

ACTIVITY TIME!!!

Activity

Materials:

Paper, Coloring Utensils, Safety pins (small, large, or both), Seed beads (size 6/0 or 4mm), Plastic bag or other small container

When Jesus provides 153 fish for the disciples and cooks breakfast for them on the beach, he is sharing the abundance of God's realm with his friends. In God's realm, there is always more than enough. Whether it's food or love, we can receive and share God's abundance for ourselves and those around us.

Making friendship pins (a crafty fad popular in the 1980s) is a simple and fun way to practice giving and receiving God's abundant love.

Begin by passing out paper and coloring utensils to all participants. On the paper, brainstorm a list of everyone you might talk to in a day: family, friends, teachers, neighbors, etc. You can write their names or draw a picture. As you do this, share some of the different ways you share love with them.

Now, give everyone a handful of safety pins and an assortment of seed beads, and try to make a friendship pin for every person on your list. To make a friendship pin: open the safety pin, thread beads onto the pin, and then close it.

Note: Safety pins are sharp! You might want to instruct participants on how to handle them safely and provide hands-on help for some participants.

When everyone has finished, give each participant a plastic bag, or another small container, for their friendship pins. Encourage them to carry their pins with them this week and share them with the people on their list. Friendship pins can be looped onto shoelaces, backpacks, necklaces, key chains, and used in many other fun ways! You can also provide supplies for participants to take and create more friendship pins on their own

Alternate Activity

Materials:

Paper, Coloring Utensils, Pipe cleaners, Pony beads

If younger participants haven't fully developed the fine motor skills necessary for the previous activity, use this adaptation to make pipe cleaner friendship bracelets.

Give each participant a piece of paper and coloring utensils. Talk about how Jesus shared love with his friends and invites us to share love with our friends too. Think about one to three special people in your life and draw a picture of them. As you draw, share all the different ways you show them love.

Start with giving each participant one pipe cleaner and a handful of beads to make a friendship bracelet for one person in their picture. Thread as many beads as you want onto the pipe cleaner, then create a

circle by twisting the ends together. Participants can make more bracelets or take supplies with them to make more later. Encourage them to give their bracelets to the person/ people in their drawing this week.