

10 FUN NO-PREP GAMES FOR KIDS

Created by Ministry to Youth, Kids Curriculum

GAME	BIBLE VERSE	PAGE
FAITHFULNESS	Psalm 119:90	2
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	Galatians 5:22-23	6
GENTLENESS	Colossians 3:12	10
GOODNESS	Psalm 23:6	13
JOY	Psalm 98:4	17
KINDNESS	Psalm 145:17	21
LOVE	1 Corinthians 13:6	24
PATIENCE	Ephesians 4:2	27
PEACE	1 Peter 3:11	31
SELF-CONTROL	Proverbs 25:28	34

TITLE OF GAME: FAITHFULNESS

Bible: Psalm 119:90 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- Pack of Styrofoam Plates
- A Cone (or some form of “marker”)
- Sharpie (any color)
- List of Actions

GAME PREP

Number two sets of four Styrofoam plates by using a Sharpie to write a number on each: 1-2-3 4.

Hold on to the plates until the game begins.

Divide students into two teams of equal size and ask them to form single file lines.

You will need a designated space to use throughout the game.

Designate a starting place where all the teams will line up.

Then, choose a place about 10-feet in front of the starting point and use the cone to mark it.

LIST OF ACTIONS

- Hop like a bunny.
- Jump on one foot.
- Skip!
- Make a super silly face.
- Walk slowly.
- Do jumping jacks across the plates.
- Clap your hands really fast.
- Walk like a spider.
- Slither like a snake.
- Walk like a chicken.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: When I look around this room, I see a group of really talented kids!

Each of you has things you're really good at, and probably some things you aren't as good at—we all do!

We're going to play a game that highlights some of your talents.

When I say, "Go," I will hand a set of 4 plates to the student at the front of each team's line.

That person will toss the plates, one at a time, onto the ground trying to create a path from the place they are standing to the cone.

Next, you will follow your plate path to the cone, tag the cone, and then quickly pick up the plates and take them back to your team.

Now, it would be really easy if I just had you walk across the plates and bring them back to the next person in line, but that's not what we're going to do.

I have a list of actions that I will read before each person takes their turn.

For example, I might say, "Hop like a frog."

So, when you receive the stack of plates, you will toss them down and then hop like a frog across the plates to the other side.

Here's a twist—if you don't lay the plates down in the correct number order, you will still have to numerically follow the plate path.

That might mean your winding path will take you a little longer to get to the cone.

The first team to have all of their teammates finish the race is the winner!

TEACH

Say: I knew all of you were really talented.

That was a lot of fun to watch!

It might have been difficult to perform some of those actions, but if you practiced, you might get better at it.

It takes faithfulness and dedication to get better at something.

And that's what we're going to talk about for a minute—what it means to be faithful.

Say: When your grandparents and great grandparents were young, there was something called, "customer loyalty."

If they liked shopping at a store and had a good experience there, they would be loyal to buying things from that store—and only that store.

Why? Because the way they showed they were happy with the store was by giving them all of their business.

In our time, customer loyalty is almost non-existent.

We go wherever we can get the best deals.

Suppose you have a favorite video game store, but you can order the same games off of Amazon at a much cheaper price.

Which will you choose?

You'd probably buy it from Amazon!

This feeling has even come into our churches.

If another church has cooler activities and better stuff for families and kids, people will go to the other church.

People just aren't as loyal anymore.

Here's another word that is similar that I want us to talk about: Faithfulness.

Faithfulness is similar to loyalty, but it's a little different.

Ask: What do you think it means to be "faithful" in something?

Allow a few responses from students.

Read Psalm 119:90.

Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.

Along with all of the other things we know about God—He's kind, gentle, patient, loving, and the list goes on—He is also faithful to us.

This Bible verse says that God's faithfulness extends to EVERY generation.

When we read about the amazing things God did in the Old Testament, we might think, "I wish God still did those things."

But, He is just as faithful now as He was back then.

And He will be faithful to everyone who comes after us—to EVERY generation.

The end of that verse says that God's faithfulness is as enduring as the earth.

The earth has been around for quite a while, and the human race needs the earth in order for us to keep existing.

God's faithfulness has never changed.

He is always loyal to us and we can depend on Him.

In the Bible, we read that God will never leave us no matter what.

That promise may be thousands of years old, but because God is faithful, we know He still feels that way.

The Bible also says that God loves us—He always has and He always will.

