



KID for Teens: Leader's Guide

Connections II

A man once asked Jesus about the most important commandment. Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment was to love God with all of our emotions, body, spirit and mind, and the second was like it – to love other people as much as we love ourselves. Jesus also invited his followers to love each other as he had loved them (John 13:34). But how can we really love each other the way God intended?

28



Before you start:

1. Prayerfully read through the whole lesson at least twice.
2. Gather all the materials you need for each section (see right).
3. Work with another team member and plan who will manage each section of the session.

Leadership Personal Preparation:

This week, experiment with looking at people through God's eyes. Ask him to help you show those around you how much he loves them by the way you relate to them. The more we connect with people in warm and loving ways, the easier it is for them to believe that God loves them too.

If the Holy Spirit invites you to do so, be willing to share something of your experiences during today's session. Otherwise use the inspiration of your personal experience to fill you with enthusiasm for today's session.

You will need:

- Marker pens/felt pens

Introduction:

- An old flat sheet
- A large umbrella
- A funnel
- A packet of small sparkly red heart-shaped metal confetti or tiny gold stars

Icebreaker:

- Copies of the 'Connection Counters' copied onto 5 or 6 different colours of card – enough for 1 sheet of counters per person
- Cut out each set of 'Connection Counters' and clip them together with a paper clip or peg.

- Scissors

- Paper clips or pegs, etc

Word Search:

- Copies of Word Search studies - 1 study per person

Mission Possible:

- 'Connection Detective' response sheets – 1 per person

Family Focus Time:

- Cups and drinks
- Family Discussion Cards - 1 card per family

Family Prayer Time:

- (No requirements this week)

Jesus and Me (JAM) Session:

- CD player and CD of soft worship music
- One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant

Take-away Menu (optional):

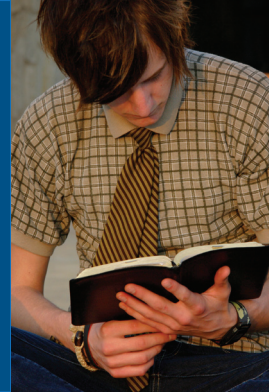
- A set of 'Connection Counters' for each person

By the end of the session, the group members will:

- Know that they help each other to experience God's love when they take the time to connect with each other and build healthy relationships.
- Feel a desire to connect with other people in ways that build stronger relationships.
- Respond by asking God to help them connect with other people in ways that help them to experience more of his love for them.



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Welcome and Prayer – 5 mins

Say:

“ Last week we explored five relational connectors – acceptance, affection, appreciation, approval, and attention. Today we are going to look at five more that we find in the New Testament – comfort, encouragement, respect, security, and support.

These relational connectors are really important to understand because they help us to build healthy relationships with each other. The more we connect with people in warm and loving ways, the easier it is for them to believe that God loves them too.

”

Introduction Illustration - Umbrellas and Funnels

You will need:

1. An old flat sheet
2. A large umbrella
3. A funnel
4. A packet of small sparkly red heart-shaped metal confetti or tiny gold stars

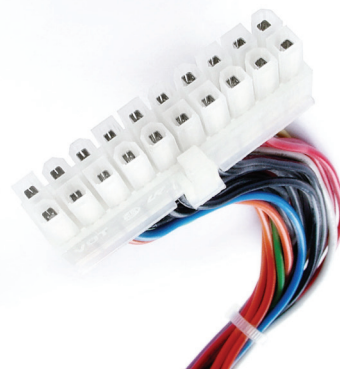
- Lay the sheet on the floor
- Ask for a volunteer. It is best if they have smooth, short hair!
- Explain that God is pouring his love down on us all the time, but often we prevent each other experiencing his love because we don't show love to each other.
- Put up the umbrella and hold it over the volunteer.
- Sprinkle some of the confetti onto the umbrella and show how it slides off the sides of the umbrella so that the person underneath doesn't feel it at all.
- Ask the group to suggest some of the 'umbrella things' we do that prevent people from experiencing God's love (rejection, criticism, discouragement, etc).
- Say that God wants us to be funnels instead of umbrellas. Funnels catch as much of God's love as possible and focus it directly onto other people.
- Take down the umbrella and hold a funnel over the volunteer's head.
- Pour confetti through the funnel. This illustrates how we can capture God's love and focus it into other people's lives when we're experiencing God's love in our lives too.

