



# SUPER BIBLE GAMES

THAT EVERY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SHOULD KNOW

AGES 4-7

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# BIBLE GAMES

## AGES 4 - 7

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In this book you will find instructions for 50 great Bible games for pre-Kindergarten aged children. It's never too early to introduce a child to the word of God and what better way than through games!

- Age Range: While these activities are geared toward Preschool through Kindergartners, all can be adapted for a wider age range.
- Completion times: All games can be completed in less than 30 minutes for limited little attention spans!
- Materials and Prep: Almost all of the materials necessary to complete these games can be found in your classroom! Some games require a little bit of before class prep, but never more than a few minutes.
- Discussion questions: Discussion questions and related Bible verses are listed at the bottom of each page. Use these to reinforce and expand learning concepts! All verses are from the New International Version.

Each game corresponds with a story or situation from the Bible. Read the corresponding story from a Children's Bible once or twice before playing the game. Next, explain the game and use the optional **bold** teaching script to make connections and guide conversation. Finally, follow up with the discussion questions and related Bible verses.

All of the games in this book provide opportunities for the discussion of virtues, sin, lessons the Bible teaches, God's Word, and all about God's love.

**Have fun and God bless!**

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# Celebrating the Creation of Man

## **God's Creation**

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When God created man he created each and every part of our bodies- including our hearts! The human heart is an amazing and complex organ that pumps hard to keep blood moving throughout our bodies.

### **Related Bible Story:**

Genesis 1:26-28

### **Materials:**

- One toilet paper tube or half of a paper towel tube for every two children
- A real or toy stethoscope (Optional)

### **Before Class Prep:**

Clear an open space large enough for the kids to be able to jump in place and to lie down

### **How to Play:**

Briefly discuss with children what a stethoscope is and why doctors use them. Demonstrate (on yourself or on a child volunteer) where the heart is located in the chest and how the stethoscope works.

Assign partners and pass out a tube to each set of children.

**This cardboard tube can work like a stethoscope for this game so we can listen to our partner's heartbeat!**

Have the kids take turns listening to each other's hearts through the tube.

**What does the heartbeat sound like? God created that human heart beat you hear!**

- ❖ *Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)*

Ask the children to jump up and down 20 times and listen to their partner's heartbeats again.

**Did your heartbeats change? That's right- they got faster. God created the human heart to beat fast when it is excited!**

Next ask everyone to lie down on the floor and be still for two minutes. Encourage them to breathe in and out slowly and focus on their own heartbeats. After the two minutes, ask the children to listen to their partner's heartbeat again.

**What happened to the heartbeats this time? You got it- they slowed down! God makes hearts to rest, like on the seventh day, HE rested.**

- ❖ *By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. (Genesis 2:2-3)*

Ask the children to lightly hold the tube up to their partner's ear and quietly whisper the day of the week through it.

**How did it sound when your partner whispered to you? God made voices to whisper secrets and pretty things.**

Finally, have the kids repeat the process using their normal voices.

**How did it sound different from the whisper? God made voices to give us information.**

Collect the tubes and lead the children in singing "Jesus Loves Me."

**God made voices so that we can rejoice in Him. We can do that by singing songs of worship and praise!**

## **Discussion Questions:**

- Share a time you listened to a heartbeat (possible responses could be hearing a baby brother or sister's heartbeat in the womb or a discussion of a check-up at the doctor's office)
- What are other ways to "hear" your heartbeat? (Ask children to feel their pulse in their wrists or temples)
- What are some things that can sound like a heartbeat? (Drum or washing machine)

## **Related Bible Verses:**

- ❖ *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14)*
- ❖ *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)*

# Imaginary Ark Play and Snack

## Noah & the Great Flood

---

Noah, his family and all of the animals aboard the ark had to be very brave and patient while they “weathered” the storm!

### Related Bible Story:

Genesis 6:9 – 9:17

### Materials:

- Two large tables
- Sheets, blankets or tablecloths
- Animal crackers or other snack
- Stuffed animals or pictures of animals (optional)

### Before Class Prep:

Push the tables together and drape the sheets over them creating a “fort/ark”

### How to Play:

Gather the children in the ark (under the tables).

**Who knows the story of Noah’s Ark?! We are going to build and sail an ark just like Noah and his family did!**

*So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. (Genesis 6:14)*

**Here is some pitch. Let's put it all over our ark so it doesn't leak any water!**

Have each child choose a different pair of animals to bring on the ark with them. These can be stuffed animals, pictures of animals or imaginary animals.

*You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them. (Genesis 6:19-21)*

**We each have our animals and we have food for them too! (Animal crackers)**

Talk about the size, shapes and sounds of the animals and pretend they are there with you. You can start with the animal you are bringing (These are my tall, tall giraffes. I am petting their long necks...). Each child introduces his or her animals.

Once everyone is seated, pretend the rain has started. Pretend to feel the rain and the wind as the boat begins to rock in the waves.

*For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose gently on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. (Genesis 7:17-19)*

**Let's count to forty together while we hold on tightly to our animals!**

Pretend to send out the doves.

*Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. (Genesis 8:8)*

*When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. (Genesis 8:11)*

Pretend to see the rainbow.

*I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (Genesis 9:13)*

*Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth. (Genesis 9:16)*

Everyone emerges safely from the ark and pretends to look for food to feed themselves and their animals. Enjoy animal crackers together.

## Discussion Questions:

- Do you think the animals were scared on the ark? What do animals do when they are scared?
- Name some of the biggest animals on the ark! Which were the smallest?
- Have you ever been out in a storm? What helped you feel safe?

## Related Bible Verses:

- ❖ *I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. (Psalm 34:4)*
- ❖ *For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. (Psalm 27:5)*

# Promises of God Made with Clay

## **God's Promise to Abraham**

---

Abraham and Sarah were patient and believed God's promise that they would one day have children. Even though it took many years, and Abraham and Sarah were quite old, God fulfilled his promise.

### **Related Bible Stories:**

Genesis 15:1-21

### **Materials:**

- Play dough or clay

### **Before Class Prep:**

Divide play dough or clay into equal portions for each child

### **How to Play:**

Ask the children to mold something they would really like to have in a new house if they had to move. Ask them to keep their ideas secret and to work quietly.

**Abraham and Sarah desperately wanted children and God promised that one day they would have them.**

*But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless..."*  
(Genesis 15:2)

After the kids have completed their sculptures, ask the student to each artist's right to guess what he or she has made.

Now ask everyone to flatten their sculpture into a pancake.

**Sometimes with God's promises we have to wait. Sometimes things happen that we didn't plan for and we don't understand why they are happening. Sometimes it looks like our prayers will never be answered.**

*Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" (Genesis 18:11-12)*

Now ask the children to remold their clay back into their original sculpture or something new. Point out all of the new shapes that emerge.

**Sometimes God doesn't give us what we want, at the time we want it, because he knows that there is something even better for us. We have to trust that God knows what is best for us and will give us everything we need!**

## Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever had to wait a long time to get something you really wanted? (Talk about birthdays, Christmas, etc.)
- Have you ever gotten a gift you weren't expecting and it turned out to be one of your favorite things?
- Discuss how God may not always give us what we **want**, but that He will provide all we **need**. Ask the children to name things that they **need** in their homes versus things that they just like to have.

## Related Bible Verses:

- ❖ *Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. (Psalm 106:12)*
- ❖ *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. (Hebrews 6:19)*

# Descendants Craft and Song

## **Father Abraham**

---

God fulfilled his covenant with Abraham by blessing him with the descendants he so longed for.

### **Related Bible Story:**

Genesis 15:1-6

### **Materials:**

- Paper plates
- Pre-cut construction paper stars
- Yarn or string
- Markers
- Hole punch

### **Before Class Prep:**

Pre-cut stars and punch holes near the top for hanging. For younger children, you can write "God keeps His promises" on their plates ahead of time. Older children may prefer to write it themselves. Cut various lengths of string or yarn.

### **How to Play:**

Ask the children to create a star for each member of their immediate family, and a couple of non-immediate family members, by writing their name on a star and decorating it.

Ask them to draw a picture of their family on one side of the paper plate.

Punch enough holes along the bottom rim of the plate for each star. Attach the stars to the yarn and then the yarn with each star to the plate.

*He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars- if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Genesis 15:5)*

**Even though it took a very long time, God fulfilled his promise (covenant) by blessing Abraham with descendants. Descendants are the people that make up every generation of your family, like your grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins!**

Sing the song "Father Abraham" while marching around the room with your starry plates.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Ask the children to guess how many stars there are in the sky? Discuss that there are too many to count and that is how it is with Abraham's descendants (us).
- Show the children pictures of real stars from a book and ask them about their experiences looking at stars.
- Ask them to describe how they feel when they look up at the stars and discuss how big God's endless love is for us.

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. (Psalm 105:8-9)*

# Listening for the Voice of God

## **Isaac and Rebekah**

---

By listening to God and following directions, Abraham's servant was able to find the perfect wife for Isaac!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Genesis 24

### **Materials:**

- Various pots and pans and their lids
- Wooden spoons

### **Before Class Prep:**

Play this game outside or wherever it will not disturb a quiet activity going on elsewhere in your church or building.

### **How to Play:**

Tell the class that you will be playing a listening game and ask for two volunteers to come forward.

Pass out pots and pans and spoons to three other children who remain seated. Tell them that when you point to them, they should make as much noise as they can.

Take the first child aside and whisper to her that she will be playing the part of God by complimenting the other child. It can be something like “I like your shirt” or “You have a nice smile.”

Ask first child to compliment the second child in a small voice, and at the same time, point to the noisemakers to bang on the pots.

Ask one of the noisemakers to stop and repeat the process so only two noisemakers are banging. Encourage the first child not to yell but to continue speaking in a still, small voice.

