

RELY

lesson

4

Big Idea

I need to rely on others to help me while I also give help to others so that they can rely on me. It is important to have a strong trust with the person I rely on, and for both of us to know each other really well.

Activities + supplies

ACTIVITY 1: The Golden Rule

- what I do for others handout
- what others do for me handout
- red string or yarn
- scissors
- crayons/markers/colored pencils

ACTIVITY 2: Coupons for Helping

- coupon handout, cut before class begins
- crayons/markers/colored pencils

ACTIVITY 3: Thank You Notes

- thank you card handout, cut before class begins
- crayons/markers/colored pencils

Memory Verse

In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you.

MATTHEW 7:12

Bible Story

Rahab made a deal with the two spies that helped them to rely on each other. Rahab would save their lives if they would save her and her family's lives.

Relationship Skills

Determining needs, helpfulness, taking initiative to be helpful, articulating own needs.

Introduction

Today we are going to talk about having great relationships. And an important part of every good relationship is having a fair and balanced reliance. This means that you can **RELY** on that person to do nice things for you, **AND** that they can **RELY** on you to do nice things for them.

The word of the day is RELY. The hand motion is to put your hands together (like a cup) and reach out.



Have you ever yelled for help to your mom or dad...like "help me put my shoes on" or "help, I need a snack?" This is called, rely, because you are relying on your mom or dad to help you and meet some needs you have ...like the need for a snack. Yum.

Your parents....yes, your parents are responsible for meeting most of your needs and taking care of you.

Use the RAM chart. How high is your **RELY** on your parents (*it should be really high*). Go to **KNOW** —How well do you know your mom/dad (*very high*)? And trust, how much do you trust your mom/dad (*high again*)?

So, it makes sense to rely WHEN you first really know and trust someone. But if you don't know someone (like a stranger) should you trust them? Or if you know someone at school really well, and they cannot be trusted, then should you rely or depend on this person? **Answer:** No. There is a good chance this person will let you down.

How do your parents rely on you? What do they expect you to do to help them, or what do they ask you to do to help them?

This is how they rely on you.

Can you think of other people in your life that help you and take care of you? Babysitters, grandparents, teachers, Sunday school teachers?

What do they ask you to do for them... to help, or to take care of yourself? This is how they **RELY** on you—depend on you, expect you to do something.

Go back to the RAM chart. Do your parents KNOW you? How well? And do they trust you? How high (*move high*)? But think about driving the car...do they trust you to drive the car? Wouldn't it be crazy for them to rely on your to drive the car when they KNOW you cannot be trusted to drive the car?

Activity 2

Coupons for Helping: *Use the coupon handout to write a promise for how you want to help someone in your family.*

Activity 3

Thank You Notes: *Use the thank you note handout to write a thank you for how someone in your family helps you. At the bottom of each thank you note, write a "thank you" to God for some of the ways that He meets our needs.*

Bible Time:

RECAP OF JOSHUA 6: Rahab made a deal with the two spies that helped them to rely on each other. Rahab would save their lives if they would save her and her family's lives.

God promised a new land for the Jews. God had chosen Moses to be a leader that would take the Jewish people out of slavery in the country of Egypt, and to march across a few hundred miles to a land that they were to claim as their own.

A military leader named Joshua took over after Moses. As he led the Jewish people they encountered many other tribes that they had to fight in wars. But God

continued to give them victory after victory, and slowly they became settled in their new land.

During this journey, Joshua and the Jewish people came to a land with a very large city called Jericho. There were high walls all around the city, making it nearly impossible to enter or attack. Although they knew God promised them to win in a battle, Joshua needed to figure out how!

Joshua sent two spies into the city of Jericho to scout out the best ways to attack the city. The two spies disguised themselves as visitors when they entered the city. They decided to spend the night at a boarding house run by a woman named Rahab.

While they were staying in Rahab's boarding house, a messenger came to the door and told her that the King of Jericho had figured out that she had two spies staying with her. The messenger told Rahab to bring the two spies to the King so he could put them in prison.

