

“Four People”:

See: www.teensundayschool.com → lessons → “Spiritual Habits – Having a Relationship with God” → scroll down for the activity.

Give each child a piece of paper (or they could do this activity in their journals). The children will need to write down the names of four people in their life that they are the closest to. They will analyze that list further, examining how often they see the person and how much time they spend with the person. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Tell the children to be as honest as they can. Keep this information when you are done, because we will use it later on.

(Note: You may want to write the 3 bulleted points above on your white board or easel to help your students who are more visual learners.)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities

Message:

God wants a relationship with YOU.

(Note: For this week’s lesson, the scripture, related questions and activities are all combined into one section in order to have a more complete and systemic look at developing a relationship with God.)

Read Psalm 42:1-2 (NIRV)

¹ A deer longs for streams of water.

God, I long for you in the same way.

² I am thirsty for God. I am thirsty for the living God.

When can I go and meet with him?

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the author of that Psalm express his need for a relationship with God? *(He longs for that relationship, he thirsts for it.)*
2. Is that kind of desire for God evident in your own life? *(Give the children time to think and then discuss together.)*
3. What do you think it would take for you to desire a relationship with God in that way? *(Let the children think about this. They may not have an answer, and that is ok.)*

FOUR PEOPLE Activity (Continued):

Have the children get out their list of the people they are closest to again.

Ask the following questions:

- Who would like to share a couple of the people on their list? (Let everyone share one or two people, if they’re willing.)
- Why do you think you are close to those people?
- Of those people, how much time do you spend with each?
- How many days do you see them in a week?
- How often do you communicate with them during the day?
- How much do you find yourself talking to them?



Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities – Continued

Share with the children: There is a correlation between how much time we spend with people and how deep our relationship with them is. It would not be good in a marriage if a husband and a wife never saw each other. A friendship would suffer if one of the friends moved away. It's not to say the relationship would end—it would just be harder to be as close.

If we are going to be people who follow our Heavenly Father, we need to try to be deep followers, not just fans of His. We need to thirst for a relationship with Him and His Son, just like the psalmist did. If we are honest, we probably know that our relationship with God is not as strong as it should be. We all got have growing to do.

More Discussion Questions:

1. If you were making a list of friends, where would God fit on your list? Who is a closer friend to you than Him right now?
2. How can you measure “how close” you are to God?
3. How much time do you spend communicating with God?
4. How many days a week do you “hang out” with God?
5. How often do you find yourself thinking about God?

Application to Real Life

Look up in your Bibles and read together: **Leviticus 26:12.**

“I will walk among you. I will be your God. And you will be my people.” (NIRV)

Talk with the children about the following:

God's presence in our lives is something we should want to have. It is not enough that He is a part of our life—but that God is our life. Our life should center on Him. We know from scripture that God walked in the Garden with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3). We also know that God commanded ancient Israel to construct a tabernacle so His presence could dwell there (Exodus 40). Later, a temple was built, and in it was the Holy of Holies, where the presence of God would dwell (1 Kings 5). Most importantly, God came to earth to dwell with us when He sent His Son Jesus (John 1). God wants to have a relationship with you. The question is, how badly do you want to have a deeper relationship with Him? God loves us right where we are. But that doesn't mean He wants us to stay there. He desires for us to grow. We want to grow into a deeper relationship with God.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Journal Reflection Questions

- If God looked at your life today would He find a person who is stale in their relationship with Him, or fresh and active? Write about it.
- How badly do you want to have a relationship with God? Enough to work at it? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson titled **Spiritual Habits – Studying the Bible (Part 1)** as well as Genesis 2:7-22, Genesis 12:1-7, Exodus 3:1-10 and Acts 9:1-8.
- Learn the memory verse: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."
--2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith # ____.
- Spend some time looking in the book of Proverbs in your Bible. Choose a verse to share with your class. Write it down and bring it with you to class.