Ask another noisemaker to stop and repeat the process so that only one noisemaker is banging.

Ask the third noisemaker to stop and repeat the process.

**It’s fun to practice hearing the still, small voice of God. And now we know that given time and practice and a strong desire...we always can!**

## Discussion Questions:

- When were you able to hear the compliment?
- What are some ways noises or other things distract us from what God is trying to tell us?
- How can we be better listeners? Explain that God has good things in store for us (like he had the perfect wife for Isaac) if we are willing to listen to Him.

## Related Bible Verse:

- ❖ *He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10)*
- ❖ *He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. (Psalm 107:29)*

# The Skyscraper Game

## **Jacob and Esau**

---

Jacob and Esau, the twin sons of Isaac, did not work together as siblings should. Their relationship was full of deception and revenge.

### **Related Bible Story:**

Genesis 27:1-26

### **Materials:**

- Building blocks of all shapes and sizes

### **Before Class Prep:**

Gather enough building blocks (you can use real block or create your own with clean, re-purposed boxes and cans) for children to work in pairs building towers. Clear enough space in the room for their structures to topple safely. Small Jenga-sized blocks can also be used at the table or on the floor.

### **How to Play:**

Ask the children to work in pairs to create towers.

Ask them to take turns adding two blocks at a time. If someone topples the tower, encourage them to say "That's alright; you're still on my team."

**Look at the beautiful building we can make if we all work together! We may argue a lot with our sisters and brothers, but we can't forget that they're on our team. Jacob and Esau were brothers. They both ended up with a lot of tall stuff in their lives. But they were so busy being mad at each other that they never got to do was work as a team.**

See which team has the tallest tower, the widest tower, the most unusual tower.

**Let's always remember to forgive our sisters and brothers and friends. Let's remember that they're always on our team. We have a much better chance if we all build something together!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Why is it important to work as a team when building a tower?
- Have you ever been on a team? How is teamwork important in all areas of life (sports, jobs, families)?
- Did Jacob and Esau work as a team? How have you and your brothers and sisters worked together in your family? What are some ways you can do better?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)*
- ❖ *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)*

# ‘Finding God’s Will’ Game

## **Jacob Works 14 Years**

---

Jacob worked for fourteen years to earn the right from his Uncle to marry Rachel. Sometimes God’s way is not easy, but it always brings the best rewards. Sometimes it feels like we’re not seeing where we’re going, but the small voice of God is always present to show the way.

### **Related Bible Story:**

Genesis 29

### **Materials:**

- A blindfold (scarf or bandana)
- Small toy

### **Before Class Prep:**

Create an open space free of any tripping hazards

### **How to Play:**

Ask for a volunteer who is willing to be blindfolded. Tie the blindfold over his or her eyes and check to make sure it is not tight but is snug enough so that the volunteer cannot see.

Form a circle with the other children around the volunteer.

Give the toy to one of the children in the circle.

Say what the toy is and ask the blindfolded child to find the toy.

Lead the blindfolded child to one child in the circle and then ask her to make her way around the circle in search of the toy.

As the blindfolded child starts to move, ask all the other children to call out conflicting directions at once. Examples are “Back up!” or “Go sideways” or “Move forward.” It should be confusing for the blindfolded child.

While this is happening, the leader should stand behind the child with the toy, saying “**This way,**” or “**Come to me**” in a soft but steady voice.

When the toy is found, let the child who was holding the toy go in the center or use another volunteer and repeat.

**You all managed to listen and find God’s Will!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some things that distract you from doing chores or your homework?
- What can we do to remove distractions from our lives or at least lessen them?
- Was Jacob patient? How was he rewarded? Have you ever been rewarded for working hard at something?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.* (Ephesians 4:2)

# A Game of Catch

## **Jacob Wrestles an Angel**

---

Sometimes it's not easy to persist. Sometimes we want to give up on something hard. But the person who persists gets the prize!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Genesis 32:22-31

### **Materials:**

- Two baseball-sized balls of aluminum foil or two baseball-sized foam balls
- Small prizes or candy

### **Before Class Prep:**

Create a large open playing space or play this game outside

### **How to Play:**

Divide children equally into two teams. If there is an odd number, you can play or ask for a volunteer to play twice.

Give the first child on each team one of the balls. Have them face each other.

Show the players how to toss the "ball" back and forth to each other, standing at an arm's length apart. The other player should catch the thrown ball while keeping hold of his ball.

Now ask them to take a step back and repeat the process. Each catch without dropping the ball earns one step backward by both teammates. A dropped ball means they have to stay where they are and try again, until a caught ball earns them a step.

Once the players reach the wall, (or a predetermined distance) they give their balls to the next set of players and play continues until everyone has had a turn.

**Which team won the race? So who should get a prize?** They should answer that the winning team should. However remind them:

**God is not as interested in how fast or how slow we are. He is interested in those who show persistence. Therefore, everyone gets a prize!**

### Discussion Questions:

- How is this game unlike other relay games?
- Share examples of times it has been hard for you to be patient with someone else? When has someone had to be patient with you?
- Jacob was very persistent with the angel, even after his hip was hurt. Has there been a time you had to finish something when it was very challenging? What kept you going?

### Related Bible Verse:

- ❖ *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1: 2-4)*

# A Three-Legged Journey

## **Joseph and His Brothers**

---

Joseph and his brothers didn't seem to know the definition of teamwork, did they?! Let's go on a journey to Egypt together using teamwork to show them how it's done!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Genesis 37

### **Materials:**

- Strips of soft cloth, scarves or bandanas to tie children's legs together

### **Before Class Prep:**

This activity is best played in large open room or gym or outside

### **How to play:**

Pair children with someone of similar height and build

Have partners stand beside each other. Gently but firmly tie together the right leg of the partner on the left and the left leg of the partner on the right.

**We're going to work together with our feet. Let's see if we can cooperate to get things done. We're going to go to the Land of Egypt where Joseph was taken, and then we're going to come back. Let's see if we can work together on our journey better than Joseph's brother's worked with Joseph.**

Lead them down the hallway or around the building. Stop at a water fountain.

**Wow, it's really thirsty out here on our journey to Egypt. Let's work together to get our water without knocking each other over or arguing.**

Have them sit down against the wall to rest.

Wow, it's really tiresome, getting to and from Egypt. Let's sit down to rest without knocking each other over.

Head back to the classroom.

It's hot in Egypt! Let's see if we can fan each other to get some of this heat off without knocking each other in the face.

### Discussion Questions:

- Was this three-legged journey harder than you thought it would be? Why or why not?
- How were you able to work together to complete the journey?
- Did Joseph's brothers work well with Joseph? What was hindering them?

### Related Bible Verse:

- ❖ *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)*

# Monster at the Door

## **Moses Is Born**

---

Moses's mother had to be very courageous and trust in God to keep her son safe. Let's practice being courageous!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Exodus 2

### **Materials:**

- A room with a door
- An adult or teen volunteer
- Treats

### **Before Class Prep:**

Go over the plan with your helper

### **How to Play:**

Line the children up on the opposite wall of the room as the door. Join hands.

**When I was a little girl, I was afraid of monsters. I was afraid one would knock on my door like this:** (You knock on the wall: KNOCK-KNOCK, knock-knock)

Volunteer knocks on the door in same manner: KNOCK-KNOCK, knock-knock.

**I was afraid he would come into my room and have long, fingernails, and he would scratch on the door like this:** (You scratch on wall: SCRATCH-SCRATCH, scratch-scratch, SCRATCH-SCRATCH)

Volunteer scratches on the door in the same manner: SCRATCH-SCRATCH, scratch-scratch, SCRATCH-SCRATCH

Pretend to be scared. **I didn't want to go anywhere near that door! But I don't believe in monsters so I'm going to take one step forward with courage. Will you take one step with me?**

Volunteer should knock on door again: KNOCK-KNOCK, knock-knock. KNOCK-KNOCK, Knock-knock.

**Do you think it's a monster?** (Some will say yes, some will say no.)

**Well, there is only one way to find out. Let's take another step of courage.**

Volunteer knocks again: KNOCK-KNOCK, knock-knock. KNOCK-KNOCK, knock-knock.

**What if he's a big, ugly monster? What if he tries to bite us?! Let's take another step of courage.**

Volunteer now knocks very loudly: KNOCK-KNOCK, KNOCK-KNOCK!

**Let's take another step of courage. It's better to move forward with courage than to do nothing. We learned that from Moses' mother. Let's all take another step.**

Ferocious knocking from volunteer!

**Sometimes we get so afraid of things that we can't remember what's real and what isn't. It takes courage and trust in God to figure out what's real.**

Open the door. The volunteer should be standing there, smiling and holding a plate of treats. Welcome her in and pass out the treats!

**Sometimes, if we move forward with courage to conquer our fears, we find that God has a really nice surprise in mind for us instead of something scary!**

## **Discussion Questions:**

- Share a time you have been frightened. Maybe it was during a storm or when you heard a noise in the middle of the night? How did you handle the situation?
- What kinds of things happen in your body when you are afraid? (Your heart starts beating faster; you want to hide, etc.)
- What are some things we can do when something frightens us?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (Psalm 56:3-4)*
- ❖ *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13)*

# Shoe Relay

## Moses and the Burning Bush

---

*There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight- why the bush does not burn up." (Exodus 3:2-3)*

### Related Bible Story:

Exodus 3-4:17

### Materials:

- A big open room with plenty of space or a large grassy area outside

### Before Class Prep:

Make sure the playing area is free from any debris since the kids will be removing their shoes.

### How to Play:

Ask the children to remove their shoes and place them in one big pile at the end of the room or at a designated spot outside. Be sure the shoes are mixed up.

