Bonus Activities

All Ages

Tell Jokes: Choose several jokes from https://parade.com/968634/parade/jokes-for-kids/ or another site or book with jokes for children. Encourage children to tell jokes as well. Talk about how laughing helps us feel better and build friendships.

Older Children

Write Cards of Encouragement: Gather stationery (cards or just blank paper), pens and stickers. Encourage children to write cards of encouragement to the ministers and staff of your church. Talk about how encouraging others helps us have better friendships with them. It also reminds people that they are not alone.

Preschoolers

Read Stories: Gather a selection of books to read with the children. Talk about how stories help us learn more about others. Allow children to share the titles of their favorite stories.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Fifty-six female pastors gathered to worship, learn, reconnect and rest at the Baptist Women in Ministry retreat in Puerto Rico. There, they shared their stories, connected with others, encouraged one another and deepened friendships with each other. This session focuses on the theme of building relationships.

Bible Verse

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

You are better having a friend than to be all alone, because then you will get more enjoyment out of what you earn. If you fall, your friend can help you up. But if you fall without having a friend nearby, you are really in trouble.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "How do you make new friends?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Creating Friendships."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Creating Friendships

"Buenos dias (Good morning)! We are so glad you are here. Welcome to Puerto Rico. I am Xiomara Reyboyras, pastor of Comunidad Cristiano Nuevo Pacto in DeLand, Florida, but I am from Puerto Rico. It is so nice to see you all in person!" Xiomara said. "It is so nice to finally meet you, Xiomara. I am Ruth Cuellar, the pastor of Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor in Newnan, GA." "I'm Pastor Yarelis Montes de Oca of Miami, Florida." "And I'm Chaplain Arigolys Roman. We are so glad to be here!" Together, they welcomed the rest of the 56 women coming to the retreat, including seminary students starting their journey and retired pastors who were looking back on theirs. A few days later, after days full of conversations, encouragement, sharing of stories and a lot of laughs, these four women headed back to the United States. Although their time in Puerto Rico had been short, it had changed them. They attended the retreat with the intention of blessing the Puerto Rican pastors, but they came away blessed by the experience. They found the encouragement, laughter and support they needed. They worshipped together, learned together and created new friendships together. Through the telling of stories and sharing of laughs, they built friendships that will last long after they left. As Pastor Ruth said, "CBF is making it possible for Latina women with a call to ministry to have spaces like this to share, listen and walk together, honoring women as Jesus taught us."

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: What did the women do at the retreat?
- **Ask**: How did the retreat help them?
- **Ask**: How does listening to the stories of others and them listening to our stories help us?
- **Say**: The women worshipped together, learned together, and created new friendships. They told stories and shared laughs. They reminded each other that they aren't alone and gave each other encouragement. They supported each other and built friendships where they will continue to support one another from far away. When we know that others have our back and are there for us, it helps us feel better. We know that we aren't alone.
- **Pray**: Dear God, please help us always remember that we are not alone. Remind us that you are always there for us. Please give us other people who are there for us as well. Amen.

Baptist Women in Ministry retreat in Puerto Rico

Fifty-six female pastors gathered to worship, learn, reconnect and rest at the Baptist Women in Ministry retreat in Puerto Rico.

STUDENT HANDOUT
JUNE 8, 2025

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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Create a Quilt Mural

Draw yourself and things you love to do. Then, put your drawing with everyone else's and design a "quilt" of drawings. This will be a mural of your class!