



SUMMERTIME FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR THE WEEK OF 07/05/20

IN SECRET

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SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: MATTHEW 6:1-6; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

BIG IDEA: IT IS PLEASING TO GOD AND ALSO FUN WHEN WE SECRETLY ENCOURAGE OTHERS!

ACTIVITY - PAINTED ROCK LADYBUG

SUPPLIES:

- BIG, ROUND-ISH, SMOOTH ROCKS
- BLACK, RED, AND WHITE ACRYLIC PAINT (YOU CAN FIND THIS AT ANY CRAFT STORE.)
- CLEAR TOP-COAT SPRAY (YOU CAN FIND THIS AT ANY CRAFT STORE OR HOME DEPOT IN THE PAINT SECTION).
- PAINTBRUSHES
- PAPER TOWELS/NEWSPAPER TO COVER YOUR TABLE AS YOU PAINT

COST: IN THE EVENT THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE MOST OF THESE SUPPLIES AT HOME ALREADY, WE RECOMMEND YOU GO THE CHEAP ROUTE; AVOID EXPENSIVE SUPPLIES! THE TOTAL COST FOR THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE AROUND \$5.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1) Find some large, smooth, roundish rocks. It's great to look by water because the rocks are usually very smooth from the water running over them. We love to go to the Rocky River, specifically across from the Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted (very close to the church). Take your water shoes and some buckets! Enjoy wading in the river and picking out rocks as a family on a hot day.

2) Wash your rock very well and let it totally dry.

3) Paint the entire rock black. Let it dry.

4) Paint the red part of the ladybug (see pictures).

5) Paint the two white eyes and allow it all to dry (see pictures).

6) Paint the black pupils on the white eyes (see pictures).

7) Paint the black dots on the body of the ladybug (see pictures).

8) After the ladybug completely dries, spray it with the clear top-coat spray to protect it as it sits outside.



DEVOTIONAL:

Ask: Are secrets usually good or bad? What are some examples of good and bad secrets?

Allow Responses...

(Surprise parties or gift ideas are good secrets. Not telling your parents when you broke something in the house or got in trouble at school are bad secrets.)

Say: It might surprise you, but God talks a little bit about keeping secrets in the Bible.

Read: *Matthew 6: 1-6*

Say: Jesus tells the people to GIVE and PRAY "in secret." They shouldn't show off how much they have given or tell everyone about how much they are praying, it should be between them and God. Sometimes it's really hard to do the right thing and not be recognized for it.

Ask: Can you think of a time when you did something good for someone else but they didn't know that you did it or didn't recognize you for doing it?

Allow responses...

(Maybe you cleaned up something at home and your parents didn't notice, or maybe you played really nicely with a sibling but no one thanked you or acknowledged how patient you were.)

Say: It definitely pleases God when we do good things in secret because it reflects a pure heart. We are doing these things because we want to show Christ to others and obey Christ ourselves, not because we want a reward. It's also SUPER FUN when you do something nice for someone else and they don't even know it was you who did it! Let's think of someone who needs some encouragement today, or someone who you would like to make smile. Try to think of someone who would NEVER expect you to be the one to encourage them. Maybe it's a neighbor who just looks grumpy all the time but who you don't really know, or a teacher who you know worked really hard to teach you online this school year. Maybe it's someone from church who is on the prayer list. Maybe this is a great way to reach out to a neighbor who is African-American and probably struggling to feel love and support during these times. Let's come up with a person as a family and make it a point this week to secretly leave your painted ladybug rock on their front stoop or front porch. Make sure you place it out of the way so no one trips! And let's make sure that we are VERY sneaky when delivering it. Don't sign your rock or anything; just leave it in secret and imagine how much they will smile when they see it!

Read: *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Say: If you'd like to paint more rocks, do it! Ladybugs are fun designs, but you can also try writing "Faith" or "Hope" or "Love" on a rock. It's also fun to find heart-shaped rocks to paint. If you find flat rocks, you can paint just about anything on them: Your favorite character, a cross, flowers, etc.

Ask: Who would you like to give our ladybug rock to? Would you like to paint more rocks to give to more people to encourage them?

Allow this time to brainstorm different people who might need encouragement. Try to keep thinking of people who wouldn't expect it from you. This makes the surprise more fun, and the sneaky delivery is really fun too!

Family Prayer

Lord God, help us to encourage each other and build each other up, both in and out of our family. Help us to remember that You see all that we do, and that You are reward enough for us. Help us not to get discouraged in doing good, but help us to keep reflecting You to the people You have put around us. Fill our hearts with the joy and satisfaction of knowing that You are pleased with us, and help us not to seek the approval of others. In Your name we pray, Amen.