Activity tie-in: Lashing

Objects: Ropes, wooden poles

Bible Passage: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 [4]Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5]Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [6]These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. [7]Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [8]Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [9]Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Lesson: Importance of fastening God's word closely to our hearts

Introduction Ideas:

- Have students try to build create a fence using only the wooden poles. Ask them why this was difficult/impossible. Then show them the rope and ask how it might be useful.
    - Popsicle sticks/craft sticks and string are alternative materials for this
- Ask the students to describe a time when they have used rope, tape, or glue to help bind something together.
- Loop the rope lightly around a pole then try to lift the pole (letting the pole fall). Ask the students why they think the pole fell.

Lesson Suggestions:

- Expand on the idea that the rope was the "glue" to hold the fence together. Then, focus on the idea that without the rope to bind the structure the fence will just fall apart.
- Object lesson: Lash the poles together to demonstrate the importance of having something to fasten the structure together.
- Quote and apply the Bible verses: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your GOD with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Questions for Interactive Lesson:

- When you quote the Bible verse, you could ask students to make the application:
    - "How could we stay fastened to God's word?"
        - By reading the Bible and talking with friends about Jesus, we can stay connected with God's Word.
    - "Why is it important to stay in the Bible?"

- When we do not stay in the Bible, we are like the fence without the rope to connect us. We are just poles on the ground. The Bible strengthens us in our faith and reminds us of the love God has for us. He loved us enough to send Jesus to die for us and save us from our sin.
    - Point to Deut. 6:10-11. Here Moses pointed to the promises God had made to them and how God brought them out of slavery. When we focus on God's Word, we are not just focusing on the commandments, but we put most of our focus on God's promise of salvation which he freely gives to all of us. When we read God's Word, we are drawing closer to God through his promises and the story of his grace to us.

Closing Prayer:
Dear God, thank you for binding us to you through your holy and perfect word. Help us continue to come to your word with eager eyes and ears so that we may learn of your love. Strengthen us to overcome the temptations of this world, so that we may always seek you first. Amen.