

Game Teaching Guide

Love Him Love Them VBS, 2017



Games

Getting Ready for Game Rotation

- Study the lessons. Allow Him to teach you as you study beforehand what you will teach the children.
- Pray for the children that will enter this rotation. Pray that God will teach them through you.
- Gather Supplies
- Designate game areas for indoor and outdoor (weather permitting).
- Choose from the game options that will best suit your church's needs.
- The **"bold"** text is a scripted guide given to help you know what to say as you teach the lesson. Read over and adjust as you feel God lead, but we hope this helps you prepare and teach your lesson.
- Extra ideas are below to help as needed or to add or substitute games.

Extra ideas:

- Jump rope – a favorite activity for children in Haiti
- Freeze dance
- Over/under relay races
- "Telephone game" Whisper in someone's ear a message and then it is told to the next person etc. Children will determine if the message changed at end. How can we listen to God?
- Partners- one partner changes something about them without the other seeing and then he/she has to decide what was changed – switch roles
- Freeze tag/ tag
- Follow the Leader- "We follow Jesus."
- Red Light, Green Light
- Bucket Toss
- Blind cow- Blind fold someone as others sit in a circle and pass a bell or make a noise (snap finger, clap, stomp, etc). Blind cow has to listen for the bell sound (or other sound made) to figure out who has (or did have) the bell, etc.
- Team building games
- I Spy
- Charades
- Kickball
- Simon Says

Games Day 1

“Today you are learning how God is our creator. Let’s play with items from the creation that He made.”

“God is our creator. Let’s thank Him for His creation.”

Game 1: Jacks with Rocks

Materials- rocks and bouncy ball per group

A favorite game for kids in Haiti is to play the game Jacks, but using rocks instead of jacks. Put children in groups and they take turns bouncing the ball once and trying to pick up rocks with one hand until the ball bounces again. Show children how to play and then let children try in their groups.

Game 2: Dig for Rocks Relay

Materials- real or pretend rocks with parts of the Bible verse (Luke 10:27) on the bottom side of each rock (or item representing rock, can be construction paper drawn like a rock and turned over if need), boundaries to represent curvy roads (use rope, cones, etc)

Children will be in two teams. Rocks with the Bible verse will be on the opposite side of where the children begin. When the leader says go, children will run through the curvy path to the rocks and back to the team. Explain to the children that the curvy path represents the curvy roads in Haiti. Once the team has all of the rocks, they will then work together as they put in order the words for the Bible verse.

Game 3: Younger Activity: Side Walk Chalk

Materials: side walk chalk

Children can draw something God created.

The leader can trace around children. As leaders trace the children, tell children, **“Remember that God loves you and created you”**.

Games Day 2

“Today you are learning that Jesus is the only way to clean us from our sin. You also are learning more about what life is like for kids in Haiti. Let’s play games as we think about these things we are learning today.”

Game 1: “As we play, we can thank God for our clean water in America. Children in Haiti help each other with daily chores. In this game, you will work together as a team.”

Water Relay

Materials- 2 buckets of water, 2 cups, towels for clean-up (or blue construction paper balls)

Have children form 2 teams. On one side, have a bucket with water. On the other side, have an empty bucket. Have a cup for children to dip into the bucket with water. The children will line up between the buckets, so that they can pass the cup down the line from the bucket with water to the empty (for now) bucket. The child closest to the water bucket will dip the cup into the water and then give it to the person beside him in line. Each team player will pass the cup down the line until the person at the end of their line pours the cup into the empty bucket. You can do this for 2-3 minutes, but set a time limit. When the time is called, the team with the most water is the winning team. Another way you can do this activity is to have the water bucket a few feet away and children form a line on the opposite end. They will then take turns going to the water bucket and filling their cup and returning to empty the cup’s water into their team’s empty bucket. Once everyone for the team has gone, the leader can see who collected the most water as the winner. * Want to play but not use water? Try crumbling up pieces of construction paper to be “water” as you pass it down the line.

Game 2: “We can thank God that Jesus is my Savior.”

Materials- Bucket of dirt/sand, bucket of water, towels

Have children form 2 teams. Kids will dip hands in water bucket. Then, they will run to the bucket of sand and dip hands in sand (representing sin). Children will run back to the water bucket to wash their hands. When one child has returned to the team, the next child can go.

“If you did not put your hands in the water to clean them after you got them dirty, they would still be very dirty. Jesus is the only way to clean us from our sin.”

Game 3: Hopscotch to the verse John 3:16 or use this week’s memory verse (Luke 10:27).

Materials- sectioned off hopscotch board with words from the Bible verses

Game 4: Clothesline “In this game, we will work together as we race to hang clothes on the clothes line. In the video today, you saw that clothes are washed by hand and then hung to dry. Children in Haiti work together as they finish their chores. You will work together as you race to finish hanging the clothes.”

Materials- clothesline for each team, bucket of clothes per team, you can add water to this activity if you desire as kids pretend to “wash” clothes

Form 2 teams. Teams will line up opposite of the clothesline. Children will race to hang up a clothing item on the clothesline and then run back to their team for the next person to then run. The first team finished with "their chores" wins.

Games Day 3

“Today you are learning to keep God first and get rid of sin and idols. King Josiah read God’s law and then got rid of the other things people were worshipping instead of God. Anything we care about more than God is an idol. We need to make sure we keep God first and love Him with all our heart.”

