

Just Like Me

Bible verse: Genesis 1:27

Discovery

Purpose: To make children aware of cultural differences and similarities. We all have the same needs, just meet those needs sometimes in different ways. God created us in his own image, so we are all very similar. Every country has a place on the Globe, a flag that represents their culture and a way of life.

Materials: Maps of Haiti/Dominican Republic and globe, flag of Haiti, uncolored flag of Haiti.

Activity: Find Haiti on the globe, look at Haiti on a map, color a blank map of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, label each. Research the flag of Haiti, how did the flag come to be what it is today, color a blank flag. Older students may write a short paper on how the American flag and the flag of Haiti are similar/different.

Review: Discuss similarities between America and Haiti. What does our flag represent? 13 stripes were the 13 original colonies, 50 stars are the 50 states of today. What does Haiti's flag represent? The blue and red were retained after a revolutionary tore up a French Tricolore. The blue and red were stitched together to form a new flag. It also bears the coat of arms on a white panel in the center of the flag. This depicts "Unity makes strength." Haiti shares the island with the Dominican Republic. What does America share her continent with? How are we alike? How are we different?

Sources: google.com has a map of Haiti/Dominican Republic, enchantedlearning.com has a blank flag of Haiti, classbrain.com has a colored flag of Haiti, wikipedia.org has a history of the flag of Haiti with lots of interesting facts.

Devotion for Middle/High School students

Refuge, Rescue, and Restoration

"I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:2.

Read Genesis 6:9; 7:6-8:1

Looking down from heaven, God was not pleased because there was sin everywhere. He was sorry he had created people in the first place. But God liked what He saw in Noah because Noah was faithful to Him. Giving Noah specific instructions, God told him exactly what to do to have refuge from the rains that were to come. Noah followed God's plan to build an ark and he and his family were rescued from the flood.

God has also given us a plan to be saved from the sin in today's world believe in His Son Jesus Christ. He alone is our salvation. He is our rescue from a life of sin. He is the One who restores us.

Looking to a more recent disaster in a not too far away place, Haiti, we ask why God allowed an earthquake to destroy parts of this nation. Why did people lose their lives? Why has more devastation come to this country that already struggles with poverty? Homes have been destroyed and lives have been lost. Oh, how the Haitian people need refuge and rescue! How they need hope! How they need to put their trust in Jesus!

Because we don't know the mind of God, we don't know the answers to all of the whys. We don't have the answers as to how the nation of Haiti will recover from the earthquakes. Restoration will take a long time. However, there is one thing of which we can be certain: our loving God still rescues as He did in Noah's time. He is the one who can bring hope to Haiti; the One they can trust. In Him they can take refuge. Perhaps this is our chance to allow God to use us as part of His restoration plan.

Heavenly Father, thank You for showing us Your love and protection. Help us to always be mindful of others who are in need. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Activity #1 High/Middle/Upper Elementary

Objective: Vocabulary building; using new vocabulary in a story.

Use a thesaurus to look up words for “flood”, “earthquake”, and “disaster”. Working as a class, in teams, or individually, the students will use as many new words as possible to write a story about being in an earthquake. Stories could be illustrated using water colors.

A visual for this activity could include the words “flood”, “earthquake”, and “disaster” written on three large raindrops (one word per drop). Students could write the words found in the thesaurus on the appropriate drop.

Activity #2 All levels

Objective: Students will express how they may have felt in a flood in this “! Am” poem.

I am _____

I wonder _____

I hear _____

I see _____

I want _____

I am _____ I

Activity #3 Pre K/K

Vocabulary building: Focus on words “rain”, “earthquake”, and “rescue”.

Through role playing act out what the students think Noah and his family did all the days they were in the ark and what they did when they came out of the ark.

Music

THE ARKY ARKY SONG

God told Noah to build him an arky, arky God told Noah to build him an arky, arky Build it out of gopher barky, barky Children of the Lord.

(CHORUS: Sing after each verse or just at the end.) So rise and shine and give God the glory, glory So rise and shine and give God the glory, glory Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory Children of the Lord.

The animals, they came in, they came in by twosies, twosies The animals, they came in, they came in by twosies, twosies Elephants and kangaroosies, roosies, Children of the Lord.

It rained, it rained for forty nights and daysies, daysies, It rained, it rained for forty nights and daysies, daysies, Almost drove poor Noah crazy, crazy, Children of the Lord.

The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy, The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy, Everything was fine and dandy, dandy, Children of the Lord.

The animals they came off, they came off by threesies, threesies, The animals they came off, they came off by threesies, threesies, Grizzly bears and chimpanzeesies, zeesies Children of the Lord.

This is the end of, the end of our story, story This is the end of, the end of our story, story Everything was hunky dory, dory, Children of the Lord.

Music for Pre K/K

When a Rainbow's in the Sky (Sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

When a rainbow's in the sky Then we know it's dry outside. A rainbow tells us the storm is through
The sky above turns from grey to blue. God made a rainbow God made a rainbow God made a
rainbow And put it in the sky.

