

Outline for Stone Soup Night

Based on "Stone Soup" by Jon J. Muth, 2003, ISBN 0-439-64022-9

Before the activity:

1. Choose a soup recipe you like. Leader to bring broth and meat ingredients. Each YW is assigned one other ingredient, such as canned tomatoes, corn, onions, potatoes, etc. We used a simple hamburger vegetable soup recipe. We also served buns, butter along with butter to drink.
2. Prepare for the leadership / unity games.
3. Prepare a card or paper for each young woman with her name at the top. Bring enough pens for each young woman to use one.

Activity timeline:

1. YW arrive, each adding her own **ingredient to the soup pot**. Tell them you started with a stone (get one that is really cleaned well and put it in!)
2. Opening prayer.
3. As the soup cooks, play some **leadership / unity games**. Here are the ones we selected:
 - a. *Something new or good*. Everyone sits in a circle. Each of the girls says something good or new that happened to them in the last 24 hours. We used this because it was the first week of school, and we thought it would be nice for the girls to share their experiences with one another.
 - b. *Holding hands circle*. Everyone sits in a circle. Reach into the center and grab another person's hand. Then grab a second person's hand. You are not allowed to grab both hands of one person – it has to be two different people. Now – work together to untangle yourselves.
 - c. *Carrying the ball*. You'll need:
 - One blindfold per group
 - Heavy string. The kind we used looks like shoelace string.
 - One large metal ring per group. The ones we used were 2 inches in circumference. You can purchase them at a hardware store.
 - One racquet ball per group. You could use other balls too, but they must be able to sit on the metal ring without falling off.
 - One small cup (children's size) per group. When turned upside down, it should be able to hold the metal ring with the ball on it – so that the three items are stable.
 - One washer per group (purchase at a hardware store).
 - Part of a deck of playing cards

Set up: Cut five strings per group (about five feet long). Tie one end of each string to the metal ring. You'll end up with something that looks like the spokes on a bicycle. On one of the strings, tie a loop at the end of the string that is not attached to the ring. Cut an

additional string per group (2 feet in length). Attach the shorter string to the loop tied at the end of the 5 foot long string. Slide a washer onto the shorter string.

Divide the YW into groups of five and select a leader for each group. We did this through playing cards. We had five cards of one suit for each team (so there was a hearts team and a clubs team). There was one King, one Queen and 3 other cards. The person who selected the King is the leader. The person who selects the queen is blindfolded. Only the leader is told the rules. She must communicate them to the other members of her team.

To start, each YW holds onto one string. The leader gets the string with the extra 2 feet & washer. For the leader, the unattached end of the shorter string is tied to her belt loop. She can only hold onto the longer string. The shorter one remains untouched.

The group starts with the ball sitting onto of the metal ring, which is sitting on an upside down cup, which is sitting on the middle of a small table.

You'll also set up the stations (as described below) before the YW arrive at the activity.

Rules:

- The leader cannot touch the 2 foot length or washer. She can only touch the 5 foot length of string.
- The washer cannot touch the floor.
- The leader is the only one that can give instructions.
- The group must complete all assigned tasks without having the ball touch or drop to the ground. If the ball drops or is touched by someone, the group must start again.
- No two tasks can be completed by the same young woman.
- The YW with the blindfold cannot remove it or touch it.
- The first team to complete all the obstacles without dropping the ball, and who makes it back to the cup successfully setting the ball back down, wins! We had to modify this in the activity – because it was taking a long time. We changed the rule so that if you dropped the ball, you had to go back to the start of the activity you hadn't yet completed.

Note: Although this activity was done with long strings for adults, I thought it might be a bit challenging for the YW – and also more time consuming than I'd like. To help, I tied a knot part way down each string. I told the young women that they could hold the string anywhere they'd like, all the way up to the knot. From the knot to the ring was to be untouched.

The obstacle course:

You could create your own obstacle course, but here is what we did.

- a. Give the YW a couple minutes to do some planning – so that the leader can communicate the assignment and rules.

- b. The group picks up the ball (without touching it), and heads to one of the five stations. If a group chooses a station that another group got to first, they must either wait, or choose another station.

Stations:

- Blindfolded person must draw a picture of a house with a door, window, roof and chimney.
- One person must bend down and pick up an object (like a pencil or paper or apple) and put it on a table.
- One person drinks from the water fountain.
- One person reaches to the top of shelf to retrieve a book and places it on the floor (not dropping it).
- One person touches their bottom to the wall.

Also, we had the girls navigate in and out of the doors triple room, and through a runway lined with chairs. The runway was curved to create challenge.

4. **Eat the soup!** We also served buns with butter and water to drink. We kept it simple on purpose, so that the soup itself would shine (either the thinness or thickness of it – depending on which girls followed through with their assignments).
5. **Read “Stone Soup”** by Jon J. Muth, 2003, ISBN 0-439-64022-9.
6. **Stone soup discussion**, using questions of your own or ones we did (see separate attached document). Then express the importance of unity – a unity that respects the diversity of its members!
7. “What qualities I admire in you...” There is one paper for each young woman, with her name at the top. Tell the YW that they have the opportunity to write on each young woman’s paper. They are to write “what qualities I admire in you...” . After all is complete, allow time for the young women to read their own papers. End with your testimony that each of the YW is important to the group! Each is an important ingredient in you ward’s wonderful YW stone soup!
8. Closing hymn (As I have loved you, or I am a Child of God) & closing prayer.