

Walking the Micah Road '17



Theme Song

Micah Road

Colleen Reinders, Grace Moes with Bill Van Caulart

Chorus:

Don't just talk the talk
Ya gotta walk the walk on the Micah Road
So let's put on our shoes
See what God is doing on the way
Don't just talk the talk
Ya gotta walk the walk on the Micah Road
So let's put on our shoes
And walk humbly with our God

Verse:

Where there is sadness, let me bring joy
Help me give to those in need
Where there's injustice, help me make it right
Jesus, I'm yours
Where there's despair, let me bring hope
Help me forgive, those in the wrong
Where there is pain, let it break my heart
Jesus I'm yours

Coda:

Do justice, (echo) love mercy (echo)
Do justice, love mercy
Walk humbly with our God



MICAH ROAD

♩ = 125

Music and Lyrics by Colleen Reinders
and Grace Moes with Bill Van Caulart

G F² C G F² C G F²

CHORUS:

G C G

Don't just talk the talk; ya got - ta walk the walk on the Mi - cah Road.

F C G C A⁷ D

So let's put on our shoes; see what God is do - ing on the way.

C G

Don't just talk the talk; ya got - ta walk the walk on the Mi - cah Road.

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C G C D G F²

So let's put on our shoes and walk hum - bly with our God.

VERSE:

C G F² C G

1. Where there is sad - ness, let me
2. - pair, let me

F² C G F² C

bring bring joy; hope; help me for - give give to those in the need. Where there's in
bring bring hope; help me for - give give to those in the wrong, Where there is

1. G Em A/C# D

- jus - tice, help me make it right; Je - sus, I'm yours. 2. Where there's des -

2. Em C G D G

pain, let it break my heart; Je - sus, I'm yours! Don't just

CHORUS: 2nd time add alto counterpart

C G F C G

talk the talk; ya got - ta walk the walk on the Mi - cah Road. the walk So let's

C A7 D D

put on our shoes; see what God is do - ing on the way. Don't just

C G C G

talk the talk; ya got - ta walk the walk on the Mi - cah Road. the walk So let's

C D 1. G G
 put on our shoes and walk hum - bly with our God. Don't just

2. G F² C G F² C Coda 1ST GROUP
 Do

2ND GROUP 1ST GROUP 2ND GROUP 1ST GROUP
 D C D C D C D C
 jus - tice, (do jus - tice) love mer - cy, (love mer - cy) do

2ND GROUP TOGETHER
 D C D C D D
 jus - tice, (love mer - cy), walk hum - bly with our God.

Other Song Resources

Ascribe Greatness

Book of Worship (181)

Follow the Saviour

From 'Follow the Saviour' CD
Colin Buchanan

God's Map - the Bible

From 'Remember the Lord' CD
Colin Buchanan

I'm Following the King

From 'Meet the King' CD
Emu Music
contact: info@emu.mu

I will sing of the Mercies of the Lord

Book of Worship (89a)

Make me a channel of Your Peace

Book of Worship (451)

May the Mind of Christ

Book of Worship (214)
Or new tune from 'You alone' CD
Emu Music

Micah 6:8

From 'Baa Baa Doo Baa Baa' CD
Colin Buchanan

Please Make Me Clean

From 'Meet the King' CD
Emu Music

Proverbs 3:5 and 6

From 'Follow the Saviour' CD
Colin Buchanan

Thy Word is a Lamp

Rejoicing Book 2 (529)



Theme Poster



Yellow [PMS 124]



Brown [PMS 4625]



Green [PMS 357]



Theme Games

Pillow Talk

One of the ways to foster the all-important relationship between girls and Jesus is to nurture relationships between girls and between girls and their counselors. Have counselors join in this game as you get to know one another better!

You will need: one large pillow (or towels if you don't have enough pillows) for every two girls, music (someone playing the piano or a CD).

1. Place the pillows (or towels) in a circle (similar to musical chairs).
2. Have pairs of girls sit on a pillow (or towel) next to one another, preferably girls who don't know each other well.
3. Give the girls a discussion question. (Listed below). Limit the discussion to a minute or less.
4. Turn on the music and have the girls walk around the pillow circle. Have a counselor remove a pillow (or towel).
5. Stop the music and girls need to find a new partner and pillow (or towel) to sit on.
6. Repeat Step #1-5 until only one pair of girls remains.

Discussion questions:

1. What's something you've won and how did you win it?
2. When you're alone at home, do you wear shoes, socks, slippers, or go barefoot?
3. Whose autographs have you collected?
4. What's your favorite month?
5. When's your birthday and where were you born?
6. Describe your worst haircut.
7. What kinds of books do you most enjoy?
8. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "fun"?
9. What's your favorite ride at amusement parks?
10. What's your favorite food?
11. What's the worst tasting thing you've ever eaten?
12. How many times a day do you look at yourself in the mirror?

A to Z Hunt

Remind the girls that Jesus is their Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 21:6). There's no need to frantically search for Him. God's promise to us is this: Come near to Me and I will come near to you (James 4:8)!

You will need: a large paper bag, pencil, and paper per team of three to four girls.

1. Group girls into teams of three to four.
2. Set the boundaries of where the girls' hunt can take place: what are the outdoor boundaries and what rooms are the indoor boundaries.
3. Explain that their mission is to find objects that start with every letter of the alphabet. When they find an object they must place it in their paper bag and record it on the piece of paper. Note: Also write down where you found the object so you can return it at the end of the game!
4. Give the teams 15 minutes to hunt down as many objects as they can.
5. When the game is finished, make sure all the items are returned to their original places.

What's Missing?

In the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7), we learn how much Jesus cares about missing sheep. He is your Shepherd and you are His sheep whom He loves and carries close to His heart (Isaiah 40:11).

You will need: a bag and a tabletop full of objects (objects can be random – spoon, notebook, toy, CD, socks, etc. or objects can focus on a certain justice issue – foods eaten in impoverished countries, items babies need, things needed to heal/encourage the sick, etc.)

1. Have the girls study the items on the table for a minute or two.
2. Shut the lights off and remove a few objects from the table, hiding them in the bag.
3. Turn on the lights and have the girls name the missing items.

Time to Rhyme!

*It's sometimes in the silliness
That we have the willingness
To let others peek and see
The way God made you and me!*

You will need: no supplies needed.

1. Divide the group into two teams and ask each team to line up facing one another.
2. Explain that the object of the game is to rhyme as long as possible. The first person on Team One says a word. Example: Toy. The first person on Team Two responds with a word that rhymes. Example: Boy. The second person on Team One responds with a rhyming word. Example: Joy. The second person on Team Two says a rhyming word. Example: Ploy.
3. Play goes back and forth until a person is stuck. When someone can't think of a rhyming word, she steps out of the game. That team becomes a shorter line and play resumes with the next person beginning a new rhyming word. Example: Book.
4. The game is finished when one team runs out of players.

Entwined!

In this game you're going to be tied in knots! In Deuteronomy we're told to tie God's commands on our hands and foreheads as reminders! Before or after the game, have each girl point to her hand or her forehead and tell one of God's commands that she's trying to obey.

You will need: no supplies needed.

1. Divide the girls into groups of six or seven.
2. Choose one girl from each group to leave the room. She'll be the "Detangler."
3. The remaining girls hold hands in a circle and then entwine themselves by walking around, over, and under each other. As the girls tangle their circle, they must continue to hold hands!
4. Call the "Detangler" back into the room and give her the assignment to untwist the circle.
5. When finished, choose a new volunteer to step out of the room and serve as the "Detangler."

Water Balloon Fun

One of the amazing water miracles recorded in the Bible can be found in Exodus 14 when God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape the Egyptians on dry ground. As you play this fun activity – which must be done outdoors! – look for other amazing things that God has done and made!

You will need: water balloons, water, and a bucket for every team of eight to ten girls.

1. In preparation, fill up numerous water balloons, depending on the size of your group. Line up the buckets against a wall or high fence.
2. Divide the girls into teams of eight to ten girls.
3. Line the girls up in single file at least five feet away from the buckets.
4. At your signal, have the girls toss their water balloons at the wall above the buckets with the goal of splashing the water into the bucket.
5. At the end of the designated time (or when you run out of water balloons!), the game ends and the team with the most water in their bucket wins.

Jump & Jabber

As you jump there's plenty of facts that you can list about yourself from God's perspective. You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). You are held by God's right hand. (Psalm 73:23) You are precious in God's sight (Isaiah 43:4). You are engraved on the palms of God's hand (Isaiah 49:16). Read God's Word to learn more!

