Helping Friends Find the Lord

Materials Needed

Helping Friends Find the Lord Cards p. 3; bowl for cards; space for a running activity, e.g. a hallway, gym or outdoors; obstacles for an obstacle course, e.g. scarves, hats, cones, etc.
optional: "Footprints in the Sand" poem (see bit.ly/FootSand)

Prepare in Advance

Print *Helping Friends Find the Lord Cards* p. 3 on stiff paper. Cut apart and put in a bowl. Identify a space for the activity and set up an obstacle course that leads to the bowl with quotes in it. Optional: "Footprints" poem, printed. Use bit.ly/FootSand to find an attractive copy of the poem to print. (Enter bitly link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

New Church Concept
Take Up Your Bed

"Arise, take up your bed and walk," signifies doctrine, and life according to it; "bed" signifies doctrine, and "to walk" life. See *Apocalypse Explained* 163.7



The man let down through the roof is an amazing story of friendship. Unable to move, a paralyzed man was brought to the Lord by four friends. The Lord changed their friend's life by healing him. Explore the question of how we are to "carry" friends to the Lord by playing an active game.

1. Has a friend helped you when you were in need? What happened? How did your friend help?
2. Have you helped a friend in need? What happened? What called you to give help?
3. When the Lord was on earth He helped many people. The Lord is no longer with us in person, so how does He help today? What is our role in helping others?
4. Does the Lord need our help? The Lord once told a parable about sheep and goats which gives examples of human needs, e.g. hunger, thirst, etc. He ended by saying, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40) In what way can this be seen as a call to action?
5. What is the most important or long-lasting help we can give others? Which is more important—to care for others' worldly needs, or their spiritual needs? In what way are both important? Is it possible to care for another's spiritual needs without also caring for their natural needs?
6. In the story of the man let down through the roof four friends brought the man to the Lord. The man was unable to move, or "stuck." This task was difficult and involved creative thinking. How was their help crucial for the man in need of healing?
7. In what ways does the Lord call us to bring others to Him for healing? What might this look like in our lives, with the friends you know?

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Helping Friends Find the Lord *cont.*

8. *Optional*: The famous poem, Footprints in the Sand, is about a person's walk through life with the Lord. Distribute copies of the poem and read aloud. How has the Lord "carried" you during your difficult times?
9. We're going to practice carrying others to the Lord. Divide students into groups of three. Two students will link arms to form a seat (see photo). A third student will sit on top and be carried.
10. The goal of the activity is to carry a friend through the obstacle course (life) to reach the bowl with quotes in it. The student will take an uplifting quote from the bowl as a reminder of the Lord's helpful and healing presence in their lives.
11. Repeat the activity until all have had an opportunity to be carried.
12. How did it feel to be carried? How did it feel to carry someone?

New Church Concept
Charity

"Charity consists essentially in desiring the welfare of one's neighbor, in having an affection for what is good, and in acknowledging that since what is good is one's neighbor, those who are governed by good are consequently one's neighbor, but varyingly so, depending on the amount of good that governs the individual person (Arcana Coelestia 5132:2).

New Church Concept
Love of the Neighbor

Spiritual love to the neighbor begins with the Lord, and goes forth from Him as its center to all who are conjoined to Him by love and faith, going forth in accordance with the quality of their love and faith (Heaven and Hell 558).



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The Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84	Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust. Psalm 143:8
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous. Psalm 146:8	Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my praise. Jeremiah 17:14
Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come…and save you. Isaiah 35:4	Behold I will bring health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. Jeremiah 33:6
I will lead the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. Isaiah 42:16	They brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Matthew 4:24
I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice…. Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live. Psalm 116	“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” Matthew 25:34-46
I sought the Lord and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34	Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51
God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46	Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. Psalm 56
May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble… May He send you help from the sanctuary… May He grant you according to your heart’s desire, And fulfill all your purpose. Psalm 20	Love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. John 15:12-13
The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. Psalm 23	Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. Psalm 33

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