We can believe that because He is faithful to His Word.

In our world, people may not be loyal and faithful, but God isn't just any other person.

He is the Creator of the entire universe and He will be faithful until the end of time.

TITLE OF GAME: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Bible: Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- Construction Paper (one sheet of green, yellow, red, and purple)
- 4 Cones (or other objects to mark four corners)
- Sheet of Paper and a Pen
- Bucket
- Upbeat Music

GAME PREP

This game requires a few items, but will not take more than a couple of minutes in prep time.

Tear (or cut) the piece of paper into four pieces and use the pen to write a number on each piece, from 1-4.

Then, tear (or cut) a piece off of each sheet of construction paper and place them in the bucket.

Fold the numbered pieces of paper in half and place them in the bucket.

Use cones (or some other object) to mark four corners in your room.

Divide students into four teams of equal size.

Assign each team with the name of a fruit: lime, bananas, apples, and grapes.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: We're going to play a fun game that's all about fruit!

Each of your teams have been given the name of a fruit.

Raise your hand if you're on Team Lime.

Raise your hand if you're on Team Bananas.

Raise your hand if you're on Team Apples.

Raise your hand if you're on Team Grapes.

Okay!

Now that everyone knows which team they are on, let's talk about how we will play the game.

When the game begins, the music will start and everyone will start moving around the room.

You can dance, skip, or walk in a silly way, but you can't run.

When the music stops, everyone will go to a corner and stand there.

Each corner has a number.

Point to each corner and assign a number to each one.

Then, I will pull a number out of the bucket and read it.

I will also pick a color out of the bucket.

You will have to pay close attention to the color.

Each fruit matches a color in this bucket.

Yellow = Bananas

Green = Lime

Red = Apples

Purple = Grapes

If I call your corner's number and the color that matches your fruit, then you are out of the game.

The last person left in the game is the winner.

TEACH

Say: What is your favorite fruit?

Allow a few responses from students.

Did you know that there are over 2,000 types of fruits around the world?

Yet, we only eat about 200 types of fruit.

So, there are over 1,800 types of fruit that you have never tried before.

Some of those fruits may be really good for you—they might have a lot of vitamins and they might even taste better than the other fruits you've eaten.

But you may never have the opportunity to try them.

Ask: How does it make you feel to know that there are amazing fruits in the world that you may never get to try?

Allow a few responses from students.

In the Bible, we learn about the kind of fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives as we follow Jesus.

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

In this Scripture, it doesn't say that each of those things are different fruits.

It says the fruit—just one—that is produced in our lives.

Now, when I read that list of fruit, maybe you thought, "I don't have all of those things in my life."

Let me read it again: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

For some people, it might be easy to have joy because you're a joyful person.

Or maybe you are a patient person.

Some people may struggle with some of those things.

Maybe you don't demonstrate a lot of self-control, you just kind of do whatever you want.

That's not what God wants for your life.

He knows if that list of fruit is shown in your life, then other people will see a difference in the way you live and it will be a witness to what God can do.

God also knows if those things are not being displayed in your life, then you aren't allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life the way He wants to.

God actually transforms, or changes, you to become more like Him—and He has all of these qualities that we read about.

Just like the fruits in the world that we will never have the opportunity to try, it's really sad when a Christian doesn't have all of the fruit of the Spirit in their life.

Today, ask God to keep working in your heart and mind until He has produced all of that good fruit in you.

Then, you will be able to fully experience all that God has for your life.

TITLE OF GAME: GENTLENESS

Bible: Colossians 3:12 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- Blindfold
- 2 Newspapers
- 2 Empty Paper Towel Rolls

GAME PREP

Divide students into two teams of equal size.

Give each team one newspaper and have them form as many paper balls as possible (any size).

Make sure they create at least 30-50 balls per team.

They will believe that they are creating paper balls for their team, but they are actually making them for the other team.

Have each team choose one person to be their team's "Treasure Guarder" and give them a paper towel roll and a blindfold.

The Treasure Guarder will sit on the floor and their team will put all of their team's paper balls around the Treasure Guarder.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: You have done a really great job creating paper balls for your teams, but like most of our games, there's a twist!

I would like each of your team's Treasure Guarders to switch places.

Although you thought you were creating balls for your team, they were actually for the other team.

Now that we have that straightened out, I can tell you how to play the game.

