

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

DISCUSSION GROUP ACTIVITY, DAY 1

- The theme for this summer is, “**Reimagine Community.**”
- **Discussion Group Activity – Day 1:** Use pipe cleaner chains to demonstrate how we as individuals are connected to Christ and each other through small and large groups.
- **Props to use:**
 - Colorful Pipe Cleaners – three for each person in the discussion group and extra pipe cleaners to connect each person’s to the larger chain
 - Sticky label and marker to label each person’s chain with their name

Bible Passage, 1 John 1:7, “Suppose we walk in the light, just as He (God) is in the light. Then we share life with one another. And the blood of Jesus, His Son, makes us pure from all sin.”

- Whether we are in our large group or this small discussion group, God wants us to be in community where we come together to study His Word, pray and share life with one another.
- **Hold Up Three Pipe Cleaners;** These different colored pipe cleaners represent each of us. We are all different, with our individual giftedness, and abilities that we can share with each other. Just like we learned in the story of Ruth and Naomi, Ruth became part of Naomi’s community. She gave up all that she knew and was familiar with back in Moab just so she could be with Naomi to Bethlehem.

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- Connect your three pipe cleaners and connect them together being careful to wrap the ends around the loop of the chain (don't twist the ends).
- Think about the three lessons we are learning about community, belonging, growing, and loving in our Christian community.
- As you connect your three links together, think about three things that make you special and unique. It could be something you're good at, maybe that you like dogs, or that you have a special way of encouraging others just by your smile.
- Put your name sticker on the middle link. This is your individual chain that represents you!
- But the body of Christ is more than just one person. It is ALL of us who believe in Jesus. Now connect each individual chain together and make one big chain for your small group using another pipe cleaner.
- Look how beautiful this is! When we belong to a community, we can shine the light of Jesus to one another. We are all part of the larger chain, each of us is important to make the chain complete.
- After you have connected your individual chains to each other in your small group we will hang it in the room to remind us that when we are connected to one another and belong to of the body of Christ in community.
- On the third day all the Small Discussion Group leaders will bring their group's chain and connect them together for the large group photo. We will have one giant chain!
- This large chain demonstrates how we all are connected to each other, as individuals, small groups, and as a large group. Together with Jesus, we are the body of Christ!