

Game: **Back-to-Back**

Discussion: Helping Others; Not being alone

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

YOU WILL NEED: *Several pencils and a phone book*

Back-to-Back

Have students get in pairs and sit back to back. Tell them to lock arms (at the elbow), push against each other's backs, and see if they can both stand up.

Have them find different partners and try it again several times.

SAY: In the game you and your partner had to work together to succeed. In life God has given you brothers and sisters in Christ to help you succeed in your Christian life.

Ask the students: **Who is your brother or sister in Christ?** (Everyone who has given their lives to Jesus is part of God's family are all brothers and sisters in Christ.)

Ask the students: **How can you help others to grow in their relationship with Jesus?**

(You can encourage them, be an example to them, correct them when they do something wrong, take them to church, etc.)

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Illustration—Pencil Break

Choose a volunteer—have him break a pencil.

Choose another volunteer—to try to break three or more pencils. Give a couple of students who have been listening and participating well a chance to try.

SAY: Just like the Bible said, two or three is stronger than just one. That's one reason God gave us each other—to help each other stand strong for Jesus.

Illustration—Phone Book Tear

Choose a volunteer—Ask him to try to tear a phone book in half. He can't do it because there are so many pages. Then tear out one page and ask him to tear it. It's easy because it's by itself.

SAY: When it comes to living for Jesus, you're not by yourself. Not only do you have Christian brothers and sisters to help you stand and live for Christ, but Jesus is with you also. You're never alone.

Ask the students: **What does it mean to keep someone accountable?**

Ask the students: What are some ways you can keep someone accountable in their walk with Christ?

Here are some suggestions:

- Pray for them.
- Look for ways to encourage them to keep growing closer to Jesus.
- Share with them what God is doing in your life.
- Share with them Bible verses that are significant in your life or to a situation they are facing.
- Confront them if you see them doing something that is wrong.
- Ask them direct questions about their relationship with Christ.

Ask the students: What are some ways you can help someone else keep you accountable in your walk with Christ?

Consider these:

- Be Open—Be open about what you are struggling with and where you are in your walk with Christ.
- Be Honest—Don't try to hide or cover up what is going on in your life. Don't try to be something you're not or something you're expected to be. Just be honest about how you feel and with what you are struggling.
- Be Willing—Be willing to let someone confront you. Listen to them and don't jump to being defensive. (Remember Psalm 141:5.) Then also be willing to confront your own short-comings and to remove or deal with any sin in your life.