The Treasure Guarder for each team will put the blindfold on and sit in the middle of the paper balls.

When I say, "Go," your team will go, one at a time, to the other team's pile of paper and attempt to take a paper ball.

The Treasure Guarder, who is blindfolded, will listen carefully for the person who is trying to sneak away with one of their paper balls.

If they hear you, they can try and tag you with the paper towel roll that they are holding.

If you can get a paper ball and return to your team without being tagged, then you will get a point for retrieving that ball.

If you are tagged, you are out for the rest of the game.

The goal is to snatch as many paper balls as possible from the other team.

The team with the most paper balls at the end of the game is the winner.

TEACH

Say: In our game, you had to be as quiet as possible to avoid the Treasure Guarder hearing you or being able to sense you were near them.

You had to be very careful.

Sometimes it's hard to be quiet...or careful...or gentle.

Ask: Have you ever held a newborn baby before?

What did that experience feel like?

Allow a few responses from students.

One thing you may have been told when you were holding the baby was, "Be gentle."

Or if you are holding something that is valuable and your parents want you to be careful, they might say, "Be gentle."

Gentle means you aren't aggressive or pushy, but instead, you are extra careful.

In the Bible, we read that gentleness is one of the qualities that should be seen in our lives as we follow Jesus.

Read Colossians 3:12.

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Ask: It's easy to understand why it's important to be kind, humble, patient, and show mercy, but how do we show gentleness with other people?

Allow a few responses from students.

To be gentle means we don't just say what we're feeling at the moment.

For example, if your older brother has really smelly breath, you don't just say, "you smell totally disgusting!"

Maybe you don't say anything at all or find a gentler way to say something like, "I think your breath smells a little."

Being gentle means that you don't give others the full brunt of how you're feeling.

Instead, you bite your tongue and don't say anything, or really think about what to say before you say it.

Ask: Can you think of sometimes when you might need to say something that is gentle, instead of what you would just normally say?

Allow a few responses from students.

Think about this: God is gentle with us.

He doesn't strike us down with lightning when we do the wrong things.

He isn't pushy, but He helps us when we ask Him too.

And He speaks to us in a still, small, quiet voice.

God is gentle.

The next time you become frustrated with someone else and want to lash out, remember that God doesn't do that to us when we frustrate Him.

Ask God to help you be gentle with others, and then you might notice that others become gentler with you too.

TITLE OF GAME: GOODNESS

Bible: Psalm 23:6 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- None

GAME PREP

Provide a large space for kids to move freely throughout the game.

Designate a place for kids to sit when they are out of the game.

Use the list of “Opposite Words” provided with this lesson.

Feel free to use the words more than once if you want the game to last longer.

The first word listed is the one you will say to the kids.

The second word is the action they will do in order to stay in the game.

OPPOSITE WORDS

- **Walk - RUN**
- **Wave your right arm – WAVE YOUR LEFT ARM**
- **Stand – SIT**
- **Nod your head up and down – TURN YOUR HEAD FROM SIDE TO SIDE**
- **Talk very loudly – TALK VERY QUIETLY**
- **Stand on your left foot – STAND ON YOUR RIGHT FOOT**
- **Make a very serious face – MAKE A VERY FUNNY FACE**
- **Look up – LOOK DOWN**
- **Act like you are freezing – ACT LIKE YOU ARE SWEATING**
- **Wave your left arm – WAVE YOUR RIGHT ARM**
- **Open your eyes – CLOSE YOUR EYES**
- **Put your hand on your left hip – PUT YOUR HAND ON YOUR RIGHT HIP**
- **Sit – STAND**
- **Shake a friend’s right hand – SHAKE YOUR FRIEND’S LEFT HAND**
- **Stand on your right foot – STAND ON YOUR LEFT FOOT**
- **Wave your hands down low – WAVE YOUR HANDS HIGH IN THE AIR**
- **Stomp your feet – WALK ON YOUR TIP TOES**

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Raise your hand if you have ever played the game, “Simon Says.”

That's just about everyone.

Well, we're going to play a game that is very similar, but has a fun twist!

First, I would like for everyone to spread out really far from each other.

You will need plenty of room for this game.

Now, just like in Simon Says, I will read a command for you to follow.

I won't say "Simon Says."

I will just say the command.

BUT, you're not going to do what I say.

Instead, you will do the OPPOSITE of what I say.

