

Building Community

For ages 3 to 18 years

Community building activities help to bring us together and help to strengthen our
Spiritual family.

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Table of Contents

WELCOME:

Introduction & Program Overview.....	3
Curriculum Supply Lists	4
Developmental Assets Overview.....	8

LESSON 1: “Who Am I?” Overview	10
Preschool.....	12
Elementary.....	16
Preteens.....	20
Teens.....	24

LESSON 2: “Who Are We Together?” Overview	30
Preschool.....	32
Elementary.....	36
Preteens.....	40
Teens.....	44

LESSON 3: “Working Together in Community” Overview	52
Preschool.....	54
Elementary.....	58
Preteens.....	62
Teens.....	66

LESSON 4: “How Do We Pray Together?” Overview	74
Preschool.....	76
Elementary.....	80
Preteens.....	84
Teens.....	88

LESSON 5: “Being Inclusive” Overview	96
Preschool.....	98
Elementary.....	102
Preteens.....	106
Teens.....	110

LESSON 6: “We Are All Connected” Overview	114
Preschool.....	116
Elementary/Preteens/Teens.....	120

Welcome

Introduction

These 6 lessons are designed to build and strengthen a feeling of community and spiritual family among the participants in your youth ministry programs. We begin with exploring who we are as individuals, how individuals make up our communities and how working and playing together benefits everyone.

Program Overview

Focus of this material:

This material can be used in the fall as a “Back to School” type of curriculum because the children and teens will be engaged in creating different parts of the classroom experience, such as: *Vision Statements; Heart Agreements; Prayer Shawls; Prayer Boxes, etc...*

It can also be used as a general community building curriculum that explores the power in recognizing the self and of working together in community. Each lesson includes activities designed to create inclusiveness and working together for the common good.

Lesson Format

The lessons are designed for students ages 3 to 18. Included in each week’s lesson are:

- 1 Lesson Overview
- Complete supply lists
- Sacred Circle activities for 3 different age groups
- Stories for 4 different age groups
- Age appropriate activities for each age group

The Lesson Details:

- Sacred Circle
- Story Sharing
- Possible Discussion Questions. These questions are examples of how to use the questioning process and may be used as they are stated or may be changed to suit your particular classroom situation.
- Creative Expression. The creative expression activities are designed to be open ended and to allow the children to express what they gained in the lesson. There are two choices in most lessons.

40 Developmental Assets

Each lesson is aligned with the Developmental Assets. More information about the Developmental Assets can be found at www.search-institute.org

This curriculum is designed to support children & teens from the ages of 3 to 18.

Curriculum Supply Lists

SPECIAL ORDER BOOKS & SUPPLIES NEEDED		
Lesson #	Title	ISBN/Source
1	<i>On the Night You Were Born</i> , By Nancy Tillman	ISBN 0312346069
1	<i>Hooray for You!</i> , By Marianne Richmond	ISBN 1934082082
1	<i>Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul 2</i> , By Jack Canfield	ISBN 0757301509
1	<i>The Secret to Teen Power</i> , By Paul Harrington	ISBN 141699498X
2	<i>I Love You So</i> , By Marianne Richmond	ISBN 1934082074
2	<i>In God's Name</i> , By Sandy Eisenberg Sasso	ISBN 1879045265
2 & 4	<i>Prayers for a Thousand Years</i> , Edited by: Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon	ISBN 006066875X
2	<i>Imagine</i> , By John Lennon	Audio Recording
3	<i>Swimmy</i> , By Leo Lionni	ISBN 0394826205
3	<i>Only One You</i> , By Linda Kranz	ISBN 0873589017
3	<i>How the Stars Fell Into the Sky</i> , By Jerrie Oughton	ISBN 0395779383
4	<i>Play & Pray: Toddler Prayers</i> , By Deb Lund	ISBN 0819219207
4	<i>Journey to the Heart</i> , By Frank Jelenek	ISBN 1557254826
4	<i>Between Earth & Sky</i> , By Joseph Bruchac	ISBN 0152020624
5 & 6	<i>All I See is Part of Me</i> , By Chara Curtis	ISBN 0935699074
5 & 6	<i>Avatar</i> , Movie by James Cameron	DVD

Lesson #1 - Preschool & Elementary			
Age Group	Preschool	Elementary	Elementary
Title	<u>I Shine!</u>	<u>This is Who I Am!</u>	<u>Hooray for Me!</u>
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera • Photo paper • Star shapes • Scissors • Star garland • Glue Sticks • Stickers • Markers • Medium-sized ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera • Photo paper • Small magnetic frames • Scissors • Large magnet white board • Glue Sticks • Stickers • Markers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star shapes, 1/child (See page 15) • Star Garland • Glitter glue • Markers

Lesson #1 - Preteens & Teens

Age Group	Preteens	Preteens	Teens	Teens
Title	<u>What Does My Heart Tell Me I Am?</u>	<u>My Self Revealed</u>	<u>I Am Unique!</u>	<u>I Am Unlimited!</u>
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera • Photo paper • Decorative paper • Scissors • Glue Sticks • Stickers • Markers • Art supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bag of M&Ms • Large bowl • Small cups, 1/ student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditation music • Modeling clay • Paper • Pencils • Markers

