

1.17.10 EGCC Middle School Class

Theme: Naming Hurt

OPENING ACTIVITY –Pictionary

TELL Instructions for Pictionary

- We're going to play a version of the game, "Pictionary."
- How it works is that one person will be drawing a word/phrase from one of these cards on the easel.
- We have 3 minutes to guess what the person is drawing.
- Whoever guesses gets to draw next.
- If no one guesses within 3 minutes, then the drawer gets to pick the next person to draw.
- Let's play!
- (Optional: Split the class into two teams. Still have one drawer. Whichever team guesses correctly first gets a point. Everything else previously stated stays the same).

DO Pictionary

TELL

- In this game of Pictionary, we placed a word or phrase to what we saw.
- This is what language is; language is the naming of things.
- And you just showed us how good you are at using language/naming things.
- We're going to read a conversation between Jesus and his disciples that speaks to a different way we are called to use language.

READ Matthew 18:15-22 (from The Message).

Jesus was talking to his disciples, 15 "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him - work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend. 16 If he won't listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. 17 If he still won't listen, tell the church. If he won't listen to the church, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love. 18 "Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. 19 When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, God goes into action. 20 And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." 21 At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" 22 Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven."

ASK

- In verse 15, what is Jesus telling his disciples to do? (if they are hurt by someone in the faith community, to go and tell that person how they hurt them)
- Thinking back to our activity of Pictionary and the definition of language (the naming of things), what is Jesus telling the disciples to name? (how they were hurt)
- This means you have to recognize and identify what is being done to you before you go and tell the person, right?
- This means you have to practice naming how you feel.
- One way to do this is to use this phrase, “When you do _____, I feel _____.”
- Next, we’re going to watch a video clip that demonstrates what a conversation like this might look like.

WATCH Shrek movie clip

ASK

- So how does the conversation start? What is Donkey saying to Shrek? (all the things that Shrek is doing that hurt Donkey).
- How does Shrek take that? (not very well)
- But what does the conversation eventually reveal? (that Shrek overheard and misunderstood what he overheard)
- And once that gets straightened out, what does Shrek do? (he apologizes for the ways he hurt Donkey)
- And what does Donkey do? (He forgives Shrek)
- Now, what would have happened if Shrek had approached Donkey and said, “I overheard you say _____. When you said _____, I felt _____” ... Do you think the conversation would have been as heated as the conversation we just watched? (probably not, because Donkey would not have been hurt or upset).
- Looking back to verse 16, what does Jesus say Donkey should do if Shrek doesn’t listen to him? (bring a witness along, someone who can help)
- Jesus is telling the disciples to do this *within* the faith community. Is this something that you can see yourself doing here at EGCC? Why/why not?
- Looking at verse 19 and 20, what do you think the purpose is of naming a wrong and saying sorry and offering forgiveness? Why *do* that?

TELL

- The Good News is that when there are no disagreements between us, then we can work together to seek God (verse 19)
- However, Jesus is hinting that there will probably be lots of disagreements (look at verse 22).
- But, God will help us to name how we are wronged (sometimes the words don’t come easy – sometimes it takes a little while for the picture to develop and for us to understand what’s going on, like in the pictionary activity)

- God will also help us to forgive even 70 times 7 times – but we have to ask God to help us do these things.

IF there's time:

ROLE PLAY

--Possible scenarios to practice the line, “When you say/do ____, I feel /felt ____”

- Two friends are talking about a third friend and are naming some things that they don't like about that friend. That third friend overhears them. Let this play out for a minute or so, then pose the question: What does the third friend do now?
- Two friends are talking to each other about ice cream. The one friend doesn't like ice cream and the other friend starts to tease him/her about it. After a few moments of this, then introduce this question: What does the teased friend do next?
- A student gets caught cheating by a teacher. That student blames a friend. The friend had nothing to do with the cheating but gets in trouble anyway. Let this play out for a few moments, then ask the question: What does the wrongly accused friend say to his cheating friend?