You will need: a jump rope for every group of four to six girls.

1. Divide the girls into groups of four to six.
2. Assign two girls to hold and turn the rope and the other girls take turns jumping.
3. With each jump the girl must say something about herself, whether it's the name of her parents, her favorite color, her birthday, or what God says about her. If she misses a jump or a jabber fact about herself the next person in line jumps. When everyone has jumped once, let the two girls holding the rope have their turn to jump.
4. When a team is finished, mix up the teams so they can get to know other girls in their group better.

Building Blocks of Justice

Jesus came to earth on a justice mission. Listen to His words in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

You will need: a large number of ABC blocks and/or Scrabble® games.

1. Divide the girls into teams of three to four and distribute a variety of blocks/Scrabble® pieces among them. If you're using blocks and Scrabble® pieces, do not mix the two. For easier playing, give individual teams either blocks or Scrabble® pieces.
2. Ask the girls to spell words that describe what it means to walk the Micah Road.
3. Blocks should be stacked vertically (reading from top to bottom). Scrabble® pieces should be placed horizontally (reading from left to right).
4. When a team completes a word they should shout it out (the rest of the teams stop playing) and a spokesperson from that team stands and tells why that word relates to walking the Micah Road. When the spokesperson finishes, all teams begin playing again.
5. Play for a designated amount of time or until each team has had at least one turn to explain their word.

Hug-in-Hugs

1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to encourage one another and build each other up. Giving hugs of encouragement and words of blessing are great ways to obey this command!

You will need: no supplies needed.

1. Divide the girls into teams of five.
2. Instruct two girls to give each other a hug and the other three girls to form another hug around them.
3. Line up the Hug-in-Hugs teams and have them race to the designated finish line.
4. Once the girls cross the finish line have them say one positive characteristic that they appreciate about each of their team members!

NT Book Scramble

The most precious treasure that you can own in the whole world is God's Word, the Bible. It's a lamp to your feet and a light for your path (Psalm 119:105). In order for you to be able to find your way through this treasure, let's play the NT Book Scramble. Remember: don't leave your priceless treasure under your bed or on a bookshelf to collect dust. Read it often!

You will need: 27 pieces of paper, each containing the name of a book in the New Testament.

1. Mix up the slips of paper and give one to each girl. If you have less than 27 people, some girls will need more than one slip of paper (or have all the counselors play, too!). If you have more than 27 people, give duplicate books to the girls.
2. When you signal the start of the scramble have the girls line up in order of the books of the New Testament. If there's duplicated books, the girls will stand next to each other in line. If there are more books than girls, they'll have to choose a spot and jump from space to space.
3. When they are lined up, have the girls list the names of the books out loud in sequential order.
4. If you do this often, the girls will learn the books well. Time to see if they can improve their speed. Also have them transition from helping each other to doing it silently.

Beach Ball Race

Did you know that the Bible talks about running a race? In 2 Timothy 4:7 Paul writes, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." He was nearing the end of his life and he faced death with confidence because he had faithfully served God in the race of life. It doesn't matter who wins or loses in games like the Beach Ball Race. Put your primary focus on racing for Jesus by keeping the faith!

Another fun activity for camp or a day at the beach!

You will need: a beach ball and pair of sunglasses for each team.

1. Divide the girls into teams of four to five.
2. Determine the start line and where the girls turn around to head back to the start line.
3. The first girl in line puts on a pair of sunglasses and places the beach ball between her knees.

4. When the start of the race is signaled, girls run (without dropping the beach ball or touching it with their hands!) from the start line, to the designated spot, and back again to the start line where they give the next girl their sunglasses and pass the beach ball to the other girl's knees without touching the ball!
5. First team to have all the girls work their way through the course wins.

Dress up – Relay style!

Did you know that God cares about what you wear? Colossians 3:12 says, Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Clothing styles may come and go, but the command to clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14) endures forever!

You will need: an equal amount of silly clothing for each team. Examples: jacket, pantyhose, hat, necklace, gloves, sunglasses, etc.

1. Divide the girls into equal teams and give each team a bag filled with silly clothes.
2. The first person in line puts every clothing item on (correctly!). Once she has it all on, she takes it all off again, quickly handing each item to the second person in line to put on.
3. The game ends when the last person in line has taken all the silly clothes off and returned them to the bag.
4. Optional: Once a girl is dressed, have her run to a designated spot to have her picture taken, and then run back to her team to hand the silly clothing off to the next person in line.

Group Up

Maybe when you're grouping up, you'll feel a little clingy. (Just like plastic wrap that stays stuck on the roll!) The Bible has a command for us when it comes to clinging. Romans 12:9 says, Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. If you see good, positive things and people, get clingy!

You will need: no supplies needed.

1. The girls mingle around the room until the leader shouts out a characteristic such as "First initial of your middle name." Everyone must quickly get into a group that has that characteristic.
2. Other grouping ideas:
 - a. Favorite book of the Bible
 - b. Style of shoe you're wearing right now (tennis shoes, flip flops, etc.)
 - c. Month of birth
 - d. Date of birth (all those born the 6th of the month, 11th of the month, etc.)
 - e. What accessory you're wearing right now (headband, necklace, bracelet, etc.)
 - f. Favorite season

Introduce & Impersonate

The Apostle Paul told young Timothy, Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12). As God's children we've been instructed to follow Jesus' example, step by step (1 Peter 2:21). How closely are you following in His steps and setting an example for others?

You will need: no supplies needed.

1. Divide the girls into groups of 10-12.
2. Ask each team to stand in a circle.
3. Instruct the first person to introduce herself and impersonate something that she likes to do. Example: My name is Lori and I like to take pictures. While Lori talks she needs to pantomime taking a picture.
4. The second person in line says with the pantomime: This is Lori and she likes to take pictures. She then introduces herself and pantomimes something she likes to do. Example: My name is Stacey and I like to run. While she talks, she jogs.

5. Play continues with each person introducing and impersonating the girls in front of her and then introducing and pantomiming her hobby.
 6. Play finishes when the person who started (Lori) introduces and impersonates the entire group.
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Got Patience?

The book of Proverbs contains practical guidelines for life. Listen to these three Proverbs about being patient. Proverbs 14:29, A patient man (woman) has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man (woman) displays folly. Proverbs 15:18, A hot-tempered man (woman) stirs up dissension, but a patient man (woman) calms a quarrel. Proverbs 16:32, Better a patient man (woman) than a warrior, a man (woman) who controls his (her) temper than one who takes a city. How patient are you?

If your group is lacking patience, try this fun activity to teach patience with others and themselves!

You will need: two sheets of paper and a crayon for each person.

1. Have the group sit in chairs that are in a large circle.
2. Give the following instructions using their paper and crayon:
 - a. Write your first name with your toes. (Books may be necessary to write on top of if the girls have their paper placed on carpet.)
 - b. Write your counselor's last name with the opposite hand you normally write with.
 - c. Put a sheet of paper on your head and draw a heart.
 - d. Close your eyes and write the names of every person in your small group.
3. Talk it out . . .
 - a. Rate these activities from #1 (easy) to #5 (difficult).
 - b. How did you feel when you were doing these activities?
 - c. When you try something new at club have you ever felt the same way?
 - d. How can you be more patient with yourself and other girls at club when we try new activities?

Laugh Out Loud Theater!

In 3 John 11 John writes, Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. Movies and magazines give us lots of people who we shouldn't follow after. Who is someone that you could imitate, follow as an example, or use as a model of what it means to live for Jesus? Imitate what is good!

You will need: no props needed.

1. Divide the girls into groups of five to ten.
 2. Announce to the groups several machines (a motorcycle, copy machine, lawn mower, school bus, toaster, personal computer, etc.) Let the girls come up with ideas, too!
 3. Each group needs to use their team to form that machine and imitate its sound and action.
 4. Have the counselors decide which team imitated each machine best.
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Testimony Time

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, Proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple (2 Timothy 4:2, MSG). During Testimony Time you're going to have the opportunity to proclaim the truth of God's Word using simple, every day objects. Try it here at club and practice it throughout your life as you talk about Jesus with friends, family, and the new people you meet.

You will need: a six-foot table covered with objects like a candy bar, pencil, watch, necklace, candle, high-lighter, flashlight, paper clips, hammer, nails, matches, picture frame, and other miscellaneous items you find around the house and in a girl's room.