If I say, "Shake your head side to side," you will shake your head up and down.

If I say, "Talk really quiet," then you will talk really loudly.

If you forget to do the opposite of what I say, then you're out of the game.

If there are still people in the game after I have gone through the list, then I will start the list over again and read the commands much faster this time.

We will keep playing until only one person is left in the game.

TEACH

Say: Raise your hand if your family has a dog.

Tell me some things that you say to your dog when he is behaving or acting right.

Allow a few responses from students.

Many times, we will say, "Good dog!"

And then your dog will get all excited and happy because he knows you're proud of what they have done.

Ask: I want to ask you a question. Do you know God is proud of you?

How do you know He's proud of you?

Allow a few responses from students.

Maybe we don't hear God tell us, "Good job!" when we do something that makes Him proud, but whether you realize it or not, God is *always* proud of you.

Read Psalm 23:6.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

When we talked about telling our dog, "Good dog," it was because it did something that was the right thing to do—sit, shake, bark, fetch—some action that was obedient to what we said.

But in the Bible verse we just read, I want you to notice something.

It says, "Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life."

I don't know about you, but I'm not always good.

I don't always do the right things.

This verse tells us that no matter what we do, God's goodness and unfailing love will pursue us all of our lives.

It doesn't say, "If you are good, and obey everything God says, and never make mistakes, He will love you."

Or, "If you want God to be part of your life, He will be part of your life."

You have to remember that God gave you life!

He's the reason you're here!

So, He really cares about what happens in your life.

God is never going to leave you or quit loving you, because His love never fails—it doesn't give up on you.

And His *goodness* or kindness to you isn't based on how good or kind you are.

God is like no one else in our lives because He is God.

But we should ask Him to help us love others and show them the same goodness and kindness that He shows us.

The next time you sin, or make a mistake, realize that God still loves you.

He will actually pursue, or follow you with His love, for your entire life.

When you go to sleep tonight, take a few minutes to thank God for His goodness and love for you and remember that He will never give up on you!

TITLE OF GAME: JOY

Bible: Psalm 98:4 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- 10 Balloons
- 10 Marbles
- 2 Large Garbage Cans

GAME PREP

Divide students into two teams of equal size.

For this game, you will use ten balloons and ten marbles.

Open the top of each balloon and place a marble inside.

Then, inflate the balloons, but not too much.

Place the balloons on the sideline.

Place a garbage can at each end of your game play space.

Each team will choose a person that will stand by their team's garbage can throughout the game.

Have the rest of the students on both teams stand in the space between the two garbage cans.

Each team will stand facing in the direction of their team's garbage can.

When everyone gets in place, tell them they can't move from that place throughout the game—very similar to the way the players are arranged in a game of foosball.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Raise your hand if you have ever walked on a balance beam.

They can be a little tricky.

If you walk too fast, you can get thrown off your balance and you could fall.

If you walk too slowly, it can do the same thing.

But when you find your balance and the perfect pace to cross the balance beam, it becomes much easier.

In the game we are about to play, it's all about finding that perfect speed to help you win the game.

For our game, we will use ten balloons with marbles inside of them.

When the game begins, I will toss a balloon into the area where you are standing.

You will begin to hit the balloon towards your team's garbage can.

The goal is to get the balloon into your team's garbage can.

Because it has a marble inside of it, you will notice that it's more difficult to hit the balloon in a straight direction – it's going to be wibbly wobbly.

In fact, if you hit it too hard, it will go everywhere.

If you hit it too softly, then it's not going to go in the right direction either.

Now, to make things a little more challenging, every minute or so, I'm going to toss another balloon into the game space.

There might be several balloons in the air at the same time.

If at any point a balloon falls on the ground, the team with the least number of balloons in their garbage can will have to sit down for 15 seconds.

That will give the other team a big advantage.

After the 15 seconds, your team will be back in the game again.

After all of the balloons have made it into one of the team's garbage cans, the game will be over.

Count each team's balloons and announce a winner for the game.

TEACH

Say: That game was a lot of fun to play and to watch!

I saw a lot of you laughing throughout the game because you were having a good time!

Did you know that the average 4-year old laughs 400 times a day?

That might not be difficult for some of you to imagine because you have a younger brother or sister, or cousin, who laughs all the time.

Little kids will laugh at anything—funny faces, silly sounds, crazy dances.

It's easy to make them laugh!