Icebreaker - 'Connection Counters' - 7 mins

1. *You will need:*

The ready-prepared sets of 'Connection Counters' as described on page 1.

- When everyone has arrived, count how many people you have in the group and unclip enough counters for everyone to have a complete set.
- Shuffle all the counters.
- Give each person a pile of ten randomly assorted counters.
- Tell them that the goal is for each person to collect ten different 'Connection Counters' of the same colour.
- They can only swap one counter at a time.
- Allow 5 minutes for this activity and then see who has the most complete set of counters of the same colour.





KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: 28 Connections II



Word Search – 25 mins

You will need:

1. Paper and pens
 2. Copies of Word Search studies - 1 study per person
- Discuss and fill out the Word Search sheet in small groups of at least 2-3 people. You will need at least 5 groups.
 - Allow 20 minutes for this study.
 - Call all the groups back together for feedback.

Ask:

'How does understanding more about these relational connectors help us to become better funnels of God's love?'

Mission Possible - 'Connection Detectives' - 15 mins

You will need:

1. 1 copy of 'Connection Detectives' per person
 2. Pens
- Give each person a copy of the 'Connection Detectives'.
 - Ask them to find a 'co-detective'.
 - Tell them to read through the clues on the sheet and to think about the kinds of relational connectors that the people speaking might want or need.
 - Ask them to list in the right hand column any relational connectors that might be 'hiding' in the statements written in the left hand column.
 - Allow 5 minutes for this activity and then bring the group together. It doesn't matter if they haven't finished the task.

Feedback:

- Read out the different statements and let the 'detectives' suggest some of the connectors that they discovered.
- Invite them to continue being 'Connection Detectives' while they're listening to the people around them.
- They can be curious and say, 'It sounds as if you could do with some encouragement! I wonder what kind of encouragement you would find most helpful right now.'

Family Focus – 15 mins

You will need:

1. Drinks and cups
 2. Family Discussion Cards
- Serve drinks.
 - Let everyone re-assemble into their family groups, collecting a drink on the way.
 - Give each family a discussion card.

Family Prayer Time - 10 mins

- Ask each family to have a prayer time, thanking God for each other and asking him to help them be better funnels of his love.

JAM Session (Jesus and Me) – 5 mins

You will need:

1. CD player and CD of soft worship music
 2. One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant
- Give out the 'Jesus and Me' journal pages for this week.
 - Allow at least five minutes for people to make a start on their pages so that they will be encouraged to complete their projects during the week ahead.

Take-Away Menu (optional)

You will need:

1. 1 set of 'Connection Counters' per person
- Give each person a set of 'Connection Counters' as a reminder of the last two weeks lessons. Perhaps they could laminate them and turn them into fridge magnets or find other creative ways to display or use them.

Closing Prayer



ACCEPTANCE

AFFECTION

APPRECIATION

APPROVAL

ATTENTION

COMFORT

ENCOURAGEMENT

RESPECT

SECURITY

SUPPORT



KID for Teens: Handout: Connections II

Word Search - Comfort



Responding to each other's hurt with caring words, actions and touch

Read Romans 12:15b and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 and write them here:

What do these verses tell us about how to comfort each other?

How did Jesus comfort people? Matthew 5:4; John 11:35; Mark 4:35-40

What can we learn from these verses about how to comfort each other?

How can you tell when someone needs you to comfort them?

What can you say or do to comfort someone who is feeling sad, lonely, or in pain?

Tell each other about a time when someone comforted you in a special way. What effect did this have on your relationship with them?



KID for Teens: Handout: Connections II

Word Search - Encouragement



Encouraging each other towards your different goals

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and write it here:

What does this verse help us to understand about encouragement?

How did Jesus encourage people? Matthew 8:10, John 14:1-3;

What can we learn from these verses about encouraging each other?

How would you know if someone needed encouragement?

What can you say or do to encourage someone who is exhausted, burnt out, or about to give up?

Tell each other about a time when someone encouraged you and helped you to reach an important goal. What effect did this have on your relationship with them?





KID for Teens: Handout: Connections II

Word Search - Respect



Treating others as more important than yourself

Read Romans 12:10b and Philippians 2:3 and write the verses below:

What do these verses tell us about how to respect each other?

