



Children's Ministry Quick Games

Keep in mind!

- The reason kids are not in worship with their parents is because most of them find it challenging to sit and listen for 30 minutes. You will be more successful if you engage them rather than lecture or duplicate a sermon in a children's church
- . Unstructured down-time can lead to behavioral issues! If you have extra time at the end of a lesson, consider playing one of these games! Show kids that your time together is important and that you are happy to be with them! Create a positive space and caring community that kids want to come back to!

Goals

Learn about God's word! Have fun! Create a sense of belonging & community!

Low-Prep Time Filler Games for Older or Younger Groups

Silent Speed Ball Supplies: Soft/squishy ball

Kids stand around the room in a large circle and pass the ball without talking.

Appoint a judge (one kid who makes sure no one makes a sound, verifies ball does not touch ground, disqualifies a "wild throw" (toss must be catchable & cannot pass to a neighbor)

Judge can also make new rules (now, you can only throw with your left hand, now you have to stand on your left foot etc...) Connect to this week's Bible lesson by asking kids to say one word of the verse we're learning, name a bible character from the day's story, tell us a Bible fact. Or allow for "second chances" if they drop the ball but can answer a Bible question correctly, they're not eliminated!

I.

Four Corners Supplies: 5 pieces of paper and tape/pins to hang them

Choose any four elements from this week's Bible story, write them on papers and hang them in the four corners of the room. Write 4 different things on the 4 pieces of paper to become the "4 corners". It can be a person, a place or fact from the Bible lesson. Examples (the Mount of Olives, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem and Nazareth) or (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) or (Jesus, John the Baptist, Lazarus and Paul). On the 5th paper, write down all four corners (used as the "cheat sheet" for the caller in the center).

One "caller" sits in the middle of the room with his/her head down on the table (with cheat sheet on the table to look at). Caller closes his/her eyes and counts down from 10. Kids move around the perimeter and quietly move to a corner during countdown. The caller calls out a corner and whoever is standing there is "out" and sits down. Continue until only one kid is left.

What's Missing? Supplies: 10-15 objects or words from this week's Bible story, a sheet or large paper

Gather some objects or write the names of things/people from this week's Bible story on pieces of paper. Hold them up, talking about how they relate to this week's message, then place them under a towel/blanket, coat or giant piece of paper (whatever you can find). Tell the kids to close their eyes as you remove one object. Kids open their eyes and try to guess which object was taken away. Challenge older kids by taking away more than one!

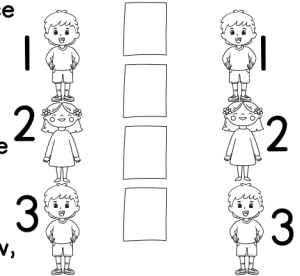


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Steal The Bacon

Supplies: 10-15 pieces of paper

Write 10-15 words from this week's Bible story in large print on the papers. Set the papers in a line down the center of the room. Ask students to line up across from a partner of their choice. Standing across from their partners, assign them numbers. Students step back 10 steps from the center and face their partners. Go over their numbers multiple times so everyone is sure of their number! Then, the teacher calls out the word, or a clue for the word. For example "What did the people shout when Jesus rode in on a donkey?" or "Where did Jesus walk on water?" or simply call out the word "Ezekiel, Psalms, Acts". Then, call out the number and students WALK quickly to the center, grabbing the paper to bring it back to their team. The opposing team may GENTLY tag them on their way back to stop the point from counting. If both kids arrive at the word at the same time, it's a draw, no points are given (or play Rock, paper scissors). **This game can get rowdy, it's best played outside and with kids you can trust to walk and not push!



Dead Fish (basically like Freeze dance!)

Supplies: AWESOME CHRISTIAN Music

Make connections to the Bible by talking about Jesus calling the fisherman or Jesus calling us fishers of men. Ask kids to show you what dead fish look like first! Then, start the music and when it stops, they must be the best "dead fish". (no moving, breathing, laughing etc). Option- choose someone to be the "judge" who walks around making sure all the fish are dead! If they move, they get another chance by correctly answering a question about this week's Bible lesson!

Line Up!

Supplies: None! (Or music if you'd like!)

Create a sense of community with this "get to know you" game! Challenge kids to line up without talking! They can line up by birth month, birth day, height, first letter of first or last name alphabetically. Give them a specific amount of time or say they must complete the task before the music stops!

I'm Going To... and I'm Bringing...

Supplies: None!

Very similar to the game "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing..." game. Everyone sits on the floor in a circle. Try thinking of a place that relates to this week's Bible story. For example I'm going to...Nazareth, Egypt, Jerusalem or something else fun like...I'm going to visit baby Jesus and I'm bringing..." I'm going on a mission trip and I'm bringing... I'm going to church and I'm bringing... I'm going to VBS and I'm bringing... Each kid says one thing they are bringing, as they go around the circle, they must remember the what the person before them is bringing and say it first. For example, I'm going to VBS and I'm bringing my water bottle, Amelia is bringing a snack and Isaac is bringing a football. Another variation with older kids is that each object must be a letter of the alphabet in order. So, Isaac is bringing an apple, Amelia is bringing a ball, Johnny is bringing checkers.

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