

Game: The Ice Cube Pass

Discussion: Hiding sin

YOU WILL NEED: An ice cube for each time you play.

The Ice Cube Pass

Have children gather in a close circle with hands behind their backs and facing the center of the circle. Choose one person to be “it” and have him stand in the center. Have him close his eyes while you place an ice cube in the hands of another child in the circle. He passes it to someone else and the ice cube continues to be passed around. The object of the game is not to be caught holding the ice. The person who is “it” opens his eyes has three tries to guess who is holding the ice cube.

The players can try to fool “it.” They can do this by pretending to pass the ice off to another person’s hand while still holding it behind their back. That person, in turn, can continue to pass the imaginary ice cube. However, sometimes the real ice cube is being passed. Since the ice cube is cold and wet to hold, facial expressions can give away who is holding the ice.

Alternate with new players in the center. After several minutes of playing, gather the children in a circle around the ice cube. Ask the following questions:

Discussion

ASK—What did it feel like when you were holding the ice cube and you did not want to get caught with it? (Nervous. Sneaky. Excited. Cold.)

ASK—Do you think it would hurt to hold an ice cube in your hand for a long time? Why? (Yes, because it might begin to freeze my skin. No, maybe it would melt.)

ASK—Sin is doing things that are against God’s rules. It is disobeying God. Examples might be disobeying our parents or teachers. How is sin like the ice cube? (Sometimes we try to hide it. Holding it hurts us. It makes us feel cold.)

ASK—Have you ever tried to hide a sin and felt badly inside? Did you feel cold? Does anyone want to share a story about that? (It is sometimes helpful if you tell a personal story from your life.)

Game: Line Up Games

Discussion: Helping others Scripture: Matthew 20:29-34

YOU WILL NEED: No items needed.

Line Up Games

Tell your group that you are going to give them a series of timed challenges. You will tell them what to do and then when you say, "Go" you will begin timing them.

Stand up and close your eyes.

(1) When I say, "Go" line up from tallest to shortest. Go!

(2) Without talking, line up in order of Birthday, from January to December. Go!

(3) Without talking or using your hands, line up in order of biggest foot to smallest foot. Go!

After each challenge check to make sure they are in the right order.

Tell your class to sit in a circle SAY: You had to help each other during the game.

ASK: What are some ways you can help people in everyday life? SAY: Let's look at a story where Jesus helped someone.

Read Matthew 20:29-34 from your Bible.

Tell your students that when you read, "Have mercy on us," (this phrase may differ due to the translation) they are to run and touch two walls in the room and come back to their seat as fast as they can without hurting themselves or others.

ASK: How did Jesus help?

SAY: Jesus showed compassion by healing blindness.

ASK: Who are people who are spiritually blind? (People who don't know Jesus.)

ASK: How can you help people who are spiritually blind? (Tell them about Jesus, invite them to church, do good by living for Jesus.)

ASK: What are some other ways that Jesus helped people?

ASK: Who is someone that you can help this week?

SAY: Many times when we think about helping people, we think about big things such as helping someone who has no food or someone who is very sick, but what about the little ways around us everyday. Did you know you can help your parents by cleaning your room or putting your cup up after getting a drink or throwing away a piece of grass that someone tracked into the house. You can help others by being kind, by sharing and even by smiling. There are lots of ways all the time that you can help people—just look around for them.

Game: One-on-One Competitions

Discussion: Leading Others to Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

YOU WILL NEED: No items needed.

One-on-One Competitions

NOTE: This lesson is primarily for older students.

Read Matthew 28:18-20

SAY: While we play the following games, be thinking about what this verse has to do with you.

Activity

Have everyone find a partner for each of the following competitions. Then let them switch and challenge several others before moving to the next competition. If there is an odd number some of them can act as referees.

Competition #1—Blink: See who can stare into the other person's eyes the longest without blinking.

Competition #2—Breath: See who can hold their breath the longest.

Competition #3—Smile: See who can stare into the other person's face the longest without smiling.

Competition #4—Hand Slap: One partner holds out his or her hands palms up while the other partner places his or her hands palms down on top of them. Partners should maintain palm-to-palm contact until the "bottom" partner moves either of his or her hands. The object of the game is for the partner whose hands are on the bottom to slap the tops of his or her partner's hands before that partner can withdraw them. Partners switch roles after each attempt.*
(NOTE: Tell your students that they are not trying to hit as hard as they can. This game shouldn't turn anyone's hand red.)

Competition #5—Push and Pull: Two partners place their right feet, both pointing in opposite directions, side by side and touching each other. Then they shake right hands, grasping each other's thumbs. On your signal, partners try to pull or push each other off balance using only their right arms. Whoever moves his or her feet to maintain balance loses the round. *

SAY: The competitions we just did were one-on-one and one of the greatest things you can ever do is one-on-one too. In fact, it's the greatest miracle that anyone can ever be a part of

and many times this incredible thing happens one-on-one. It's not a competition but it's a great privilege to share in it.

ASK— Who can guess what it is? (Leading someone to Christ.) SAY: You don't need to wait until you get older to begin telling others about Jesus. If you have given your life to Jesus and remember what you did, then you already know everything you need to know to be ready to lead someone else to Christ. The question isn't, "Can I do this?" It's, "Am I willing." That's the key: You've got to be willing.