1. Put the table in front of the room and cover it with the objects.
2. Invite girls to pick up an object and use it as an illustration for a truth from the Bible. Example: This watch reminds me that God has His eye on me all the time, or this hammer reminds me that I need to be God's instrument and pound away at injustices.
3. Keep their illustrations to a minute or less. Blow a whistle or ring a bell to let them know their time is up!

Give Thanks to the Lord Relay

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever (Psalm 106:1). We're going to do that together in a fun, thank-filled relay. Let's give God thanks together!

You will need: a watch or clock with a second hand, and a bell or whistle.

1. Have girls (and counselors!) take turns running to the front of the room where they have 15 seconds to list as many things as they can that they are thankful for.
2. Have a counselor time 15 seconds per person and blow a whistle or ring a bell for the next person to quickly go to the front of the room and begin her praise list.
3. When finished, tell the girls that this is an excellent way to begin and end their day, giving God thanks!

Theme Crafts

Bookmark Blessings

God's Word: Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36

Devotional Thought: When people are hungry, thirsty, sick, and in prison they are in special need of God's love and our encouragement. They need to be reminded that God loves them and that they can trust Him and pour out their hearts to Him (Psalm 62:8)! They need to be told again and again not to fear for God holds them by their right hand (Psalm 73:23). Tonight (today) we're going to make bookmarks to bless needy people with the precious reminder that God is their refuge, strength, and help in trouble.

What You Need: 2" x 6" inch strip of card stock for each bookmark, markers, glue, and a laminating machine. Optional: small digital photo of each girl.

Bookmark Blessings Instructions:

1. One side of the bookmark: Have the girl glue down a photo of herself, draw a picture, or write a word like, "Hope!" "Peace!", or "Joy!" Draw a fun border around the artwork.
2. Opposite side of the bookmark: Write out Psalm 46:1, *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.* Also have the girls print their first name and age.
3. Have girls neatly create as many bookmarks as they are able within your time frame.
4. Collect the bookmarks, laminate them, and have the girls distribute them in Get Well Cards to those who are sick in your church, and/or at a local hospital, or elderly care home.

Micah 6:8 Prompter Sticks

God's Word: He has showed you, O man (O daughter), what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Devotional Thought: Have you ever forgotten to do something that was asked of you? *Listen to responses.* Maybe you even knew it was really important and you still forgot. Throughout our GEMS season we've been commanded by God to walk the Micah Road. This is really important! One of the ways that we can prompt our memories so that we don't forget this command is by making Micah 6:8 Prompter Sticks. I hope you and your family will use them all summer long to help remember God's walking requirements.

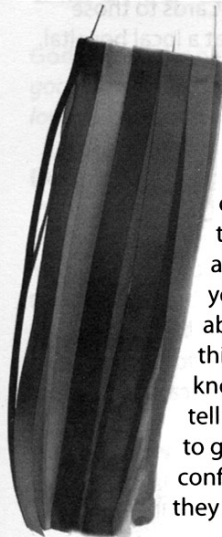
Craft Counselor Note: This craft may be most effective at the end of the GEMS season. Encourage the girls to use their prompter sticks throughout the summer so they don't forget the things they learned about walking the Micah Road!

What You Need: ten craft sticks per girl and thin-tipped markers. Optional: Create a fun container to store the sticks in!

Micah 6:8 Prompter Sticks Instructions:

1. Neatly write one Micah 6:8 prompter on each stick...
 - a. Today I saw the need for justice when ...
 - b. I took action to help set this right ...
 - c. I showed compassion to someone when ...
 - d. I experienced God's love when ...
 - e. Today I trusted God's lead when ...
 - f. Recite Micah 6:8.
 - g. Today I prayed for ...
 - h. I served Jesus today when ...
 - i. Today I cheerfully and lovingly ...
 - j. Today I told _____ that God loves her!
2. Girls can substitute their own Micah 6:8 prompters, too!
3. Encourage the girls to pull out one stick a day and answer it honestly. They can involve their entire family by doing it at a mealtime or before bed.

Salvation Streamer



God's Word: *[Jesus said], "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15*

Devotional Thought: Jesus told His disciples, as well as you and me, to go into all the world and tell people the Good News about Him. Who are some of the people in your life that need to hear the Good News about Jesus? *Listen to responses.* Do you ever think to yourself, "I'm too young, or I don't know enough about the Bible, or I'm too shy to tell someone about Jesus?" If you do, ask Jesus to give you the strength, words, passion and confidence to tell others the Good News that they need to hear. He will help you do it!

Craft Counselor Note: Encourage your girls to give their salvation streamer to someone who doesn't know Jesus. Have them explain the meaning of the colors and what having Jesus as their best friend means to them.

Gray = Sin

Red = Blood of Jesus

White = Forgiveness

Green = Growth

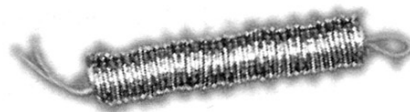
Yellow = Heaven

What You Need: 16 pieces of ribbon, each 12 inches long (colors: Gray, Red, White, Green, Yellow) and a 3-inch wide embroidery hoop (or other sized hoop) per girl, double-sided tape, string, scissors, and measuring tape.

Salvation Streamer Instructions:

1. Cut 16 pieces of ribbon, each 12 inches long.
2. On the inside and the outside of the hoop, place double-sided tape.
3. Place one end of a piece of ribbon inside the hoop and wrap it around the hoop to the outside. Press firmly to the tape. Let the other end of the ribbon hang. Repeat with the other pieces of ribbon, sticking the ribbons closely together.
4. Cut three pieces of string about 18-inches long. Tie the end of each piece of string to the hoop, evenly spaced. (Picture a triangle on the hoop!)
5. Tie the opposite ends of the strings together in a knot at the top of the streamer.

Beaded Bracelet



God's Word: *In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36*

Devotional Thought: When Dorcas became sick and died, the widows in Joppa cried and showed Peter the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made for them while she was still alive. Peter prayed and Jesus answered by healing her again! Dorcas is an amazing faith hero! She used her gift of sewing to help the widows and the poor. You can be just like Dorcas when you use your gifts and talents to help the poor! *As you make your bracelets, have the girls talk about the gifts and talents God has given them.*

Craft Counselor Note: The girls could make these bracelets and sell them at a community festival or craft event. Use the earnings to help the poor in your community or around the world.

What You Need: safety pins, seed beads, scissors, and elastic thread.

Beaded Bracelet Instructions:

1. Carefully open each safety pin, slip on the seed beads, and close the pin.
2. Cut two 12-inch lengths of elastic thread and loosely tie one set of ends together.
3. Slip the untied ends through the bottom eyehole of the pin and the top eyehole of the same beaded pin.
4. String on the remaining pins, turning every other pin upside down.
5. Unknot the loosely tied ends and tie together the ends of the top length and then the bottom length to complete a slip-on beaded bracelet.

Slumber Party Slippers

God's Word: *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"* Isaiah 52:7

Devotional Thought: Do you know a "shoe" person — someone who loves wearing different colored shoes and flip-flops? In the Bible God says that those who share the Good News about Jesus have beautiful feet! It is the great privilege and responsibility of Micah Road walkers to tell people the Good News about Jesus as they feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, and care for orphans and widows. What's more beautiful in your life — your shoes or your feet?

Craft Counselor Note: Do not buy new flip-flops for the girls! Have them bring their already used flip-flops from home for a fun shoe makeover. Talk about how when we reuse instead of buying new, we have more money to share with others!

What You Need: flip-flops (from the girls' homes), fake fur, scissors, double-sided cloth carpet tape.

Slumber Party Slippers Instructions:

1. Place the flip-flops on the backside of a piece of fake fur or other fuzzy fabric. Trace the shoes and cut around the footprints.
2. On each cutout footprint, mark the three places where the flip-flop straps join the insole. Cut three slits from the outer edge in toward the marked spot.
3. Cover the top of each flip-flop with the double-sided cloth carpet tape. Place the fabric on the heel and slowly roll the fur cutout onto the insole. Adjust around the toe straps. Press firmly on the fur. The slippers are ready to fit beautiful feet!

Walk the Micah Road Frame

God's Word: *He has showed you, O man (O daughter), what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* Micah 6:8

Devotional Thought: Like all travelers, Micah Road walkers need a map. God's Word, the Bible, is the map that lights the way for how we are to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly



with our God. One of the most important things you can do every day is to read the Bible. If you're looking for a place to start, read Philippians or Mark. Read slowly and focus on just a few verses at a time. Ask God to help you understand, obey, and live out what you have read. All God's requirements are in His Word!

