

Life in the desert

Pick n Mix session for use on group Zoom calls

Introduction

This is a Pick n Mix session for your online group Zoom. You don't have to do all the elements suggested, these are simply ideas to make your Zoom fun around the topic of "Life in the desert" Nor do you have to use them in the order below. Activities tend to last a little bit longer on Zoom than in real time. Let us know what has worked well and what didn't!

Pictionary

To play, divide your group into teams. Choose a team to play first, as well as a designated drawer who writes down what they are going to draw on a separate piece of paper (just so that there is no cheating). The person drawing then has one minute to draw that word for their team to guess. If the team guesses the word correctly, they get a point. To make it more fair you could also use a word generator: <https://randomwordgenerator.com/pictionary.php>.

Alternatively, you could pick words from this week's Bible Study passage.

We recommend using pen on paper, but there is a tool on Zoom which enables you to do this as well (you'd need more time to practice this beforehand):

Go into your "screen share" option at the bottom of Zoom, and select "whiteboard" and "share". Then, when you've got your green bar with your ID, hover over it which will bring up a menu. Click on the three dots that say "more" underneath. Click "show names of annotators" which allows others to draw, but you'll also know WHO is drawing WHAT (because #teenagers). When we first played this, we played "Bible Pictionary" and it was hilarious because of how difficult it is to draw on the whiteboard feature.

Chocolate Quiz

"Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get" - Forrest Gump.

Ask everyone to grab pen & paper. Use the chocolate quiz (final page of this document) and see how much your young people know about chocolate!

Answers:

1. Mars
2. Smarties
3. Crunchie
4. Topic
5. Time Out
6. Lion
7. Wispa Gold
8. Twisted
9. Curly Wurly
10. Lots - a point for each

High/Low/Awkward/Prayer

There are lots of videos & content online for young people, but one thing we miss from Groups is interaction. Mute all microphones apart from the person speaking, and give each person 2mins to share their High, Low, Awkward Moment & Prayer request for the week. This gives the young people 'permission' to share celebrations and concerns with the Group.

Where am I?

Go online and save photos of well-known places around the world - make sure your last one is a desert to introduce the theme. On Zoom add them into your virtual backgrounds and scroll through them, getting the group to guess where you are!

To add photos to your virtual background:

Click on the “^” to the right of “stop video” at the bottom of your screen and select “choose virtual background”

Click the “+” above the photos and add your pictures.

At the bottom of the menu click 'I have a green screen'

Discovery Bible Study/Swedish Bible Study

Look at John 4:6-30 - this is quite a long passage so maybe focus on John 4:6-19 & 27-29.

For the Discovery Bible Study (DBS) you follow the same pattern of questions after having read it in a couple of different versions:

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about people (or myself)?
- If this is God's word for my life how will I obey it?
- Who am I going to tell?

The Swedish Methods uses the following questions:

- What part in the passage or word stands out to you/grabs your attention?
- Is there anything that's difficult to understand? Or do you have any questions?
- How can you apply this to your life?

Both methods are really simple and once you've done it a couple times you could even get one of your young people to lead the Bible study!

In the time this took place, wells were dug in dry areas where there were no rivers or streams, so people could access water; notice that the woman points out that the well is very deep - suggesting the area was very dry - maybe even a desert.

In this story we see Jesus talking to a woman who others excluded; she had had several husbands, when divorce was not socially accepted - a woman living with a man who she wasn't married to would have been judged and excluded. It has been suggested she chose to visit the well at the hottest part of the day to avoid encountering others.

Jesus meets her in her shame, and offers her acceptance. He inspires her to change the way she lives; he looks beyond her current circumstances, and speaks life into a deserted woman's present and future. Jesus, the one who had the biggest following in the ancient world, took notice of someone who others shamed and rejected!

She went to the well for water to sustain physical life, but what he gives her is spiritual water to sustain spiritual life. After her life-changing encounter with Jesus, she runs back to the people she had been avoiding and shares the Good News with them!

Questions to discuss:

1. Have you ever felt like God would harshly judge you for mistakes you've made? Are you surprised that Jesus was compassionate?
2. What is a 'desert' - a hopeless-looking situation - in your life?
3. What would it look like for Jesus to bring hope, or 'living water' to this circumstance?

Going Deeper (for older youth)

Watch this short video from the perspective of the woman at the well

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q49BbfgJbto&t=3s>

Questions to discuss:

1. What does she mean, 'to be known is to be loved, and to be loved is to be known'?
2. How does Jesus show that he knows and loves her?
3. What is her response?

Starter video follow up

In the starter video we are listing four different Bible stories of people who actively waited for God's promises to be fulfilled. You might want to encourage your young people to find them and let them read about how they used their time of waiting.

- David
- Joseph
- Esther
- Jesus

Lastly, remind your young people of the starter (Tuesday) and challenge (Thursday) videos which can be found on the Urban Saints Facebook page each week and relate to our theme.

Name the Chocolate

One point for each right answer!

1.



2.

Which chocolate is the name given to very clever people?

3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.

How many 'outer space' chocolates can you list?