

Something in the bag activity

Props: A bag with a toy or picture of a Pistol Shrimp and the Goby fish.

Today our sermon is "Created with Possibilities" from Hebrews 11:6.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

We will learn how Faith sees possibilities, Faith is a gift, Faith sees far, and Faith is for sharing!

Instructions:

I have something in this bag I want to show you but first I will give you clues.

Raise your hand when you think you know what it is...

1. It is small.
2. It lives under the water.
3. It has poor eyesight.
4. It does not have scales on its' body.
5. It can both swim and walk.
6. It has claws.
7. One claw is bigger than the other.

What is it?... (take a few guesses of children with their hands raised).

It is the Pistol Shrimp (have a toy shrimp or picture to show the kids)

Now, it is no fun being teased for being small and alone. And it's hard to get around when you cannot see very well. The Pistol Shrimp is about the size of your finger, so, many people would say that a little sea creature does not matters very much.

But God made the Pistol Shrimp with many possibilities, including a very powerful weapon built right into their one, oversized snapper claw. This claw can grow to be half the size of their tiny body. The Pistol Shrimp not only communicates by snapping his claw, he also can shoot bubbles by snapping his claws, making a big, massive bang noise. That sound is louder than a loud firecracker! Did you know that when it shoots out these tiny bubbles, they make a lot of heat? Raise your hand if you want to guess how hot these tiny bubbles that the Pistol Shrimp uses to hunt with?

(take a few guesses of children with their hands raised)

These bubbles are very hot! Yellow lava from a volcano in Hawaii is about 1,000–1,200 degrees Celsius (1,832–2,192 degrees Fahrenheit). The Pistol Shrimp shoots bubbles that are up to four times hotter than lava! That's 4,000–4,800 degrees Celsius (7,328 – 8,768 degrees Fahrenheit). Source <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-hot-a-hawaiian-volcano>

Besides big whales like the Sperm Whale and the Baluga Whale, this tiny Pistol Shrimp is one of the loudest animals in the sea!

God has packed many possibilities in this shrimp! But how does the Pistol Shrimp use this gift? Does the Pistol Shrimp selfishly keep this only for itself? What lessons can we learn from the Pistol shrimp?

One lesson we can learn is that faith is a gift from God!

If the Pistol Shrimp snaps its big claw together so tightly that a jet of water shoots out like a bullet, why would the cute little fish called Gobies' willingly go near them? (Show picture of a Goby fish). Because God made us to work together! We can see the potential of others, and their possibilities, not their limitations!

Faith sees far is the second lesson we can learn

These tiny shrimps are also very vulnerable to predators themselves because of their bad eyesight. They are nearly blind! But, through the partnership with the Goby fish, who, it turns out, has great eyesight, they can thrive! The Goby fish uses its good eyes to help the Pistol Shrimp. But the Goby fish who has good eyes can't dig a hole or make its home in the bottom of the sea.

So, the Pistol Shrimp and Goby fish team up. The Gobies' act as seeing-eye fish for the shrimp by keeping their tail fins in contact with the shrimp's antennae. So, whenever they are outside their burrow, the fish can quickly signal when danger is near. In return, the Gobies' get free access to the Pistol Shrimps' burrows so that they can both hide from predators. The Pistol Shrimp digs and cares for these tunnels houses that they can share!

That's our third lesson we can learn -- Faith is for sharing! The Goby fish is watchman and shares its' good eyesight with the Pistol Fish! Isn't God amazing!

We can see in this example from the bottom of the ocean how we are all uniquely created by God and that God designed us to help one another. Because all are gifted, needed, and treasured! The Pistol Shrimp and Goby fish make a great team! Instead of looking at each other's weaknesses, they focus on the possibilities! We have a creator God who sees the possibilities in us. Let's ask God to help us do the same with others!

Closing prayer

Learn more Search for "Pistol Shrimp and Goby fish pictures" at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>
Learn more about how the Pistol Shrimp's claw works
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pistol_shrimp_claw_mechanism.svg