Lesson #2 - Preschool, Elementary & Preteens

Age Group	Preschool	Elementary	Elementary & Preteens
Title	<u>Cooperative Games</u>	<u>The Pieces of Us</u>	<u>The Sacred Box</u>
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puzzles pieces, (See end of lesson) • Card stock paper • Scissors • OR - Purchased blank puzzle with at least 12 pieces • Markers • Poster Board • Tacky glue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Med. sized box with lid • Wrapping paper • Markers • Stickers • Electric candle • Piece of fabric • Various other sacred items • Stuffed animal

Lesson #2 - Preteens & Teens

Age Group	Preteens & Teens	Teens
Title	<u>This Is Who We Are</u>	<u>Prayer Table</u>
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flip Chart • Markers • Poster Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer cloth • Candle • Candle holder • Various other sacred items • Stuffed animal

Lesson #3 - All Ages

Age Group	Preschool	Elementary, Preteens & Teens	Elementary, Preteens & Teens
Title	<u>Heart Agreements & Let's All Work Together</u>	<u>Heart Agreements</u>	<u>Door Sign</u>
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster board • Mr. Potato Head: Eyes, Ears, Mouth, Hands & Feet • Markers • Tacky Glue • Copy of fish, 1/child • Markers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster board • Markers • Masking tape • Glitter glue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foam core board • Markers • Glitter glue • Ribbon

Lesson #4 - All Ages

Age Group	Preschool & Elementary	Elementary, Preteens & Teens	Preteens & Teens
Title	<u>Prayer Shawls</u>	<u>Prayer Box</u>	<u>Prayer Shawls</u>
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 yd of Fleece fabric/5-7 children • Scissors • Stickers • Self-sticking gems and foam shapes • Markers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden Box • Gems • Stickers • Markers • Prayer sheets, (<i>See end of lesson</i>) • Pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 yd of Fleece fabric/5 Teens • Scissors • Stickers • Self-sticking gems and foam shapes • Fabric paint • Glitter glue • Markers

Lesson #5 - All Ages

Age Group	Preschool	Elementary	Preteens & Teens	Teens
Title	<u>I See You Too!</u>	<u>I See You</u>	<u>Seeing Eyes</u>	<u>Video</u>
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 inch squares of fabric, 1/child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet paper tubes, 2/child (<i>You can substitute sheets of paper rolled into tube shapes</i>) • Markers • Stickers • 1 x 3 inch strips of paper, 1/child • Tape • String, 18 inches long, 1/child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ping Pong balls, 1/Teen • Battery powered tea lights, 1/Teen • Pointed permanent makers, assorted colors • Utility knife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laptop or other computer with internet access

SAMPLE

Search Institute

Information from: www.search-institute.org

Who Are They?

Search Institute's Vision

To create a world where all young people are valued and thrive.

Search Institute's Mission

To provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities.

Search Institute's Value Proposition

Search Institute is a leading global innovator in discovering what children and adolescents need to become caring, healthy, and responsible adults. Drawing on extensive research, Search Institute brings hopeful solutions to pressing challenges in the lives of young people and their communities.

Search Institute Believes

- All children and adolescents need and deserve the range of “developmental nutrients” identified in the framework of Developmental Assets.
- “All children and adolescents” includes children and adolescents of all races, ethnicities, cultures, genders, religions, economic backgrounds, sexual orientation, and abilities.
- Significant community and societal change is needed to ensure the equitable spread of Developmental Assets; the five action strategies we have identified can bring about this change.
- All communities have the talent, wisdom, and expertise to create asset-building communities.
- Developmental Assets have many sources, including adult influence, peer influence, families, neighborhoods, congregations, schools, and youth organizations.
- These resources, individually and in combination, can be powerfully mobilized at the local, community level.
- The community and social change needed to reach our vision requires major transformation of how we see, know, and relate with children and adolescents.
- Children and adolescents are particularly powerful agents of change and should be positioned as leaders in transforming community and society.
- The prime actors in this transformation are all people: children, adolescents, and adults.
- Search Institute's role is to provide knowledge and resources to help them create an environment that supports young people.

Search Institute's Developmental Assets

Information from: www.search-institute.org

What are the Developmental Assets?

The Developmental Assets are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

Studies of more than 2.2 million young people consistently show that the more assets young people have, the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviors and the more likely they are to thrive. Assets have power for all young people, regardless of their gender, economic status, family, or race/ethnicity, and are better predictors of high-risk involvement and thriving than poverty or being from a single-parent family.

There are many ways in which you can start building assets for the children and youth around you. Whether they're in your family, school, or community, Search Institute has resources you can use to create a better world for kids. **Go to www.search-institute.org for more information on this program and other valuable books and resources.**

The 40 Developmental Assets

External Asset Categories Include

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries & Expectations
- Constructive Use of Time

Internal Asset Categories Include

- Commitment to Learning
- Positive Values
- Social Competencies
- Positive Identity

For a more detailed list of the assets and how to support the development of them, go to <http://www.search-institute.org/content/40-developmental-assets-adolescents-ages-12-18>