However, Rahab knew that God was on the side of the spies and the Jewish nation. So, she quickly took the two spies up to the top floor of her house and out a window onto the roof. On the roof was thatched straw where she was able to hide both men. She had them lay down and then she covered them up with straw, so they could not be seen.

She then told the king that the spies had already left and that if he hurried, the king and his army could probably catch up with them. She did this, so the king and his army would leave the city and then the two spies could safely escape. Before they left, Rahab asked for a deal of "reliance" to be made between the spies and her family. This is what she said to them. They had just **RELIED** on Rahab to hide them, and save their lives from the King. And now, Rahab wanted to make a deal where she could **RELY** on them to save her life and her family's life when their army attacked the city. This is what she said:

"Now then, please give me your word. Promise me in the name of the LORD that you will be kind to my family. I've been kind to you. Promise me that you will spare the lives of my father and mother. Spare my brothers and sisters. Also spare

everyone in their families... So the men made a promise to her. "If you save our lives, we'll save yours," they said. **Joshua 2:12-14**

When you rely on someone, you look to them to do something for you, something that would help you. The two spies had to rely on Rahab to save their lives from the king of Jericho and his army.

But in a good relationship, both people do nice things for each other. Rahab knew that eventually God would give the Jews victory over her city, so she asked them to return her favor by protecting her and her family whenever that battle occurred.

The two spies climbed down from her roof on a red rope. They told Rahab to keep red rope hanging from her upstairs window and when they attacked the city, they would be sure to NOT harm anyone who was in her home. They would tell their entire Jewish army to protect everyone inside the house with the red rope.

Rahab and her entire family were kept safe when the battle of Jericho happened because of the promises they made to **RELY** on each other—the spies relied on Rahab to protect them, and Rahab relied on the spies to protect her and her family!

When Jesus was teaching a large crowd, he explained this important part of relationships this way:

"Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you." **Matthew 7:12.**

Jesus was saying we should think of all of the good ways that we rely on others to do something nice or helpful, and then we should do those same nice and helpful things for others... so they can rely on us just like we rely on them! He explained that when we do this rule, we put into practice God's love.

It can all boil down to this **GOLDEN RULE...** let's say it:

In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you.” (Have the kids repeat this a couple times).

Activity 1

The Golden Rule: Let's do an activity that helps us to put into action this golden rule of Jesus. Remember Rahab—what did she hang out of the window to show that she helped the two spies, and that she wanted them to also help her?

Answer: the red rope.

*On the board up front, hang a red string or yarn from high up to the floor. You can put the heading **RELY** at the top of the yarn. The red yarn represents the red rope that Rahab left hanging from the upstairs window in her home. This was a sign that she and her family could **RELY** on the Israelites when they entered the city.*

Use the Golden Rule handout and have the children fill out the four areas of: what I do for others and what others do for me. They should put the name of the person (e.g. mom, dad, sibling or friend name) and either write the way help is given or received, or draw a picture of how help is given or received. The handouts can then be tape to the respective red ropes. Then, they can take them off when they leave the class.

Small Group Questions

Early Elementary

- What the word “rely” means, is that you depend on someone to take care of one of your needs.
- Let's make a list of the needs you and others have. Make a list of **THINGS I NEED** and **THINGS OTHERS NEED**. Put a name next to each need of others (e.g. mom, dad, brother, sister, friend, etc.).
- What are some needs that they have (like mom, or dad, or sibling, or friend) that you meet?
- How do you meet some of your parent's needs? Your brother or sister's needs?

Late Elementary

- How about your friends... what are some nice things you do for your friends?
- And what are some nice things that your friends do for you?
- What does it feel like when your needs are taken care of?
- How does it feel when your needs aren't being met? How do you handle that?
- Who are some people other than your family that you rely on?
- What are some needs that these people meet for you?

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for taking care of us and doing so many special things for us. We are also thankful for our moms and dads, and our families that also do so much to take care of us. Help each of us to always look for ways to help others.

Amen.