

# Deployment Connections

By Christy Huffman

Making prayer bands and sharing favorite Bible passages when a service member is deployed or leaves for boot camp.

## For

Young Family

## Season

Fall



## Needed

Parachute (550) Cord, Large Beads of varying colors (3-4 per person), Pocket Bible, Family Bible, Bible highlighter, lighter.

## Prepare in Advance

Each family member chooses a bead color/letter to represent her/him.

## Activity Plan

1. Cut the cord to fit the wrist of each family member. By cutting the cording from the same strand there is the connection that even though there will be separate bands, they came from the same strand – thus connecting the family together. Use the lighter to burn the ends of the cord briefly, so it will not unravel.
2. Each family member selects 3-4 beads that represent her/him. Thread the beads by family member onto the cord. Small children may need assistance.
3. Take turns tying the bands onto each other's wrists (unless there is a conflict with uniform regulations, in which case a knot can be tied to hold the beads and carry in a pocket). Variation: Use a longer cord, tying beads at one end of the cord, and use the cord as a bookmark.
4. Each family member should wear his or her band while the service member is away. It serves as reminder to stay connected through prayer while the family separated.
5. Place the Bible in view of all. Invite each family member to share a favorite bible story/verse aloud with one another around the table.
6. Take the pocket Bible and highlight meaningful verses and stories which the service member will take with her/him. Highlight the same verses and stories in the Bible that will remain at home. Write the person's name next to the verse. Some starters:

Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:9, Psalm 29:11, Psalm 33:20-22, Psalm 56:3-4, Psalm 121:1-2, John 15:13.

While the service member is away, these verses can be found and read as reminders of home and family.

7. Close with this or a similar prayer:

*O God, you are with us each day. Be with \_\_\_\_\_ as he/she begins this new journey. Give each of us courage, strength, hope and the peace only you can give, until we are all home again. Amen.*