Clean Hearts Game

Materials Needed

plenty of space to play an active game; rope, tape or chalk to mark a large heart and a starting line; objects to scatter in the heart shape, e.g. clothing, toys, scarves, cups, boxes, newspaper, etc.

Prepare in Advance

Choose a place with plenty of space to run, e.g. a gym, hallway, cleared classroom or field. Mark a large heart shape on the floor using rope, tape or chalk. Gather about five objects per child and scatter them all over the heart. Set up a "start" line about 6'(1.8m) from the point of the heart.

New Church Concept
Temptation

Temptation is induced by evil spirits who dwell with us in our evils and falsities; these spirits excite our evils and accuse us. But angels from the Lord, who dwell in our good intentions and truths, call forth the truths of faith that are with us, and defend us. See *Spiritual Experiences* 8960



The goal of this game is to remove "evils" or "sins" (various objects) from a large heart on the ground.

1. How do you feel when you've done something you know you shouldn't do? Does your heart pound? Do you get a lump in your throat? We are usually aware when we have deliberately done something wrong.
2. We're going to play a game that shows what we should do in our hearts when we have made a mistake like this: clean them up. The Lord tells us we must admit we're wrong, say we're sorry, ask for His help, and try to change our actions next time we're in the same situation.
3. **Large groups:** Divide children into two teams. Line teams up behind a start line about 6 feet (1.8 meters) from the pointed end of the heart. One child from each team will run to the heart, pick up an object, run the object back to the start line, and tag a team member to run to take another object from the heart. The game ends when all objects have been taken from the heart. The team with the most objects wins. If both teams have the same number of objects, the winning team is the first team to have all players back behind the starting line.
4. **Small groups:** Use a timer and play "beat the clock". Have one player at a time retrieve an object from the heart. Tag a classmate on re-reaching the "start" line. See how many objects can be removed within 30 seconds, one minute, etc.
5. How did it feel to clear all the objects? Imagine how happy the Lord feels when we remove bad feelings, thoughts and actions from ourselves! Doing this takes a life-time of work. And even angels in heaven do this work! The Lord wants us to keep trying to make our hearts clean so He can give us true happiness.

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