But as people get older, they don't laugh as much.

In fact, people your parents' age only laugh about 17 times a day.

Ask: Why do you think people laugh less as they get older?

Allow a few responses from students.

Most little kids don't have much stress in their lives, especially compared to adults.

Adults have to go to work, take care of their families, pay bills, run errands, and prepare meals, because kids like to eat!

So, it seems like stress can take the happiness out of your life, but only if you allow it to.

Read Psalm 98:4.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!

Say: Raise your hand if you really like to sing.

If you're in a bad mood, try singing—it can really perk you up.

I mean, it's hard to sing a happy song and feel sad.

But in the Bible verse we just read, we see the key to singing a joyful song is to sing and shout to the Lord.

There will be times in your life when you don't feel happy because sometimes bad things happen.

Maybe your pet goldfish dies or you don't make it on the sports team you had hoped to join.

But, you can still have joy in your heart.

When you stop and think about how much God loves you and everything He has done in your life, you become thankful, and that thankfulness can produce joy.

Ask: Can you name some things that God has done in your life?

Allow a few responses from students.

Those were some really great answers!

We're all alive, we've eaten food today, we have a place to live and a family to live with.

Our planet has living animals and plants all over it.

Every morning the sun comes up, and every night the moon and stars light up the sky.

We have so much to be grateful for!

The next time you feel sad, take a moment to thank God for everything you see all around you.

I hope that when all of you are grown-ups, you still laugh as much as you do right now.

When God's joy fills your life, it will not only make your life happier, but also those all around you too!

TITLE OF GAME: KINDNESS

Bible: Psalm 145:17 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- 4 Rolls of Toilet Paper
- 2 Sharpies
- Paper and Pen
- Garbage Can

GAME PREP

Divide the kids into two teams of equal size.

Have each team choose one person to represent their team.

Give each team two rolls of toilet paper.

Assign a leader to each team who will use a Sharpie throughout the game.

Have paper and pen on hand to keep track of each team's points.

Place the garbage can at the front of the game space and have the person who is calling out the numbers (you) stand by it.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: The game we are about to play will take a lot of teamwork!

Each team has picked one person who has a special job.

Your team is going to wrap you like a mummy with two rolls of toilet paper.

I'm going to give you a couple of minutes to wrap up your teammate.

Give each team time to wrap their teammates.

Now, we are ready to play the game.

The game will begin when I call a number out loud.

After you hear the number, you will unwrap that many pieces of toilet paper off of your teammate, rip them into sheets, and hand them to the leader who has the Sharpie.

The leader will number each sheet of toilet paper and then hand them to someone who will quickly bring them to me.

I will count the sheets of toilet paper and if the team has the correct amount, I will add that many points to the team's score.

Now, here are a couple of rules.

You can't use any sheets of toilet paper that are ripped.

Each sheet has to be torn apart and it can't be attached to another sheet (that's a great way to involve everyone on the team).

You can't use any sheets that are leftovers from other rounds.

The team with the highest score at the end of the game is declared the winner!

NUMBERS TO CALL DURING THE GAME

- 8
- 4
- 12
- 9
- 15
- 2
- 20
- 13
- 5
- 25
- 17
- 1
- 10
- 28
- 7

TEACH

Ask: What is the kindest thing you have ever done for someone?

What is the kindest thing someone has ever done for you?

After each question, allow a few responses from students.

Now, for this question, I don't want you to answer out loud, but can you think of the last time someone treated you unkind—when someone was mean to you?

Both of those things tend to stick out in our minds—when people are really nice or really mean.

Ask: Why do you think we remember those things?

Allow a few responses from students.

It's not just what people do that we remember, but the people themselves.

For example: you wouldn't say, "Some random person told me I'm ugly."

You would remember their exact name, where you were when it happened, and how you felt.

You would remember everything.

Sometimes people can hurt us, but God never will because He is kind.

Read Psalm 145:17.

The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

If you have a glass of chocolate milk that is filled to the top, that means there is no room for anything else.

If you try to dip a cookie into it, the milk will pour out of the glass.

God is filled with kindness.

It pours out of Him and into every part of our lives.

There will always be people that are unkind, but that doesn't mean that you get back at them by being unkind.

If you are full of God's kindness, then it should pour out of you and onto the people all around you.

If you struggle to be kind, then maybe you aren't full of God's kindness to begin with.

