



TODAY'S TOPIC:
The Light of Community

You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

THINKING JOB: Ask a “thinking job question” to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

What is the difference between a group and a community?

Lesson

The Light of Community

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper and markers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	To connect in the light

SAY: You can take a bunch of people and put them together and they are a **group**, or you can take a bunch of people and put them together and they are a **community**. What is the difference? (Accept all answers!)

SHARE: Communities share a common interest, background or purpose. For example, you may not know everyone that goes to your school, but your school is a community. Your neighborhood is a community. Even your family may be a community. Maybe you are part of a global community. Maybe your clubs, sports or hobbies are a community. **People in a community feel a connection to and care about the other people who are also in the community.** They may feel responsible and want to take care of others in their community. They may have things in common. Since God is everywhere and God is inside everyone, God is an important way people can feel connected in community.

ASK: Where do you feel connected to others? (share for yourself too!)

SHARE: In a community, everyone is connected in some way. Even with all the ways we are similar and different, we are connected. When everyone works together and sees we are connected, we can create amazing things.

ACTIVITY: Community Connections

SAY: Grab a piece of paper and a marker. Think of the many people who are part of your community. Use the marker to make a dot for each person or group you think of. (READ SLOWLY) Think about your school, your spiritual community, any team you are a part of. Think of your friends, anyone that shares your hobbies, people who take care of you like doctors, police men and women, and fire fighters. Add a dot for each person in your family, for your neighbors, your mail delivery person, and the garbage and recycle pick up people. Make sure to add a dot for your pets, too!

SHARE: Whoa! I don't know about you, but there are A LOT of dots on my page!

ASK: What if each one of those dots was a candle? Imagine the glow! I'm starting to feel really warm thinking about all those candles! And the room is so bright, that I have to squint my eyes! There is so much light that all the little candles have become one big, brilliant, light.

ASK: What would happen if we didn't have this connecting light?

If we did not have all these ways we are connected it would be sad and lonely maybe even chaotic and crazy.

SAY: I am so glad we have light to connect us with our community. It makes us stronger! Let's say our affirmation together.

AFFIRMATION – I am connected in the light of community. repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .