

# “FIRMLY PLANTED”

## *Youth Study #3*

### *“Like a Tree”*

## Opening Activity....

Note: All activities here can be used where you want, some may serve as openers, others as a way to close. Be with the youth, enjoy their presence and look to get them all involved by encouraging them. Also, never be afraid to use even the activities as teaching tools....

## Fruit Basket Upset

Have group sit in a circle. You should have one less chair than you do people, so that one student is left standing up. Make sure each seat is clearly marked - use chairs or mark places with tape. Number people off, but instead of saying, "one, two, three, four, five" say "apple, banana, orange, kiwi, peach" or whatever fruit you like. The more people you have, the more groups you may want. The last person is "It" and stands in the center of the circle.

"It" yells out a fruit name. Everyone with that name must exchange seats with someone else with that name. "It" tries to take one of the empty chairs before they are all taken. Whoever is left without a chair is "It".

Rather than yelling a fruit name, "It" may yell "Fruit Basket Upset." Everyone must change seats.

**Variation:** "It" may yell more than one fruit at a time. This gets more people up and moving.

## Electric Orange

Divide into two teams. Put them into two lines parallel and next to one another (about 3 feet apart) sitting down and holding hands. At the back of the line put a bucket of water or ice with an orange in it between the two lines. If on carpet, put a layer of towels down - the water splashes and drips.

Stand at the head of the lines with a quarter in your hand. Instruct them that you are going to flip the quarter so only the first person in line can see the results. They are not to yell out how the quarter landed or even look back at their team. If the quarter lands on heads the persons in front are to squeeze their hands. The rest of the line is to squeeze their hands if their other hand is squeezed so that they can communicate to the last person in the line that the quarter is indeed heads not tails. If the last person in line has their hand squeezed then they are to try to grab the orange out of the bucket before the last person on the other team does. The person successful in retrieving the orange gets to go to the front of the line. The problem arrives however when the message is wrongly communicated to the person in back and they grab the orange only to find out that the quarter was actually tails. At that point the

person in front must go to the back of the line. The first team to get their entire team forward in line (back person to front- not front to back), wins.

## The STUDY of God's Word—Psalm 1:3

Note: I would recommend that this study and #4 be done after the convention. Another thought is do these last two on the trip from the FLY convention (great for bus trip, or when you make a stop).

\*A Fruit Bearing Tree or Garden in the background is not a bad idea for the setting of this study. (Also having various fruits around as snacks or even just decoration. Plastic fruit would also work and could serve as an example of imitation fruit in our lives...)

\*Stop, pull out your Bibles and read together Psalm 1. (Note to the students that you will be spending your time in verse 3 for this study.)

\*Discuss the following: (The method of discussion is up to you—questions, breaking into groups, student led, leader led, acting out.....etc. But in some way bring everyone or keep everyone together and hit these key points.)

1. What kind of fruit is it talking about here? (Take a stroll over to Galatians 5 and talk about the Fruit of the Spirit.) What does this look like in each of our lives, when we know Jesus? What does it look like when I'm at home, at work, or at school? (Maybe roll play a situation at home, work or school.)

2. What kind of tree will you be? (One that has deep roots, or one that has shallow roots, easily blown over by any storm.)

3. **Matthew 7:24-27**—Act it out (or have the students do that.) Be creative with water and sand, firm foundation (maybe even use water balloons as the storm). Discuss with them the importance of a firm foundation based on Jesus, and roots that go deep. Discuss the importance of not only knowing about God's Word, but doing it and truly knowing God. (Maybe even pull out Nike symbol, and talk about slogan: "Just Do It.")

4. *...whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does he prospers.* What prosperity does God bring to us? Does it mean that life will be full of money and just good times when we know Jesus? (Definitely talk about how life as true believer does not mean everything will "come up roses" here upon earth; however, make sure you talk about the eternal rewards.)

5. PRAY together. (Various methods can be used, but make sure they know that you are praying to and with God. They've heard Him speak through His Word, now they have an opportunity to talk with Him.)

6. As a youth group schedule an event where you will go put feet to your faith, doing something for someone in the community.

At the end of your time, discuss how you all can encourage one another and help each other yield fruit. Give suggestions.....

## SNACK TIME

Note: Snacks are one of the ways to a youth's heart, well their stomach; and it is always a good time. Be sure to use something that may serve as a reminder of what you took a look at in the Bible. Obviously the things mentioned here will only be recommendations, but certainly be creative. Think of snack time as a way to reinforce Biblical concepts. (P.S. Always interested to hear about how you used this study, or the creative ways you brought forth the truth of God's Word.)

Possible snacks for this lesson—Fruit; Fruit Snacks; Banana Splits; Chocolate Coins.....