Craft Counselor Note: This is another great recyclable craft. Wooden frames are often plentiful in thrift stores. Use old maps, atlases, or ones that come in travel brochures.

The frame could have multiple uses:

1. Frame the Micah 6:8 logo and verse and have the girls place it within their homes as a reminder to walk the Micah Road. Or you could frame the Bible verse the girls studied in their Bible lesson today (tonight).
2. If the girls have prayer partners or secret friends, frame a picture of the girls and gift it to those partners.
3. Put a picture of orphans found on the Internet, in magazines, or through ministry publications in the frame. Let it serve as a reminder to pray for the fatherless!

What You Need: used maps, used wood picture frame, white acrylic paint, white craft glue, water, paintbrushes, scissors, and acrylic sealer spray.

Walk the Micah Road Frame Instructions:

1. Remove the glass from the frames and paint the outer and inner edges of the frame.
2. Let dry.
3. Using sections of the map or atlas, cover the entire frame. Position each piece where you want it and bend the excess map around the frame edge.
4. Trim the edges so that your map pieces fit onto the frame.
5. In a small dish, mix the white craft glue and water, thinning it to a painting consistency.
6. Paint a thin layer of glue mixture onto a small section of the frame. It's easiest to work one section at a time! Lay the map for that section down on top of the glue mixture and add a little glue mixture on top. Continue until the map is glued down, covering the entire frame.
7. Once the glue is dry, spray the entire surface with acrylic sealer.
8. Carefully replace the glass and insert a picture, the Micah 6:8 logo, and/or a Bible verse.

GEMS Invitation Bracelets



God's Word: *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14*

Devotional Thought: Jesus loves children. In the Bible when the disciples started shooing children away and scolding those who brought their children to Jesus, Jesus got angry! His loving arms are always open wide to kids and He made it clear that no one should stand in the way of Him and children! Do you know some girls who need to hear about Jesus' love? Why don't you invite them to GEMS? Pray that nothing stands in the way of their coming to this place where they can experience Jesus' compassionate love through you.

Craft Counselor Note: This craft is ideal for an "invite a friend to GEMS" event. Make and have the girls distribute them at the beginning of the season, giving new girls the greatest time opportunity to hear about Jesus' love.

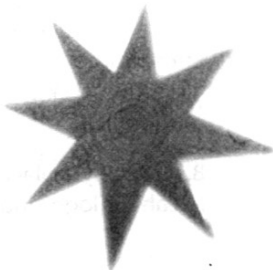
What You Need: ribbon, scissors, self-adhesive Velcro, narrow white office label, pen or marker.

GEMS Invitation Bracelets Instructions:

1. For each bracelet, measure and cut a length of ribbon long enough to go around a girl's wrist plus enough extra to fold under the ends.
2. Fold down one end of the ribbon and stick one half of the Velcro piece in place.
3. Flip over the ribbon, fold down the end, and adhere the other half of the Velcro. If needed, add a drop of glue under each piece of Velcro.
4. If necessary, cut the label to fit the width of the ribbon.
5. Write this message: You are invited to _____ (name of club) GEMS Girls' Club!
6. Stick the label to the inside of the bracelet.

Cheery Sun Catchers

God's Word: *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



Devotional Thought: Nursing homes or rest homes are places for the elderly or younger adults with physical disabilities to live. One of the best ways to reduce loneliness and depression in nursing home residents is to share God's love and give these lovely men and women a word of encouragement. The Bible tells us to encourage one another and build each other up! One of the ways you can walk the Micah Road is by giving elderly and disabled people a smile, a hug, and the words, "God loves you and so do I!"

Craft Counselor Note: Plan a night for the girls to go to a nursing home in your community to hang these sun catchers in their rooms and give words of encouragement! Be sure to check with the nursing home staff to see if this gift would be welcomed. It may be most appreciated by residents in the spring and summer months!

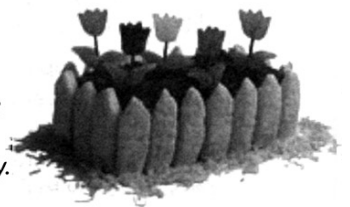
What You Need: card stock, corrugated cardboard, pushpins, and thin string or thread.

Cheery Sun Catcher Instructions:

1. Cut a sun shape out of the card stock.
2. Place it on top of the cardboard.
3. Pierce the card stock with a pushpin, creating a pattern of swirls or straight lines.
4. To hang the sun catcher, loop a piece of string or thread through one of the holes at the top.

Get Well Cake

God's Word: *You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry. Psalm 10:17*



Devotional Thought: How do you feel when you are sick? *Listen to responses.* Being sick and shut in a house or hospital day after day is painful and disheartening. God cares for those who are sick, disabled, and discouraged! Jesus said that when we visit the sick, it's as if we are visiting Him! God cares and loves the sick. You and I must do the same. Encouragement comes when you choose to be a friend through your prayers, your cards, visits, and cheer-filled gifts like the Get Well Cake we're going to make together.

Craft Counselor Note: If at all possible have the girls join you in delivering the Get Well Cake to a person they know who needs an extra dose of encouragement and love today!

What You Need: pound cake or other loaf-shaped cake, chocolate frosting, ladyfingers (long or oval-shaped cookies), chocolate wafer cookies, sugar, gumdrops, green toothpicks, kitchen scissors, coconut, green food coloring, rolling pin, small plastic bag, waxed paper.

Get Well Cake Instructions:

1. The goal in making this cake is to make it look like a garden of tulips surrounded by a picket fence—a very cheerful cake for someone who is sick or discouraged!
2. Ice the top and the sides of the pound cake with chocolate frosting.
3. With a pair of kitchen scissors, trim the top of each ladyfinger into a point that resembles the top of a picket fence.
4. Gently press the “picket fence” against the frosted sides of the pound cake.
5. Place a handful of chocolate wafer cookies in a plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin.
6. Sprinkle the chocolate wafer cookies—the “soil”—on top of the cake.
7. Sprinkle sugar onto a waxed paper-covered surface. Place gumdrops on top of the sugar and use a rolling pin to flatten them to a ¼-inch thickness.
8. Use the kitchen scissors to cut notches in the tops of the flattened gumdrops to create tulip shapes. You’ll want to make five to seven flowers for your “garden.”
9. Insert a toothpick stem into the base of each tulip blossom.
10. Make a pair of leaves for each tulip by trimming flattened green gumdrops into teardrop shapes.
11. Spear the base of each leaf with the toothpick stem and push it halfway up the stem.
12. Plant the tulips in the cake.
13. Tint some coconut with green food coloring. Sprinkle the coconut around the garden at the base of the picket fence to resemble grass.
14. Deliver your Get Well Cake to someone who is sick and needs a friend!

Candy Spoons



God's Word: *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.* Proverbs 16:24

Devotional Thought: Think about your favorite dessert and how it tastes when it touches your tongue. Pleasant words have that same delightful effect to someone's soul. The Bible says that pleasant, kind, and encouraging words cause healing! Tonight (today) we're going to make sweet treats for others and one for each of you as well. As you taste your candy spoon, remember that kind, encouraging words “taste” even better!

Craft Counselor Note: This craft can be used at a Mother-Daughter Banquet, a Widow's Tea or another event your girls are hosting.

What You Need: plastic teaspoons, cooking chocolate, vanilla almond bark, ribbon, cellophane bags or wrap.

Candy Spoons Instructions:

1. Melt the cooking chocolate according to the directions.
2. Once it's melted, allow it to cool slightly but remain runny.
3. Dip just the scoop part of the plastic spoons into the melted chocolate.
4. Carefully lay the spoons down onto baking paper and allow to set.
5. Once the spoons are set, you can drizzle the scoop part of the spoon with almond bark (a vanilla flavored candy coating).
6. Allow to set.
7. Once they are set, wrap them with the cellophane and tie a ribbon around the handle.
8. Bundle the candy spoons into a decorative mug or teapot to display at the event your girls are hosting. Use the spoons as coffee stir-through's.

Hearts of Mercy

God's Word: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16

Devotional Thought: John 3:16 is a familiar Bible verse even to those who have never read the Bible. At ball games and other large public events people often make posters that read, “John 3:16.” In order to make John 3:16 move from a poster board into reality in the lives of those who don't know Jesus, Jesus' followers need to have hearts of compassion and kindness to EVERYONE they meet. When Jesus' love is within you, it needs to spill out to others. It's an inside-out love that will change the world!

