Learn by Doing

Choice Dive for Pearls



A simple team game invites children to "dive for pearls" in a tub of water. When a team has "won"10 pearls, the team exchanges all of their pearls for one "pearl of great price".

1. Have you ever looked for animals or shells in rock pools by the ocean or a lake? What kinds of things have you found?
2. Today we're going to play a team game in which we go "diving" for pearls. The "pearls" are in this large tub of water. To go diving you must throw a die and get a six. Divide the students into teams of 2-5 players.
3. Team members will each take a turn to throw the die, with all teams playing at the same time. When a player throws a six he or she runs to the tank and fishes for one pearl. (Your hands may *feel* more than one pearl, but you may take only one!)
4. If a member of another team throws a six right after you, he or she also runs to the tank. If they catch up and touch you before you have put your hands in the water you must return to your seat and continue to throw the die.
5. Once you have a pearl, run back and place the pearl in the center of your team. Continue to take turns throwing the die.
6. Once a team has 10 pearls, stop throwing the die and take all the pearls to the teacher to trade in for a "pearl of great price."
7. *For a longer game* use 2 dice. Children must throw a combination of six points (1+5, 2+4, 3+3), or a rarer combination (such as 6+6 or 1+1). *Or* increase the distance children must run. *Or* increase the number of pearls children must gather before trading them in for the "pearl of great price".

Materials Needed

Dice (one die per team of 2-5 children); 10 marbles or glass beads per team, one "pearl of great price" (a larger ball to play with *or* a white bag with snack treats inside), plastic tub, water

Prepare in Advance

Identify a space where children can toss dice and then run 10-20 feet to a plastic tub. Set up plastic tub with elbow-deep water in it. Sprinkle 10 marbles or glass beads in the bottom for each team playing.

New Church Concept Pearl of Great Price

"Pearls" stand for the knowledges of good and truth, for these are the truths of a natural person. "The one precious pearl" means the knowledge about the Lord and His Divine [nature]. "Going away he sold all that he had and bought it" means to reject what is one's own (proprium) in order to receive life from the Lord. See *Apocalypse Explained* 1044

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