**God asked Moses to remove his shoes before entering Holy Ground.**

*"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5)*

Divide the children into two relay teams. One child from each team will stand at the starting line. At your signal, they will run to the pile of shoes, find both of their shoes, put them on correctly and run back to the starting line.

The next person on that team does the same thing and so on.

The team that has all its members back "home" with their correct shoes on wins.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you looked at a fire up close? Describe where, when and what it looked like.
- How do you think Moses felt when he saw the Burning Bush?
- Why do you think God chose a burning bush as the image to use to speak with Moses?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14)*

# Obstacle Course

## Following God's Voice

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Sometimes following God's will is like running an obstacle course. You don't know where you'll end up, but if you listen to God's voice in your heart and follow His will, you'll get to the other side!

### Related Bible Story:

Exodus 3

### Materials:

- Chairs and tables
- Blindfold

### Before Class Prep:

Arrange the furniture in a haphazard manner

### How to Play:

Ask for a volunteer to be the first person to go through the obstacle course. Blindfold that child.

**Moses was just out tending his family's flock of sheep when God told him that he was to complete the important task of leading the Israelites out of Egypt!**

Have the other children direct the blindfolded child with only four words: left, right, forward and backward.

The blindfolded child must walk through the obstacle course, listening to the commands and trying not to bump into any of the furniture chairs. Each bump gives the child one point. The leader can call out the bumps as they happen and tally them on the board.

**Sometimes God's voice sounds unclear to us, like it might be in a whisper, or it might sound like many voices, and we might only be able to hear a few words clearly here and there.**

Blindfold the next volunteer and then rearrange the chairs before he or she begins. Repeat the process.

The child with the least points at the end wins the game.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you been in a situation where you had to rely on your sense of hearing rather than your sight?
- Why was it hard for Moses to obey God?
- Can you give an example of when you had to do something uncomfortable or scary out of obedience?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:10-11)*
- ❖ *And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. (2 John 1:6)*

# Desert Trek and Manna Snack

## Bread from Heaven

---

God provided the Israelites with the food they so desperately needed to cross the desert. Let's go on a trek across the desert and see if manna will appear while we sleep!

### Related Bible Story:

Exodus 16: 1-36

### Materials:

- Oyster crackers or Nilla wafers for the manna
- Big clean sheet or plastic tablecloth

### Before Class Prep:

Create a large open area for your desert. Spread out the cloth in the middle of the area.

### How to Play:

Explain that you are all Israelites walking through the desert. You are tired, hot, hungry and thirsty.

*In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." (Exodus 16:2-3)*

Ask the children to mumble and complain like the Israelites did. Drag your feet though the hot sand. Shade your eyes from the hot sun.

Ask the children to lie down around the cloth but not on it. Ask them to pretend to sleep.

*So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" (Exodus 16:6-7)*

As they "sleep," sprinkle the crackers all over the cloth.

*That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. (Exodus 16:13-14)*

"Awaken" the children. Give each a cup or bag to collect their manna.

*...Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need...' (Exodus 16:15-16)*

## **Discussion Questions:**

- Why were the Israelites complaining? Do you complain when you are hungry and thirsty?
- Why did God feed them when they were grumbling?
- The word "manna" means "What is it?" which shows that the people had never seen this substance before. It has been described as being a sweet, wafer-like substance. What is a new food you have tried recently? Did you grumble about trying it or were you happy to try it?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. (John 6:33)*

# Mountain Climbing Race

## **Moses and the Ten Commandments**

---

Teams race up Mount Sinai to retrieve commandment tablets and put them in order!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Exodus 20: 1-17

### **Materials:**

- Poster board
- Markers

### **Before class prep:**

Create 10 commandment “stone” tablets with poster board.

Write a commandment on each tablet with no numbers. Mix up the order of the tablets.

Set up a race course that involves climbing, such as near a stairway or outside using a slide or jungle gym.

### **How to Play:**

Divide the class into two or more teams. Place the mixed-up tablets at the top of “Mount Sinai.”

At your signal, you will start timer, and the first member of team one will climb Mount Sinai and bring down one tablet. The second team member will get the second one and so on until all tablets are down.

Team one will begin to arrange the commandments in order 1 to 10 as they come down from the mountain, working quickly so that when the last tablet comes down they place it in its spot.

Note the time when they are done.

Second team repeats the process (and then third if necessary)

The team with the lowest time wins.

Sing the “Ten Commandment Boogie” by Go Fish (available on You Tube)

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Which commandments seem to be the easiest for most people to keep? Why?
- Which ones are the hardest?
- What rules (commandments) do you have to follow in your family?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. (John 15:10)*

# Talk to God and Tell Him You Love Him!

## **Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods before Me**

---

Did you know that purple is considered a very royal color? It's the color that kings and queens wear! They like purple clothes and purple drinks and purple punch and purple crowns. Today, we're going to show how talking to God makes you his royal child!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Exodus 20:3

### **Materials:**

- Plastic 8-ounce drinking cups- 2 for each child
- Red and blue food coloring
- Protective cover for table
- Coffee stirring sticks
- Punch bowl
- Lemonade mix
- Gold chocolate coins (optional)

### **Before Class Prep:**

Set out two water filled cups and two stirrers for each child. Cover table.

### **How to Play:**

Have the children take turns stepping forward and taking a cup of water.

**Now, tell God that you love Him and thank Him for something good that he has given you.**

Add two to three red food coloring drops to the first cup as the child tells you what he is thankful for. Have the children stir the water until it becomes red.

Now add a few drops of blue food coloring to a second cup.

**Pretending you are the voice of God, say, I love you, too, [child's name]. And I'm happy to have given you that [whatever the child mentioned in thanks].**

Ask the children to stir the second cup until the water is blue.

Carefully demonstrate with your own cups how to pour the blue water into the red water and gently mix the two.

**Let's see what happens when we add your prayers to God's love for you.**

Notice that the water is now purple, a royal color.

**See? We have a royal color! This goes to show that when you pray, you get to know God better and better, and you begin to feel more like a royal child of God!**

Ask the children to carefully pour their purple water into the punch bowl. Add the lemonade mix to make purple passion royalty punch. Serve the kids the punch and offer them a candy coin for their royal treat.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Discuss that purple is considered a royal color and that, as a child of God, you are royalty.
- What are other symbols of royalty?
- Name some things that are purple? How many can you name?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.* (Galatians 3:26 NIV)

# Sabbath Prayer Balloons

## Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy

---

*For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*  
(Exodus 20:11)

### Related Bible Story:

Exodus 20:8-11

### Materials:

- Large latex balloons

### Before Class Prep:

Create a large open play area.

### How to Play:

Have each child think of something they could use prayer for that is coming up this week.

**We're going to think about how to ask for God's help on the Sabbath.**

Ask for a volunteer to come to the front and share his prayer request.

**I want you to think of something you want help with this week while I'm holding this empty balloon. Think of something that is hard for you or scares you or that you want help with, then we'll say a prayer together.**

Blow up the balloon.

**This is a very special balloon. After we blow it up, it will contain your prayer. Then, we're going to let the balloon go. The prayer will go up to God, and the balloon will come back down. Let's see who can catch the balloon on the way down. It will be that person's turn to offer their prayer request for the week.**

The person who catches the balloon gets to share her prayer next.

Repeat for all the children, realizing that once you have had a turn, you will need to let the other children have turns at catching the balloon.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Why does God want us to honor him on the Sabbath Day?
- What are some ways we can honor God on Sunday?
- Share any customs or traditions your family has for Sunday and for other celebrations.

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (Exodus 20:8)*

# Loving Parents / Loving God

## **Honor Thy Father and Mother**

---

One of the reasons God likes it when we listen to Mom and Dad is that it's good training for us. Our parents love us more than anyone on earth. So they come closest to showing us how much God loves us, which is even more! That's why we call God our Father in Heaven.

### **Related Bible Story:**

Exodus 20:12

### **Materials:**

- Wooden clothes pins
- Markers
- Index cards

### **Before Class Prep:**

Set out the materials on the table.

### **How to Play:**

Bring out one index card for each child. Go around placing the index card on one of each child's shoulders and telling them all to hold the card in place with their hand.

**Let's pretend this card is like a really good friend. Let's see how well the friend stays with us. Everyone let go of the card, letting it balance on your shoulder.**

Allow them to get the card balanced.

Now everyone take three big, fast steps forward.

All should lose their cards. Go around with clothes pins (the pinching kind) and attach the card with the clothes pin to everyone's shoulder.

**God's love, which is a lot like your parents' love, doesn't fall away at the first sign of trouble. Do not touch the clothes pin or the card. Jiggle yourselves around and try to get rid of "gods' love."**

Give them a chance to wiggle and jiggle. Some will be able to dislodge the clothes pin, though most will not.

**It is a lot harder to get rid of the love of God in your life than even a good friend, isn't it? People give up on us sometimes and go find new friends, and that hurts. But God's love is like a parents' love. It stays forever.**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some specific ways you can be respectful of your parents?
- Why do you think God included this rule as one of the commandments?
- Who gets to spend time with their grandparents? Discuss how respecting older family members, such as grandparents, is also important.

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise – "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)*

# Turtle Race

## Thou Shalt Not Steal

---

Sometimes people steal things because they are impatient and cannot wait for the time when they can get them themselves. Or they might think God doesn't want them to have those things. God wants us to learn patience and endurance. We can go slowly and with determination and still win the race - just like a turtle.

### Related Bible Story:

Exodus 20:15

### Materials:

- None

### Before Class Prep:

Clear an open area for the race

### How to Play:

Ask children to lie on their backs at one end of the room in a line facing the other end of the room. Tell them they can lift up their bottoms but that they have to keep their shoulders on the floor. They can use their arms and legs.