Craft Counselor Note: The girls can make one heart or more. Have them gift it to their next-door neighbor or randomly hand the hearts out at the mall or other public place.

What You Need: white card stock and pink transparent vinyl or pink card stock with white transparent vinyl, scissors, ribbon, a hole punch, slips of paper with John 3:16 printed out in its entirety, and wrapped candy or homemade cookies.

Hearts of Mercy Instructions:

1. Draw a heart at least six inches across on card stock.
2. Place a piece of vinyl over the heart outline.
3. Cut out both the card stock and vinyl heart.
4. Use a hole-punch to create holes around the edge of both hearts.
5. Lace the two hearts together with the ribbon.
6. Before you finish lacing the entire heart, stuff the John 3:16 verse and the wrapped candy or homemade cookies in the heart.
7. Seal the heart by tying the ribbon in a bow.

Go Green Vase

God's Word: *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.* Psalm 24:1

Devotional Thought: In Psalm 24:1 we learn that everything belongs to God – the world and all that it contains! When God created the world He repeatedly looked at what He made and said, "It is good." God then took that good creation and put people in charge of taking care of it. What a great responsibility! Each day we have a choice – will I carefully handle God's creation or will I be careless with it? Anything less than giving our best care to God's world is not acceptable. It's time for all of God's children to go green!

Craft Counselor Note: Option: fill the Go Green Vases with fresh flowers and gift them to hospital patients, shut-in members of your church/community, or school teachers and staff.

What You Need: clean, empty soup cans, lots of twigs, a low-temperature hot glue gun, and fresh flowers.

Go Green Vase Instructions:

1. Take a walk outdoors and collect as many twigs as you can find. (Toothpicks can be used if twigs are unavailable.)

2. If twigs are taller than the can, they'll need to be snapped into a smaller size.
3. Using the hot glue gun, attach the twigs to the side of a clean soup can.
4. Fill the vases with fresh flowers as you talk about ways that you can go green at home, at club, and in the church.

Pop-Up Cards

God's Word: *You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.* Psalm 10:17-18

Devotional Thought: God hears the desires and cries of orphans. He defends, encourages, and loves them. He also tells us in His Word that we should look after them, too! *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world* (James 1:27). You and I can look after orphans through our prayers, through gifts of our money and resources, and through words of encouragement. Today (tonight) we are going to encourage and look after orphans in Zambia through our pop-up cards!

Craft Counselor Note: When the cards are finished place in a large envelope marked: Cards for Girls in Africa, GEMS Girls' Clubs, 1333 Alger St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507. They will be distributed to the girls in Zambia!

What You Need: 8 ½ x 11" card stock or construction paper, glue stick or white glue, markers, crayons, etc., other embellishments like glitter, stickers, etc.

Pop-Up Cards Instructions:

1. Cut card stock in half.
2. Fold both pieces in half.
3. Draw or trace half a heart on the fold of one card.
4. Cut the heart, starting from the bottom.
5. Leave 1/8 inch uncut at the top. (This is critical to the success of this project!)
6. Invert the heart and crease fold.
7. Glue card to the inside of the other card. Glue around the cut out.
8. Don't glue down the pop-up heart. Let dry.
9. Decorate card.

10. Write a message of love and encouragement to an orphan in Zambia. Examples: "You matter to God and to me!" "Jesus loves you and is holding you in the grip of His hand!" "You are precious! You are loved by God and me!" "Jesus Christ is your friend. I'm praying for you!"

Harvest Pin

God's Word: *When you reap the harvest of the land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 23:22*

Devotional Thought: In the Old Testament God gave His people a law about how to harvest their crops. This law reminded people then and us today that God owns the world and everything in it – including the crops in the field and the change in our pockets. God loves the poor and the alien and He uses His Word to spur us on to protect and provide for their needs. As you make this harvest pin, remember that your "harvest" is the money and resources God has given to you. We must use part of our "harvest" to help needy people!

Craft Counselor Note: There are a couple of options for using these harvest pins. Girls can gift them to a special lady in their lives. You can also take canning jars, tie raffia around its rims, and attach the harvest pin to the raffia. Encourage each girls to place a jar on her Thanksgiving table and tell her family and friends about what she learned about their "harvest." The jars can be used to collect change that can then be gifted to a ministry or organization that helps the poor.

What You Need: tan or light brown raffia, three-sided beads (orange, yellow, and red), narrow orange ribbon, glue or glue gun, ½" or ¾" pin jewelry backs.

Harvest Pin Instructions:

1. Cut a piece of raffia the size of 3 ½ inches long by 2 ½ inches wide.
2. Cut the raffia in five even strips, but leave an inch at the top that is not cut. The strips will be 2 ½ inches long.
3. Put the beads on the first, second, and fifth strip. If necessary, cut these into narrower strips so the beads can slide on easily.
4. Alternate the color of beads on each strip. Example: on the first strip have your pattern be yellow, orange, red. On the second strip have your pattern be orange,



red, yellow. On the fifth strip have your pattern be red, yellow, orange. Place twelve beads on each strip.

5. NOTE: When stringing your beads, leave room at the bottom to tie a knot. Each time you complete a strip, tie a knot at the end of the bead group.

6. Cut a ribbon and tie it around the top of the pin. Gather it tightly so the fall "corn" will "fan out." Leave ends hanging free at the length you prefer.

7. Take another piece of ribbon and fold it in a bow and glue it in the center of the ribbon you just tied.

8. Glue a pin on the back.

Hot Cocoa Jars

God's Word: *Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:15-17*

Devotional Thought: There are some things that just fit together – teacups and saucers, pillows and blankets, girlfriends and slumber parties—to name a few. In the Bible God tells us that two things that must go together are our faith or belief in Jesus and our loving service to Him. Although the good things we do don't get us to Heaven, they are proof that we love and serve Jesus! As you talk about acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God, make sure the proof of your words is seen in your service!

Craft Counselor Note: These Hot Cocoa Jars will make great gifts to those who need a reminder of the warmth of God's love. They could also be sold at a GEMS fundraiser.

What You Need: Hot Cocoa Mix (see below) miscellaneous small jars (salsa, jelly/jam, etc.), embellishments to decorate the jars, and gift tags that read:
Add 3 to 4 tablespoons of mix to a mug and fill with hot water. Stir to blend. Optional: Add some marshmallows or cream.

Hot Cocoa Mix:

2 cups non-fat dry milk
1 cup sugar
½ cup cocoa, unsweetened
½ cup non-dairy creamer
1 dash of salt

Makes 4 cups of hot cocoa mix

Hot Cocoa Jars Instructions:

1. Combine all the hot cocoa mix ingredients and store in a tightly sealed container.

2. Decorate the jars.
3. Attach the gift tag instructions to the jar by gluing it to the side of the jar or tying it to the jar rim with raffia.
4. Pour the hot cocoa mix ingredients into the jars and seal top tightly.
5. Gift to those who need to know the warmth of God's love and mercy.

Recycled Christmas Card Tags & Bags

God's Word: *[Jesus said], "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Matthew 6:2-3*

Devotional Thought: How we give, not what we give, says the most about our love for God and for people. If we give gifts with great pride in what we are doing, the gift may be nice, but our motivation for giving is worthless and insincere. If we give gifts with humble hearts, God is praised and honored! As we make gift bags together, think about what you will put in them and, most importantly, what your attitude of giving will be. Choose to give with a humble heart that is responding to the lavish love God gives you.

What You Need: old Christmas cards, solid-colored inexpensive gift bags, hole punch, ribbons, embellishments, glue, scissors.

Recycled Christmas Card Tags & Bags Instructions:

1. Tear or cut the fronts of the cards you're going to use.
2. Save or recycle the backs of the cards.
3. Determine which cards will be used whole and which have smaller areas to use for gift tags.
4. If the whole cards you saved have "frames" or borders around the art, they work especially well with the gift bags. Choose a gift bag with like colors and glue the whole card to the front of the bag. Add ribbons or other decorations to the bag as well.
5. For gift tags, cut out portions of the Christmas cards using scissors (wavy scissors are fun, too!) and punch a hole in the corner. Feed ribbon through the hole and tie. On the back write, "To" and "From."

Christmas Banner

God's Word: *[Jesus] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:7*

Devotional Thought: Often when we think of Jesus at Christmas we picture a cute little baby in a clean, straw-filled manger or Jesus being the glorious light of the world. In truth, the place where He was born was probably a dark, smelly cave. Jesus left the glory of Heaven, made Himself nothing, and became a servant. As God's children, we are to follow Jesus' example by becoming servants, too—being His hands and feet. Your Christmas Banner will remind you to focus on serving others this Christmas.

