

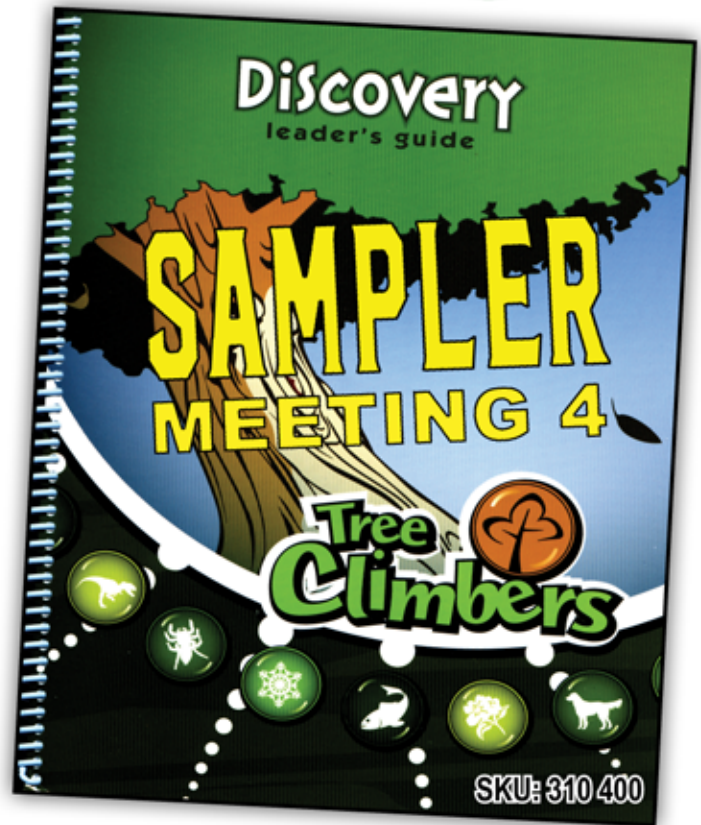
Discovery Meeting 4

Tree Climbers SAMPLER

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:1)

You can obtain *Tree Climbers Discovery* from:
CSB US - store.csbministries.org
CSB Canada - store.christianservicebrigade.ca



There's no greater call we can answer than to be the instrument that God uses to unlock a young person's potential.

From the Tree Climber's Leader's Guide:

Welcome to the world of Tree Climbers, an exciting journey for dads and sons to grow in their relationships with Christ and with each other, while making new friends. At Tree Climbers, young boys spend quality time with their dads and other adult Christian men. Together, men and kids have fun, learn about God's creation and grow closer to God and each other. Games, projects and adventures are centered around a weekly theme and Bible verse. Young boys flourish with the one-on-one time with godly men. Dads gain leadership skills and confidence by taking turns leading games, explaining projects and sharing Bible stories.

God bless you on this journey and have a terrific year!

Contact CSB for information regarding the companion volume, *Tree Climbers Odyssey*.

Hamburg, New York
800.815.5573
www.csbministries.org



Ottawa, Ontario
613.225.3689
www.christianservicebrigade.ca

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Writers: Mitchell Fritz, Sharon Long, Paul Heidebrecht, Steve Neideck Editors: B.J. Slinger, Melody Bourland;
Designers: Lane Hudson, Landon Graphics; Steven Paterson, Aloris Design Group; Sampler Editor: Howard Pike

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We Ask God for Help

Unit Aim: To recognize that our help comes from God—we can pray to him who cares for us.

4

WEEK



Woody's Welcome!

Rocks are made up of material known as “minerals” and are grouped into three basic types. *Igneous* rocks are produced by volcanoes. *Sedimentary* rocks are created when mud, dead plants, or other material become solid over a long time. And finally, *metamorphic* rocks are rocks that have become chemically changed in some way.

New rocks are constantly being created over the years, and they also are being worn down by weather and water. Sand particles are really tiny pieces of rock that have been worn down into fine grain.

At the other extreme from tiny sand particles are the huge planets, many of which are just large rocks. But when these “large rocks” are compared to the rest of our huge universe, planets are really not all that big. In fact, you might say that the earth is just one speck of sand amidst a billion other planets.

But although our world is small, it is important. After all, God cared enough to send His only Son to visit our world and serve its people. In God's eyes, our planet is much more than a plain rock spinning around the sun. It is a priceless rock. A gem, you might say.