**Turtles are known as very slow reptiles, but very determined reptiles. They can travel ten miles while inside their heavy shells! Sometimes God wants us to be more like turtles and go slowly but with determination. He wants us to know we can still finish the race. Let's pretend we're turtles and have a race.**

Let the children practice this turtle walk for a few minutes until they get back in line for the start of the race.

At your signal, begin the race. You may choose to award the winner with a small prize

Optional: Read *The Tortoise and the Hare* aloud to the children.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How does “slow and steady” like a turtle valuable in a world that seems to value speed?
- What are some things that are better done slowly? Why?
- Have you ever thought about stealing something? What did you do?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death.* (Proverbs 10:2)

# 'Lie like a Rug' Game

## **Thou Shalt Not Lie**

---

We want to remember to always tell the truth, so that our word is trustworthy and other's trust in us doesn't fall to pieces!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Exodus 20:16

### **Materials:**

- Small rug
- Large firm cutting board
- Building blocks

### **Before Class Prep:**

None

### **How to Play:**

Place the small rug on the floor and place the cutting board (or some other strong, flat surface) beside it.

Ask the kids to build small structures on each surface.

When they are done, ask a volunteer to gently pull a corner of the rug, which will cause that structure to topple.

**When we tell lies, we tell stories that aren't strong. Lies tend to fall apart and make everyone unhappy. It's sort of like this house built on this floppy rug.**

Gently move the cutting board back and forth to show no movement in the structure.

**When we tell the truth, we build with strength. The truth tends to stand up, because it helps people to trust us. It's like building a house on this hard surface.**

Let the kids build more towers on the rug and cutting board, and experiment with different sized foundations for tall structures

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you ever watched a house or a building under construction? Tell us about what you have noticed.
- Some people compare lies to weeds. Why?
- Have you noticed how if you tell one lie, you usually have to tell another and another? Explain why that is often true.

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:24)*
- ❖ *Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. (Proverbs 12:19)*

# Growing Up Strong Game

## Joshua Receives God's Promise

---

The Israelites had been wandering in the desert for 40 years hoping to get to the Promised Land. There were many times that they felt they could not make it.

### Related Bible Story:

Joshua 1-4

### Materials:

- Relay baton (or toy)

### Before Class Prep:

None

### How to Play:

Have children form two lines for a relay race at one end of the room. Each child must cross the room twice (four laps) before the next child's turn.

The lap order is: Crawl on all fours to the opposite side of the room, hop back on **one** foot back to the start line, hop (or jump) on two feet back to the opposite side of the room, and finally run back to the starting line and pass the baton to next child.

If you don't have enough children for a relay race, simply time the children as they complete the race. You can award prizes if you like.

**How did it feel to have to crawl in the beginning?**

**Then you 'grew,' but were still a little clumsy. That was the hopping-on-one-foot part. Did you feel clumsy?**

Then, you got to hop on two feet. Did you feel a little more graceful?

And how about running for the finish line? Were you glad to be free and strong?

We can't expect to do everything right, especially when we are little and just learning. But Jesus helps us, and every day we get a little bigger, stronger, and more free!

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Which part of the race was the most difficult for you?
- Did you feel like giving up? Have there been times when you were doing something difficult that you felt like giving up? Explain.
- Moses was not able to enter the Promised Land. God called up a new leader Joshua. At what point in the race did you feel more in control? Why?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. (Joshua 21:43)*
- ❖ *But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." (2 Chronicles 15:7)*

# Your Secret Line to God

## Rahab Rats on the Bad Guys

---

God's voice is always available to us, but as we've often learned now, you have to listen for it. It sounds far off, sometimes, in comparison to what goes on around us.

### Related Bible Story

Joshua 2:1-24

### Materials:

- A set of two clean and dry frozen juice cans (no lids) and a 12-foot length of string for every two children

### Before Class Prep:

Punch a hole in the bottom of each can and connect the two cans with the string, tying large knots at the ends to keep the string from slipping through the holes.

### How to Play:

Have the children divide into pairs with each child taking one can.

Encourage the kids to gently extend the string out to its entire length.

Ask one child to say something in a soft voice into the open end of the can.

Ask the other child to repeat it.

Take turns with each pair giving and receiving their messages in front of the group.

Next, let the partners work on their own, saying short scripture verses back and forth. Here are a few to try:

- Seek first the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 6:33)
- Delight yourself in the Lord...He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:3)
- He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:5)
- Blessed is the man who perseveres. (James 1:12)

### **Discussion Questions:**

- In order for you to hear the voice on the other end of the can, what had to happen?
- How can we hear God's voice in our lives?
- What do you think God's voice sounds like?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 11:28)*

# Announcing Our Love

## Joshua Collapses the Walls of Jericho

---

*When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed... (Joshua 6:20) Let's use our beautiful "Jericho Trumpets" to say nice things to our friends!*

### Related Bible Story:

Joshua 5:13-6:27

### Materials:

- Paper towel or toilet paper tubes
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glitter, stickers, paint (optional)

### Before class prep:

Lay out one tube and art materials for each child

### How to Play:

Explain that the children will be creating their own Jericho Trumpets. Ask them to decorate their trumpets.

After they are finished, ask the kids to form a circle while holding their Jericho Trumpets.

Have them to put their trumpets to the ear of the child next to them and whisper something nice to the other person. The horn blower has to use the child's name (not he or she) and the compliment has to be at least eight words long. It can't just be "she's nice."

**Here are some ideas of what to say:**

**Jamal, I like how you listen and do not interrupt**

**Kaleigh, you are funny and you make me laugh**

**Brian, you do a good job of sharing with others in the class.**

Then, children should switch sides and whisper something nice into the ear of the child on his or her other side.

Ask the children to share the compliments that they received with the whole group.

**Sometimes we think of being strong as having lots of muscles. But one of the most important things about true strength is that true strength sees the good in everyone. A strong heart is more important than a strong body!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you ever received an unexpected compliment that made you feel really good, maybe from a teacher or a coach? Share it with us!
- Explain how it can show more strength to avoid a fight rather than to engage in a fight.
- We know exercise can help make our body strong, but what can make our character strong?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)*

# Crazy Fire Drill

## Joshua Forgets to Ask God

---

Joshua forgets to seek the Lord before making promises in God's name. When we ask God to guide us, we must also listen very carefully for his response.

### Related Bible Story:

Joshua 9:1-26

### Materials:

- Chairs
- Blindfolds for half the class
- Small items for half the class to hold (such as apples or small balls)

### Before Class Prep:

Arrange the chairs – one for each child – in a circle

### How to Play:

Ask all the children to sit in the chairs and to select a partner sitting next to them. If you have an odd number, you or your helper can play.

Ask one child from each duo to stand in the center of the circle. Blindfold them with a scarf or bandana gently but firmly.

Give each seated partner a small object to hold.

When you say, “Crazy Fire Drill!” the seated children have to find a new seat so that no one is sitting in the same place they were before.

Now play some music and while the music plays, the blindfolded children should try to find their partner by going around the circle. Their partners can only whisper the name of the blindfolded child, nothing else.

When the blindfolded child finds her partner, she should take the object and return to the center of the circle. Stop the music.

The team with the first person back in the center wins this round.

Repeat with children being able to use a normal voice to call their blindfolded partners. Repeat with louder voices.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How much easier was it to find your partner when he or she was yelling your name so you could hear? How much faster did you get back with your apple?

**God wants to be your partner and make everything easier for you. Sometimes his voice is a whisper and sometimes it is a shout, we have to pay attention to hear him either way. Remember to ask Him to lead you every day!**

- When your friends ran into you, did that get you going the wrong way?

**That's like when friends put pressure on you if they're doing the wrong thing. You want to keep your mind fixed on "good!" It takes practice!**

- When does He shout?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14:13-14)*

# Nice Wall, Good Wall

## What's Wrong with Israel's Memory?

---

It's easy to get confused about which way to go in life, especially when we see our friends start to go a different way.

### Related Bible Story:

Judges 2:6-3:6

### Materials:

- Large open play area

### Before Class Prep:

None

### How to Play:

Divide children into two lines, facing each other. Explain to the students in one line that every time they hear the word "Nice," they must move a step to the left. When they hear the word "Good," they must step in the other direction (or to the right). Their goal is to get to the wall on their left.

Explain to the other line that they will be doing the same thing, but that because they are facing the other team, they will be going in the opposite direction. Their goal is to get to the wall on *their* left.

Stand in the middle of the room and close your eyes. Say "Nice!" a couple of times, then "Good!" a couple of times. Then say "Nice!" very quickly three times. Say "Good!" very quickly twice. Mix it all up until you're not sure how many times you've said "Nice!" and "Good!"

When both teams have reached the wall, the game is over.

**If your friends went the wrong way accidentally, did that get you going the wrong way, too? In life, you have to be careful to listen to your conscience and your inner soul about which way to go. Looking at others can make you make wrong choices like the Israelites.**

**When your friends banged into you, did that get you going the wrong way? That's like when friends put pressure on you if they're doing the wrong thing. You want to keep your mind fixed on "good!" It takes practice!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Did you get confused as to which way to move? Why? **Life is confusing sometimes, especially when you are watching others who are going the opposite way.**
- Sometimes we know the right way to go, but when others don't go that way, we get mixed up. How can we get back on track?
- Have you ever been separated from your parents in a store or other busy location? Explain what happened.

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22)*

# Fussy Freddy Freak Out

## Deborah Is Underestimated

---

Deborah is a godly female leader who performs legendary exploits for God. She is willing to risk life and limb for God's purposes. She is courageous and seemingly underestimated!

