

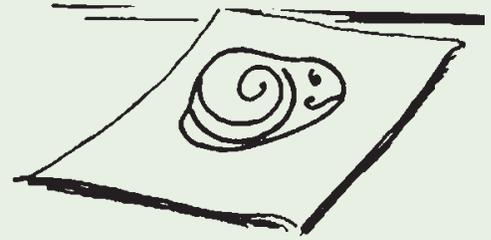
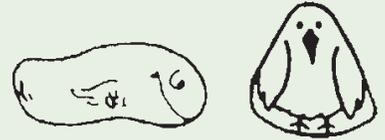


Fun To Do!

Paperweights

Provide stones of various sizes, paper towels, acrylic paints & brushes. Stencils optional.

1. Wash and dry the rock of your choice. Think of what to paint after looking at its size and shape. Be creative.
2. You can outline a picture of a bird or animal on the stone, paint an abstract design on it or, use a stencil to put designs on your stone.
3. Fill in the picture by painting in your designs with the acrylic paint.
4. After it dries, it's ready!



Woody's Checkup

Memorize Psalm 4:3 for this session. Use these discussion questions once you have memorized it.

1. What does it mean to "call on" the Lord?
2. When do you need to ask the Lord for help?
3. What would be a hard time for you to remember that God will hear you? Explain why.



Woody's Stretch

Indoor Scavenger Hunt Provide several objects with numbered tags plus one pencil and one list of objects per player.

Give each player a pencil and a list of common objects that are found in the room where the game is being played. Tag each with a number ahead of time.

The goal is to locate all objects on the list and write their numbers next to their names.

The first person to find all the objects and records the correct number for each is the winner!



Tree Climbers Circle

Read the story, "Miracle Stones." Bring some rocks, a big pot, some carrots, onions, potatoes, corn and a piece of meat (or pictures of these food items) to use as you tell the story.

The Miracle Stones

by Doug Peterson

It was almost midnight and Barney McCullers was still at the Iron Horse Inn. He sat at a small table examining rocks that he pulled from a sack.

“Don’t you have anything better to do than stare at silly rocks?” asked the innkeeper.

“It’s a dumb hobby if I ever heard of one,” said a man at the other end of the room—a large, greedy man who was slurping up spoonfuls of soup.

“Rocks aren’t as dumb as you think,” Barney said, rising to his feet. “I suppose you’ve never heard of the rocks that performed a miracle.”

The innkeeper said “Nope,” while the greedy man just laughed and said, “Miracle rocks? Give me a break, mister!”

So Barney pulled up a stool and told this tale:

Once there were three sailors, and they were shipwrecked on a small island. The rough sea tossed them up on a beach, and there they lay like three soggy sacks cast on the sand.

When morning came, they began to search for food because they hadn’t eaten for five days. And to their delight, they stumbled across a small town where they were sure to find food and lodging.

“Hello,” said the first sailor to a man who was planting a bush in front of his house. “Me and my two friends were shipwrecked. Can you spare some food to fill our empty bellies?”

The man just grumbled angrily, rushed into his house and locked the door.

“Excuse me, ma’m,” said the second sailor to a woman returning from the market. “My friends and I are starving, and we ask for only a slim slice of bread.”

But the woman said, “Filthy beggars,” pushed him aside and went on home.

The three sailors met the same response

everywhere they went. Nobody would give them food. Nobody would help, for the townsfolk kept their food and friendliness to themselves.

That’s when the sailors had an idea. “I know what we can eat!” shouted the first sailor. He stood in the center of town and shouted loud enough so that the townsfolk could hear. “Let’s eat stone soup!”

Several townsfolk looked baffled as the sailors proceeded to collect rocks and pile them in an old, discarded pot. Right there, in the center of town, they set a campfire and began to roast the stones.

“Stone soup?” said a woman, who slowly approached with a curious look on her face.

“Ah yes, smell that aroma,” said the second sailor, sniffing the cooking stones. “It’s my mama’s favorite recipe.”

“That’s amazing!” said an older man, who hobbled up to the pot and looked inside. “Amazing! I didn’t know you could eat stones!”

“You surely can,” said the sailor, “although it really tastes much better when it is mixed with carrots.”

“Why, I have some carrots!” declared the woman excitedly, and she scurried home to search for them.

By this time, four other people had gathered around the pot of rocks and were asking questions. “What does it taste like? How do you slice it? What does stone soup go well with?”

“Well, if you want me to be honest,” said the third sailor, “stone soup is really quite bland without beef.”

“I’ve got a whole pot full of beef!” shouted one man.

“And I’ve got some too!” exclaimed another.

In a moment, both were dashing home to retrieve their pots of meat, so they could add to this unusual, amazing meal.

“Can I add something to the soup too?” asked a young woman who had pushed her way through the crowd. “I have a whole bag of onions just waiting to be cooked!”

“Onions?” said the first sailor. “My mom always said that stone soup is really not stone soup without a heaping of onions in it.”

“And what about potatoes?” chirped a farmer. “I have the best potatoes on the entire island!”

“I bet your potatoes aren’t as good as my corn!” said another farmer.

Both of them dashed home and gathered up as much potatoes and corn as they could carry. It isn’t every day that you can contribute to an amazing meal like stone soup!

For the next four hours, the town was turned inside out with excitement. Everyone jumped into the act by preparing the finest food that had ever come out of their ovens and then carrying their food to the center of town. What had begun as a meal of stones had become a feast.

Turkey, chicken, dressing, gingerbread, spicy rice, stuffed green peppers, sausage, chocolate cake, English muffins, hot curried raisin bread, cucumber salad ... people shared and laughed and ate and ate, and there were twelve baskets of food remaining when the feast finally ended.

That’s the end of my story,” said Barney McCullers as he sat back down and began sorting through his bag of stones.

“That’s it?” said the greedy man with the

bowl of soup. “I thought you said you were gonna tell a story about miracle rocks?”

“I did,” said Barney as he held a piece of quartz up to the light.

“But where was the miracle?”

“Where was the miracle?” Barney echoed. “Those sailors entered a town where people wouldn’t provide food to anyone if their life depended on it. But it only took a few simple stones to excite their imagination. It only took a few stones to inspire them into helping like they never had before. To me, that is one fantastic miracle!”

The greedy man paused and thought about this for awhile. “I guess you’re right,” he finally said. Then he laughed, snapped a finger and shouted, “Innkeeper! Dish up a bowl of soup for my friend with the rock collection. The treat is on me!”

And so, another miracle had occurred.

Talking about it

1. What did the people on the island have that they didn’t want to give to the sailors?
2. Why didn’t they want to help them?
3. What can we remember from Psalm 4:3 about the Lord’s help?
4. Recite Psalm 4:3 together. “The Lord will hear when I call to him.”

Give each Tree Climber the first page of the Activity Packet. Encourage them to show their families which items people shared to make the soup as they tell them the story.