write down a time that you broke a promise, made an excuse, or lied. Once you are finished writing, come up, and stick the note to the cross, giving it to Jesus. Then go back to your seat and say a silent prayer asking Jesus to forgive you for that sin and to help you keep your word. Once you have finished praying, return to the cross, remove your note, and throw it away.

Our reputations can only be changed by allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us. Our cross in the front of the room was once covered in sin, but it no longer is. Likewise, Jesus can forgive our sins, setting us free, and making us as white as snow.