

Jesus, Our Vine: Games Lesson

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Bible Text: John 15

Memory Verse: John 15:5 NRSV

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

Overview: Students will play “A Little About Yourself” to strengthen group bonds as they get to know each other better, and “Chain Relay” to illustrate the idea and importance of staying connected to Christ, community and working together.

Goals and Objectives:

In addition to the rotation goals and objectives, students will be able to:

- Appreciate that we each have different gifts and abilities and that working together we help each other stay connected to God and share his love with others.
- Get to know each other better, forming stronger relationships and bonds. A strong church community helps support each of us staying connected to God and strengthening our relationship and faith in Christ.

Supplies:

Bibles

Chart paper with memory verse printed as instructed in Week Two Plan.

Memory verse written one word per 3x5 card

Pencils

masking tape

12 pieces of white copy paper per week - for paper airplane folding and cutting shapes

1 scissors

1 newspaper

1 strong rubber band to wrap around the newspaper

one bag of mini-marshmallows

one package of balloons, any kind except water balloon - 24-48 count

Optional Supplies:

6 oranges/week or 1/group if the “orange peeling” task is selected

6 wrapped packages/week or 1/group if the “unwrap the package” task is selected

Lesson Format:

Four weekly lessons are provided for you to lead students through the discussion of this text. We have done this because the text has been broken into weekly chunks of content that build upon each other.

Please begin the lesson with students gathering in a circle.

Welcome:

Welcome children to your workshop. Jump right in by playing the game: "A Little About Yourself" for a few minutes. Choose one of the following questions or statements, then have everyone introduce themselves by stating their names and responses to the question or statement. If there is time at the end of the lesson play again.

- What is the loudest noise you've ever heard?
- What is your earliest memory?
- Name all of the places you have lived.
- What is the funniest movie scene you've seen?
- Where is your favorite place in nature?
- What is your middle name or what do you think it should have been?
- Describe the best meal you've ever eaten.
- What's your favorite song?
- What's the best thing a friend ever told you?
- What's the worst chore you've ever had?

After the game, transition to the start of the weekly lesson format.

Game Lesson: Pick up here when it says: Insert Activity Here

Explain to students that they are now going to do a different type of relay in which they are literally connected to each other - like a branch to a vine.

Teams of three or more people join hands to form a line. If possible, the person in the middle should be the one wearing shoes that tie. A leader sticks the joined hands together by wrapping them with masking tape. This is to ensure that the group stays together. If the grip is broken, the team must be retaped before continuing.

Teams then go from station to station around the room to complete tasks (See below.) - in any order they choose, except for the final task, which must be completed last.

There must be at least two more tasks than teams. Use tasks that require two hands. Making accommodations for allergies and age levels. Here are some suggestions:

- Fold a paper airplane.
- Cut out a shape from a piece of paper.
- Roll up a newspaper and put a rubber band around it.
- Untie and tie the shoe of the middle person.
- Feed each member of the group a marshmallow.
- Blow up and tie off a balloon.

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- Unwrap a present.
- Peel an orange.

For the last task, have groups jump over a masking tape vine or branch, or other shape taped on the floor. The group must all jump at the same time. You might use a skinny branch for younger students and a thicker branch for older ones.

Encourage students to encourage each other as they move through the tasks and cheer for everyone as they finish.

As everyone is being untaped, pull them into a discussion about their experience:

What was fun? Hard? Easy?

What did groups have to do to be successful?

How is this like being a member of our church? (Working together, everyone has different gifts to share, common goal - help others, teach others about God's love, good communication)

Remind students that we are connected to Jesus at all times. He is with us, there for us, helping us in all we do.

