Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Disney Treat: Items needed: ice cream bars with chocolate shells or caramel popcorn, plates, napkins. Choose which snack you will serve. Pass out snack supplies and snack. As children are eating, talk about how this snack is a popular one at Disney World. (The ice cream bars at Disney are shaped like Mickey Mouse's head!) Share that Rev. Emi Brand works in Orlando, FL, and loves going to Disney World.

Plant a Seed: Items needed: Easy-to-grow flower seeds like zinnias, marigolds or sunflowers; potting soil; pots; spoons; water. Give each child a pot and encourage them to use their spoons to add potting soil. Plant the seed according to package directions and lightly water them. Talk about how our faith is like these seeds. It starts out small, but if we spend time with God and care for our faith, then it will grow. Remind children to take care of their seeds. (Give them directions according to what the package says.)

Go on A Nature Walk: Take children outside and encourage them to notice things in nature (for example: how many kinds of trees they see, the color of the leaves, flowers blooming, any bugs, etc.). Talk about how God created the things we see and how nature can remind us that God is with us.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

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

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Pathlight

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

Theme Overview

Rev. Emi Brand is the staff chaplain at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, FL. When discouraging thoughts cause her to stumble and question, her faith comforts her and keeps her moving forward. She keeps a journal to identify moments of joy and healing that help her see the fingerprints of God in her life. This session focuses on the theme of eyes to see.

Bible Verse

Ephesians 1:18

My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and you will understand the hope given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all God's people.

Session Outline

Prepare

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

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "Who helps you see what God is doing in the world?"

Engage

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

Share

- Tell the Story, "Seeing God's Fingerprints."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Seeing God's Fingerprints

"Hi, Courtney," Rev. Emi Brand, staff chaplain at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children said. "How was your first day?"

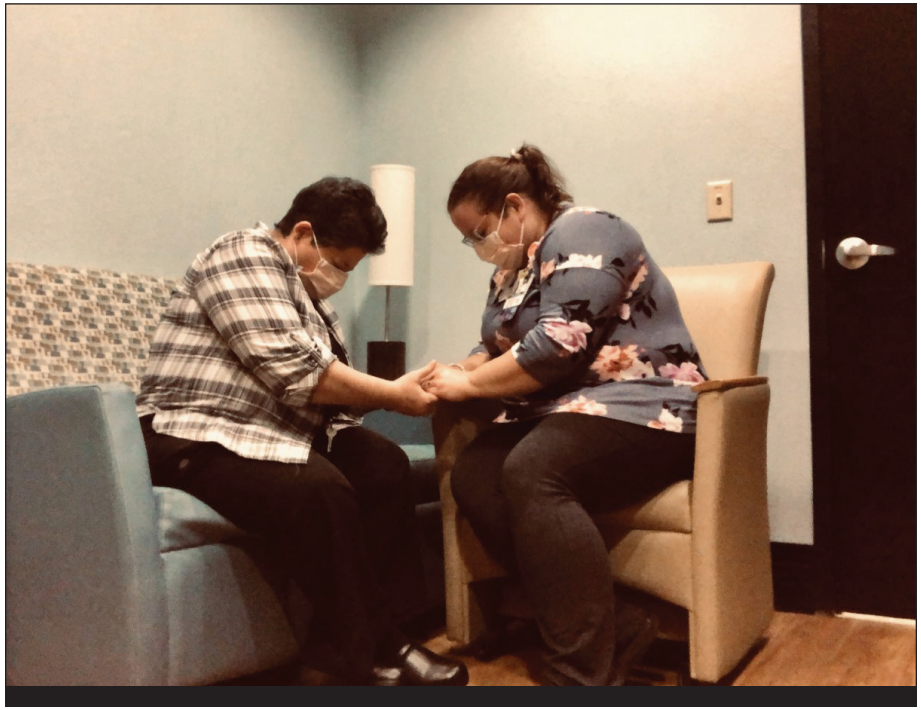
"Hi Emi," said Courtney. "To be honest, today was hard. I knew there would be difficult times being at a Children's Hospital, but I had some tough cases today. I want to offer as much hope as I can and help these families trust that God is there, but some days it is hard to feel God's presence. Do you ever feel that way?" Courtney asked.

"Yes, I do. There are certainly hard days here, and there are times when it feels like God isn't there. Let me show you what I do on days like today," Emi said. Emi held her journal up to Courtney and said, "I keep a happy journal. I write down the good things that happen each day and the times when I have seen God. I reread those stories on hard days. They help me see the fingerprints of God in my life. I remember that God is there, and even when we feel all alone, God is still at work. Like the Carousel of Progress at Disney World says, 'There's a great, big, beautiful tomorrow, shining at the end of every day.' God gives us a new day, every day. God is there. We are not alone. So, keep praying and keep trusting and get a happy journal to write down the places where you have seen God."

"Thanks, Emi!" Courtney said. "I will!"

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How does Emi remind herself of what God is doing in her life?
- **Ask**: Most of the time, we see God's fingerprints in our lives after something has already happened. Why do you think that is? (If children need help with this, talk about how it's easier to see where God has been at work once we know the outcome of something. For instance, you may be really upset if you have to move, but then you make a new friend.)
- **Ask**: What are some ways that you can keep track of what God is doing in your own life?
- **Say**: It can be hard to see God at work when you are going through things that are hard. But when you look back, you can see God's fingerprints. God is always with you and always working. And we can celebrate the ways that God is working in our lives.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for promising to never leave us. Thank you for the joy and hope we have. Thank you for helping us through hard times. Help us to see your fingerprints on our lives. Amen.



Rev. Emi Brand

Rev. Emi Brand is the staff chaplain at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, FL

STUDENT HANDOUT
JULY 5, 2026

Pathlight

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

Learn About

Rev. Emi Brand is the staff chaplain at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, FL. When discouraging thoughts cause her to stumble and question, her faith comforts her and keeps her moving forward. She keeps a journal to identify moments of joy and healing that help her see the fingerprints of God in her life. This session focuses on the theme of eyes to see.

Bible Verse

Ephesians 1:18

My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and you will understand the hope given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all God's people.

Create a Happy Journal

Items needed: Printer paper (five sheets per child), a stapler, Washi tape, cardstock (one sheet per child), crayons, markers, or colored pencils; pencils

1. Give each child five sheets of printer paper and encourage them to fold them in half (hamburger style).
2. Give each child a piece of cardstock and encourage them to fold it in half the same way. Tell them to put the piece of cardstock behind their other sheets of paper to create a cover for their journal.
3. Staple the paper together at the crease (one staple at either end).
4. Encourage children to decorate the cover of their happy journal using the Washi tape, crayons, markers or colored pencils.
5. Talk about how to use a happy journal. (Write about good things that have happened.)
6. As students are working, talk about how Rev. Emi Brand keeps a happy journal. When she is having a hard day, she reads her happy journal and sees the ways God has been working in her life.
7. As time allows, encourage students to write about a few good things that have happened.
8. Allow students to take home their journals and encourage them to write in them when good things happen.