



PARABLE OF THE LONG SPOONS



▶▶ GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

A story that explores how the world is a better place when we are generous and work together.

Challenge: Ask children to hold their spoon with a straight arm and place a sweet / grape / marshmallow etc on the spoon. Children should try and feed themselves without bending their arm. Children should find the challenge difficult to achieve. After the challenge, ask the group how difficult they found the challenge? How do they think they could improve their success rate?

Long Spoons Story: Share the story of the long spoons on the sheet below. Afterwards ask the group what their thoughts are. Why were the people in heaven so well fed when the people in hell weren't? What is the story trying to say?

This story suggests that the difference between heaven and hell is not what the places looks like, but how the people there interact with each other. In hell the people were selfish so went hungry, whereas in heaven they fed each other and as a result were well looked after. If we live our lives on earth in a way that helps and supports those around us, then we will surely be ready for heaven.

'A person who gives to others will get richer. Whoever helps others will themselves be helped.' Proverbs 11:25



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Spoon
- Sweet / Grape / Marshmallow etc.
- 'Parable of the Long Spoon' Story Sheet



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Warn children to be careful when doing the challenge, especially when trying to catch sweets / grapes in their mouths.

PARABLE OF THE LONG SPOONS

One day a man said to God, "God, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.

God showed the man two doors. Inside the first one, in the middle of the room, was a large round table with a large pot of stew. It smelled delicious and made the man's mouth water, but the people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be starving. They were holding spoons with very long handles. Each person found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. God said, "You have seen Hell."

Behind the second door, the room appeared exactly the same. There was the large round table with the large pot of wonderful stew that made the man's mouth water. The people had the same long-handled spoons, but they were well fed and healthy, laughing and talking.

The man said, "I don't understand."

God smiled. "It is simple," He said, "Love only requires one skill. These people learned early to feed one another. Those who are hungry are greedy people, and they think only of themselves.