God can help you show love and kindness to others if you ask Him to help you.

Then, when others think of you, they will remember a person who does kind things just like God.

TITLE OF GAME: LOVE

Bible: 1 Corinthians 13:6 (NIV)

SUPPLIES

- Upbeat Music

GAME PREP

Have the list of commands on hand to use throughout the game.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Raise your hand if you have a really good friend.

Having friends is a gift and something you shouldn't take for granted.

In the game we are about to play, I hope you can make some new friends!

For each round of our game, the music will begin to play and you will move around the room.

When the music stops, I will say a number and a command.

You will get into a group of that number and then do what I said—and I will only say it once.

You will need to stay in the position of the command until I tell you to stop.

If you are left without a group, unfortunately, you are out of the game.

The last people left in the game are the winners.

Play the game until there are not enough students to keep playing.

If you have less than ten students, have the kids play as individuals and whoever is the last person to complete the action is out of the game.

LIST OF NUMBERS AND COMMANDS

- **2 – HOLD HANDS**
- **4 – ELBOW TO ELBOW**
- **3 – HIGH FIVE**
- **2 – HEAD TO HEAD**
- **4 – FOOT TO FOOT**

- **2 – LEAP FROG**
- **3 – DOSEY DOE** (link arms and spin in a circle)
- **2 – WHISTLE**

Repeat the commands until there are only a few kids left and then declare the winners.

TEACH

Ask: What is something you own that you love more than anything in the whole world?

Allow a few responses from students.

Choose one thing that a student mentioned and use it for the following example.

One of you said that you really love _____.

Let's list some things that someone could really love about _____.

Help the students name several love-able qualities about that thing.

It's no wonder that you LOVE _____.

_____ sounds pretty awesome!

Now, what if I gave you some reasons that you shouldn't love _____?

And what if the things I said weren't true?

That would really hurt, because _____ means a lot to you.

Don't worry.

I'm not going to say anything bad about _____.

When you really love something or someone, it's hard to see them treated badly.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:6.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

This Bible verse reminds us about what love really is—the kind of love that God has for us and the love we should show to others.

God isn't happy when bad things happen to us, because He loves us.

And we shouldn't be happy when we see bad things happen to others.

You might be thinking, “I would never do that.”

But here’s an example of what that looks like in your life.

Your brother or sister is really mean to you and then they get in trouble.

Does that make you happy or sad?

What about when someone bullies you at school and when they turn to walk away from you, they trip and fall?

Sometimes it can be tough not to be happy when we feel like someone deserves to be punished or face the consequences for their actions.

But God doesn’t feel that way about us.

In fact, He shows us mercy and grace when we ask for it—even though He doesn’t have to.

Demonstrating true love means you show mercy and grace to the people in your life who you feel don’t deserve it.

Then, you are loving others the way God loves you.

TITLE OF GAME: PATIENCE

Bible: Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- Upbeat Music
- 2 Potatoes
- Red Sharpie

GAME PREP

Have upbeat music on hand and ready to be played throughout the game.

You will use two potatoes for this game.

On one potato, use a red Sharpie to draw a large smiley face.

On the other potato, use the red Sharpie to draw a large frowny face.

Have students stand in a circle and put their arms straight out beside them until they are spaced pretty far apart.

Then, have the students sit down.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Raise your hand if you have ever played the game, “Hot Potato.”

The game we are about to play is a crazy, high-speed version of the game.

I have two potatoes—one is a happy potato, and the other one is sad.

When I say, “Go,” music will begin to play, and we will start passing one potato to the left and the other potato to the right.

Then, after a few seconds, the music will stop.

If you’re holding a potato when the music stops, I don’t want you to look at it.

Just hold it over your head.

I will take a look at the potatoes.

If you're holding the smiley face potato, you will remain in the game.

If you're holding the sad potato, then you are out of the game.

If you're out, you will move to the middle of our circle, and now, you are a mashed potato. 😊

Even though people will be missing from our circle, we won't make the circle smaller.

Everyone will stay where they are.

That means we will have gaps in our circle, but that's okay!

If there is a large space between you and the person beside you, just roll the potato to them.

Make sure not to throw the potato at any point during the game.

The last two people that are left in the game will exchange the potatoes back and forth until the music stops and the person left holding the frowny face potato is out of the game and the other person is the winner.

TEACH

Say: I don't know about you, but flies really annoy me.

