



Jesus Knows When We Are Lonely



THE MISSION AIM

Jesus befriends us and wants us to be a friend to others.



KEY VERSE

2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Large blanket or a parachute
- Soft ball or beach ball
- Small business card size print outs for each recruit of 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

Directions

DO: Have all of the recruits stand in a circle in the centre of the room. Bring out the blanket or parachute. The object this game is to keep the ball on the blanket or parachute; this becomes increasingly more difficult as you change your instructions to the recruits. As the recruits are working to keep the ball on the blanket, model encouraging comments and helpful advice i.e. Watch out, Mary. The ball is coming your way. Or Nice job, Andrew. Encourage the recruits to do the same thing.

SAY: We are going to play a game with my blanket. During this game everyone must hold on to the blanket or parachute. It is important that no one lets go.

DO: Once all recruits are holding onto the blanket tell them that you are going to place a ball into the centre of the blanket.

SAY: It is the job of all the recruits to ensure that the ball remain on the blanket at all times. To do this you will need to watch the ball carefully and will need to move slowly as the ball rolls around. If the ball comes close to an edge, the recruit closest must lift up their side of the blanket to ensure the ball does not fall off.

DO: Once the recruits have been able to do this successfully for a short period of time, tell them that you would like them to shake the blanket gently but that they still must keep the ball on the blanket. When they have done this for a short period of time have them shake the blanket harder

still keeping the ball on the blanket. When you have finished playing the game have the recruits sit down around the edges of the blanket or parachute.

SAY: This week we are learning that Jesus knows when we feel lonely and He reaches out to us. He is our friend and cares about each of us. Jesus also teaches us how to reach out to people around us that are lonely. Our key verse gives us a first peak at how we can be a friend. Let's read our verse together.

DO: Hand out the Key Verse Cards. Read the verse together.

SAY: What does this verse tell us we can do? *(Comfort others in times of trouble.)*

SAY: When we were holding on to the blanket we were all together with a purpose or a job. Who remembers what that job was? *(To keep the ball on the blanket.)*

SAY: It was pretty easy to do this when we were all standing still, wasn't it? But then troubles came along. The shaking was like troubles or problems. As the blanket was moving the ball began to move and it became more difficult to keep the ball on the blanket. As we shook the blanket harder it became even more difficult to do our job. But one thing did help. Encouraging others, giving support and telling others when the ball was coming towards them helped all of us to keep the ball on the blanket and to do our job.

SAY: This is like what our key verse is telling us: when troubles come, we can encourage others, help them and comfort them. How can we comfort our friends? *(give them a hug, write an encouraging note, sit with them when they are alone etc.)*

SAY: Let's check in with the Recon Team and see what is happening with them today.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Jesus On The Inside Episode 5: Jesus Knows When We Are Lonely"

Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 5 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have JOI-Episode_5-Jesus_Knows_Lonely.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Slips of paper each with a different topic written on them such as: playing sports, home, school, church, park/playground and one blank. Have enough of these papers made up so that there is one for each recruit.





Mission Assignment

SAY: It looks like we have our first mission. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, what makes us lonely?" Let's begin to answer this mission question by first playing a game. We are going to play a game called, "Twos and Threes".

DO: Have the recruits move about in your space and every few moments call out a number between two and the number of recruits present. When you call out your number the recruits are to get into groups of that number. Anyone who is not in a group must move to the sidelines. Have the recruit who is out take one of your pieces of paper and hold onto it.

SAY: Here's how you play "Twos and Threes": I need you to walk around our space trying not to bump into other people and when I call out a number I need you to get into groups with only that number of people in it. So if I call out "three" you must as quickly as possible get into a group of three. Anyone left out of a group needs to come see me and get one of these pieces of paper and then sit along the wall. Are you ready?

DO: Continue to play the game until there are only one or two players left in the game. Be sure that all recruits have a piece of paper in their hand.

SAY: Wow, you guys did a great job with that game? How did it feel to be left out of group? (*Lonely, disappointed, etc.*) For some of you may have felt left out or even lonely being out of a group and having to sit against the wall and watch others continue to play the game. The Commander reminded us of something very important as she was speaking with Sarai. She reminded us that, "Loneliness is not a good feeling" and that "Loneliness for anyone is a very unpleasant feeling." I wonder if you can think of a time when you were feeling lonely. To help you, I'd like each of you to look at the paper you were given when you got out. Can you think of things that might make you feel lonely at the place on your piece of paper? One of you has a blank paper so you can decide on your own place where you may experience loneliness. (For example: camp) Who would like to start?