What You Need: if using fabric: 20"x36" white cotton fabric; a 24-inch wooden dowel, 1-inch in diameter; and a 36-inch red ribbon for each banner; plus green, red, and yellow acrylic fabric paint; pinking shears; and a hot glue gun.

If using poster board: use a 22" x 28" white poster board for each banner, plus green, red and yellow finger paints and Zig Zag or Scallop Wave crafting scissors.

Christmas Banner Instructions:

1. Trim the edges of the fabric with the pinking shears or the edges of the poster board with the crafting scissors.
2. With yellow paint, outline the base of the tree stand.
3. With red paint, have the girls write their name and/or the year within the outline of the tree stand base.
4. Depending on the size of their hands, the girls should use the green paint and make four or five handprints across the bottom, creating the bottom of the tree.
5. Work up the top of the banner, ending with one handprint to form the top of the tree.
6. With yellow paint, outline a star on top of the tree. This completes the poster board wall hangings.
7. For the fabric wall hangings, wait for the paint to dry. Place a wooden dowel at the top edge of the banner. Fold the edge of the fabric over the dowel, around to the back, and hot glue it into place.
8. Tie each end of the ribbon to opposite ends of the dowel. Glue them into place for easy hanging.

Theme Crafts Resources

The Internet

Better Homes and Gardens

<http://www.bhg.com/bhg/family/>

Look for these especially neat crafts: Composition Notebooks, Friendship Cards, Bloomin' Hair Elastics, Kids' Animal Sock Puppets, Easy-to-Make Lollipops, Flower Power, Helping Hand Kitchen Towel, Silly Snowman, and Bead Buddies.

Hands On Crafts for Kids

<http://www.craftsforkids.com/projects.htm>

Check out these crafts for kids: Stained Glass Tiles, Clay Teddy Bear, Crayon Frame, Initial Tin, Super Easy Crochet Belt/Scarf/Shrug, Wooden Wind Chimes, and Cup Markers.

Hgtv

<http://www.hgtv.com>

Look for these fun crafts: Pumpkin Topiaries, Mint Tin Tic-Tac-Toe Game, Emergency Mini Kits, Fun Fall Projects, Paper People Beads, Stained Glass Heart, and Soft Dolls to Love.

Family Corner

<http://www.familycorner.com>

Log on and check out these kid-friendly crafts: Easy Bird Treats, Ladybug on a Leaf, A Priceless Gift, CD Photo Frame, Bandana Covered Notebook, Cardboard Tube Scarecrow.

body art, special effects, and edible concoctions as well. Most ingredients used in the recipes are basic. Girls will be so proud of their accomplishments – from creating the craft supplies to finishing off their craft!

Jumbo Book of Easy Crafts by Judy Ann Sadler (Author) Caroline Price (Illustrator), *Kids Can Press Jumbo Books*, 2001.

This craft book is organized and contains clear and easy-to-follow directions. It contains easy projects for little hands using basic craft materials.

Making Fleece Crafts by Judy Ann Sadler, June Bradford, 2000.

This book is part of the great Kids Can Do It Series. Its age range is most appropriate for girls in 4th – 7th grades. It has great instructions for beginning-intermediate crafters, plus colorful illustrations. Projects include a Pillow, Fleece Frog, Pom Pom Hat, and more.

Books

501 Fun-to-Make Family Crafts (Spiral-bound) by Better Homes and Gardens, 2001.

This book contains Nature Projects, Back-to-School Projects, Bird Projects, Sport Projects, Pumpkin Decorations, and much more. The pictures are bright and the instructions easy to follow.

Crafty Concoctions – 101 Shiny, Sparkly, Wrinkly, Puffy, Funny, Easy (and Money-Saving) Craft Supplies You Can Make by Sue Hannah, Meadowbrook Press, 2003.

Craft recipe categories include crayons, paints, play dough, clays, chalks, glues, inks, dyes, paper crafts,

Theme Skits

The Cure for Pride: ministry

LIZ: *(enters carrying suitcase, looks around, shouts)* Amy?!

AMY: *(enters opposite carrying clipboard)* Elizabeth! I'm almost surprised to see you. I thought you might chicken out.

LIZ: I almost did. But I gathered up my courage and decided to go through with it. I'm going to conquer my prideful behavior once and for all.

AMY: You know it won't be easy conquering your pride.

LIZ: *(sighs)* I know. But my pride has been keeping me from being useful to God. But not anymore, I am absolutely determined to rid myself of pride, no matter what it takes!

AMY: Excellent! So, what's in the suitcase?

LIZ: I'm all packed and ready to go.

AMY: Ready to go... where?

LIZ: Well, I assumed that you were going to send me to a cloistered convent.

AMY: A cloistered convent.

LIZ: Yes, you know, where they don't let you communicate with one another?

AMY: I know what a cloistered convent is. But that's not what I had in mind for you.

LIZ: Well, of course it is! Where else will I be able to concentrate full time on making myself a better person?

AMY: Well, actually, of all places I could send you to solve your pride problem, a cloistered convent would be the last.

LIZ: You're kidding.

AMY: No.

LIZ: Where are you going to send me? To a retreat?

AMY: No. Isolation is the last thing a prideful person should use to correct her problem.

LIZ: I don't understand.

AMY: The sin of pride is the overemphasis on yourself, isolating yourself will allow you to concentrate on nothing but yourself. Doesn't that sound a little counterproductive?

LIZ: Oh. I never thought of that. Well, where are you sending me, then?

AMY: *(reads clipboard, points)* Well, first, I'm sending you to Mrs. Babbage's house.

LIZ: Mrs. Babbage?! You mean old lady Babbage?!

AMY: Yes.

LIZ: She's a cripple!

AMY: Yes. She is an invalid.

LIZ: How on earth am I going to cure my pride problem at her home?!

AMY: *(reads, points)* I have you scheduled to clean her bathroom, change the sheets on her bed and do her laundry.

LIZ: You're kidding!

AMY: No. Then, *(reads, points)* I have you scheduled to do the dishes and clean the kitchen at Mr. Carmichael's house. He's got almost a whole week's worth of dishes in the sink.

LIZ: *(drops suitcase)*

AMY: Is something wrong?

LIZ: I came here to cure my pride problem!

AMY: Yes.

LIZ: How is cleaning toilets and scrubbing floors going to cure my pride problem?!

AMY: *(scratches head)* Actually, I'm not sure how it works. I just know that it works.

LIZ: I don't see any connection between doing grunt work and being less prideful. Am I missing something here?!

AMY: All I know is that the more Christians serve one another, the less prideful they become.

LIZ: So, in order to solve my pride problem, I have to turn into a scullery maid from a Dickens novel!

AMY: The idea is not to lower yourself, but to raise the value of others. By cleaning their surroundings, you make Mrs. Babbage and Mr. Carmichael feel better about themselves. By lifting their burden, you lift them.

LIZ: And by lifting them, I get blisters on my fingers and calluses on my knees. That's humbling?!

AMY: Well, you're a Christian. You have a choice.

LIZ: A choice.

AMY: You can humble yourself the easy way....

LIZ: Working like a dog is the easy way?!

AMY: OR God will humble you the hard way.

LIZ: The hard way.

AMY: Humbling from others is called humiliation. Do you know how prideful people accept humiliation?

LIZ: Not very gracefully. Alright. I'll do it. I'll clean Mrs. Babbage's bathroom and laundry and I'll clean Mr. Carmichael's kitchen. But just how long do I have to keep this humbling stuff going?

AMY: For the rest of your life.

LIZ: For the rest of my life?!

AMY: Have you ever wondered why the Lord doesn't use you more?

LIZ: Well, sure. He doesn't seem to use me at all.

AMY: The Lord can't use you if He's competing against you.

LIZ: Oh, that hurts! That really hurts!

AMY: It hurts. But is it untrue?

LIZ: *(sighs)* No. That's what pride is, isn't it? It's competing with God. I suppose that if God let people see that He was blessing me, they would think that it's okay to be self-involved and prideful.

AMY: Can you see how being a scullery maid from a Dickens novel will help?

LIZ: Of course! It's not going to be easy being prideful on my hands and knees. *(picks up suitcase, exits)* I suppose that while I'm on my knees I could pray a little too, huh?

AMY: *(follows)* In that case, I'll cancel your reservation at the convent.