Did you know there are 120,000 different types of flies?

That's a lot!

Here's another really big number.

For each person on Earth, there are 17 million flies.

There are trillions of flies all over the planet.

Ask: What is it that makes flies so annoying?

Allow a few responses from students.

All of the things you mentioned are true!

No one ever wants a fly to bother them, and sometimes it's like as soon as you get rid of one, another one appears!

They can really "bug" you.

But not only are flies annoying, sometimes people can be pretty aggravating too.

Here are some examples:

When your brother or sister takes something that belongs to you and doesn't give it back.

When there is one cookie left, and everyone knows you want it, but someone eats it anyway.

When you have practiced really hard to get better at something—like playing a sport or an instrument—and someone picks on you when you make a mistake.

Not only can those situations be annoying, but they require you to show patience with others.

Read Ephesians 4:2.

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Sometimes we need to be patient with others, but sometimes people have to be patient with us too!

Believe it or not, there are times when you might bug someone else, or say or do something that could bother them.

When you are patient with your friends, family, and even people you don't know, you are showing the kind of love that you want others to show you.

The beginning of that Bible verse says that we should be "humble and gentle."

When your family is bothering you, it's easy to get back at them.

The hard thing to do is to be gentle.

We have to humble ourselves and treat others the way we want to be treated.

The end of the Bible verse says, "making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."

That means you realize people aren't perfect.

It would be great if we were, but none of us are.

Making allowance means that you know, right now, you will need to be patient with others.

So, it doesn't come as a surprise when your little sister or brother draws in your favorite book because you already realize they are going to do things like that.

When you are patient with other people, you don't let the way they act get on your nerves so much.

That might mean you have to step away from being around people from time to time.

It also means that when someone is annoying, you pray for them—not that they won't be annoying, but that you can show love towards them.

And remember, God is patient with each of us because He loves us so much.

He never gives up on us, and He loves us no matter what.

We should pray that we can show others the kind of love that God has for us!

TITLE OF GAME: PEACE

Bible: 1 Peter 3:11 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- Sheets of Small Stickers
- Upbeat Music
- Small Prizes for winners of the game

GAME PREP

Take the sheets of stickers and cut them into sets of three.

Have students stand side-by-side in a straight line with their backs to you.

Next, have the students close their eyes and put their hands behind their backs.

Take a set of three stickers and put it in one student's hands.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Get ready to play a really awesome game!

I have just secretly put some stickers in someone's hands.

If it was you, don't tell anyone.

In fact, try to hide those stickers from everyone else.

When the music starts to play, you are going to try and put those stickers on other people's backs without them knowing that you've done it.

If someone sees you as you're putting the sticker on them, they will tag you, and then your turn is over.

If no one sees you and you can get rid of all of your stickers, then you win that round and you will get a prize.

Then, everyone will line up again and I will secretly put some stickers in someone else's hands.

Option: Give two students stickers to see who can get rid of their stickers the fastest and declare them as the winner of the round.

Play as many rounds of the game as you would like.

TEACH

Ask: Have you ever lost something and you couldn't find it anywhere?

Tell me what you were looking for and how you finally found it.

Allow a few responses from students.

Share a personal story of when you misplaced something and how you found it.

Raise your hand if you have ever seen a picture of a detective who is holding a magnifying glass to help him find something.

It isn't that they are using a magnifying glass to find something really tiny.

It's that it helps them focus on what they are looking for.

Have you ever noticed that you never realize something is lost until you need to use it?

That's usually how you realize something is missing.

But it's a great feeling when you find whatever you were looking for.

It's actually a really awesome feeling!

Read 1 Peter 3:11.

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

Let's take a look at this Bible verse and see what we can learn.

It starts by telling us to, "Turn away from evil and do good."

Ask: Why is it important to turn away from evil?

What are some "evil" things we might have allowed to be part of our lives?

Allow a few responses from students.

Most of us don't try to be evil; it's not something we really want to do.

But you actually have to turn away from evil, go in the opposite direction, and do good.

That means when you're on YouTube and a video comes on that you shouldn't be watching, you turn it off immediately, and turn your heart towards doing something godly.

When your friends start saying something that's inappropriate, you leave the conversation.

If you don't actively turn away from evil, then you will begin to do those "evil" things.

The next part of the scripture says to "search for peace."

Sometimes peace is hard to find; that's why we have to search for it.

We find peace when we seek after God and godly things.