DO: Have the recruits share situations or things that would make them feel lonely while playing sports, at home, school, church, or the park/playground.

SAY: Being lonely is not fun. Once we realize that we don't enjoy that feeling and we don't want to be alone it helps us to also remember that other people don't enjoy being lonely either. Jesus reached out to the lonely. He became a friend to people that others would ignore.

When we saw Sarai, she was all alone. She wanted to talk to someone but everyone was too busy for her. Even though she asked a few of the Recon Team to speak with her, they did not. She is feeling alone and lonely. If only someone had taken a moment to talk to her and to listen. Maybe then, Sarai wouldn't be feeling so lonely.

Well I wonder what is happening with Sarai now. When we left her another girl had opened the clothing box and did not seem very happy to find Sarai in "her clothing box." Let's check back in with Sarai and the Recon Team.





Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 5 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Choose a recruit to represent Zacchaeus and another to be Jesus in the story

OPTION 1

- Make 14 copies of the gold coin and four copies of the four gold coins on page 8
- Basket

OPTION 2

- Purchase enough gold foil covered chocolates for each recruit to have one and have at least 3 dozen gold coins for the telling of the story
- Basket



Mission Assignment

SAY: It appears recruits that we have been presented with a second mission. Let's read together to see what it is we need to do to complete the mission. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "The Bible shows us how Jesus was a good friend to the lonely. Find out when Jesus was a good friend."

SAY: Gabby is right. The story of Zacchaeus is perfect for this mission. It is a story of a man that was ignored by many; a man who did not have friends; a man that Jesus reached out to and befriended. Would you like to hear the story? It comes from Luke 19:1-10 in the New Testament. To tell this story I need some help. I need someone to represent Zacchaeus and someone else to represent Jesus.

DO: Choose two recruits to help with the story. Give the Zacchaeus character a basket with either the pictures of four gold coins or have a dozen gold foiled chocolate coins. Jesus can sit in the centre of the circle until his time in the story. Have the recruits sit in a circle and give each recruit one gold coin to hold onto. As you tell the story have the Zacchaeus take a gold coin each from a recruit time his name is said until he meets Jesus. When he meets Jesus he will begin to give gold coins back. When it says he gave back four times as much he will give four coins to a recruit each time Jesus name is mentioned.



SAY: We know that Jesus lived on Earth and that He travelled from place to place meeting people and spreading the Word of God. One day He entered into the city of Jericho. There was a man there named Zacchaeus (*Zacchaeus should begin to take a gold coin when his name is mentioned*). Zacchaeus was an important man but a lonely man. He was a Jewish man who worked for the Roman government collecting taxes. He was dishonest in collecting taxes and valued money more than people. It was his bad choices which caused the people in Jericho to not like Zacchaeus. Because of this, he was often by himself with few or no friends. However, Zacchaeus was a rich man and a man with much power. Zacchaeus gained these riches from taking more money than he should from the people. He overcharged people and he made sure he got whatever he wanted. The power that he received only came to Zacchaeus because he hurt many people. But the riches and the power did not satisfy Zacchaeus. He had no friends and no one wanted to spend time with him or speak with him. He was a lonely and sad man. He wanted to see Jesus but because he was a short man he could not see above all the crowd that had also come to see Jesus. He decided to run ahead of the crowd and to climb into a sycamore-fig tree so that he could see Jesus as He passed by. Jesus of course knew where Zacchaeus was. He also knew who Zacchaeus was and He knew the choices that Zacchaeus had made. Jesus stopped underneath the tree where Zacchaeus had climbed. He looked up into the tree and spoke to Zacchaeus saying, "Zacchaeus come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." (*Have Jesus move from inside of the circle to walk with Zacchaeus around the circle.*) Zacchaeus quickly came down from his spot in the tree. The Townspeople saw this and began to whisper amongst themselves, "Why would Jesus go to his house? Does Jesus know who he is?" (*Zacchaeus now begins to give a coin to a recruit each time Jesus' name is mentioned.*) Zacchaeus learns how much Jesus cares for him and that Jesus is the greatest friend he could have. Zacchaeus quickly realizes that he has made many wrong choices. He knows that he must fix the things that he has done wrong. He must repair the relationships that he has damaged and make amends for the problems he has caused. He begins to speak with Jesus and tells Jesus that he is going to give half of all that he has to the poor. He also tells Jesus that he will repay anyone that he has taken unfairly from, promising to pay back four times what he has taken. (*Zacchaeus now begins to give out picture of four coins or gives four gold foil coins to a different recruit each time the name Jesus is mentioned.*) Jesus responds to Zacchaeus telling him that he is now saved because Jesus had come to seek those that are lost and lonely. Jesus tells Zacchaeus that he has a true and lasting friend in Jesus.