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Monologue: discipleship, charity, giving

(enters wearing overcoat and long wool scarf)

I'm... I'm a little embarrassed to tell you this. I almost decided not to come. But after I thought about it for a while, I decided that you need to hear this story.

It was a cold and windy night. The strong north wind blew the falling snow and made it feel like my skin was being sand blasted. As I walked along the sidewalk, I buttoned the top button of my overcoat and wrapped my scarf around my neck to keep the snow out. *(demonstrates)* When I walked to the corner I saw a middle-aged man with a two-weeks growth beard sitting on the bus bench. He was hugging himself trying to keep warm.

What drew my attention to him were his clothes. He was wearing a suit. I noticed his suit because it was identical to the Brooks-Brothers suit my dad wore to a wedding earlier that day. He wasn't wearing an overcoat, just this suit. No tie, no socks, just a dirty white tee shirt and this filthy, wrinkled Brooks-Brother's suit that was so dirty and greasy that it shined in the street light overhead.

While I was trying to figure out whether this man was a former executive who was down on his luck or a rag picker who made a lucky find, this man picked up some newspapers from the bench beside him, folded them lengthwise, and then wrapped them around his neck to keep out the cold. Then he crossed his arms again, bowed his head and huddled against the bench. It looked like the bench was going to be his bed for the night.

Poor guy. I THOUGHT about helping him. But I couldn't afford to put him up at a hotel. The hotels in the area all cost at least a hundred dollars per night. I thought about taking him into the nearby department store to buy him some warm clothes. But he would need warm socks, long underwear, an overcoat, mittens and a wool scarf. I couldn't afford all that!

Poor guy. I resigned myself to the fact that I might be one of the last people to see this pitiful guy alive. Poor guy.

As I was walking past him, regretting that there was nothing I could do for him, a little girl walked up from behind me. She couldn't have been more than six or seven years old. She unwound the bright red wool scarf from around her neck *(demonstrates)* and hung it over the neck of the bum.

Then, as she walked away, she said, *(imitates)* "May God bless, you." The man smiled and said, *(imitates)* "He just did."

(pause) That little girl shamed me. She reminded me that I had allowed myself to be so overwhelmed by the man's many needs, that I talked myself into doing nothing at all. She saw a need that she could do something about and she did something about it.

People, take a lesson from that little girl. We can't do EVERYTHING for the poor. But we CAN do SOMETHING!

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Humility: consider others better than yourselves

LIZ: *(enters strolling, reading Bible, looks ahead)* Hey, Amy, let me read you this.

AMY: *(enters opposite)* What are you reading, the Bible?

LIZ: Yes. It's Philippians... Let's see..., Chapter... two... verse three.

AMY: Oh, that's one of my memory verses.

LIZ: *(reads)* Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. *(looks to Amy)* Doesn't that sound a little strange to you?

AMY: Strange? What's so strange about it?

LIZ: Well, I'm a Christian now.

AMY: And...

LIZ: Well, that means I have eternal life.

AMY: And...

LIZ: Well, there's millions of people who DON'T have eternal life. That means I'm pretty hot stuff, doesn't it? Why should I be humble?

AMY: *(smiles)* You need to compare lists.

LIZ: I need to do what?

AMY: You need to compare lists. Close your eyes and imagine that you have two sheets of paper.

LIZ: *(closes eyes)* Alright, I'm imagining. I've got two sheets of paper. But they're both blank.

AMY: On the first piece of paper, imagine a list of all my sins.

LIZ: *(opens eyes)* YOUR sins?! I don't know all your sins!

AMY: Do your best. Write down on the list all the mistakes you can remember that I've ever made.

LIZ: *(closes eyes)* Alright. But it's going to be a pretty short list. You're a pretty straight shooter. Alright, let's see, okay, I've got a couple. And a couple of borderline sins.

AMY: You can even include things about me that irritate you... things that aren't necessarily sins.

LIZ: Oh, good. That doubles the size of the list. *(opens eyes)* No offense.

AMY: *(smiles)* None taken.

LIZ: Okay. *(closes eyes)* I've got two sheets of paper. What do you want on the other list?

AMY: On the other paper list all YOUR sins.

LIZ: My sins? You want me to list MY sins?

AMY: Yes. All the mistakes you've ever made in your entire life.

LIZ: Even before I met you?

AMY: Yes. You should even include all the sins that you never told anyone about. All the terrible thoughts you have about people you don't like, all the terrible degrading things you were going to say but never said, all the revenges that you planned but didn't have the courage to follow through on....

LIZ: *(opens eyes)* Hey, that's not fair. My list will be longer because I know more about my sins than yours....

AMY: Oh. Okay. Just to be fair, instead of listing MY sins, why don't you list the sins of someone in your family or someone else you've known all your life.

LIZ: *(closes eyes)* Oh, okay. My mother. No. *(opens eyes)* She's a goody two-shoes just like you. I'll do my sister. I've got lots of stuff on my sister. *(closes eyes)* Let's see, there's the... uh huh. and the uh huh. *(opens eyes)* Hey, wait a minute. This still isn't fair.

AMY: Why not?

LIZ: Even if I could remember all the sins she committed while we were growing up, I could never know ALL her sins!

AMY: Oh? Why not?

LIZ: Because I'm sure she committed a lot of sins that I didn't see. Plus I'm sure she committed lots of sins in her mind that no one else could ever know about..... Oh.

AMY: What's the matter?

LIZ: No matter whom I choose to compare lists with, the list of my sins will ALWAYS be longer than anyone else's because I know my sins better than anyone else does.

AMY: Yes.

LIZ: Oh, so that's why Paul tells us to consider others better than ourselves. He's not telling us to PRETEND to be humble. If we compare lists, we've got a lot to be humble about.

AMY: *(exiting swaggering)* That may be true for SOME of us.

LIZ: *(exiting opposite)* Hey, YOUR list just got longer.

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Discipleship, ministry, spiritual gifts, serving

AMY: *(enters, paging through Bible, begins crossing)*

LIZ: *(follows, reading magazine, looks up)* Hey, Amy, have you read the latest issue of Christian Magazine? *(holds up magazine cover)*

AMY: *(turns)* Huh? Oh, yeah, that came out a couple weeks ago. Why?

LIZ: I just wanted to make sure everybody took the test.

AMY: Oh, you mean that test to find your spiritual gifts?

LIZ: Yeah, did you take it?

AMY: I looked at it. But I didn't take the test. I already know what my spiritual gifts are.

LIZ: You do?

AMY: Yes.

LIZ: Oh.

AMY: *(turns resumes reading, steps toward opposite exit)*

LIZ: Aren't you going to ask me what my spiritual gifts are?

AMY: *(turns)* Huh? Oh, I'm sorry. I'm a little preoccupied. A lady in the hospital asked me a question about the Bible and I have no idea how to answer. *(points to Bible)* What was the question again?

LIZ: My spiritual gifts.

AMY: Oh, yes. So, what are your spiritual gifts?

LIZ: *(swaggers)* Actually, according to the test, I have THREE spiritual gifts. I have the gift of teaching, and the gift of helps and the gift of leadership.

AMY: Three gifts! That's nice.

LIZ: I thought you'd be impressed.

AMY: So, what ministries are you in?

LIZ: Ministries?

AMY: Yes. You know, serving? How are you serving?

LIZ: We were talking about my spiritual gifts. Why are you asking me about serving?

AMY: You're kidding, right?

LIZ: No. I don't see the connection.

AMY: Don't tell me that with all those gifts you're not in any ministries.

LIZ: No. So what?

AMY: This is a put-on, right? What's the punch line?

LIZ: There's no punch line. Spiritual gifts show how spiritually mature a person is. What does that have to do with serving?

AMY: You're serious. You really believe that?

LIZ: Well, sure. I'm sure I read that somewhere.

AMY: Well, it wasn't in the Bible.

LIZ: It wasn't?

AMY: No. And spiritual gifts have nothing whatsoever to do with your Christian maturity. (offers Bible) Can you show me where it says that the closer you get to the Lord, the more gifts you get?

LIZ: (pulls hands away as if the Bible is infected) Well, actually, no I can't.

AMY: So, let me get this right. You have a gift for teaching, but you're not teaching anyone?

LIZ: Well, no.

AMY: And you have a gift for helping people, but you're not helping anyone?

LIZ: Well, no, but....

AMY: And you have a gift for leadership but you're not leading anyone?

LIZ: No! When would I possibly have time for any of that?