And then we have to "work to maintain it."

Raise your hand if you have ever brushed your hair.

Okay, good—that's everyone!

You can't just brush it one time, look in the mirror, and think it's going to look good forever.

You have to maintain it and take care of it.

You even have to protect it from getting damaged—keep it away from your brother when he's holding scissors, keep it away from the campfire when you're roasting marshmallows—you get the idea.

The same is with peace in our lives.

Once we have it, we have to maintain it.

That means when you want to fight or argue, you realize that those actions will remove the peace in your life.

Ask: Can you think of any other things that might take your peace away?

Allow a few responses from students.

The entire world is searching for true peace that can only come from God.

Today, I want you to remember to seek after God, turn away from evil, do good, search for peace, and then maintain it in your life.

If you do those things, you will have peace in your heart, mind, and soul.

TITLE OF GAME: SELF-CONTROL

Bible: Proverbs 25:28 (NLT)

SUPPLIES

- 4 Packs of 50-count Solo Cups
- 20 Pieces of Paper
- Timer

GAME PREP

Divide students into two teams of equal size.

Give each team two packs of Solo cups and ten pieces of paper.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Raise your hand if you have ever played the game Jenga.

It takes a lot of control to pull out just one piece of wood without the entire tower falling down.

We're going to play our own version of Jenga with Solo cups and paper.

Here's how we will play.

Each of your teams have two packs of Solo cups and ten pieces of paper.

When I say, "Go," you will have four minutes to build a tower out of your cups.

The tower has to be at least as high as the tallest person on your team, and you have to use all of your cups.

Now, you can't just stack the cups on top of each other in one tall tower.

Your towers will need to go out and up—wide and tall.

You will also need to use all of the pieces of paper your team has been given.

In between different layers of cups, you will place a piece of paper, and then stack more cups on top of the paper.

After the four minutes is up, you will step away from your towers.

First, I will check and make sure that you have used all of your cups and paper.

Next, I will have the tallest person from each team stand by their team's tower.

If both teams have met the height requirement, then we will move onto the next part of the game.

If only one tower is tall enough, then that team automatically wins the game.

The next part of our game will be a little more difficult.

The team with the shortest tower will go first.

You will take a look at your tower and decide which piece of paper looks like it would be the easiest to pull out without the entire tower falling down.

Then, you will carefully remove that piece of paper.

If you can remove it without your tower falling down, then you will stay in the game and the next team will take their turn.

The game will continue until one of the team's towers falls down.

The last team with a tower still standing will win the game.

If both of the team's towers are standing at the end of the game, then you can declare a tied game.

TEACH

Say: You created some pretty cool towers!

In the Old Testament, we read about a city called, Jericho.

It wasn't a very large city (only about 6 acres), but it was surrounded by a giant wall.

The wall was about 5 feet thick and 12-17 feet tall.

Built into the wall was a tall tower where someone could stand watch for the city.

The wall helped protect the people who lived inside from flood waters and those who might try to attack the city.

If any part of the wall was damaged or started to deteriorate or fall down, it made the entire city vulnerable to the things that the wall was protecting it from.

Let's read a verse in the Bible that talks about the same idea.

Read Proverbs 25:28.

A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

Ask: Can anyone give me a good definition of “self-control?”

Allow a few responses from students.

Self-control means you can control yourself.

That sounds pretty simple!

It means that you don’t allow your emotions or desires to cause you to act in a way that you shouldn’t.

But sometimes it’s hard to have self-control.

We can’t control our actions without God’s help.

In the verse we just read, it says that a person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

We just talked about how important the walls of a city were.

They keep the people safe from outside danger.

If we don’t have self-control, then we are allowing the walls that guard our heart from sin to begin to break down.

Self-control keeps us from doing whatever we want.

We don’t just slap our brother or sister whenever we feel like they are annoying us.

Or copy our friend’s schoolwork.

Or smart off to our parents.

Or take something that doesn’t belong to us.

Instead, having self-control means we think about how our actions affect others.

We show love rather than being jealous of friends who might have more cool stuff than we do.

We think before we react to what people say, even when they are mean to us.

Self-control is possible with God's help.

Don't allow sin to enter your heart because the walls that protect you have been broken.

Pray and talk to your parents or a church leader about the areas that are hard for you to demonstrate self-control.

You can't have self-control without God, but with Him, you can do it!