### Related Bible Story:

Judges 4

### Materials:

- A scarf or bandana to use as a blindfold

### Before Class Prep:

None

### How to Play:

Ask for a volunteer willing to come up to the front of the room and be blindfolded as the first player.

Ask the other children to come up one at a time and say in a disguised voice:

**"Hello there. My name is Fussy Freddy. I can freak you out."**

For example, the speaking child may use rasps, tongue-clicking, whispers or even a high-pitched soprano.

Ask the blindfolded child to guess who is speaking. If he guesses correctly, ask him how he knew who it was. If he does not guess correctly, the child who disguised his voice wins.

Continue with other children taking turns as the blindfolded guesses and play as many rounds as desired.

**Often in real life, we don't see all of a person, and we can't hear them clearly. Sometimes they are shy. Sometimes they are nervous and that makes them make too much noise. We don't want to judge by these things.**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you heard the phrase "Don't judge a book by its cover"? What does that mean and how does it apply to the story of Deborah?
- Has there been a time when you underestimated someone? Explain.
- What does this lesson teach us about how we should pick our friends?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly. (John 7:24)*
- ❖ *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13)*

# Four-legged Races

## **Gideon – God Can Use the Smallest**

---

Gideon was very nervous to lead the army into battle. But then, God filled him with the Holy Spirit...

### **Related Bible Story:**

Judges 6 and 7

### **Materials:**

- Comfortable place for children to lie down near large open space for relay

### **Before Class Prep:**

None

### **How to Play:**

Ask one of your smaller students to lie flat on the floor.

**This is about how much Gideon wanted to go into battle. He'd have rather lied down, gone to sleep, and forgotten about the whole thing.**

Ask for two volunteers to stand on either side of "Gideon." At the count of three, they should lace their arms under his so that they can easily pull him to a standing position.

**Being filled with the Holy Spirit is about getting extra power from "spiritual friends," sort of like getting an extra set of muscles – or two extra sets!**

Next, ask six children to come forward. Divide them into two teams of three.

Have two children on each team serve as the “spiritual strength,” holding up the other student who stands between them. He should have his arms around their shoulders with his feet off the ground.

Have both teams run across the room and back without the middle student touching down. The team that wins must race against the next group of three. The group that wins is the group that challenges each round, until all children have had a turn being the “spiritual strength” and a turn being “Gideon.”

**It’s easier to do things, once you are empowered by God, isn’t it? And it doesn’t matter how big or how strong you are—it matters how big and how strong the power is that’s helping you! And we all know that God is very, very strong!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Has there been a time when you had to rely on the physical strength of others?
- God sent us the Holy Spirit to be our spiritual strength. How we can we call upon that source of strength?
- How can we increase our spiritual power?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)*
- ❖ *He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. (Isaiah 40:29)*

# Follow my Voice, Gideon!

## Gideon's Army

---

When we give our lives into God's hands, we get protection from God. It's like when Gideon agreed to attack the bad army, God protected Gideon. It was still kind of scary, because he couldn't see what he was supposed to do from one minute to the next. But God told him.

### Related Bible Story:

Judges 6 and 7

### Materials:

- Blanket
- Aluminum foil molded into baseball-sized balls or foam balls

### Before Class Prep:

Create enough foil balls for each child to have one.

### How to Play:

Ask the children to line up against one wall.

Take one volunteer over to the other wall, close to the corner and cover her with a blanket.

**Walking in God's will is sort of like being under a blanket of His protection.**

Go to the other corner of the same wall.

Instruct the blanketed child to follow your voice towards you. Say: Follow my voice, Gideon, and you won't get hurt!

At the same time, ask the other children to throw their balls at the blanketed child one at a time.

**That means you won't get hurt by anything. But you have to go slowly and listen for the voice of the lord so you don't fall.**

Let each child have a turn to be under the blanket, following God's voice without getting hurt by the "firepower."

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some ways we can feel as if we are under fire in our daily lives?
- What can we do to stay on course?
- Can you share a time you did not follow God's voice and got into trouble as a result?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.* (Proverbs 3:5)

# Who is Standing with Me?

## Samson and Delilah

---

Samson loved his wife, Delilah, very much but she betrayed him to the Philistines for money. It's important to choose your friends carefully to make sure that they are "good" for you!

### Related Bible Story:

Judges 16: 1-22

### Materials:

- A scarf or bandana to use as a blindfold

### Before Class Prep:

None

### How to Play:

Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded. Ask her to put her head down on the desk.

Ask another volunteer to stand behind her. Ask the child standing behind the questions below. The standing child will silently nod "yes" or shake his head for "no." You will say "yes" or "no" put loud according to his responses.

1. Do you have a dog?
2. Do you have a cat?
3. Do you play a sport?
4. Do you play more than one sport?
5. Do you have a brother?

6. Do you have a sister?
7. Do you have more than one brother?
8. Do you have more than one sister?
9. Do you go to the public school?
10. Do you live within walking distance of this church?
11. Do you have brown hair?
12. Do you have curly hair?
13. Do you have straight hair?

Now see if the blindfolded child can guess who it is.

Ask for two more volunteers until each child has played both roles.

**If we're going to try to pick good friends, we should all try to get to know each other very well in this class. We all have one thing going for us in here, which is important in making friends, too: our parents all want us to come to Church and know God better!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Why is it important to know details about our friends?
- What are the best ways to get to know someone?
- How can you get to know God better?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Do not be misled: bad company corrupts good character. (1 Corinthians 15:33)*

# 'Be a Friend' Game

## **Ruth Is a Loyal Friend**

---

Even though Ruth's husband passed she continued to pledge her loyalty to Naomi, her mother-in-law, and followed her back to Bethlehem. She was a very loyal friend. Becoming a loyal friend involves getting to know someone well!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Ruth 1:3-18

### **Materials:**

- Small notepad and pencil for each child

### **Before Class Prep:**

None

### **How to Play:**

Divide the children into pairs who will be interviewing each other. Give each child pencil and paper for notes. Encourage them to act like a reporter interviewing a source.

They can ask about their partner's favorite game, food color, book, movie, school subject and sport. They can ask about siblings, pets and parents' jobs.

Now have the group get back together and ask each pair to come up front and introduce each other to the class.

Encourage everyone to applaud after the introductions.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some of the interesting things you learned about each other through this activity?
- Why is asking questions and listening to the other person's responses a good skill to have?
- What are some ways we are all the same? What are some ways we are different?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *...Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16)*

# 'Do Unto Others'

## Art Contest

### **Samuel: He Became Who He Hung Out With**

---

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12) This is often called the Golden Rule!*

#### **Related Bible Story:**

1 Samuel 3

#### **Materials:**

- Drawing paper
- Colored pencils

#### **Before Class Prep:**

Comfortable places for children to draw and talk with their subjects

#### **How to Play:**

Have the children pair up with their art supplies.

**Today, instead of making art to take home with you, you're going to make art to give to the child sitting next to you for him or her to take home. Draw a picture of him or her, but 'Do Unto Others' while you're doing it.**

Begin by asking your partners questions about what they enjoy doing and what some of their favorite things are.

Now draw your partner doing one or more of those activities.

Take turns explaining your picture to the class.

If you like, you can have the class vote on winners in certain categories: Best Likeness, Best Color Scheme, Most Original, Best Background and Best Effort. Make sure each piece of art wins one category.

**I'm trying to 'Do Unto Others' and everyone would like to win. Hence, I'm making sure everyone does!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What did you learn about your partner?
- How did you decide what to highlight in your picture?
- Samuel listened to God and sought to be His servant. What are some ways you can serve God with your talents?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)*

# Pin the “Rock” on Goliath

## David Kills Goliath

---

David was only a young boy when he defeated Goliath. He knew that with God's help he could do it! God chose David because he saw how good his heart was.

### Related Bible Story:

1 Samuel 17

### Materials:

- A large picture of Goliath on a poster or foam board- check the Internet for ideas
- A ball of gray sticky tack for the stones, one for each child
- Blindfold.

### Before Class Prep:

Hang up the Goliath picture on a wall where children will have plenty of space. Place an “X” on the center of Goliath’s forehead.

### How to Play:

We will play this game like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. You are trying to get the stone on the “X.”

Ask for a volunteer to be the first “David.” Blindfold him and spin him around three times.

Repeat for each child.

Give a prize to whoever gets closest to the “X.”

**It doesn't matter how old you are, what you look like or what your abilities may be, God can still help you do important things.**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- David was a teenager when he killed Goliath. How do you think he found the strength to go against such a large opponent?
- What lesson do you think God wants us to learn from the David and Goliath story?
- Bigger doesn't always mean stronger. Do you know some examples of athletes who are talented in their sport but who are small in size?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6)*

# Bring Your Requests before the King

## Solomon Asks God for Wisdom

---

*I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. (1 Kings 3:12-13)*

### Related Bible Story:

1 Kings 3:1-15

### Materials:

- Chair that looks like a throne, a purple cape, a king's crown

### Before Class Prep:

Decorate the chair if necessary

### How to Play:

Ask for a volunteer to play the King or Queen. That child should have a seat on the throne, wearing the cape and crown.

Ask the children to approach the throne one at a time with a request such as the following:

- Your Highness, my teacher at school picks everyone but me when we raise our hands. May I please have some ideas on how to get the teacher to call on me?

- Your Highness, everyone is taller than I am. So nobody picks me for their team. How can I get picked?
- Your Highness, I'm the oldest in my family, and whenever my brother and I fight, my parents say I should know better. But sometimes he drives me crazy. What can I do?
- Your Highness, when my friend comes over, all she wants to do is play video games, but and I want to do other things? What should I do?
- Your Highness, I saw a kid on my street being really mean to his dog. He told me if I tell my mom what I saw, he'll beat me up. Should I be afraid of him?
- Your Highness, my mom wants me to give a bunch of my toys to the poor, and I don't want to. I might use them again sometime. What should I do?