Game 1: Tumbling Towers

Materials- items for idol structure to build (can use boxes, cups or any other material have to make towers), scroll, ball or something to knock down structure

Children will be in teams for the relay. Items will be on the opposite end of the play area. Children will run to the items they will use to build an idol structure. After the team has built their idol structure, they will run to find the scroll and/or older children can read the scroll (make a paper rolled up like it is the scroll and you can write this week’s verse on it for older children to read or one of God’s commands like “no other gods”) and then they will try to knock down the idol structure they made (can kick a ball at, etc).

Remind the children that King Josiah heard God’s commands read, was sad, and then he did what he could to get rid of the idols and help people make God Lord of their life.

Game 2: Remove sin/idols-

Materials- divider for the 2 large sections, balls

Divide the play area into 2 large sections. If using a basketball court, you could use large balls, but if using a smaller area, you can use rolled up paper balls. The balls will represent sin. Place the balls in the middle of the area. Children will be in 2 teams. Each team will be in one of the large sections. Teams can not cross into the other team’s sections. When the leader says “go”, children will not try to hit other children, but will be trying to throw the balls to the opposite side of the court. At the end time, the team with the most balls loses and the team with the least balls wins. Tell children, **“When King Josiah heard the Laws of God, he started getting rid of things that God would not like. We need to be quick to get rid of things in our life that we know is sin.”**

Game 3: Knock (bowl) down the idols

Materials- bowling pins (can be soda bottles or other items easy to sit up and knock down) with pictures of idols glued to the pins (children can draw pictures or have premade pictures like money, TV, mirror for self, etc on bottles), ball to use as they bowl

Children will bowl to knock down idols on the pins.

Alternative: You can also use bean bags and knock down cans set up as idols.

Game 4: Place the Crown on King Josiah

Materials- crown picture, King Josiah picture, blindfold, tape

Younger children can play tape the crown on King Josiah. Draw an outline of a person on poster board for each group’s rotation and make a crown picture children can use as they try to get the crown on King Josiah’s head without looking, or as they are blindfolded.

Games Day 4

“Today you are learning to love God with all your heart. When we really love God, we serve Him because we want to do things for Him.”

Game 1: Where’s the heart?

Materials- cut out heart or heart-shaped item

“In the Bible, we are reminded that people look on outward appearance, but God looks at heart. People might think someone is doing something because they love God, but God is the only one who knows why we do things. We must keep God as our first love. We must serve God out of our love for Him. We can love Him, when we understand how much He loves us.”

Have children sit in a circle. One child will turn around while the leader gives the heart to a child in the circle. The child then guesses who has the heart. Take turns letting children guess and hold the heart. You can also hide the heart and give children clues about how to find the heart using “hot”, if they are close, or “cold”, if they are far from the heart, to help children find the heart. Children can take turns finding and hiding the heart.

Game 2: Appearance (or looks), Appearance (or looks), Heart

In this game, children can be reminded that, **“People look at the outward appearance, but God looks at our heart. Jesus knew Mary was serving Him because she loved Him. Others judged her for what she did, but they did not understand her love for Jesus. The more we understand God’s love, the more we will want to serve Him and not just because it is a good thing to do. God always knows why we serve.”** Children can play “Duck, Duck, Goose” as “Appearance/looks, Appearance/looks, Heart,” and children touched when said “heart” will run to try to tag the child who touched them.

Game 3: Pass the Heart

Materials: cut out heart or a heart-shaped item

Children will sit in a circle. Use an item shaped as a heart to pass around the circle. Children can repeat one word of the Bible verse, Luke 10:27, as they pass the heart.

Game 4: “Balling” Around the Word

You can use a beach ball to toss around the circle as you recite Luke 10:27. A beach ball, balloon, or volleyball can be used as children try to keep the ball from hitting the ground as they tap it to keep it in the air. If the ball hits the ground, children will start over. You can additionally use a shorter phrase you choose as they play.

Games Day 5

“Today you learned how God wants us to show His love to everyone. He wants us to tell others about His love.”

Game 1: Good Samaritan Relay Game

Materials- per group: 10 band aids or note cards and tape, cup of water

Put children into teams. One child will be the hurt man as in the Good Samaritan Bible story. The “hurt child” for each team will go to the opposite side of their team and lie down. When the leader says go, the team will race to the hurt child. Teams will put all bandages on the hurt child and give the child water. Then, they will all run back linking arms, at the elbows, as the team returns to the starting position. The team back first wins.

Ask children what it would be like if they were hurt and no one helped them. Say, **“We are to help others, because we want to show others God’s love”**.

Game 2: Fishers of Men

Ask, **“What does it mean to be fishers of men?”** Discuss how the disciples were first fishermen and then God called them to become fishers of men as they were going to tell others about Him.

Designate a “lake” area and a “land” area. Children will form teams. One child will begin as the fisher of men on one side of the play area on the “land” as other children are in the “lake” on the opposite side. The first fisherman will run to the “lake” and link arms with a child as they bring them to the “land” and tell them “Jesus loves you”. Then, the child that was just told “Jesus loves you”, and sent to the land, will go and get a child from the lake and continue that pattern until all of their team has been “caught”.

Another idea: Leaders can also use a similar fishing game. You can additionally have a pool set up on one side and children use small nets to catch a plastic fish or another “fish” item, and run back to their team.

Game 3: Soccer ball

Many kids around the world love to play soccer. As we kick the soccer ball around the circle, we will practice our memory verse this week.

Game 4: Favorite Game of the week

Children can pick one of this week’s favorite games to repeat, or the leader can pick a game that you might not have had time to do this week and would like to do as you review what was learned this week.

