



WHAT'S IN YOUR BUCKET??

This is a suggestion for a small group: The purpose is to encourage them in searching out the Word...to help them see there are a variety of ways to look at God's Word. Searching the Word can come alive and not be a "dry, boring" time.

With this exercise you will need:

1. A bucket for each member of your group: any small bucket can be used. I purchased a child's sand bucket and shovel at the Dollar Store. I took advantage of having the shovel (which was attached) which could be further used in this analogy to apply to their lives. You can adapt with what you can find available.
2. Something "good" and something "not so good" to place in the bottom of each bucket. Again: I found at the Dollar Store packets of hearts and also packets of different kinds of insects/bugs.
3. You can place the work sheet (which is following these instructions) in each bucket for them to pick up.
4. Have on hand adequate number of concordances and/or topical concordances for them to use.

Exercise Directions:

1. Open your time with prayer...for the Holy Spirit to come and speak to each of them individually, to give them Scriptures from the Word that will be meaningful to them in each of their individual circumstances.
2. Before releasing them for their individual time of "study", have them give some thoughts on buckets...what they think of when they see a bucket such as you may be using. Following their input, give further directions (as to how much time you will give them to go through their individual sheets and looking up in the Word). You might also suggest if any have trouble with the exercise, any leader(s) should be available to guide them in their time of using a concordance or finding what they need etc.) Encourage them to not feel rushed. Whatever they do not finish during the allotted time, they can finish this exercise on their own at a later time.

Following The Individual Time:

1. If you have a large group, you might divide into smaller groups with a leader for each group. If your group is not large, you can come back as one group.

2. Begin with things they may see in their life that would be “good.” Sometimes people have trouble looking at or expressing what may be good in their life. If some do, this would be a good time for others to express “good things” they see in their lives. They could write these things down and look up Scriptures later that would apply or perhaps the individuals sharing “good traits” would have a Scripture they could give them. If none mention the Fruit of the Spirit as “good things”, you might point this out as a “good thing” to have in our “buckets.”

3. Once everyone has had a chance to share, you can “move on” to the “not so good” items and again have in-put from members who would like to share. This can also be a good time to be an encouragement to those who may open up and share areas they are struggling with. It is also a time when others in the group can be writing down prayer concerns. (**Suggestion:** always make it clear that if anyone is sharing something regarding an area of their life, that this should be a time when whatever is shared stays in the group...this is not to be “broadcasted” to others outside of the group).

4. Close with prayer. You might also have a little card for each person in the group to fill out with a prayer request they may have as a result of this little study. Have them exchange their prayer request card with others in the group who in turn can be praying for them. You might even suggest that the ones praying for each other, at a later time give the individual they have been praying for a phone call or send an e-mail or note to encourage them and/or see how they are doing.

5. **Suggestion:** if you have individual sand buckets with the shovels attached: a good analogy to use in closing is to bring out how the shovel works to put in or take out items. As it is with the shovel attached, if we leave it attached (or under our control) in our lives, it cannot be very effective. We need to release it and “hand it” to our Heavenly Father for Him to have control over what is taken out or put in our “buckets.”



WHAT'S IN YOUR BUCKET??

You received a bucket and shovel this morning. It is **your personal bucket**. This bucket also has a handle so you can carry it around. With that in mind, how can you relate that to your personal life?

As you look into your “bucket”, you will notice two items: one represents something good and one something not so good. How can you relate this to your life?

As you contemplate the “good” and the “not so good”, can you make a list of what you might see in your “bucket” that is good or not so good?

What is Good?	What is “Not so Good?”

Now: looking at your list, as you look into God’s Word, can you find some Scripture references that could relate to the “good” and the “not so good.” If there are any “not so good” things, you might see if you can find anything from God’s Word that would help you to turn them into the “good” column. How could your “shovel” enter into this picture?

Good Things	What the Word says about the good things in my “bucket”

As you look at the “not so good” and you see what God’s Word says, let this be a time for you to talk to Him about it as you attempt to “shovel them out” and into the “good” category.

“Not So Good Things”	What does the Word say about those “not so good things?”

NOTE: You may take your bucket and shovel home with you and let your kids enjoy!