While it might be tempting to do a whole lot of prompting for the answers, let the children think of their responses themselves. Only prompt when the king or queen answers too briefly by saying something like **"Take some time to think about it, Your Highness,"** and be sure to praise all answers.

Let all the children have a chance being royalty.

### **Discussion questions:**

- What is the difference between being smart and being wise?
- Why does God value wisdom?
- How can we become wiser?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*

# Good Days/Bad Days

## Job Loves God through His Trials

---

Job experienced far more bad days than good days, but through it all he kept his faith in God!

### Related Bible Story:

Job 1-42

### Materials:

- Poster board

### Before Class Prep:

Create two big signs for your room: one that says "Happiness" and one that says "Despair." Hang the "Despair" sign on one wall and the "Happiness" sign on the opposite wall.

### How to Play:

Have children stand in a line near at the back of a large room, with the "Despair" sign to their backs.

Play the game like Red Light, Green Light. When you say "good day," have them take a step backward. When you say "bad day," have them step forward.

Mix up the days but end up with more "bad days" than "good days" so that the kids end up near "despair."

**Did you start to think we would never reach that wall together? That's what it's like when we have three or four bad days in a row. We think we will never be happy**

again! But if we stick with the Lord and believe in His might, we get back to our happiness after a time!

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Were you surprised/saddened you didn't make it to the "Happiness" wall? Remember you had more "good days" than Job, and he didn't give up on God.
- Job was a righteous man yet many terrible things happened to him. What do you think most people would have felt if they were in Job's place?
- Why do you think God allows us to go through hardships?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* (Matthew 5:10)
- ❖ *To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness...* (Ecclesiastes 2:26)

# Kindness Messages

## David Is Loyal

---

David was very loyal to his friend Jonathan. One way we can show our friendship for is by doing kind things for the people we care about. Today we will show each other a simple act of kindness with hand massages.

### Related Bible Story

1 Samuel 18:1-5

### Materials:

- None

### Before Class Prep:

None

### How to Play:

Have children find a partner and sit across from that person at the table. One child should open his hands very wide and place them face up on the table.

The other child should run his index finger from the center of his partner's palm all the way down each finger very slowly, then up his wrist.

Now switch and let the receiver be the giver.

Next have one partner form alphabet letters in the center of his partner's palm. Have him guess which letters they are. Then switch, with the receiver being the giver.

**It sure feels good to have someone be nice to you, doesn't it? And it sure feels better to be nice than to be mean, doesn't it? Now that we're so relaxed, let's try to picture this week coming up...and we don't say one single mean thing! It's a goal to shoot for.**

## **Discussion Questions:**

- How did you feel having this massage? Was it strange at first?
- When making someone feel relaxed and happy costs so little, why do we often hesitate to do it?
- What are some other simple acts of kindness you can try at home later today?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.* (Psalm 139:1)
- ❖ *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* (Galatians 5:22)

# Bouncing for Joy

## David Dances for Joy

---

King David showed his joy for the Lord by dancing in the streets. Michal thought David was silly and hated him for his activity. In essence, Michal wanted to stop David's joy. Sometimes we are happy about something and someone wants to take it away from us, or stop our joy?

### Related Bible Story

2 Samuel 6

### Materials:

- Sticky notes
- Foam ball

### Before Class Prep:

Write the word "Joy" on a few sticky notes to get you started.

### How to Play:

Ask for a volunteer to be the first "Joy." Place a sticky not on him or her.

Ask the other children to gather around "Joy" in a big circle.

Like a modified game of dodge ball, the children try throw the ball to another child in the circle, without "Joy" getting the ball. If "Joy" gets the ball, the child who threw it goes in the middle and gets the "Joy" sticker.

Have you ever felt like someone was trying to take away your joy? It could be a parent, who is doing it for your own safety, but it could also be another kid, who remembers a Sunday School teacher doing something special for you, and not for him/her.

Throwing the ball so the person can't catch it- this reminds us of when people try to keep joy away from us. But we can "catch" and "keep" our joy if we keep our eyes on it!

### **Discussion Questions:**

- King David was not ashamed of showing his joy in the Lord, but others criticized him for it. Have you ever been really happy about something and someone tried to steal your joy? Explain.
- Can you think of a time you stole someone else's joy?
- What are some ways you can express joy to God?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory. (Psalm 149:3-4)*

# 'I'm Sorry' Game

## David Says He Is Sorry

---

In our game today, we're going to practice saying the words "I'm sorry!" The more times you say it, the easier it will become!

### Related Bible Story

2 Samuel 12

### Materials:

- Two sets of heavy books

### Before Class Prep:

Clear large open area for relay race

### How to Play:

Children should form two teams and line up at one end of the room. The leader goes to the opposite end of the room.

The first child from each team will do the crab walk (facing the ceiling with hands and feet on the floor) with the heavy book or books on top of their chests/stomachs to the opposite end of the room.

If a book falls off he has to stop, put it back on his chest and keep going.

When the child reaches the leader, he says, "I'm sorry!" The leader then takes the books, and the child runs back to the starting line to tag the next person in line.

Relay continues until one team finishes.

What happened when you said, "I'm sorry?" The leader took the weight (book) from us, like God would.

Once you got rid of that heavy weight, what were you able to do? Sail back freely!

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Why does God want us to say we are sorry?
- What is the difference between saying the words and really feeling the words?
- Give an example of when you have said, "I'm sorry" and really meant it and another time when you said it, but didn't really mean it.

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)*

# Telephone Game

## David Bridles his Tongue

---

A fun twist on the traditional “telephone game!” In Psalm 39 David talks about “muzzling his mouth” to avoid sinning with his words, especially when around others and bad habits like using profanity usually arise.

### Related Bible Story:

Psalm 39 and James 1

### Materials:

- A few Bible verses or other phrases that the kids do not have memorized

### Before Class Prep:

Clear open space for class to stand in one straight line

### How to Play:

Ask the children to form one straight line.

Quietly whisper a short verse into the ear of the first child. That child whispers it the next child in line and so on until everyone has heard the verse. Ask the children to repeat exactly what they hear not what they think it should be.

Ask the last child to say the verse out loud. Typically it has changed!

**Wow, that sure changed a lot from the original verse! That is what happens when we gossip about someone else. As the gossip gets repeated from person to person it changes and often becomes worse. Our words are very powerful and can be very hurtful if used in the wrong way.**

## **Discussion Questions:**

- How can listening better help us to bridle our tongues?
- What are some ways our tongues (what we say) can get us in trouble?
- Can you ever “take back” hurtful things you say? What can you do to make amends for them?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *I said, “I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth while in the presence of the wicked.” (Psalm 39:1)*
- ❖ *Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. (James 1:26)*

# 'Break Through' Game

## **Elijah, God and Baal**

---

Fortunately, we are not tempted to go with the crowd in a bad way every day, but occasionally it will happen. We don't want to get out of practice, saying "no" to bad things, so we can use our game today to practice resisting the bad choice of a crowd, like Elijah did.

### **Related Bible Story:**

1 Kings 18

### **Materials:**

- None

### **Before Class Prep:**

None

### **How to Play:**

Have the children form a circle and ask for a volunteer to be in the center of the circle.

Ask the kids that have formed the circle to turn away from the center, to link arms and to touch the outsides of their feet with the feet of the children next to them.

The kids in the circle should close their eyes and chant "Be like us! Be like us!"

The child in the center should repeat "No, I won't!" and try to sneak out between two children.

Keeping their eyes closed, the children in the circle can move their bodies to try to block the escapee, but they cannot move their feet or unlock their arms. The goal of the escapee is to dive between two unsuspecting people and get the top half of herself out which will then enable her to pull her legs out fairly easily.

Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be in the center of the circle and has gotten a chance to break through.

**What did it feel like to be “locked inside” a group of kids? This is sort of like peer pressure. We feel like we’re locked in to what everyone else is doing, but if we keep our eyes opened and our hearts with God, we can always find a way through!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some animals that travel together? Why do they do that?
- When is it a good idea to go with the crowd?
- When is it better to be different?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*  
(Romans 12:2)

# Following God's Voice

## **Elijah and the Still Small Voice**

---

Elijah stood on the mountain and had to listen carefully for the whispers from God through the powerful winds, earthquake and fires! Let's listen for God's voice today. Who wants to be the Voice of God?!

### **Related Bible Story:**

1 Kings 19:11-14

### **Materials:**

- Instruments such as tambourines, maracas, slide whistles, drums, shakers or, if these are not available, pots and pans and wooden spoons (Or all of these)
- Verses of scripture that the children may not know verbatim

### **Before Class Prep:**

None

### **How to Play:**

Ask a volunteer to be the first speaker. Plan with the student what he will say. He should speak in a normal voice. Use the verses from the beginning of the book of John, as many as you need so that every child can have a chance to be the Voice of the Lord. You can repeat some if you have a lot of children:

**In the beginning was the Word**

**The Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**In him was life, and that life was the light.**

**The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

**There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.**

**John came to talk about the light, so that all men might believe.**

**John himself was not the light.**

**The true light was coming into the world.**

Give other children the instruments and ask them to play loudly upon your signal.

Go over the line with the student in whispers until he has memorized it. Have him turn and everyone start their “storm” clattering.

The Voice of the Lord should shut his eyes and put his fingers in his ears so he won’t stumble, and then repeat the line in a normal voice. Everyone will be clattering and trying to hear at the same time.

If they can’t hear it after three times, have them stop their clatter and listen and hear the child clearly. Give every child a chance to be the Voice of the Lord.