How did Jesus show respect to people who were being insulted and bullied?

John 8:11

Matthew 26:6-13

What can we learn from these verses about how to show respect to other people, especially those who are feeling unworthy, embarrassed or ashamed?

How would you know if someone needed your respect and honour to help them regain their dignity?

What can you say or do to help someone feel respected instead of ashamed or put down?

Tell each other any stories you have about the importance of respecting each other. What effect does being respected by someone have on your relationship with them?



KID for Teens: Handout: Connections II

Word Search - Security



Helping each other to feel safe, protected and peaceful

Read 1 John 4:18 and Romans 12:18 and write them here:

What do these verses tell us about helping each other to feel safe?

How did Jesus help people to feel safe? Read Mark 4:39 and John 14:27

What can we learn from these verses about the importance of helping each other to feel safe?

How would you recognise if someone felt insecure and needed you to help them feel safe?

What can you say or do to help someone feel safe when they're feeling afraid?

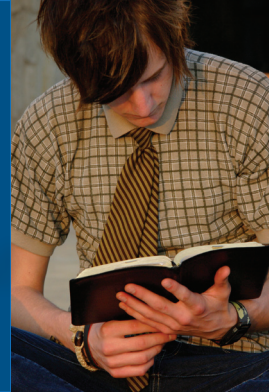
Tell a story about a time when someone protected you or helped you to feel safe. How did this affect your relationship with this person?





28 KID for Teens: Handout: Connections II

Mission Possible - Connection Detectives!



People often give us clues about the kinds of relational connections they need from us. Read the statements below and see if you can detect what the speaker might need. They may need more than one relational connection, so collect all the evidence you can find!

ACCEPTANCE – AFFECTION – APPRECIATION – APPROVAL – ATTENTION

COMFORT – ENCOURAGEMENT – RESPECT – SECURITY – SUPPORT

<i>Clue</i>	<i>Possible CONNECTION needs</i>
I don't want to do this any more.	
Please will you listen to me.	
Will you always be my friend?	
I feel terrible.	
How can you ever forgive me?	
I'm not sure that they really want me around.	
I'd love you to come shopping with me.	
I've just washed the car for you.	
Am I more important to you than your laptop?	
Please can I have a back rub?	
I don't think I'll ever finish this project.	



Lesson 28 -

FAMILY Discussion CARD

I think my top 'connection' need right now is... (comfort, encouragement, respect, security, support)

A time when someone met my need for encouragement was...

If someone wanted to give me some support this week I would love them to help me...

Something new I learned from today's Word Search was...

Lesson 28 -

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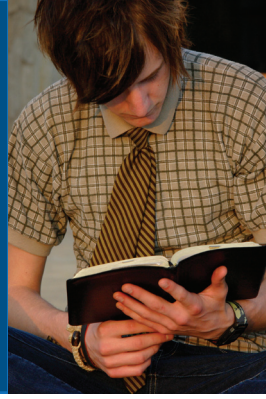
A time when someone met my need for encouragement was...

If someone wanted to give me some support this week I would love them to help me...

Something new I learned from today's Word Search was...



28 Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 28: Connections II: Comfort



How can you 'be sad with those who are sad'?

What do you find difficult about 'being sad with those who are sad'?

Make a list of the comforting things you feel comfortable doing.

When are you most likely to feel sad or need comfort?

How would you like someone to comfort you if you were sad or in pain?



When we comfort someone who is sad, it helps them to experience a compassionate God who cares for them when they hurt.





28 Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 28: Connections II: Encouragement



Wave a FLAG!

Think of some people you know who would really appreciate your encouragement:

- Your family members
 - Your teacher
 - Your colleagues
 - Your pastor and his family
 - Other church members
 - People who are parenting on their own
 - People who are caring for other people, etc
 - People who are facing big challenges in their lives.
- Create a cheering flag to give to someone who needs encouragement, just like the flags that you wave to cheer on your favourite sports team.
 - Write an encouraging message on an attractive cardboard flag and decorate it with craft materials.
 - Stick the flag onto a plant stick and put it in a place where it will encourage them.



When are you most likely to need encouragement?

How would you like someone to encourage you?

How does encouraging someone help them to experience God's love for them?

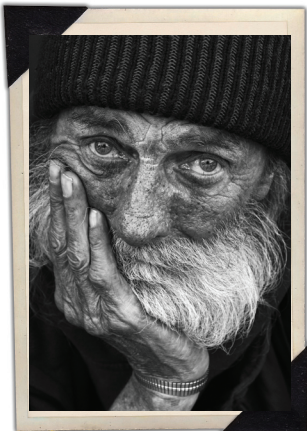


28 Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 28: Connections II: Respect



Respect is treating other people as if they are more important than us.

Think about the people listed below and write what you could do to show them special respect.



A HOMELESS PERSON



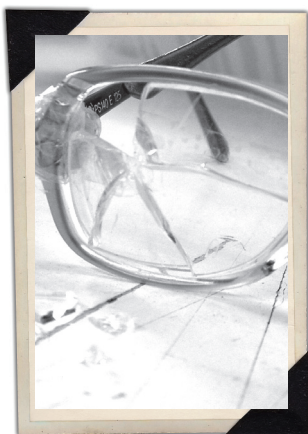
A SMALL CHILD



SOMEONE FROM A DIFFERENT CULTURE



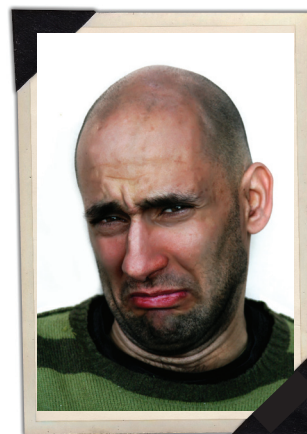
SOMEONE WHO DISAGREES WITH YOU



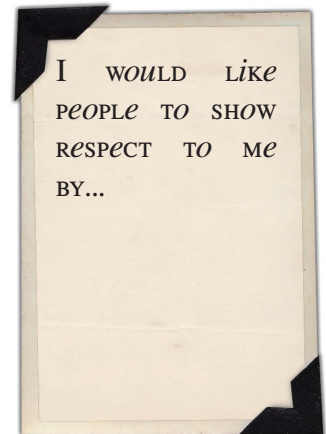
SOMEONE WHO IS BEING BULLIED



YOUR PARENTS



SOMEONE WHO IS BEING RUDE TO YOU



*I would like
people to show
respect to me
by...*

Respecting other people helps them to feel especially loved by God because...

