

#SELFIE

Plans to Give You Hope and a Future—Week 2

Teaching Point: *Because God has a plan for my future, I won't worry about tomorrow.*

Items Needed:

"SELFIE scramble" sheet (one per student)

Bibles

1 can of Silly String per group

Prizes for SELFIE scramble

Jeremiah 29:11 posters (see Jill)

Blindfold

Wax paper

BEFORE CLASS: set up obstacle class

Large group: 7:10

The word "selfie" was officially included in the dictionary in the past year. The term "selfie" means a photo taken of oneself that is generally taken with the intent of sharing the photo on social media.

Last week we introduced the idea that our futures do not belong to us. Because kids are taught so often that everything is "about them," we want them to know and believe that their future does not belong to them...it's Gods. Because God has a plan, they can believe that they don't need to worry about their futures.

SELFIE scramble: Hand kids a copy of the "SELFIE" scramble worksheet. Give everyone 5 minutes to see who can come up with the most words using the SELFIE letters. Award prizes accordingly.

SAY: Our "selfie" culture teaches us that everything we do is all about us. God's Word says that this is not the truth. Many times people fear their futures and what lies ahead. If we believe that

God is really in charge of our futures, we can rest knowing that God's got things under control.

Worry is a huge problem for adults and kids alike. Last week we learned that "God has plans to give us a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11) If God has plans for our future, why would we need to worry?

What are some things that kids worry about on a regular basis? How about adults?

Two Round Game. Select one kid to come forward to be blindfolded for this demonstration. If it's a girl, choose one girl to give directions to the blindfolded girl (same if it's a boy).

Round one -The object of this demonstration is to get a kid through an obstacle course of sorts while everyone remains silent and they are only relying upon themselves to get to the finish line. **Round two** - Have the same kid go through again, this time listening to instructions given from a team member ("turn right," "stop," etc.) who guides them to the finish line.

When (the person who was navigating the obstacle course) was just going through the course on his/her own knowledge and intuition, he/she bumped into things and it was much harder to reach the finish line. When he/she was able to listen to the voice of (their team member) they didn't need to worry about making it to the finish. They knew that all they had to do was to listen to and TRUST the voice of the one calling the shots who happened to see what was ahead, like God. If she/he had not really trusted that voice and had just done her/his own thing what could have happened to her/him?

Have kids read Jeremiah 29:11 together using the posters.

Ask: Which areas of your life do you think that God has already thought of/planned for your future?

7:30 Dismiss kids to go to small groups

Small Group Leaders ASK: What are the top three things you have you worried about this past week?

ASK: What sorts of things have you seen your parents or your friends worry about this past week?

What would look different in your life if you were to trust God and not worry?

Have kids break into pairs and have each pair look up and read together one of the following scripture references:

- **1 Peter 5:6-8**
- **Hebrews 13:5-6**
- **John 14:27**
- **Matthew 6:25**
- **Matthew 11:28**
- **Philippians 4:6-7**
- **Psalm 55:22**

Have each pair share what they read that God's Word has to say about worry.

Why do you think God wants us to trust Him rather than worry?

When we worry, we are making things about us. We are living the "selfie" lifestyle. When we assume that we are in charge of our futures rather than trusting God, we are behaving as though we are the one that is in control of our lives.

What's the hardest thing for you when it comes to trusting God rather than worrying?

(place a piece of waxed paper on the floor for this activity) Take your groups can of Silly String and spray it into a pile in front of your small group. Ask someone to create some sort of sculpture out of the pile of silly string, giving them only ten seconds to do so. Should they have a piece of wax paper down on the floor so it doesn't stain? Sometimes silly string leaves a waxy residue. If so, this needs added to the "items needed" list.

SAY: Creating something out of that pile of wet Silly String proved to be useless, didn't it? It was challenging and ended up

not working at all. That's the way worry is. When we worry about our futures, it proves to be useless. If we really believe that God has a plan/purpose for our futures, we can trust Him and not worry.

The choice is yours. To worry or to trust.

Pray together in your group asking God to remind kids this week that He is in control of their futures. Their job is to trust Him and not submit to worry.

***If time allows, review Jeremiah 29:11**