ASK— Besides willingness what else do you think a person needs to do before telling someone about Christ? (Of course, you've got to be saved yourself, but besides that...Before you go out telling people about Jesus, you must first be living for Jesus. Otherwise, what's different about you? Nothing. So why would they want your Jesus?)

SAY: If you are willing to share Jesus, you don't have to wait to know more although learning a method of how to share Jesus is a great help to make you feel more confident and comfortable. And, if you would like, we can show you a great way to lead others to Christ.

(NOTE: Point the kids to the plan of salvation on 215Kids.life.)

SAY: The advantage of having specific training is that you can learn from other people's experiences. For example, if you wanted to create a conversation where you could tell a friend about Jesus, how would you do it? (Let the students answer.)

SAY: The easiest way to start a conversation where you can tell someone about Jesus is to ask a simple question—what do you think it is? (Let the students answer.)

SAY: You could ask, "Do you know for sure you're going to heaven?" but sometimes that's kind of abrupt. An easier way is to simply ask, "Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?" Most people will say "yes" and if they say "no," it's probably a bad time to have a conversation anyway. Then, when they say "yes," simply tell them the story about how you gave your life to Jesus (your salvation testimony). End your story by saying, "Because I gave my life to Jesus, I know for sure I am going to heaven—How about you?" This will open the door for you to talk with them about where they stand with Jesus.

SAY: So, in other words, you don't have to wait for specific training to be able to tell others about Jesus, but training does help you to feel more confident and if you want more training about how to share Jesus, then simply let us know.

Prayer Time

Take prayer requests and pray. Pray specifically that God will use the students in the room who are living for Christ and are willing to be trained to impact many lives. Pray that they will lead many others to Jesus both by their actions and their words.

If you have extra time, re-play some of the games and reinforce the spiritual applications for them.

(NOTE: Another "one-on-one" application for these games is about the fun of spending daily one-on-one time with Jesus.)

Game: Paper Push / Paper-to-Foot Paper Dodge Ball Discussion: Stay away from sin

Scripture : 2 Timothy 2:22

YOU WILL NEED: A stack of regular, white paper and a trash bag.

As Kids Enter

As children enter the room, let them begin wading up each individual piece of paper. You may want to designate a certain place for them to put these—i.e., in the trash bag.

Paper Push

Split your kids into two teams. Use a line or the tiles on the floor (or a piece of tape, if you desire) to divide one team's area from the other team's area. Have each team get on the floor on opposite sides of this line. Tell them that you are going to dump out all the paper wads and when you do, they are supposed to begin pushing (not throwing) them onto the other team's side. The team that has the least amount of paper on their side at the end of 1 minute is the winner. Play this game two or three times.

(Suggestion: Collect all the paper wads in the trash bag after each game before you discuss the game's meaning with them.)

POINT 1

SAY: In the game you tried to get the paper as far away from you as you could. We should do the same with sin. The Bible says to "flee" or "run away" from sin (bad things).

Read from your Bible: 2 Timothy 2:22

ASK: What are some examples of sin or "evil desires"? (Ask a volunteer or two.)

ASK: How do you think a person can stay away from doing bad things?

Paper-to-Foot-Dodge Ball

Tell the kids to spread out in the room, still on their team's side. Set a chair in the middle to be a visual reminder of where each team's side is. Tell them that when you say "Go," they are going to play foot Dodge Ball. They will throw the paper wads at the feet of the opposite team. One hit (on the foot) and the student is out. (The adult leaders will need to help make judgment calls if necessary.) When out students need to sit down against the walls that you designate for them. If a student throws a paper wad and it accidentally hits someone on the chest or above, even though it was an accident, the person who threw it is out. They are aiming only at the feet.

Play the game two times....

POINT 2

SAY: In the game you wanted to dodge the paper wads. There are a few things in life that God wants you to dodge. God wants you do dodge sin.

ASK: What are some ways you can dodge sin? (Walk with Jesus, go to church, pray, read the Bible, etc.)

ASK: How can you help others dodge sin? (Tell them about Jesus; if they are doing something wrong, help them to choose to do what's right, etc.)

Play the Game Again...

POINT 3

SAY: A minute ago I told you some things that God wants you to dodge in life, but there are also some things that God does not want you to dodge or "miss out" on—He doesn't want you to miss out on REAL life---which only comes from Jesus, or to miss out on giving your life to Christ, or to miss out on the love, peace, and joy that comes only from knowing God.

ASK: What are some other things that God doesn't want you to miss out on? (Going to church, reading your Bible, obeying Him, worshipping Him, etc.)

Extra Time

If you have extra time:

(1) Try other variations to the game.

(2) The story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-16) illustrates the point of this lesson quite

well, especially in Genesis 4:7 where God warns Cain that sin is "crouching" at the door for him and for him to master it. Discuss with your students ways in which they can overcome or "master" sin. How might Cain have dealt with his anger in a correct way? Was he angry for a good reason? (No. He had not brought God an acceptable offering. Instead, he brought the fruit of his own hard work.) Do you think that Cain was angry at Abel or at God? What makes you angry? How can you avoid or "dodge" sin when you get angry? (Be angry for the right reason, have the right response and don't let anger last long so that it doesn't turn into bitterness.)

(3) Always make time to pray for and with your students.