**What was it like, trying to hear when you were making your storm? Storms are like our frantic play and busyness. We should try to grow quiet to hear the voice of the Lord. Was it easier to hear once we quieted down?**

## **Discussion Questions:**

- The instruments were keeping us from hearing in this game. What keeps you from hearing God’s voice in real life?
- What are some ways we can tune out the “noise?”
- Share times you have been the “noise” for someone else and/or when you had to shut out the noise.

## **Related Bible Verse:**

❖ *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)*

# Follow the Leader

## Naaman and Elisha

---

Even though he resists at first, Naaman follows the instructions of the prophet Elisha by dipping himself in the Jordan River and curing his leprosy.

### Related Bible Story:

2 Kings 5

### Materials:

- Music such as “I’m Following the Leader” from Disney’s Peter Pan

### Before Class Prep:

Get music and space ready. Some chairs or other furniture can be used as obstacles.

### How to Play:

Now we’re going to play a leadership game. I’m going to bring a leader up to the front of the class. The leader is going to lead exercises – stretching, jumping, running in place, touching toes, etc. You’re to do whatever the leader says. His job is to get you doing everything at the same time by counting loudly and moving at the right pace. Who wants to be the leader? Choose a volunteer to be the first leader.

**The rest of you, your job is to listen to the leader’s instructions and follow the leader as best as you can.** Don’t be afraid to call the leader aside a few times as he or she leads the exercising, and correct him if he isn’t watching the group or correcting the group, or if he’s being too demanding. It will show that leadership is not easy.

Take turns until each child has had a turn as leader.

Questions for the leader:

**How did it feel to be responsible for all these people and all their actions?**

**Was it as easy as you thought it would be?**

**Did you think a couple times that you'd rather be a follower?**

Questions for the group:

**How did it feel to listen to somebody your own age? When you get to be a grownup, everybody sees each other as "the same age," more or less, so it's good to get your practice in now. There won't always be parents.**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Was it easier to be a leader or a follower?
- Share examples of times you have been a leader and times when you have been a follower?
- Why are both roles important in life?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household." (Acts 16:31)*

# Bridge of Fear: Getting Across to the Other Side

## Prophet Isaiah and Fears

---

When we put our trust in God we can overcome any fears we may have, like dealing with a bully.

### Related Bible Story:

Isaiah 41

### Materials:

- Two blindfolds
- Music to play during game

### Before Class Prep:

None

### How to Play:

Ask for two volunteers to be the bullies. Blindfold the two children and have them link hands over their heads (in a “London Bridge” pose) with their feet as far apart as possible.

**Let’s pretend there are two bullies on a bridge. They don’t want to let you through but your home is on the other side and you have to cross!**

The goal is for the other children to sneak past the bullies before they can lower their hands and catch them.

Begin the game by playing the music. Let everyone try to get through them. Those who are caught go to the left. Those who get through go to the right.

**Why do you think the bullies are blindfolded? What is that like in real life? People who bully are, at least temporarily, blinded to the strength and power of God that Isaiah talked about.**

**Sometimes, we have no problem or only a small problem getting past a bully. Point to the children who made it through the bullies. Other times, we have to call on the Lord. Point to the other group.**

You, as teacher, go between the two students. Take both their hands and pull them to the side. Tell the other students who were caught to pass through the spot where they stood; it is safe now.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Our “bullies” were blindfolded. How are real bullies also blind?
- There are all different ways people can “bully” us. What are some examples?
- How does God want us to handle the bullies in our lives?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6-7)*

# 'God's New World' Obstacle Course

## **Prophet Isaiah and Gladness**

---

Tackle an obstacle course to get to "God's New World" as promised by Isaiah!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Isaiah 41

### **Materials:**

- Chairs, crawl-through tubes, tables, slides, etc.

### **Before Class Prep:**

Create an obstacle course for the kids, making tunnels, mountains, valleys, etc.

Label the far wall "God's New World"

### **How to Play:**

Explain the route of the obstacle course and demonstrate the correct way to handle the obstacles by having your assistant go through it.

**You will have to tackle all kinds of obstacles like tunnels, mountains and valleys while trying to get to "God's New World!"**

Divide children into two groups to run a relay through the obstacle course.

Once the first child reaches the wall (New World) she should run back to the start to tag the next player on her team.

After everyone has had a chance to reach the New World:

**How is this obstacle course like our lives?** It can be hard to find the right way.

**What would happen if you didn't know where the New World was- if I had not told you where to go?** We wouldn't have been able to finish the race.

**God gave us prophets like Isaiah to help us understand what is coming and what we need to do next.**

**What happened at the end of the race? Did it have a good ending? Yes; everyone was told where to go, and so everyone reached the New World, even though it was hard!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some examples of real-life obstacles we can face?
- We can get turned around by obstacles. How can we keep going in the right direction?
- What do we have to look forward to at the end of our race?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* (Matthew 5:8)

# Cotton Balls and Consequences

## Prophet Jeremiah and Judgment

---

Known as the weeping prophet, Jeremiah sorrowed over the harsh judgment Judah had brought upon itself. Sometimes we bring judgments upon ourselves for things like forgetting to do our chores!

### Related Bible Story:

Jeremiah 22 and 29

### Materials:

- Cotton balls (lots!)
- Vaseline
- Two buckets

### Before Class Prep:

Arrange cotton balls along the wall at one end of the room and the buckets at the other end of the room.

### How to Play:

Divide the class into two teams. Have the cotton balls along the wall at on one end of the room and the other players and the buckets at the other end of the room.

**How many of you have been told to do something by your parents, and you simply forgot to do it? Sometimes the things your parents tell you to do – get out your school**

**clothes, vacuum the rug – seem pointless to you. But you’re supposed to do it anyway, and you’re supposed to remember. It may seem pointless to you. It may seem unfair to have to do something you don’t want to do. But even if it’s simply forgetting something, actions can have consequences.**

Dab the end of the nose of the first child of each team with Vaseline. Ask them to get down on all fours. The object will be for the kids to get cotton balls stuck to their noses and to “carry” the cotton balls on their noses to the opposite wall while crawling on their hands and knees. They may not touch the cotton balls with their hands!

**These cotton balls represent things we do not do as we should like forgotten chores, sloppy school work, hurtful words, etc.**

Have a teammate pull the cotton balls off their noses and out them in that team’s bucket.

Now another player from each team does the same task and repeat until all children have had a turn.

The team with the most cotton balls in their bucket wins.

**Sometimes doing all the things our parents and teachers want us to do feels like a crazy race. We’re supposed to remember not to forget, but how do you remember if you’ve forgotten? We talked earlier about how hard it is to be an adult, but we adults are very aware: It can be very hard to be a kid!**

## **Discussion Questions:**

- Discuss/share what your “cotton balls” are.
- Do you sometimes feel stuck with what you have done like the cotton balls were stick to your nose?
- How can we get unstuck?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)*
- ❖ *He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. (1 Chronicles 16:14)*

# Daniel's in the Lion's Den!

## Prophet Daniel and the Lions

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Daniel was very brave and had faith in the Lord so God protected him while he was in a den full of hungry lions!

### Related Bible Story:

Daniel 6

### Materials:

- Masking tape
- Blindfold

### Before Class Prep:

Lay down two strips of masking tape going from wall to wall which will mark off your playing field. They should run the length of the room and be about six feet wide.

### How to Play:

Ask for a volunteer to be the lion. Have him stand in the center of the room and blindfold him. Ask other children to line up on one end of the room.

The goal is for each child is to get to the opposite wall one at a time without being tagged by the lion.

When you say, "Daniel's in the Lion's Den!" the first child should start. He or she can run fast or go slowly and quietly or anywhere in between. The blindfolded lion has to listen carefully and use his "lion instincts" to try to tag that child.

If a child gets tagged, she must sit on the floor beside the playing field. Those who get past the lion, stand by the opposite wall.

Once everyone has had a turn, say to the ones in captivity, **“You’re not eaten yet! The Lord can save you still...run on three!** (Have a teen assistant gently but firmly hold the lion and Grab hold of the lion so he can’t tag.) **One...two...three!”**

**Lions are not people and don’t need salvation. They don’t understand about God, so it’s like they move on blind instinct. That’s why we blindfold the lion. We don’t see lions in our real life, but we see hard circumstances sometimes. We have to run past them without getting hurt. And even when we get in trouble, God is there to help us all!**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Can you think of other Bible stories that involved danger?
- We will not be thrown into a den of hungry lions, but we can be in dangerous circumstances? Share a time you were afraid for your safety.
- God knows we will be afraid sometimes; that is why much of the Bible deals with fear. How does God want us to handle fear?

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.* (Ephesians 6:10)
- ❖ *When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.* (Psalm 56:3)

# Keep the Family Together!

## Ruth Puts Family First

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This is a fun version of “Keep Away” with the goal of keeping all of the members of the family together!

### Related Bible Story:

Ruth 1-4

### Materials:

- Soft ball
- Masking tape

### Before Class Prep:

Tape two masking tape lines on the floor about eight feet apart

### How to Play:

Ask for a volunteer to be the first “Head of the family.” That child will stand behind one line, holding the ball, facing in the same direction as the two lines.

Divide the rest of the children into two equal groups. Put one group behind the other line. Those children are “The Family.”

Have the other children stand between the two lines. The “Head” throws the ball so that a “Family Member” can catch it. The children in between should try to block the ball or catch the ball themselves.

If a "Family Member" catches the ball, he comes to stand beside the "Head" and throws the ball next. The object of the game is to get all Family Members in line with the Head of the Family.

**This game is a little like real life. Oftentimes there are things that can keep the family from being together enough like school, work, obligations and friends. Think of some things that have been a distraction from your family spending time together.**

**What can you do to make sure your family gets to spend time together?**

**The ball is a little like God. He floats around among all our problems, doesn't He? Sometimes the problems can keep us from "catching" Him, can't they?**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some distracting that keep you spending time with your family? (You can include extended family)
- What are some ways you can make family time more positive?
- Share some activities you enjoy doing with your family.