For older students

"Life is a Journey" All God's People Sing, page 160 (verse 1)

Verse 1 is the only verse about Noah. Students could write a second verse about the flood in Haiti and the children who were affected by it.

SCIENCE

Activity #1 Elementary

Flood in a Sponge

Object: To observe the affect the force of water has on an object.

You need: A measuring cup Two dry sponges Water

Fill the measuring cup with water. Very slowly pour the water onto one of the sponges. Watch what happens.

Now pour water fast onto the other sponge. What happens now? What does this tell us about floods?

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Activity #2 High/Middle School/ Upper Elementary

Drops on a Penny

Object: To observe surface tension that is produced by the force of attraction between water molecules.

This project can be done individually, in teams, or by the teacher as students watch. It could also be set up as a science center for the students to use in free time.

You need: Eyedropper
Newspaper Cup of water
Penny

1. Cover work surface with newspaper.
2. Predict how many drops of water will fit on the head of a penny before the water spills over.
3. Test it. Count drops carefully. Does the outcome match your prediction?
4. Try the experiment again. Are the results the same?

Extension of the experiment: Compare heads vrs. tails; old penny vrs. new penny, Predict what will happen if a nickel, dime, or quarter is used. What happens if you add soap to the water?

For discussion: How does this experiment relate to a river flooding its banks?

Activity #3 Pre K/K

Water play

Object: To observe what happens when too much water goes into a container. Introduce the word “overflows”.

You need: Plastic containers of different sizes Turkey basters, measuring cups, small drink cups
Containers of water

Allow the children to pour from smaller containers into larger containers. Discuss what happens when too much water goes into a container.

Discuss that this is what happens when too much rain goes into a river. It overflows its banks and causes a flood.

Physical Education

Activity #1 K-3

Stuck in the Mud

Object: Try not to get tagged.

All the fun of mud without the mess! This game should be played in an open area.

To play, pick someone to be "it." When "it" tags someone, they are stuck in the mud and can't move. To get unstuck, someone else has to crawl through the legs of the stuck player. To make it harder, you can add this twist. If a player touches the stuck player's legs when crawling through them, then they are stuck too.

The last person to be tagged is "it" in the next round.

Activity #2 Pre K/K – Elementary

Jump Over the Flood

Object: Develop long jumping skills

To play, you have to set up the river. You do this by laying two jump ropes that on the ground about a foot apart.

Next, players take turns trying to jump over the flooded river. If they land on or in the middle of the jump rope-the river, they are out. When everyone has jumped once, players move the ropes about another foot apart.

The person who is able to jump the farthest without falling into the river is the winner. (If class is large, set up two jump rope rivers or more than one student can jump at a time.)

Activity #3 Elementary/Middle/High School

Soccer

Object: Promote teamwork

Soccer is the national sport of Haiti. Many children play this game using anything they can as a substitute for a ball.

Dear Parents,

The nation of Haiti is situated south of the United States in the beautiful waters of the Caribbean. Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with its neighbor to the east, the Dominican Republic. Although Haiti is only a short 1 hour and 55 minute flight from Miami, it is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

During the 2008 hurricane season the island was deluged with rains from Fay, Gustav, and Hanna. When Ike came roaring through a few weeks later the ground and rivers, already saturated, could hold no more. A river that has its headwaters in the Dominican Republic came raging across the border, down over the mountain side, and slammed into the seaport city of Gonaives. Because most of the trees have been cut down for firewood, the flood waters brought tons of topsoil with it. The water reached a height of 10 feet in some places.

Then in 2010 the country was hit again with devastating earthquakes that damaged many of the buildings that remained.

Now, without much government help, this city is struggling to get out from under the mud as are other towns that were in the paths of overflowing rivers. Homes and lives have been wrecked. Food is in short supply. Both hospitals in Gonaives have been destroyed. The stench of sewage fills the air in some places. Debris and waist high piles of mud are everywhere. Smashed and overturned cars and trucks that will never run again are mired down in mud. Men are earning an equivalent of \$3.00 a day shoveling mud from homes or businesses and carting it away in wheelbarrows. Restoration will take years.

Education is vitally important to this country because at present only slightly more than half of all adults can read or write. Just like concerned parents everywhere, those mothers and fathers know that education is the hope for their children to have a better life. Unfortunately the Haitian government has not made school or education a very high priority.

But the Lutheran schools in Haiti are providing hope. Two kinds of hope -hope for a brighter tomorrow through education and hope for eternal life through the message of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Because a great many Haitians live under the fear of the voodoo gods they worship, they are in great need of a spiritual rescue. The children attending these schools are getting the firm foundation they need to worship the one true God.

Unfortunately, the Lutheran schools were also caught in the winds, rains, and floods of the hurricanes and the earthquakes. I visited one site where there is no evidence to indicate a school had ever been there. Not one thing was left! In another town the building was standing but nothing identifies it as ever having been a school. Sinks were ripped from the walls and were lying on a mud caked floor. One lone sneaker sat in the grass. Everything has been washed away.

Sadly, these schools cannot recover without our help....they just don't have the resources to do that. How blessed we are to be able to show them we care.

Sharing the love of Jesus,
Marcia