

Warm Fuzzies Explained

OBJECTIVE: To introduce Participants to the Warm Fuzzies.

MATERIALS:

- The Warm Fuzzie Story
- Secret Friend Examples and a Warm Fuzzie reminder Information Sheet (Page 8 in Participants' workbooks)

APPROACH:

- Read aloud the Warm Fuzzie story, or have various Participants each read a paragraph.
- VARIATION: Performed as a skit, or by those Participants with dramatic flair.
- Remind the Participants of the Warm Fuzzie bag that they decorated and attached to their Rogues gallery poster.
- Discuss with Participants the concept of a 'Warm Fuzzie'. How good it is to read something nice written by others, especially when you're having a bad day. Many people, including Facilitators, keep their Warm Fuzzies and re-read them time after time.
- Warn Participants about the time it takes to write a Warm Fuzzie for every camper and Facilitator, and that they should begin to use part of their free time to work on them throughout the week.
- Good intentions aside, campers who say they will email or mail the Warm Fuzzies they did not get completed or distributed during CYL rarely do.
- Warm Fuzzie bags will be distributed later in the week for decorating and attaching to the Rogues Gallery posters.
- By Friday night or Saturday morning, Participants should have placed their Warm Fuzzies in the decorated bags of all campers and Facilitators.
- It is a CYL tradition that Warm Fuzzies cannot be read until Participants are in their car on the way home from camp.

The Warm Fuzzie Story – A Fairy Tale (Claude M. Stainer, Ph.D.)

Activity suggestion: Have Participants each read one paragraph each of the story. Perhaps a small group could take clothing from the tickle trunk and put on a 'play'.

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there lived two very happy people called Tim and Maggie who had two children called John and Lucy. To understand how happy they were, you have to understand how things were in those days. You see, in those happy days everyone was given at birth a small, soft Fuzzy Bag. Anytime a person reached into this bag, a Warm Fuzzie could be pulled out. Warm Fuzzies were very much in demand because whenever somebody was given a Warm Fuzzie, it made that person feel warm and fuzzy all over. People who didn't get Warm Fuzzies regularly were in danger of developing a sickness in their back that caused them to shrivel up and die.

In those days it was very easy to get Warm Fuzzies. Anytime that somebody felt like it, they might walk up to you and say, "I'd like to have a Warm Fuzzie." You would then reach into your bag and pull out a Fuzzy the size of a little child's hand. As soon as the Fuzzy saw the light of day it would smile and blossom into a larger, shaggy, Warm Fuzzie. You then would lay it on the person's shoulder or head or lap, and it would snuggle up, melt right against their skin and make them feel good all over. People were always asking each other for Warm Fuzzies, and since they were always given freely, getting enough of them was never a problem. There were always plenty to go around and as a consequence everyone was happy and felt warm and fuzzy most of the time.

One day a grumpy chemist became angry because everyone was so happy they didn't need to buy his potions and salves. The chemist was very clever and he devised a very wicked plan. One beautiful morning he crept up to John while Tim was playing with John's sister Lucy and whispered in his ear, "See here John, look at all the Fuzzies that Tim is giving to Lucy. You know, if he keeps it up, eventually he is going to run out and then there won't be any left for you."

John was astonished. He turned to the chemist and said, "Do you mean to tell me that there isn't a Warm Fuzzie in our bag every time we reach into it?" The chemist said, "No, absolutely not and once you run out, that's it. You don't have any more." With this, the chemist turned away, and shuffled down the street, chuckling to himself.

John took this to heart and began to notice every time Tim gave up a Warm Fuzzie to someone else. Eventually he got worked and upset because he liked Tim's Warm Fuzzies very much and did not want to give them up. He certainly did not think it was right for Tim to be spending all his Warm Fuzzies on other children and on other people. He began to complain every time he saw Tim giving a Warm Fuzzie to somebody else, and because Tim liked him very much, he stopped giving Warm Fuzzies to other people so often, and reserved them for John.