### **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"-- which is the first commandment with a promise. (Ephesian 6:1-2)*

# Walking Through Hard Times

## **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Put God First**

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Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood up for God against the evil King Nebuchadnezzar. In return kept them safe when they were thrown into a blazing fire!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Daniel 3

### **Materials:**

- The story for this game (below) printed out and pasted or inserted in a real storybook.

### **Before Class Prep:**

Read through the story a few times so that you are familiar with it.

### **How to Play:**

You never know when you'll find a good chance to stand up for God – or show God's love. It could be when you're outside playing and someone asks what you do on Sunday morning. It might be a chance to invite someone to church. It could be when you hear of a sick person and you can tell them you will pray for them. It could be simply doing a nice favor for someone in the neighborhood.

We simply don't know when it will happen. To keep us on our toes, let's play a game. We're listening for the "M" sound. When you hear it in the story I'm reading, stand up, interrupt the story, and say, "I WILL STAND UP FOR GOD."

Begin the story:

Once in a foreign land, there was a big lion called WindhaMMMMM.

He was a very good lion, and he always wanted to do the right thing. But he could be really DUMMMMMMMb.

He walked across a fire once without realizing until he went "Oh, MMMMMMMMY!"

One afternoon, he ate slop, thinking it was chocolate. He even said, YUMMMM!

But Windy loved God and prayed very hard: "God! Help me to be sMMMMMMart!"

God said, "Windy, you don't have to be so very intelligent. You just have to rely on MMMMMMEEE!"

And on that day Windy said a big prayer that God would always be there for hiMMM.

And after that? Windy never walked on fire or ate slop or did any other silly thing again.

God was his friend, his brain, his closest buddy. AMMMMMMen!

Repeat if desired with variations such as "I will jump for God!" or "I will wiggle for God!" etc.

## Discussion Questions:

- Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow before the statue?
- These men obeyed God even under very scary circumstances. Can you think of other people (in the Bible or elsewhere in history) who trusted God through dangerous situations?
- How can we put God first in our own lives?

## Related Bible Verse:

- ❖ *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*  
(Matthew 6:33)

# Stand Up / Sit Down

## **Queen Esther Stands Up For Her People**

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If we're going to be spiritual brothers and sisters, like Esther was with her people, we should know each other's names immediately when we hear them!

### **Related Bible Story:**

Esther 4-8

### **Materials:**

- Print out the list of names below and circle those that belong to your students. If someone has a name not on the list, add it in an appropriate spot.

### **Before Class Prep:**

Arrange chairs in a line against one wall with a clear pathway to the opposite wall.

### **How to Play:**

Ask everyone to sit down.

**I am going to read this list of names. When you hear the name of someone in this class, everyone should jump up, run and touch the opposite wall, and then return to their seat.**

- |                 |               |              |              |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Abby         | 26. Cobe      | 51. Jessica  | 76. Melissa  |
| 2. Abigail      | 27. Daniel    | 52. John     | 77. Merlin   |
| 3. Alana        | 28. Danielle  | 53. Jonathan | 78. Michael  |
| 4. Alex         | 29. Darla     | 54. Joseph   | 79. Miley    |
| 5. Alexander    | 30. David     | 55. Joshua   | 80. Michelle |
| 6. Alexis       | 31. Eli       | 56. Juan     | 81. Mick     |
| 7. Alice        | 32. Elizabeth | 57. Jose     | 82. Nicholas |
| 8. Amy          | 33. Ellen     | 58. Justin   | 83. Olivia   |
| 9. Andree       | 34. Emile     | 59. Keysha   | 84. Ovid     |
| 10. Andrew      | 35. Emily     | 60. Kim      | 85. Rene     |
| 11. Angela      | 36. Emma      | 61. Kimberly | 86. Richard  |
| 12. Anthony     | 37. Erma      | 62. Kyle     | 87. Robert   |
| 13. Ashley      | 38. Ethan     | 63. Lee      | 88. Samantha |
| 14. Austin      | 39. Evan      | 64. Lisa     | 89. Sandy    |
| 15. Ava         | 40. Hannah    | 65. Madison  | 90. Sarah    |
| 16. Brandon     | 41. Harley    | 66. Mandy    | 91. Sophia   |
| 17. Brian       | 42. Iesha     | 67. Maria    | 92. Stacy    |
| 18. Brianna     | 43. Isabella  | 68. Mariah   | 93. Taylor   |
| 19. Brittany    | 44. Jack      | 69. Mark     | 94. Tiffany  |
| 20. Chloe       | 45. Jacob     | 70. Marley   | 95. Tory     |
| 21. Chrissie    | 46. James     | 71. Mary     | 96. Tracy    |
| 22. Christina   | 47. Jane      | 72. Mason    | 97. Tyler    |
| 23. Christopher | 48. Jason     | 73. Matthew  | 98. Tyrone   |
| 24. Chris       | 49. Jena      | 74. Max      | 99. William  |
| 25. Corey       | 50. Jennifer  | 75. Meagan   | 100. Walter  |

## Discussion Questions:

- Why is knowing and remembering someone's name important?
- What are some tricks you can use to learn someone's name?
- Do you have a nickname? How did you get it?

## Related Bible Verse:

- ❖ *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* (1 Peter 5:7)

# Learning Your Spiritual Family's Names

## **Abigail stands Up for What's Right**

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Abigail went against her husband to do what was right and God rewarded her for it. God will always reward those who stand up for what is right!

### **Related Bible Story:**

1 Samuel 25

### **Materials:**

- Paper cut into strips
- Bowl

### **Before Class Prep:**

None

### **How to Play:**

Introduce any child who was not there last week, as their first name will be new. Help everyone say it a few times and then go around to the children who were present and have them repeat the first names of everyone. Help where necessary.

**Last week, we played a game to remember the first names of the kids in our spiritual family. Today, we're going to learn their last names and something interesting about them!**

Give out strips of paper. Tell everyone to write their last name on the strip of paper. Have each child hold up his last name so everyone can see and say the name out loud. Put the strips into a bowl.

Have students take turns coming to the front, pulling a strip out of the hat. If they are old enough to read the last name, ask them to say it. If they aren't old enough to read, you say the last name for them. Have that child point out the child in the room that goes with that last name.

Once they identify that child, have that child come to the front of the room. Ask him the following questions, which will help the other children get to know him better:

**What is your favorite color?**

**What is your favorite cartoon?**

**What's your favorite thing for dinner?**

**What's your favorite superhero?**

**Do you have any pets?**

Carry on with the next child after saying this child's first and last name altogether.

**Sometimes we are put in situations where we have to stand up against our family members or are spiritual family members (friends) to do what's right. The closer we are to those people and the better we know them, the easier we will be able to talk to them about what is right and what is wrong.**

## **Discussion Questions:**

- Have you ever been in a situation where one friend was gossiping about another friend behind her back? What did you do/say?
- What can you do if you see someone at school who seems to be having a hard time making friends?
- Your best friend wants you do something that you know your parents would not approve of- what are some possible responses to that friend?

## **Related Bible Verse:**

- ❖ *But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."* (1 Peter 3:14)

# Learning the Names of the Minor Prophets

## **The Minor Prophets**

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There were twelve Minor Prophets that wrote the last twelve books of the Old Testament. Let's learn their names!

### **Related Bible Story:**

John 15

### **Materials:**

Poster board

### **Before Class Prep:**

Write out the names of all of the Minor Prophets on the poster board

HOSEA (Hose-AY)

JOEL (JOLE)

AMOS (A-muss)

OBADIAH (O-buh-DIE-uh)

JONAH (JOE-nuh)

MICAH (MY-kuh)

NAHUM (NAY-hum)

HABAKKUK (HAB-uh-kuk)

ZEPHANIAH (Zeff-uh-NUY-uh)

HAGGAI (HAG-eye)

ZECHARIAH (Zeck-uh-RYE-uh)

MALACHI (MAL-uh-kye)

## How to Play:

Have children say the names together two or three times.

Ask a volunteer to come to the front of the room.

Say the first syllable of one name at random. See if the child can finish the name. If so, do another. He doesn't have to sit down until he misses one.

Call up the next child.

## Discussion Questions:

- Each Minor Prophet has his own book in the Old Testament. Do you know why they are called "Minor?"
- A prophet is a person God has chosen to bring his message to the people. Have you ever delivered a very important message?
- Do you have any friends or relatives named after one of the Minor Prophets?

## Related Bible Verse:

- ❖ *The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets." (2 Kings 17:13)*

# Bible Book Hop

## **Learning the Books of the Bible**

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There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament!

### **Related Bible Story:**

John 15

### **Materials:**

- Masking tape or sidewalk chalk

### **Before Class Prep:**

Draw or use tape to create two large box shapes large enough for kids to stand in. Label one box “New Testament” and the other “Old Testament.”

### **How to Play:**

Ask the kids to stand outside the boxes to begin.

Ask the kids to hop into the box that matches the name of the book you say and stay there until they hear the next book. Explain that if you say a book that is not in the Bible, they should stand outside the boxes.

Begin reading names of the Books of the Bible in random order, pausing for the kids to get in the right place. Occasionally say a name that does not belong like “Judas” or “Mary Magdalene” or even something silly like “Spiderman) if desired.

When you are done, share a snack while watching the “Bible Book Bop” by Go Fish on YouTube.

## Discussion Questions:

- Why is it helpful to know the names of the books of the Bible?
- What are some methods you use to find verse in the Bible?
- How is a Bible address like a street address?

## Related Bible Verse:

- ❖ *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*