

Activities

1. FROG - Fully Rely on God
2. Risk Taking Activity
3. The Holy Spirit and Balloons Activity

FROG – Fully Rely on God

In the end Redevelopment is all about FROG – Fully Rely on God

Psalm 33:20-22 (The Message).....We're depending on God; he's everything we need. What's more, our hearts brim with joy since we've taken for our own his holy name. Love us, God with all you've got – that's what we're depending on.

Fling the frogs!!!

Risk Taking Activity

Beginning something new, doing things in new ways, creating a Missional ethos – all of this involves change, exploration, experimentation and taking risks

How many of you are risk takers?

It might depend on what area of our lives we are talking about.....I was willing to take risks as a pastor, trying new things, thinking 'outside the box', etc., but if you take me to an amusement park, that is where my risk stops. I am not getting on any of those rides!

What is the best way not to fall off a ladder? Don't get on. But sometimes we have to climb a ladder to accomplish a goal – change a light bulb, clean the leaves out of a gutter.

Someone once said to me, "I would be willing to take a risk, if I knew what was at the other end." What is your response to that? Then it's not a risk. Ok. Hold that thought.

In jest....You know, I am somewhat of a fortune teller, I am going to tell your fortune, predict your future today. Lol!

Distribute fortune cookies with scripture verse in them. You can order these from Oriental Trading Co.

Have participants volunteer, and then stand up and read their fortune to the group.

Remember the thought that you were holding – If we know what is at the end of a risk, then it is not a risk. You do know what, or rather who, is at the end of every risk that you take – God/Jesus.

And not only is God/Jesus at the end, but at the beginning, and in the middle, and every step along the way.

As you discern what God is calling you to do, as you develop the purpose and guiding principles for your congregation, God is going to lead you into new ways of mission and ministry, exploring, experimenting, taking risks. You can move forward because God is with you.....every step.....

Does this mean that you will never fail? Probably not, we are human, we fail.....but when we fail we fall right into the arms of God....and that is not a bad place to be.

The God I know, let's me rest for a while and then plops me back up on my feet and gives me a shove and tells me to get moving.....living out my baptismal call, accomplishing what God is calling me to do, living out the congregations purpose and guiding principles.

(more on the next page)

The Holy Spirit and Balloons Activity

Today we are going to learn about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the part of God that lives in us – right inside of us.....can you believe it? In the Lutheran tradition, we believe that when you are baptized, God gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit. And that Spirit of God will always be dwelling inside of you. wow! Humbling to think that God would choose to dwell in me.

Give everyone a balloon

Look at the balloon.....it has no energy.....kinda blah.....do you ever feel like that? Sometimes we feel down, depressed, struggles with health, or we are in mourning, or experiencing a broken relationship. The Spirit comforts us, showing compassion and care. The Bible tells us that the Spirit intercedes for us even when we do not know how to pray. The Spirit comforts us, gives us strength, gives us healing, gives us peace, and eventually leads us to hope.

Sometimes we talk about the Spirit being the breath of God. Think of the balloon as you.....and now I want you to blow air into the balloon.....think of the air as the breath of God.....the Holy Spirit living inside of you (don't tie the balloon, just blow it up).....offer help to those who need it.

What do you notice about the balloon as you blow air into it? (it gets bigger, it changes shape)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit changes us, too.

The Spirit helps our faith to grow.

The Spirit also changes us, often encouraging us to try new things, to change (a word we Lutherans find challenging). The Spirit pushes at our edges.....growing and changing us.

Now I want you to hold on to your balloon – don't tie it, hold it high in the air. Now when I count to three, I want you to let go of your balloon. Ready? 1—2—3—LET GO!

Wow! Wasn't that fun?

Let's learn some things about the Holy Spirit from these balloons....

When you let go did your balloon stay in one place?

No, it flew somewhere didn't it? That is like the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is always active, always on the move.

And when you let go did you know where your balloon was going to end up?

No, you didn't....could you even find it now? Do you know which one was yours? That is like the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is unpredictable, that means we don't know what the Spirit is going to do or where the Spirit is going to be. And often the Spirit surprises us in exciting and wonderful ways.

And one more thing....what did you hear when you let of your balloons and they were flying around? Did you hear laughter? That is like the Holy Spirit as well. The Spirit is fun, brings joy and excitement.....and fun and joy and excitement lead to hope.