



FAMILY ACTIVITY 1

HELPING HANDS

Count the number of hands in your family. If you have pets, include the paws and wings! How many total hands do you have in your family?

Ask these questions:

- Why did God give us hands? Discuss and list all of the ways you might use your hands in the next hour (make lunch, scratch your head, point, etc.).
- How often do you use your hands during a typical day? Track the number throughout the day by writing tallies. Summarize your findings at the end of the day!
- Discuss the events of your child's life every day that involve using his or her hands.

ACTION PLAN

- Trace each family member's hands on a piece of colored construction paper. Cut these out.
- Have each one write a way to use his or her hands to help other family members this week!
- Display the hands on your refrigerator or string the hands together on a piece of yarn to display in your home.
- For more fun, cut out more hands and write other ways to help family, friends or neighbors in the coming week.
- At the end of the week, thank God for the many ways your family used their hands to help others during the week. Look at the paper hands you created together, then celebrate and give thanks.



FAMILY ACTIVITY 2

ALL ABOUT SHELTER

If possible, take a walk in your neighborhood or on a safe city street. **Ask your child the following questions:**

- Try to imagine who lives in all of these homes (or apartments). Are they families, young single people, college students or elderly folks? What kinds of jobs do you think they have? Where might they go to school? How might they have fun? Do you think they go to church and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior? What might be some of their needs?
- Make a list of all the different kinds of materials that were used in the construction of the buildings you observe. Write them on your notepad as you walk. Are there bricks? Wood? Nails? What kinds of windows, doors, etc.?
- What is a shelter? Are these shelters? (Hint: A shelter is a safe place that protects us from the weather and other dangers.) Discuss with your child his opinion of what he thinks every person needs to survive and live in addition to a protective shelter (air, water, food and other human beings). Your child might add love and friendship, etc.! Encourage him to think further.

Invite your child to read or listen to the following scriptures that refer to shelter: Psalm 91:1-2; Isaiah 25:4. Discuss the following points:

- Think of how many ways you feel and believe God is a “shelter” for you and your family. What do you think the word “refuge” means? How does God protect us? Why does He take care of us?
- Can you remember a time when you were afraid and turned to God in prayer to help you?
- “Shelter” can be more than a strong building or home or place to stay. You can be a “shelter” for someone. What qualities of friends make them a safe person for you to talk to or trust? How might you be a “shelter” or safe person for your friends?

ACTION PLAN

- Using five to 10 index cards, invite your family to brainstorm and draw pictures on each of the cards representing things that many children do not have. For example: food, clothes, shoes, water, medicine, family, house, bed, school, etc.
- After a few minutes, place all of the cards in the center of the kitchen table, and invite each family member to pick a card and talk about what life would be like without that item on the card.
- Ask each family member to write a prayer on the back of the card related to the pictured item and place the cards in a container. Adults or older children can assist younger siblings.
- During the week, choose one card to read and share for prayer time together.



FAMILY ACTIVITY 3

HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED

Invite your child to read or listen to the following scriptures about Jesus' heart for children: Matthew 18:2-6,10,14; Mark 9:36-37. Discuss the following points:

- How does Jesus feel about people who mistreat children or cause them or force them to do the wrong thing?
- How do we know from these passages that Jesus loves all the little children of the world?
- Who is helping to protect children? Did you know that you, too, have angels watching over you? What are your thoughts about that?
- What words describe how Jesus feels about every child, including you?

ACTION PLAN

- On the large piece of white paper, invite your child to draw himself. Make sure the child includes not only his head, but his arms and legs to create a self-portrait on the paper. Give enough time to add details such as hair, facial features, clothes, shoes, etc.
- Invite your child to cut out several red hearts from construction paper.
- Brainstorm together some words that describe Jesus' heart for children. Your child can glue the hearts around her own picture and hang it in her room to remember how much Jesus cares especially for her
- As a family, discuss ways you all can show Jesus' heart to a child. Together think of one child you know, perhaps one of your children's friends or a child whose parents are going through a difficult time, etc. Decide how your family can show this child the love of Jesus. Write your ideas on the remaining red hearts you created and pray together for this child. Then pray for children around the world who need Jesus' love.