AMY: There are seven days and seven nights per week. Are you saying you don't have even one night per week to use your gifts to serve the Lord?

LIZ: Well, no. Monday night is bowling night. Wednesday night I have midweek service at church. Friday night I go out. Saturday is house cleaning day and Saturday night I play racquetball. And Sunday night, if I don't go to church, I catch up on my thank you notes and letter writing.

AMY: What about Tuesday and Thursday nights?

LIZ: Tuesday and Thursday I have adult education.

AMY: What courses are you taking?

LIZ: I'm taking a pottery class. I just made this darling little trivet....

AMY: (turns to audience, bows head and closes eyes)

LIZ: ..with a beautiful floral design and filigree around the... You're not listening to me. What are you doing?

AMY: I'm praying.

LIZ: You're praying... for me?

AMY: No, I'm praying for all the people who will not have their needs met because you're too busy.

LIZ: Oh, don't lay that guilt trip on me.

AMY: I'm not laying a guilt trip on you. I have the gift of prayer. I am praying that the Lord will find someone else to do the work that He set aside for YOU to do.

LIZ: People aren't just standing around waiting for me to serve them.

AMY: Just a moment, let me finish. (pauses, looks up) Thank you, Lord. (to Liz) Now, where were we?

LIZ: You were laying a guilt trip on me.

AMY: Oh, yes, I was about to tell you that, if your ministries are anything like mine, only the Lord knows if the work set aside for you isn't getting done.

LIZ: So, all it'll cost me to be too busy is a few rewards in Heaven.

AMY: All it will cost you is your purpose for living.

LIZ: There you go with the guilt trip again.

AMY: Do you think the Lord went to all the trouble to save you so that you could go bowling and play with clay?

LIZ: You make it sound so petty.

AMY: Compared to the work the Lord has for you to do, it IS petty! Look, the Lord has uniquely equipped you with life experiences, inborn talents and spiritual gifts to do a unique job that only YOU can do. If you don't use your spiritual gifts to serve Him, YOUR work may not get done at all.

LIZ: Alright, you shamed me into it. But how do I know where the Lord wants me to serve?

AMY: When the Lord gave you your spiritual gifts, He also gave you a sense of excitement to use those gifts. I'll bet that the moment you realized that you have the gift of teaching, you immediately got a mental image of teaching a specific subject to a specific class, didn't you?

LIZ: Well, yeah, I guess....

AMY: But that mental image was immediately covered over with self-talk, like "Naw, I could never do that, I'm too busy."

LIZ: Have you been reading my mail?

AMY: No, I went through the same things you're going through right now. When the Lord gave me the gifts of prayer and mercy, immediately, the image appeared in my head of me visiting people in the hospital. But I was too busy. In order to make a real difference in this world, the first thing I had to

do was give up some of my activities that don't make a difference, so that I could make room for activities that DO make a difference.

(both move toward far exit)

LIZ: I suppose you're going to tell me to give up my pottery class.

AMY: I'm sorry, but I don't have the gift of counseling. You'll have to make that decision on your own.

LIZ: You know, it's a real shame to give up my classes. In our next pottery class, we were going to make the prettiest little ashtray, with...

AMY: An ashtray!? You don't smoke.

LIZ: Oh, that's right! You know, you're very observant. Are you sure you don't have the gift of counseling?

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Theme Service Projects/Fundraisers

GEMS Clubs in Zambia

Now IS the time to get involved in the work God is doing in Africa. He has called us to be difference makers—to help those in need. And each of us CAN do something. No matter what our age or life circumstance, we CAN do what God asks us to do. As Hudson Taylor wisely wrote, “God’s work done in God’s way will not lack supply.”

Listed at www.gemsgc.org are multiple ways for you to become involved in *The Call to Africa*, which God has brought to GEMS Girls’ Clubs. We believe with all of our hearts that as we reach out to the girls, orphan children, widows, and women in Zambia, we can truly make a difference in their current and future lives. This in turn will make a difference in our lives and hearts as well—we will be changed. And through it all God will be honored and glorified.

Here are some specific ways you can get involved:

- Be a Prayer Partner
- Help Support & Expand the Number of Clubs in Zambia and Provide Training to Leaders
- Become a Sister Club to a Club in Zambia
- Sponsor a Child or the Momma in *The House that GEMS Built*
- Help Construct & Maintain *The Esther Preparatory School for Girls*

All of the details on these options plus more can be found at www.gemsgc.org.

Bag It Up!

Go to a park or somewhere in your community that’s in desperate need of a cleanup. Group the girls into teams of three to four, giving each team two large plastic trash bags (one for garbage and one for recyclables). At your signal they are to race to see who can fill their bags with trash the fastest. Determine a time limit for the activity, keeping in mind that the younger the girls, the shorter the time should be allotted.

Gift of Games

Go to a local hospital and check out the games that are available in pediatrics and the waiting rooms. Tattered books, board games with missing pieces, and outdated magazines don’t deliver needed cheer to long days. If that’s what you discover, have your GEMS host a toy drive to give the gift of games!

Ask the hospital about their specific needs and then share those needs with your GEMS, their families, and your congregation. Gather gently used and new children’s books, toys, and board games, and have the girls help deliver! On each box attach a sticker or tape a short note that reads, “We pray that you will feel well soon! Sending our love and care, _____ GEMS Girls’ Club.”

Flower Delivery!

Contact a Senior Care Facility to see if it’s OK for your group to deliver flowers to their residents. Find a flower shop that would donate a number of flowers to your cause. (Carnations are a good pocketbook choice!) Have the girls create small tags that include a Bible verse, a word of encouragement, and the name of your club. What a fun and beautiful way to give and receive joy between the generations!

Go Green!

To “Go Green” is to honor God by honoring His creation. This project is a two-step process . . . how can you reduce, reuse, and recycle in GEMS Club and how can you teach your congregation to do the same? Here are a few ideas . . .

- 1) Set up a recycling program in your Club/Church. Provide recycling bins and make them easily accessible. Create a bin for bulletins and craft paper scraps. Designate a collection area for aluminum cans.
- 2) Use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of traditional light bulbs. Did you know that if every household changed its five most used bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs it would have the same impact to our environment as taking eight million cars off the road? To learn more log on to www.energystar.gov.
- 3) Think about your purchases for snack time and craft projects. Buy minimally packaged goods and choose reusable over disposable.

- 4) Use recycled paper in copy machines and printers.
 - 5) Adopt a highway, stream, or park for cleanup or restoration.
 - 6) Follow this age-old, wise advice: Use it up, wear it out, and make it do, or do without.
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10% of a Day of Sales

Talk to a local business owner/manager and check out the possibility of their donating 10% of a day of sales. Advertise the date widely, letting GEMS' supporters know the details. Some businesses may also consider having a donation bucket for GEMS at their cash registers.

Scrapbooking Night!

Plan your fundraiser with a Creative Memories or other scrapbooking consultant—discussing percentages the GEMS will earn for products sold and for the base fee for attending the event. Have large tables spread around a roomy area. Ask the GEMS to pamper the scrapbookers by serving them snacks and beverages, cleaning up their workspace, and serving as runners for supplies. Create a relaxing atmosphere by having soft worship music playing in the background. GEMS could raise funds by serving as babysitters for this event, too!

Hot Dog & Brat Grill

Ask your local grocery store about hosting a stand outside of their store for a Hot Dog & Brat Grill. Purchase all supplies for the fry from the grocery store, have counselors grill, and the GEMS take orders. Along with hot dogs and brats, sell soda, water, and chips. Make sure you have GEMS promotional materials available so you can introduce and invite new girls to GEMS!

Dinners

50's Theme Drive-In: Have your girls and counselors dress 50's style! Serve a simple menu: hot dogs, barbecues, chips, beverages, and ice cream. Customers can drive in and eat in their cars, eat at picnic tables, or you can serve them in a 50's decorated fellowship hall. Have girls take orders, bring them to the counselors to fill, and then bus them back to the customers.

Soup Supper & Bake Sale: Combine two fundraisers into one event. Serve two or three kinds of soups, along with crackers, rolls, and an easy dessert like bars, cookies, or ice cream. Along one wall of your dining room sell baked goods, breads, and soup mixes and cookie mixes in a jar. A great fundraiser on a cold winter night!

Recycling Money

Provide bins where church members, family and friends can donate their empty cans and bottles. Take them to the recycling center and cash them in for your club. It's a go-green fundraiser that provides money for your club and shows tender loving care to God's creation.