

GOD'S PAINTING KIT

Aims of this exercise.

- ✓ *To help the participants realize that God has a plan for the world and for each one of us.*
- ✓ *To become aware that each one's role in the world is unique and irreplaceable. God "needs" each one of us to draw his final picture of the world.*

Target Audience:

Children, adolescents and youth

Requirements:

A painting kit: brushes, paints, water, pen-cils, etc.
 Writing materials for all.
 New Testament copies.
 Hymn Books

Time: About one hour and half.

PROCEDURE:

1. Preparation:

In the chapel or in quiet room, keep empty chairs, stools or pillows for all the participants to sit. Arrange them in a neat circle.

In the middle of the circle keep a painting kit.

Look for a volunteer able to paint or draw simple items like a house, a landscape, etc.

Rehearse with him the dialogue found in step 3 below.

When everything is ready, call the participants in

The would be painter .sit will in the middle of the circle next to the painting kit

2. Introductory Prayer

Begin by singing some hymns.

Say a prayer asking for God's help for the success of the session about to begin.

3. A Role- play

1. The moderator will open the painting kit, take only a painting brush and give it to the -would- be- painter, and ask him to draw a landscape or house, etc.
2. A dialogue similar to this will follow.

Moderator: Johnny, kindly, draw a landscape.

Johnny: I can't.

Moderator: Please, draw a landscape as I told you.

Johnny: I can't.

Moderator: Johnny, do you know how to draw?

Johnny: Yes, I know!
 Moderator: Then, draw the landscape!
 Johnny: I can't, I can't, I can't.

3. The moderator will then, ask the participants some questions like these:
 If Johnny knows how to draw, why does he keep saying: I can't, I can't?
 Can he draw anything at all, with only a brush?
 What items he needs to draw a landscape or any other thing?
4. Let them enumerate the things required to draw a landscape, for instance, paper, colors, water, pencils, etc.
5. As the things are being mentioned, the moderator brings them out from the painting kit and hands them over to Johnny.
6. When all the required items are there, a new dialogue begins.
 Moderator: Johnny, can you now draw the land-scape?
 Johnny: O yes, I can.
 Moderator: Then, do it.
7. And Johnny quickly does draw his landscape in front of all the participants.

4. Mini-input.

By way of introduction the moderator speaks to the participants in this or similar fashion:

- God is sort of a great painter. He wants to paint a wonderful picture of this world.
- He wants to make all men good, happy, loving, just and faithful.
- He wants to blot out from the picture of this world all sins, crimes, dishonesty, oppression, murders, fights, ugly things.
- He wants to paint a very bright, beautiful, charming world.
- He wants all peoples of the world to acknowledge him as a Father, to accept Jesus as their Savior and that we love each other as brothers and sisters.

5. Personal Work. Mini Questionnaire.

Participants, write down your answers. In order to draw such a wonderful and beautiful picture of the world

What sort of painting kit does God need?
 Name the items required in his kit.
 Who are the brushes?
 Who are the colors?
 Who is the water?
 Who is the paper?
 Any other persons wanted? Who?
 What might you be or stand for in his painting kit?
 Can all of us be brushes? Or paper? Or water? Why?
 What should each one be?

6. Sharing The Answers with the group And Discussion

Participants will share their replies.

Moderator, make sure that the following points come up for discussion and are understood and accepted:

- Each item in the painting kit has to work in collaboration with the others; a brush, a paper cannot function alone. The role of the paints, paper, pencils, water, etc. is always dependent on others; they are interdependent.
- To make our world look as God wants it, each one of us has a role to play.
- Each one's role is unique; however, we need each other; we are interdependent.
- God needs all and each one of us to be able to paint his beautiful world.
- Each one of us is just an item in God's painting kit!
- Our function, our role, our place in God's painting kit is what we call our vocation in life.
- God needs all sorts of people: Married and unmarried; priests and teachers; scientists and farmers; doctors and engineers; mechanics and clerks; artists and sportsmen, etc
- But above all HE NEEDS YOU! to be his disciple and his partner, a person dedicated to Him and to others.
- Have you ever thought what your role of vocation is in God's plan might be?
- Have you ever prayed and searched to find it. . Keep on praying and thinking

7 The Word of God and Prayer:

- Read and comment 1 Cor 12:12-20.
- Initiate a spontaneous and shared prayer.
- Read Mark 3:13-15 and Matthew 28:19-20.
- Comment and pray with these texts.

Final Prayer:

Lord, you are my master and I am your instrument!
 You have not made me for nothing!
 You have a purpose for me!
 I have a role to play in the world!
 I am a unique and an irreplaceable item in your painting kit!
 Use me, Lord, as you wish!
Reveal to me the way you want to use me.
Give me the courage always to say yes!

Closing hymn: "I'll say Yes, Yes, Yes!"