

CHARACTER CONNECTION

- RESPECT — treating oneself and others with high regard

IT TAKES COURAGE *to grow in each dimension of life.*

KEY CONCEPTS

- There are five dimensions to a person: physical, emotional, social, mental, and spiritual.
- Health is more than the absence of disease; it is being whole, or developed, in each dimension of our person.
- Each one of us is unique and precious and has been gifted with special talents.

**PLOT SUMMARY**

Mkuto and Kianga are teased by other children about their appearances. Both children learn they are made uniquely by God.

MAGOGO'S WISDOM

Psalm 139 says, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." This is how God sees us. He knows what we are going to do even in the future. And he loves us because we are valuable to him. The papaya seeds are for planting, to make sure the new papayas will grow. But if something happens to these seeds, no papayas will grow from them. If they are left in water, they will turn bad and rot. If they are crushed and beaten, they will not sprout. Only if they are planted in good soil will they do what they are supposed to. You and I are the same. Be careful who you listen to. Be careful to remember that God has a purpose for your life. Don't throw it away.

One of
a Kind

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the five parts of a person? (If possible, cut open a papaya and discuss its parts as the group answers this question.)
2. Think about the five parts of a person; then answer this question. What does it mean to be healthy?
3. Who in this story is healthy and who is unhealthy? How do their choices contribute to their health? Remember to consider all five parts of a person.
4. What connections do you see between good personal health and treating yourself with respect?

FOCUS ON SCRIPTURE

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." —Psalm 139:13-16

Based on this scripture, how does God feel about you? What does this mean to you?

PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Think about each dimension of your life. Identify some healthy and unhealthy choices that can affect each dimension.
2. What is one specific choice you can make to become healthier in one dimension of your life? What might be the positive results of this choice?
3. What is one specific way you can treat yourself or someone else with more respect?

CLOSE

Read Magogo's Wisdom (page 16) to the group. Lead the group in a prayer focused on God's love for them. Thank God for the unique way he has made each person and for the plans he has for them. Close with the Lord's Prayer: "Our father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. May your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we have forgiven everyone who has sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

CHARACTER CONNECTION

- RESPECT — treating oneself and others with high regard

IT TAKES COURAGE *to grow in each dimension of life.*

KEY CONCEPTS

- There are five dimensions to a person: physical, emotional, social, mental, and spiritual.
- Health is more than the absence of disease; it is being whole, or developed, in each dimension of our person.
- Each one of us is unique and precious and has been gifted with special talents.

**PLOT SUMMARY**

Kianga receives a beautiful flower that is ruined by Yakuti. Kianga learns a lesson about love, respect, and forgiveness. Magogo shares a story with Yakuti about building her life on a good foundation.

MAGOGO'S WISDOM

Jesus said, "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

How about you? What kind of house are you building? Are you building on the Lord? We build our houses, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. But we have to live in the very house we have built for ourselves. You are the carpenter of your life. You are laying your own foundation. Each day you are choosing your own building supplies. The attitudes and choices you make today will build the house you will have to live in tomorrow. It takes courage to lay a good foundation.

Special Flower

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it is so important to forgive and forget? Why is it so hard for Kianga and Magogo to extend love and forgiveness to Yakuti?
2. What relationship do you see between forgiveness, respect, and love?
3. What does Magogo do when she realizes she is having a hard time loving Yakuti?
4. What lesson do you learn from the story of the builder?

FOCUS ON SCRIPTURE

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."—Matthew 7:24-27

What does it mean, practically, to build your house on the rock? What are the results of building on the rock?

PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What choices can you make today to build a house that will not fall?
2. Do you know someone like Yakuti who needs love? How can you show that person love and respect in a practical way?
3. Is there someone you need to forgive? Or do you need to ask God for forgiveness? What steps can you take to move toward forgiveness?

CLOSE

Lead the group in a prayer asking God to help them forgive and to receive forgiveness from God. Ask God to help them grow in love and respect for others and for themselves. Close by reading these lines from Magogo's Wisdom: "You are the carpenter of your life. The attitudes and choices you make today will build the house you will have to live in tomorrow. It takes courage to lay a good foundation."