

A Little Better All the Time

TOPIC : *Hope*

SCRIPTURE : *Romans 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 4:18*

SUPPLIES : *paper, pens or pencils*

Have youth sit in a circle. Give each person one sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. If your group is large, have participants form smaller groups of eight to ten and play the game in their smaller groups.

At the top of the paper, have each person secretly write a sentence about someone in high school. Teenagers should give their characters names, and their sentences should talk about something lousy that happened to their characters during the day. For example, a person might write, "Rose dropped her tray in the lunchroom and everyone laughed," "Tom forgot his homework," or "Jackie saw her boyfriend kissing another girl in the hall."

When participants have written their sentences, have them pass their papers one person to the right. Those people should read the sentences and each add another sentence about how the situations got just a little better. When the second sentences have been written, have those authors fold the papers under the first sentences so only the second sentences are exposed. Then participants should pass the papers on again.

Have participants read the exposed sentences and write new sentences that again make the situations a little better. They should fold the papers again so only their sentences show, then pass the papers along.

Continue in this manner until the papers arrive back at their original positions. Then have teenagers unfold the papers and share their stories of how things went from lousy to great.

DISCUSSION

- What does this old saying mean: "When it rains it pours"?
- What makes you feel better when you have a bad day?
- When have you given up hope and then seen things get better?
- Where does hope come from?
- How can hope change our lives?