

Media Centers: Computer Center

This activity is designed to help children, youth and adults grow in their understanding and desire to share the Good News. Participants will explore the role the internet plays in giving and receiving immediate information, inspiration and encouragement. They will become acquainted with a new online resource titled "The Grand Central Proclamation Station" which will highlight some of the roles faith proclaimers have played and some people who have played them. They will also have an opportunity to give a "shout-out" to everyday faith proclaimers they currently admire. Computer buddies might also be made to remind participants to share their faith everyday in everyday.

Other resources have been designed to integrate the content of each learning center with the overall theme. The FPBN Gathering activities will introduce and distribute them for participant to use as they move through the "Go -Tell" Media Centers. FPBN I.D. Cards will recognize each participant as a member of the Faith Public Broadcasting Network and "Go-Tell" megaphones will be utilized to celebrate Jesus' invitation (Matthew 28:19) to go tell God's Story. "Go-Tell" stickers have been designed to distribute and display key learnings from the "Go-Tell" Media Centers on the megaphones for future reference.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, along with any needed preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating the details and tasks involved. You may wish to display a sign to identify each learning center. A Media Center sign design (PDF file) is provided for this purpose.

Approximate time: 15 minutes.

Equipment and Supplies:

- "Go -Tell" reference sheet #4 (PDF file)
- "Go -Tell" sticker sheet D (PDF file)
- "Go -Tell" table tents (PDF file)
- Planning Grid (PDF file)
- Pattern for Computer Buddy A-B (PDF file)
- "I'd Like to Give A Shout Out" form (PDF file)
- "Proclaimin' Roles to Play" sheet (PDF file)
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Lightweight card stock copy paper

Leaders Notes:

Scan through this activity and adapt it to honor your own schedule and intent. You may wish to recruit a few volunteers to pre-cut some of the pieces for the Computer Buddy craft.

Identify a space for this activity that will provide internet-access. Inquire about permission to use existing office computers and/or locate some laptops. Locate addresses for popular children, youth and family websites.

Note: This activity may be done without computer or internet access.

Locate the Grand Central Proclamation Station at www.elca.org/dcm/christian_education. Display the front page. If you do not have computer access for your event, display a copy of the Proclamation Station sign design - B. Point out that this site recognizes people who have shared messages of God's love and activity throughout history. They are categorized according to the type of role they played. Click on each category to identify a character from Bible Times that characterizes each role. If you do not have internet access during your event, download these files ahead of time.

Note: The Grand Central Proclamation Station is a work in progress. The website should actually be ready for use in the beginning of September, 2004.

Make a copy of the "Go -Tell" reference sheet #4 and use the file labels to print "Go -Tell" sticker sheet B. Place a sticker on a megaphone for easy reference. See Proclamation Station: Now & Then for the pattern and instructions for making a megaphone.

Download and complete a sample "I'd Like to Give A Shout Out" form, identifying a group or individual in your congregation who models the role of a faith proclaimer. You may wish to use the "Proclaimin' Roles to Play" sheet to inform your decision. Make additional copies of the form and reference sheet for participant use. You may also wish to create a way to present them to the recipient(s) or designate a place to display these recognition forms

Make a "Go-Tell" table tent to identify the location of this activity. Fold the sheet lengthwise and cut along the solid line of the megaphone above the fold to display it apart from the rest of the table tent. Identify a number for the activity in the space provided.

Create a sample Computer Buddy, using the following instructions.

- Make copies of the pattern for a Computer Buddy, using sheets A-B
- Cut out the upper body, lower body and heart pieces, using the solid lines as a guide
- Align the top edge of the lower body to the dotted line on the upper body. Adhere it with glue.
- Place the heart between the body and the left arm to indicate the arm is embracing the heart. Adhere the heart to the left arm and shoulder only.
- Fold the upper body back to give a 3-D effect.
- The computer Buddy is designed to lay on top of the computer with the arms hanging over the side of the computer screen to remind computer users to share God's love on-line.

Display the "Possibilities for Proclamation" sheet that identifies some of the computer programs and electronic communications that participants have used. (It was used in the Proclamation Station: Now & Then Gathering Activity.)

Activity:

If possible, display some popular websites on the computer desktops or laptops you have acquired for use during this activity. Ask them to also identify other websites and computer programs they use. You might also refer to the "Possibilities for Proclamation" sheet you have displayed.

Suggest that computers have a growing ability to define and shape our culture in new ways. Point out that computers provide a great way for people to give and receive information. Comment on the convenience and immediacy of email communication and Instant Messaging. Mention that statistics recognize it as instrumental in recovering the endangered art of letter writing. Inquire how many participants use programs for emailing and Instant Messaging. Comment on the need to use it with care as there are people who wish to misuse it.

Celebrate the fact that computers can also provide creative, efficient and effective ways to proclaiming and imprinting messages of God's love and activity upon our hearts and lives. Display "Go-Tell" reference sheet #4 and read the inspiration this Bible verse provides for upholding and supporting people far and near.

Display a copy of the "Proclaimin' Roles to Play" sheet and scan through the various roles identified. Ask participants to identify some of the roles they have played. Note that we have occasions in our lives when we might be called upon to play any one of these roles. Point out that our God-given gifts, abilities and ongoing openness to God's lead will affect our willingness to respond to God's call to play them.

Display your sample "I'd Like to Give a Shout Out to..." form. You might consider introducing this resource in the following ways.

- If time permits, you might invite participants to identify individuals or groups who model one of the roles of a faith proclaimer, or... you might consider completing one form as a group.
- Identify this project to be an ongoing activity that you will be working on throughout the year.

Bring closure to these activities by distributing stickers with the key learning/Bible verse for this Media Center. Encourage participants to adhere it to their megaphone for future reference. .