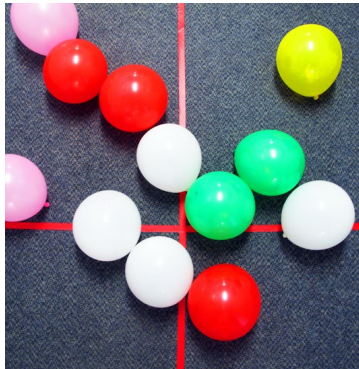


Learn by Doing

Choice

Eyes on the Prize

When life gets busy it can be hard to keep our “eyes on the prize”—heaven! If we are feeling busy with daily responsibilities and tempted by fun things to do, it’s difficult to keep eternal things in mind. Discover the truth about paying attention to our eternal goal through playing a four-square balloon game.



1. Divide students into four teams. Number off by standing in a circle and counting aloud. (1, 2, 3, 4, 1, etc.)
2. Assign each team to one area (quadrant) of the cross on the floor.
3. We will start with 2 balloons. One balloon will be in the Team 2 area; one will be in the Team 4 area. When I say “GO”, pass the balloons into another team’s area by hitting or carrying them as quickly as possible. **You must stay in your own area.**
4. When I blow the whistle play stops immediately and each team scores 1 point for every balloon in their area. We will play several short rounds. The team with the **lowest** score in the whole game wins. (To switch things up, have teams either sit or stand.)
5. Each round should last 20 to 40 seconds. After each round, add 3 more balloons to the game.
6. Once you’ve played 3 or 4 rounds and have more balloons than students, add the uniquely-colored balloon and tell the class that it is worth 10 points instead of 1. Play 2 more rounds.
7. Have all students sit for a discussion:
 - When was it easiest to ensure there were no balloons in your area?
 - When there were all sorts of balloons flying around, how easy was it to keep track of the 10 point balloon? Why? (During the activity, the balloon with 10 points gets lost because there are so many other balloons and a lot is happening, making it hard to stay focused.)
6. In the parable about the Great Supper, people were distracted by their worldly concerns—so much so that they couldn’t let go of them to attend the feast they had been invited to.
7. The special balloon is like the Word. It is easy to be distracted from reading it or doing what it teaches if worldly concerns feel more important and urgent.
8. What strategies might help change this situation? What does it take to love the Word, to want to read it? How do the choices we make support or challenge our ability to read the Word?

Materials Needed

40 balloons in a variety of colors; 1 balloon of a unique color; masking tape or painters’ tape to mark a four-square court; open floor space; whistle or bell; paper and pencil to keep score

Prepare in Advance

Use tape to make a cross on the floor in the middle of an open space. Blow up the balloons. Prepare score sheet.

New Church Concept Drawn to Heaven

The Lord continually withdraws people from evils so far as they are willing to be withdrawn, and leads them to heaven; but so far as they cannot be withdrawn from evils the Lord cannot lead them to heaven. For so far as people are withdrawn from evils so far they do good from the Lord, and that good is good in itself; but so far as they have not been withdrawn from evils, so far they do good from themselves, and that good has evil within it. See *Apocalypse Explained* 1162

