Pathlight

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

Mission Project: Create Cards of Encouragement

Week 1: Talk about how helpful encouragement can be. Write (or draw) cards of encouragement for the ministers of your church.

Week 2: Write or draw cards of encouragement for those who serve in your community (police, fire fighters, doctors, nurses and EMTs). Decide who will deliver these cards and when.

Week 3: Write or draw cards of encouragement for friends who are sad. Option: Deliver your cards to the police station, fire station, and/or the hospital.

Week 4: Write or draw cards of encouragement to people in assisted living. Remind them that God loves them. Decide who will deliver these cards and when.

Preschool Stations

Station 1: Books/Puzzles

September 7: Read books about friends. Check out this list if you need ideas for books: www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/childrens-books-about-friendship..

September 14: Do puzzles with fruits and vegetables. Talk about how we grow these in gardens and on farms.

September 21: Read picture books in another language. See if kids can figure out what is going on in the book by the pictures they see. Then read picture books in English. Talk about how much easier it is to understand when you know the words.

September 28: Do puzzles of countries, maps, the globe etc. Talk about how chaplains help everyone who wants to talk to them.

Station 2: Art/Music

September 7: *Listen to Calming Music* | Play classical or other soothing music for the children. Talk about how this kind of music can help us feel calm when we just can't sit still.

September 14: *Create a Garden* | Using crayons and paper, color your own garden. Color the dirt and think about what you want to grow. Draw it coming up out of your garden. Option: use colorful squares of construction paper and glue them on copy paper to create a 3-D garden.

September 21: *Listen to Worship Music in a Different Language* | Show this video www.youtube.com/watch?v=3I-J1EmgArLc of worship songs in the Hindi language. Talk about how they learn new words every day, and how when someone goes to a new country, they must learn a new language. It can be hard when everyone around you is saying things you don't understand. But when you hear your own language in a new country, it helps you feel at home. Talk about Eddie Aldape and how speaking Hindi to a brand-new believer from Pakistan helped him feel at home.

September 28: *Draw a Prayer* | Encourage children to draw something they want to tell God. Talk about how God hears us when we talk to God. Remind them that God always listens to us.

Station 3: Play Pretend

September 7: *Practice Being a Friend* | Go to each child, tell them your name, and tell them you are glad they are there. Then, encourage them to go to each other, tell them their names and that they are glad they are there. Encourage children to play together. Talk about how being a friend means that we listen to one another, help each other and play together.

September 14: *Pretend to Be Plants* | Encourage children to pretend to be plants. First, tell them to curl up on the ground. This is the plant as a seed. "Water" them with an empty watering can. Have another volunteer pretend to be the sun, wiggling their fingers above the children. Next, have the children stand up, like they are sprouting up. Continue to "water" them and wiggle the rays of the sun. Have the children open their arms, like they are starting to bloom. Then have them wave their arms around, like they are full of blooms, fruits or vegetables.

September 21: *Pretend to be Explorers* | Bring in geodes or pictures of geodes. Give children flashlights and have them pretend to discover a cave (create one from sheets and chairs). Encourage children to find geodes in the cave. Talk about how one of the world's largest geodes is located where Eddie Aldape lives.

September 28: *Practice Welcoming* | Pretend that someone is new to your class. How would you help them feel happy to be there? What questions would you ask them? What could you tell them about you?

Station 4: Games

September 7: *Let Your Light Shine Scavenger Hunt* | Hide pictures of (or actual) flashlights around the room. Encourage children to each find one. Show an actual flashlight. Turn it on and off to show children how it shines its light. Talk about how light helps us see, even when it is dark. Tell children that God's love is like a light in us. When we share God's love, we shine brightly!

September 14: *Run a Wheelbarrow Race* | Pair up children. Encourage one child to be the wheelbarrow, and one child to steer the wheelbarrow (the "wheelbarrow will walk on their hands while the other child carries their feet). Talk about how working in a garden doesn't require much equipment. A wheelbarrow can help you carry dirt to use for fruits and vegetables.

September 21: *Pray Like Popcorn* | Encourage children to sit in a circle. Tell them that you will stand up and start your prayer. Then you will sit down and the child beside you (say their name out loud) will pop up and say someone's name they want to pray for. They'll sit down and the next child will pop up and do the same. Continue in this way until everyone has said a name and then pop up and finish your prayer.

September 28: *Play Telephone* | Encourage children to sit in a circle, with you sitting in the circle as well. Turn to the child on your right and whisper, "Let your light shine" to them. Tell them to turn the person beside them and whisper what they heard. Continue until the child on your left side has heard it. Ask them to say out loud what they heard. Talk about how it can be hard to listen and remember what someone said. Encourage children to think up other phrases to say to each other.