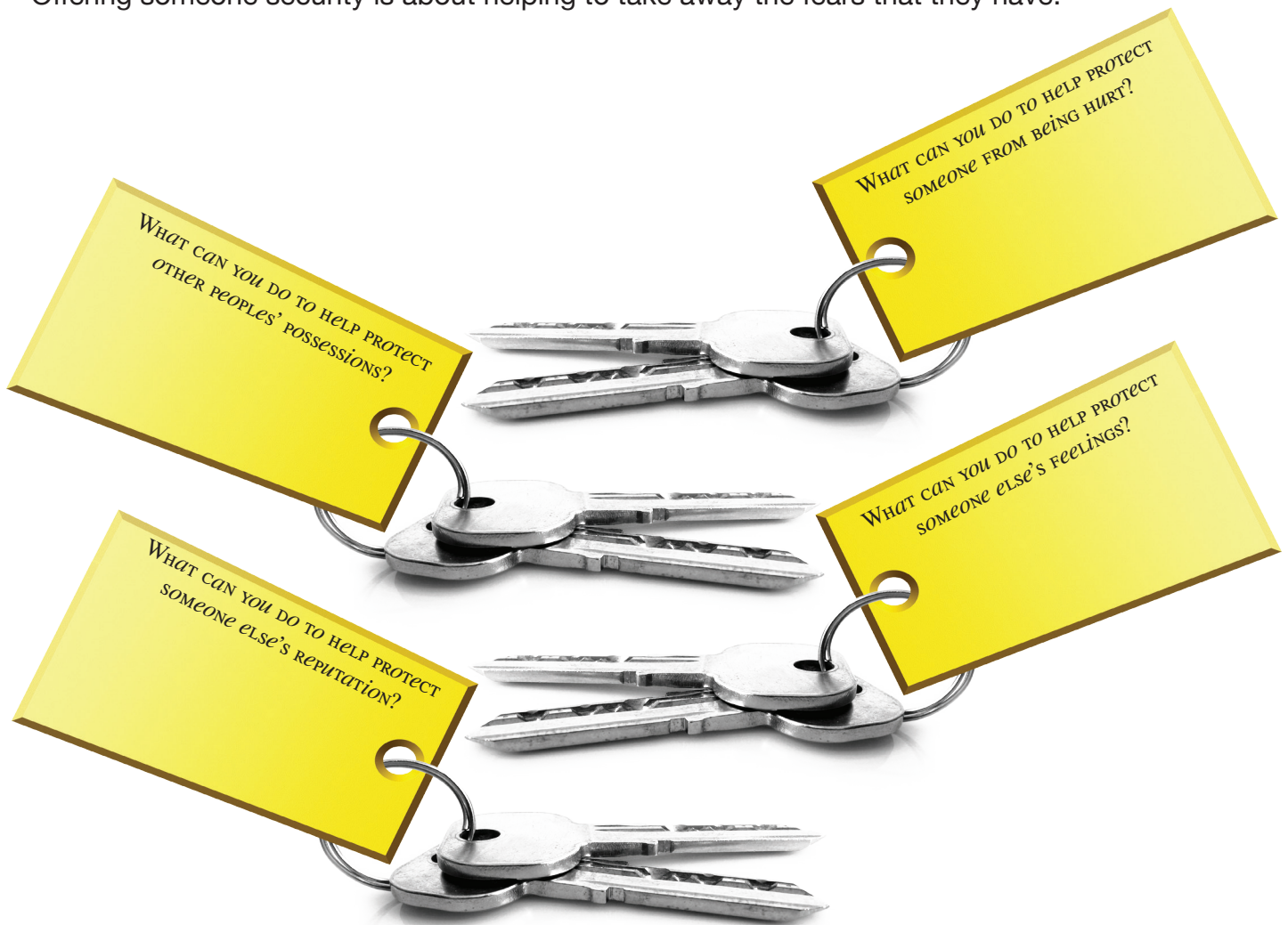




28 Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 28: Connections II: Security



Offering someone security is about helping to take away the fears that they have.



What are the areas in your life where you feel unsafe, or insecure?

How can you ask someone you trust to help protect you and help you feel safe?

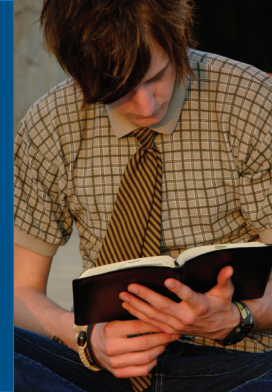
How does 'perfect love' prevent people from feeling afraid?

How does helping other people to feel safe, help them to understand more about God's perfect love for them?





28 Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 28: Connections II: Support



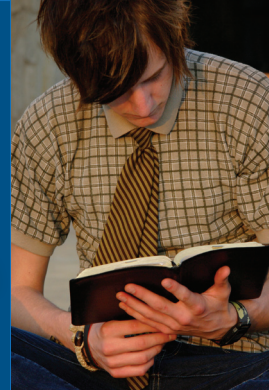
Our own family members need our support too!

- Draw one of your family members on the top of each column.
- Write a list on each person's column of all the ways you could help to support them.
- Draw more columns on a different sheet of paper if you have a big family!
- How would you like your family to support you? Perhaps your family members could discuss all their different needs for support.
- How does supporting each other in your home help each of you to experience more of God's love?





28 Jesus and Me: Journal Lesson 28: Connections II: My Relational Connections



For each relational connection list the ways you like to experience that connection and list the ways you could ask someone else to meet that need for you.

RELATIONAL CONNECTOR	How I <i>like to experience</i> THIS RELATIONAL CONNECTOR	How I <i>could ask for my relational connection to be met</i>
ACCEPTANCE	e.g. Mum making my favourite dinner when I failed to stop any goals and my team lost.	e.g. 'Mum, when I feel like a complete failure at football, your cooking makes me feel better again! Please can you make my favourite dinner tonight?'
AFFECTION		
APPRECIATION		
APPROVAL – BEING VALUED		
ATTENTION		
COMFORT		
ENCOURAGEMENT		
RESPECT		
SECURITY		

