

Kids in a Tree

This is a short explanation on how to use the “Kids in a Tree” image in a small group setting. This resource would be used as an aid to help people share in your group about where they are spiritually. Many people find that this is a great tool to help people share honestly, precisely, and briefly in a group.

Objective:

To get members of the small group to share openly about how they are doing spiritually in a guided manner. To be used as an icebreaker or opening question in a small group.

Materials:

Print-outs of the “Kids in a Tree” image for each member of the small group

Instructions:

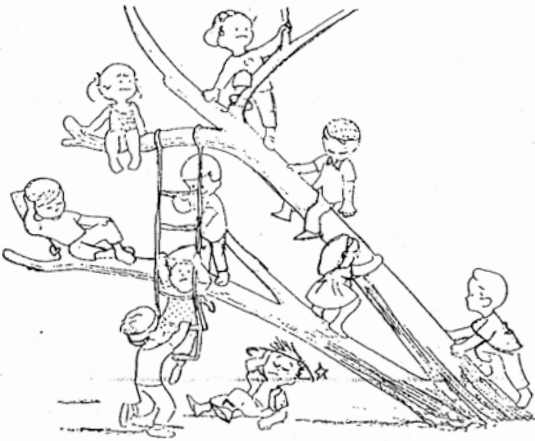
The leader should give some explanation after passing out the images to each person.

“This image will be a tool to help us share how we’re doing. What I want you to do is to take the next minute to look over this image of a tree. You will see many different children, all representing different stages of life and emotional states. I want you to pick the child that best represents your spiritual life right now. Later, you will be sharing with the group which child you identify with, and why. Please keep your responses to 1-3 minutes so we can all share. And remember, there is no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ answer.”

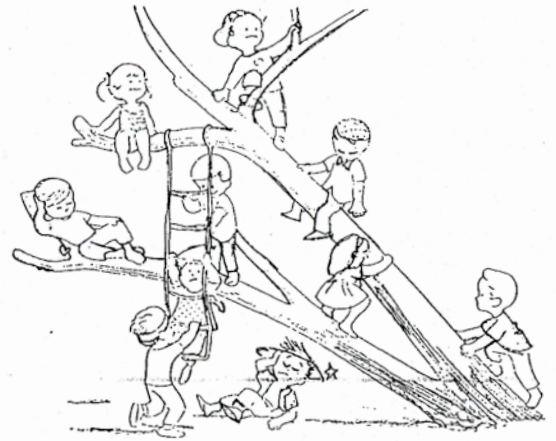
After taking a minute for everyone to look over the image, the small group leader should share first with the group, modeling openness, vulnerability, and trust.

It may be helpful to jot down brief notes on each member, especially those who may need follow-up outside of the meeting.

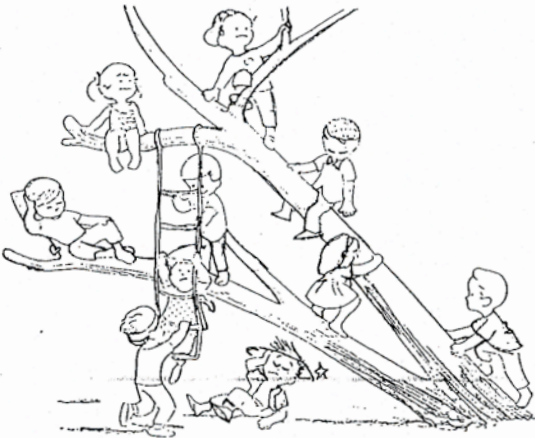
While people are sharing, listen to the Holy Spirit. It may be appropriate to pause and pray for a member of the small group after he/she shares. The responses of the group may shift the lesson plans for remainder of the small group, as well.



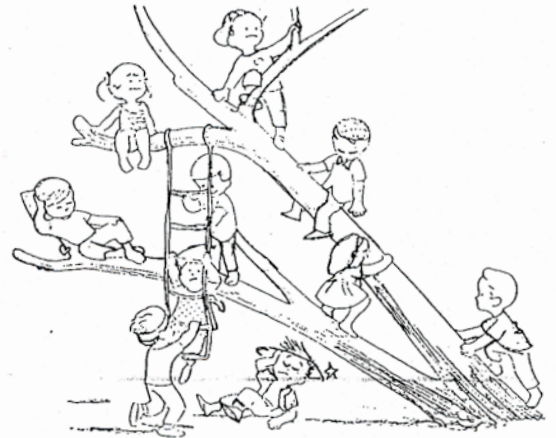
What child are you on this tree in terms of your spiritual life? Why?



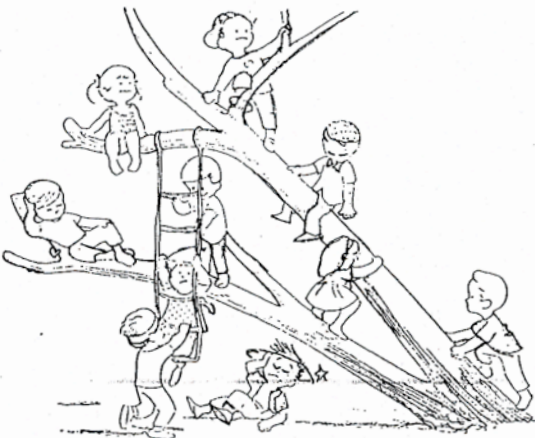
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