Woody's Games!

Mountain Lakes Bucket Brigade Provide plastic cups, small containers of water, paper cups and towels

Each team stands in a line with a large plastic cup full of water on one end and an empty cup on the other. Give each player a paper cup.

The object is to pass the water from one “lake” down the line, pouring it from cup to cup, until the empty “lake” cup is eventually filled. The team that fills its empty cup first is the winner.

Rock Drop You'll need a small stone or marble
Players stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a line, their hands behind their backs. The first player walks behind the row of players pretending to put a small stone or marble into other players' hands. When he does put it into one player's hand, that person darts out of the line and tries not to be tagged by those on either side of him. The other players can't move their feet.

Whoever tags the one with the stone starts the next round. If the player with the stone isn't tagged, he starts the game over.

Adventure
Verse:



Psalm 121:2

My help comes from
the Lord, the Maker
of heaven and earth.



Fun To Do

Rocky Mountains

Help your Tree Climbers create their own mountains. Provide various sizes of flat stones with rounded edges (5-9 per child) or styrofoam and paper mache (see note), white glue, small stones, pebbles

If you can't find rocks, try making the mountains out of styrofoam covered with paper mache. (To make paper mache, mix one part flour with 2 parts water, adjusting until the consistency is like glue. Add a few tablespoons of salt to prevent mold.)

If you can find flat, stackable stones, wash and dry them. Use a big, flat rock as the base. Dab white glue on the bottom of a smaller stone and lay it on top. Let the glue dry before adding more layers.

Add small stones or pebbles as boulders.



Woody's Checkup

Use these questions to discuss Psalm 121:2 after you have memorized it.

1. God made the mountains, the animals and the stars. Is he strong enough to help you?
2. Have you ever been in a dangerous situation? What happened?
3. If we're injured, we might panic. How can God help us when we're hurt or in trouble?
4. Will talking with God help you when you're afraid?



Woody's Stretch

Rocks & Mountains Picture Hunt Provide pictures from magazines.

Get pictures of rocks or mountains from magazines or draw some of your own. Then, cut the pictures in half. (You can make the lines jagged or at an angle.) Distribute the halves among the Tree Climbers.

The object of the game is for each player to find the other half of his picture. The first pair who does this wins.

You can also play this game by giving half a picture to each Tree Climber after you've hidden the other halves around the room.



Tree Climbers Circle

Tell the story, "When Earth and Oceans Move." Show some pictures of how land moved during an earthquake. Use books, coins, checkers, Legos, a wide pan or tray, sand, paper, beans and a large flat stone to show what happens during earthquakes.

When Earth & Ocean Move

by Melody Bourland

Zak couldn't believe it. Not at all.

His big brother, "Mo," was just teasing him again. Zak's brother's name was really Timothy, but he wanted to be called "Mo." Zak thought the reason was because his brother hadn't liked being called "Timmy" since he turned 13. "Being a teenager makes you weird," Zak told himself.

Mo must've been wrong. He couldn't be right! So Zak was on his way to find out the truth. He was going to ask Uncle Simon.

Uncle Simon was a scientist, so Mo called him Uncle Si now. Zak knew Uncle Simon would tell him the truth.

"Come on in, Zak," Uncle Simon said as he opened the door. "What's up?"

"I don't believe what Mo just told me. It can't be true. It just can't!"

"What did Mo say?" his uncle asked.

"He said a big earthquake made a big wave and thousands and thousands of people died when the wave hit land. Earthquakes just make the ground shake. And people would run if they saw a big wave. I don't believe him! It can't be true. Can it?"

"Sit down, Zak. Let me tell you about it," sighed Uncle Simon.

"One of the strongest quakes ever recorded happened the other day. It was under the Indian Ocean. Earthquakes under the sea can move a lot of water. When the water was moving in the deep ocean, nobody noticed it. But as that water came closer to shore, the land got in its way. The water piled up on top of the shores in great waves and kept going further inland.

"That much water is very heavy and strong. Trees, buildings and cars were swept away. There was a lot of damage. And many, many people died."

"Mo was right? It really happened?"

"Yes, Zak, I'm afraid it did."

"Why didn't people run away?"

"That's a good question, Zak. You see, the waves weren't tall until they got close to land."

"Huh?"

