Learn by Doing

Choice Oil and Wine

The Samaritan used oil and wine as medicines to treat the injured man’s wounds. Olive oil is the purest fat available; bacteria cannot live in it. It can aid the healing of cuts and scratches. Wine can be used as an antiseptic and is safer than unpurified water. Spiritually, oil stands for “love to the Lord” and wine stands for “truth” (see *Apocalypse Explained* 375-6). The

Samaritan was “neighbor” to the injured man, treating him with spiritual as well as natural loving kindness. Students will explore ways of treating others in need through role play. Twelve skit sce-narios are provided offering various choices for treating a person with “oil” (love) and / or “wine” (truth).

Materials Needed
Oil and Wine pp. 2-3, space for the group to act skits

Prepare in Advance
Print *Oil and Wine* skits and cut apart.



1. How many different kinds of wounds can you think of? Give examples—physical, mental, and spiritual.
2. The good Samaritan used oil and wine to treat the injured man’s wounds. Oil corresponds to love to the Lord. Why is love important for healing? (Love prompts us to soothe and comfort, e.g. treating a person with loving-kindness.)
3. Wine corresponds to truth. Why is truth important for healing? (Truth shows us what needs to be done, e.g. clean a wound. Without cleaning, wounds become infected.)
4. Why are both love and truth needed for healing?
5. We will act out skits about the ways “oil” and “wine” or “love” and “truth” are used to help others overcome difficult situations. Each skit gives three possible ways to handle a situation. Prepare to act your scenario three times—with a different ending each time.
6. Divide students into groups of two or three. Assign a skit to each group, or let groups choose a skit. Give groups a few minutes to prepare, then gather students for presentations to the entire group. Stop the action after each of the three endings and ask the students to comment on the choices being made. For example,

   Will this make the situation better or worse?
   How would you feel if that was you?
   Does this tell the truth about the situation in a loving way?
   Is this a loving way to respond, but not very helpful in the long run?
7. What are the advantages or disadvantages of being truthful without being loving, or being loving without being truthful?

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Oil and Wine

Three's a Crowd

You are going for a long-expected walk with a friend. Someone you know who is slightly awkward sees you, hurries to catch up, and tries to join you.

1. Tell her that you are having a private conversation and ask that she does not listen in.
2. Slow down for the person and change your conversation to include her since she doesn't have many friends.
3. Quickly go around a corner and hide so that she cannot see where you have gone.

Movie Night

A group of friends goes to the movies and intentionally excludes a boy who wanted to be part of the group. He finds out and is very upset.

1. Tell him the decision had nothing to do with you and you couldn't do anything about it.
2. Apologize for not speaking up. Tell him he is justified in feeling angry about it.
3. Listen to his anger and upset. Offer to go and see the movie again with him.

Clothing Mistake

Someone comes to school and is accidentally wearing an article of clothing inside out.

1. Take him aside and mention it privately so he/she can fix it.
2. Have a good laugh! Point the mistake out to others because he looks so funny.
3. Ignore it, even though others are laughing at him/her behind his back.

Always the Last Picked

As captain of a team in PE you get to pick who is on your team. One girl is really awkward so she always gets left until the last pick and this upsets her.

1. Since your team will probably lose if you pick her, wait until you have a strong team and then pick her.
2. Winning isn't the point of the game, it's having fun. Pick her first and ignore the comments of others.
3. Ignore her. Your job is to build a strong team. She's a bad fit and would cause problems.

I Could Do Better

You have many talents. You write and draw very well. You are doing a group project with people who are not as gifted as you. You think the girl who is drawing the pictures is doing a terrible job.

1. Tell her the pictures need fixing and offer to re-do them.
2. Change the pictures while she isn't looking. Tell her what a great job she did later.
3. Stop and think about your classmate and accept that this is her best work. Acknowledge the best elements of her efforts.

Goalie's Fault?

In the last half of a tough game the score was even. Right before the final bell the opposing team scored on your goal and your team lost. Your goalie is upset.

1. Tell him he should have asked for more help to block the goal.
2. Talk to your teammates about better strategies for assisting the goalie.
3. Remind the goalie that each game is a team effort. Everyone has a part to play in keeping the ball away from the goal. He is not completely responsible.

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Oil and Wine, *continued*

Group Project

You have been assigned a group project in school. Your project will receive one shared grade. You want to do well. Others in your group don't care and have put no effort into it. It is due tomorrow and looks bad.

1. Take the project home and work all night to get it the way you want it to be.
2. Let the group know how much you care. Invite everyone to your house to work together to improve it.
3. Do your best on your part and point out to your teacher that you were the only one who did what they were asked.

Broken Ankle

A friend was warming up for a club gymnastics meet. Impatient, she started practicing before the spotter arrived. She took a bad fall from the equipment and broke her ankle.

1. Tell her she let her team down. If she'd waited, her team would have won the event and gone on to the championships.
2. Go to visit her. Listen sympathetically as she tells her story.
3. As your teammates criticize her, remind them that we all make mistakes.

New School

After a mid-year break there is a new student in your class. He wears weird clothes and is very quiet.

1. Introduce yourself. Let him know you're happy to help him if he has questions.
2. Ask him where he moved from and what his last school was like. Invite him to sit with you and introduce him to your friends.
3. When your friends whisper about him behind his back, laugh with them. Later, you can tell him they were just being stupid.

Auditions

Everyone auditioning for the spring musical has to dance in a small group in front of an audience. A friend messes up each time the dance changes direction. She leaves the stage in tears.

1. Tell her it really doesn't matter. Only a few girls will be picked for the dance chorus anyway.
2. Listen to her frustration. Offer to help her later.
3. Congratulate her for going out in front of all the people—it takes guts. Help her see how funny she looked and have a laugh with her.

Super Sib

Your parents are always praising you. You are good looking, a talented athlete, draw and paint well, and are friendly to everyone. Your sister is jealous and says she hates you.

1. Tell your sibling you really admire the way she works hard. Talents don't make you a great person; it's what you do with them that does.
2. Look for opportunities to praise your sibling.
3. Secretly do something kind for her.

Hurt Feelings

Your friend is really upset by something another person has said.

1. Tell him it can't be all that bad—he is still walking and talking.
2. Stop what you are doing. Invite your friend to come and sit down with you. Give him the space to be sad and let him know you care about his hurt feelings.
3. Ask him what happened.

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