DO: Be sure each recruit has at least one paper coin as a reminder of Zacchaeus. If you used the gold foil covered coins, collect them in and then have Zacchaeus and Jesus give each recruit at least one to enjoy.

SAY: How did Jesus' friendship change Zacchaeus? (*He became a caring, honest man who corrected his bad choices*) What actions did he take that showed the change in him? (*He cared for the poor. He gave back money that he owed to people.*)

SAY: Jesus' friendship with Zacchaeus is just one story from the Bible that shows us how Jesus cared for the lonely. He knew that the choices Zacchaeus made separated him from other people, but he loved him anyway. Zacchaeus became a new person when he became friends with Jesus.

Let's get back to Gabby and Sarai and let them know what we discovered about what a good friend Jesus is!





Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 5 (3/4)". Pause the video when the RTS SHIELD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when RTS SHIELD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Situation Role Play cards (See attachment on page 9)

Field Mission Project

SAY: As we have learned from Sarai and Gabby today, "Jesus knows when we are lonely and he wants us to remember He is our best friend." As well, "He wants us to be a good friend too." This means that sometimes we "...have to go to our best friend and apologize for fighting." That is what Sarai was going to do. Sometimes we have to fix a problem that we have created by apologizing for something we have said or done. I believe we have one last mission for today, and that is "how can we become a friend to the lonely?" We've got a few different situations cards here, let's look at them and see how we can be like Jesus and reach out to someone who is lonely.

DO: Read the situation cards or allow older recruits to read them to the group. Discuss and role plays the situations and answer the question, "How can we follow the example that Jesus himself has shown us?"



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 5 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- A piece of 8 1/2" x 11" paper for each recruits

Directions

SAY: Even some of us become lonely and need to know that others care. Today we are going to take the opportunity to show our friends here that we care.



DO: Give each recruit a piece of paper and demonstrate how to rip three heart shapes from the paper. (This is easier if you fold the paper and rip along the fold.) Tell the recruits that they are going to give each heart away to a "friend" in the Ready To Serve group. Each heart needs to be given to a different person.

SAY: Give the first heart to someone that you want to, "Thank God for."

DO: Allow time for each recruit to do this. Be watching to make sure that by the end, each recruit has received at least one heart. As a Squad Leader, you too should be giving out hearts.

SAY: Give the second heart to someone who "is important to you."

DO: Allow time for each recruit to give their Heart to someone.

SAY: Give your last heart to someone that, "You are happy to be friends with."

DO: Allow time for each recruit to give their heart to someone. Then pray together.

SAY: Heavenly Father, we come before you and give thanks to you today for our friends. We remember those people that may be lonely today and we ask that you will help us to be a friend to those in need. Help us to reach out to someone that may be feeling lonely and to show them comfort. We pray this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

NOTES





Situation Role Play Cards (for use with Field Mission Project)

Use these cards or write your own with situations that you are aware your recruits are struggling with.

You are at school and your friend, David forgot to do his homework. He is told by the teacher that he must stay in at recess to complete his homework. When David comes outside you and all of your classmates are playing a great game of baseball. David stands beside the diamond watching the game.

How can you be a good friend to David?

Your friends have chosen to meet at recess time by the trees. As you run to meet them, you see one girl sitting by herself. You know that she was not invited to join your group.

What should you do? What can you do so that she is not lonely?

A friend comes over to your house to play. You are having a great time together and are enjoying time with just her. Another friend knocks at your door and requests to play with you.

What is your responsibility? How can you include both friends so that neither feels left out or lonely?

While playing jump rope at recess one of your friends decides she doesn't want to skip anymore. She walks away from the group and sits on her own. You want to continue skipping but can see that she is upset.

What can you do to show her you care?

It is Sunday and you are looking forward to seeing all of your friends at RTS today. As you enter the classroom you notice one boy that you have not met before. He is sitting on the floor playing with a piece of paper. All of your friends are in the other corner of the room, talking about their past week.

What can you do to include the new boy in the discussions? How can you make him a part of the group at RTS?