

SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

OBJECT LESSON, DAY 1

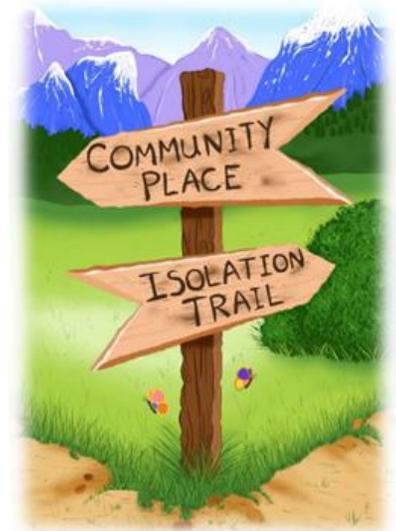
- The theme for this summer is, “Reimagine Community.”
- **Object Lesson – Day 1:** Using single strand and braided fishing line we demonstrate how we are stronger together in Christian community than when we are alone.
- **Props to use:**
 - Light-weight single strand fishing line
 - Multi-strand braided fishing line
 - Two 5-pound weights
 - 2 Wooden dowels

Preparation of Props

- Tie one end of the light-weight fishing line to the first weight and the other end around the first wooden dowel.
- Tie one end of the braided fishing line to the second weight and the other end around the second wooden dowel.

Object Lesson Script

Today we will show how important is to belong in Christian community. Sometimes we will experience hard things in life such as a tough job, conflict with people around us, or an illness. The world is full of trouble. We all have things that can weigh us down like this weight.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

OBJECT LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

Think of this weight as troubles that we face in life (show the weight). Now think of the fishing line as you, your faith (**show the fishing line**).

Let's see what will happen when we go through life alone, like this little strand of fishing line. Let's see what happens when we try to carry the weight of all our troubles by ourselves." (**Let go of the weight**).

Look! It snapped! That's what can happen to us if we try to go through life alone. We can get down, discouraged and depressed.

Naomi had a lot of hard things happen to her. She left her country - her friends and all that was familiar to her and lived in a strange country. Then her husband died, then her two sons died! Talk about troubles! Can you imagine? Just think if she had tried to go back to her people all alone. Would she have made it? Probably not.

The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes ***"Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. Suppose either of them falls down. Then the one can help the other one up."***

God does not want us to live life alone. He wants us to be part of a Christian community. One that will help us when we go through challenging times, pray with us when we are afraid, support, and encourage us when we feel overwhelmed. Two are better than one. Just like Ruth and Naomi were better together.

We were never meant to live our lives alone. (**Hold up the other weight with the braided fishing line tied to it.**) This is the same fishing line; however, it's braided with other pieces of fishing line so there are three strands instead of just one.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

2022 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

OBJECT LESSON, DAY 1 CONTINUED

What do you think will happen when I let go of the weight now? **(Let go of the weight)** It didn't snap, did it? It held strong. When we live life in a Christian community, strengthen on another, we are stronger together!

There are times when we don't feel like trusting God. We saw in our story that Naomi didn't feel like trusting God, she even changed her name to "bitter" She may have been upset with God about the way her life was turning out. But Ruth came along side her and joined her in community. She was committed to her. Ruth helped Naomi, encouraged her, supported her, and prayed for her. She showed her steadfast love and kindness. They were better together.

Just like this braided fishing line we need our Christian community to go through life together so when those tough times come, we can stay strong together.