"Well, the ocean is very deep. The land underneath it is miles below the surface. When an earthquake makes the water move, it doesn't have to rise much above the surface. But the sea floor gets shallow very suddenly around islands and continents.

"When land gets in the way all this moving water has to go somewhere, so it piles up on top of itself. That makes a big wave."

"So why didn't people run?"

"The water came as fast as a jet — about 500 miles an hour," Uncle Simon explained. "The earthquake had moved a huge island! That moved a lot of water very fast. By the time that water became big waves, it was almost on shore. People didn't have time to run. Besides, no one expected danger. Most people simply weren't looking at the ocean."

"Oh," said Zak, trying to understand. "Wait — Did you say a whole island moved?"

"Yes. The island of Sumatra is about 1000 miles long and up to about 250 miles wide."

"No way!" Zak could hardly believe his ears. "How could something that *huge* move?"

Uncle Simon smiled. "Our planet isn't solid rock, Zak. The surface of the land — even the land beneath the oceans — is in pieces. Even continents aren't all in one piece. Those pieces usually don't move very far or very fast. Sometimes they slide by each other just a few inches. When pieces move several feet all at once, there's a big earthquake.

Zak struggled with the idea. "Then Mo was right!" he exclaimed. "We're not safe anywhere! An earthquake could destroy our house and school and our church and..."

"Whoa, Zak!" Uncle Simon squeezed his nephew's shoulder. "Don't worry too much about earthquakes. They happen every day all over the world! Most are so small no one

notices. Big ones don't happen very often. When they do, yes, buildings fall down and people are hurt or killed. But earthquakes like that don't happen just anywhere."

Uncle Simon walked over to his computer. "Let's look up 'earthquakes' and see where most of them happen. Okay?"

Soon, Zak learned about the Ring of Fire around the Pacific Ocean. That's where huge pieces of land rub against each other and cause the most earthquakes. That's where most of the world's active volcanoes are, too.

Zak found that quakes have happened all through history and that people are learning how to build buildings that will stand up when the earth shakes. Zak learned that he lived far away from where big earthquakes happen.

Then he discovered that within the last week there had been three tiny earthquakes not far from where he lived. He hadn't felt a thing!

"Are you still worried about earthquakes, Zak?" his uncle asked.

"No, I guess not," Zak answered.

"You know, nephew, you're more protected than you remember right now."

"Protected? Me?"

"Think about it. First," said Uncle Simon, holding up one finger, "lots of people survive

big earthquakes. Second," putting up a second finger, "most earthquakes are too small to feel. Third, you don't live near a quake zone. And even if you did," he lifted a fourth finger, "God is always with you."

"Yeah," Zak said. "But, Mo said even Christians lose their homes and die in earthquakes."

"Yes, they do. Believing in Jesus doesn't mean bad things never happen to you. But God will always help you, no matter what."

Uncle Simon smiled. "Remember what Jesus said about building a house on rock and not on sand? *'Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'* The rain fell, the wind blew and the water rose, but that wise man had built his house on rock. It had a strong foundation, so it stayed up. Another man built his house on loose sand. The rain washed the sand away, so the wind and flood knocked that house down."

Uncle Simon patted Zak's shoulders. "If you build a house with a strong foundation, it will be strong. If you build your life on trusting and obeying God, you'll be strong. Remember, God loves you and will help you." He picked up Zak and hugged him. "Right?"

Zak smiled. "Right!"

Demonstrate What Happens During a Big Earthquake

Show after-earthquake pictures of displaced land and damaged buildings. Demonstrate how earthquake happens using books, coins, checkers, Legos, a wide pan or tray, sand, paper, beans and a large flat stone.

Some pieces of the earth's surface move in different directions. Sometimes they rub along each other's sides. Other times, one piece runs into another and has to go under it. Move some books against each other both ways — slowly — and see what happens. Put some checkers or Legos on top of the books and try it again. Then, do it quickly.

Put enough dirt or sand in a wide pan or tray to cover the bottom. Slowly shake it from side to side. What happens? Make a small paper tent, put it on top of the soil and move the container again. What happens? Use beans and stacks of coins and checkers.

Empty the pan. Place a wide, flat rock in the bottom. Shake the pan slowly. What happens? What happens when you add the tent and other items? What happens to the items when you shake the container quickly?

Briefly thank God for helping us stay safe, no matter what happens.