The children watched this and soon began to get the idea that it was wrong to give up Warm Fuzzies and time you were asked or felt like it. They too became very careful. They would watch their parents they also began to object. They began to feel worried whenever they gave away too many Warm Fuzzies. Even though they found a Warm Fuzzie every time they reached into their bag, they began to reach in less and less often and became more and more stingy. Soon people began noticing the lack of Warm Fuzzies, and they began to feel less and less fuzzy. They began to shrivel up and, occasionally,

people would die from lack of Warm Fuzzies. More and more people went to the chemist to buy his prescriptions and salves even though they didn't seem to work.

Well, the situation got very serious indeed. The cranky chemist who had been watching all of this didn't really want the people to die so he devised a new plan. He gave everyone a bag that was very similar to the Fuzzy Bag except that this one was cold while the Fuzzy Bag was warm. Inside of the chemist's bag were Cold Pricklies. These cold pricklies did not make people feel warm and fuzzy, but made them feel cold and prickly instead. But they did prevent people's backs from shrivelling up. So from then on, every time somebody said, "I want a Warm Fuzzie," people who worried about depleting their supply would say, "I can't give you a Warm Fuzzie, but would you like a Cold Prickly?"

Sometimes, two people would walk up to each other, thinking they could get a Warm Fuzzie, but one or the other would decide not to, and they would wind up giving each other Cold Pricklies. So, the end result was that while very few people were dying, a lot of people were still unhappy and feeling very cold and prickly.

The situation got very complicated because, since the coming of the chemist, there were fewer and fewer Warm Fuzzies around, so Warm Fuzzies, which used to be thought of as free as air, became extremely valuable. This caused people to do all sorts of things in order to obtain them. Before the chemist had appeared, people used to gather in groups of three or four or five, never caring too much who was giving Warm Fuzzies to whom. After the coming of the chemist, people began to pair off and to reserve all their Warm Fuzzies for each other exclusively. If ever one of the two persons forgot and gave a Warm Fuzzie to someone else, guilt set in immediately because it was felt that the partner would probably resent the loss of a Warm Fuzzie. People who could not find a generous partner had to buy their Warm Fuzzies and had to work long hours to earn the money.

Another thing that happened was that some people would take Cold Pricklies – which were limitless and freely available – coat them white and fluffy and pass them off as Warm Fuzzies. These counterfeit Warm Fuzzies were really Plastic Fuzzies and they caused additional difficulties. For instance, two people would get together and freely exchange Plastic Fuzzies, which presumably should make them feel good, but they came away feeling bad instead. Since they thought they had been exchanging Warm Fuzzies, people grew very confused about this, never realizing that their cold prickly feelings were really the result of being given a lot of Plastic Fuzzies.

So the situation was very, very dismal, and it all started because of the coming of the chemist who made people believe that someday, when least expected, they might reach into their Warm Fuzzie Bag and find it empty.

Not long ago, a young woman born under the sign of Aquarius came to this unhappy land. She had not heard about the chemist and was not worried about running out of Warm Fuzzies. She gave them out freely, even when not asked. They disapproved of her because she was giving children the idea that they should not worry about running out of Warm Fuzzies. The children liked her very much because they felt good around her, and they too began to give out Warm Fuzzies whenever they felt like it. The grown-ups became concerned and decided to pass a law to protect the children from depleting their supplies of Warm Fuzzies. The law made it a criminal offence to give out Warm Fuzzies in a reckless manner. The children, however, seemed not to care, and in spite of the law they continued to give each other Warm Fuzzies whenever they felt like it and always when asked. Because there were many many children, almost as many as grown-ups, it began to look as if they would have their way.

As of now it is hard to say what will happen. Will the grown-up force of law and order stop the recklessness of the children? Are the grown-ups going to join with the Aquarian Woman and the children in taking a chance that there will always be as many Warm Fuzzies as needed? Will they remember the days their children are trying to bring back, when Warm Fuzzies were abundant because people gave them away freely?

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