

Take Action: Putting Others First to Win

I Kings 17:7-15 The Widow Feeds Elijah

Although the widow had very little food, she was willing to feed Elijah, the Lord's prophet, before she fed herself and her son. Her service was rewarded with a bounty that lasted through the famine.

The following games are designed so that students will help each other succeed to achieve a common goal by putting others first. Choose one or two games that will work for your group. Play one or more game(s) and then talk about the difference between winning a competitive game, and winning as a cooperative team.

Don't Touch the Floor

Supplies: Balloons (1 per group)

Objective: Cooperation and teambuilding

Playing the game: Divide students into groups of 4-6 players. Give each group a balloon to inflate. Students will join hands to form a circle. Students must keep holding hands while batting the balloon into the air and preventing it from touching the ground. If the balloon touches the floor, the entire group loses the use of its hands and the play continues with students batting the balloon with other parts of the body—elbows, shoulders, heads, legs, thighs, etc. Each time the balloon hits the floor, the group will lose the ability to use an additional part of their body to bat the balloon. Group leader may choose to have the students set an additional goal—such as move the balloon from one side of the room to the other, or students may simply play in place for a set amount of time.



Hot Lava

Supplies: 20 paper plates, tape

Objective: Communication and teambuilding

Playing the game: In a large room or outdoor space, use the tape to mark two boundaries or areas (A and B) with a large space in between. Make up a story about the group being chased and needing to get across a field of hot lava. The lava is the area between areas A and B. Give each group about 1/3 the number of plates as people, and explain that when they step on the plates, they will not sink into the lava. The entire group must figure out a way to get the entire group from side A

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to side B, or from one side of the Hot Lava to the other. Only one person can be on a plate at a time, but the plates may be picked up and moved around. The key to successfully completing the game is that only part of the team will be able to cross the lava at a time, and that one team member will need to work their way back across the field to help the rest of the team across. Place a time limit on the game to enable discussion.

Puzzler

Supplies: Large floor puzzle (such as young children would use—or make one yourself out of a piece of cardboard), blindfolds

Objective: Communication and teamwork

Playing the game: Working with students in a large clear space, blindfold about half of your group members. After blindfolding, the remaining sighted team members will mix up parts of the puzzle to be constructed. They will then direct the blindfolded team members towards the puzzle pieces and verbally direct them to assemble the puzzle. Sighted team members are not allowed to touch pieces of the puzzle or blindfolded team members. If sighted team members touch a puzzle piece, the group must mix up any completed puzzle pieces and start again.

Talk About It:

1. What do “winning” and “success” mean? It may help to think about people you know who could be described as “successful” in life (such as professional athletes, government leaders, authors, famous musicians and actors). Why do you and/or others view them in this way?
2. What things contributed to the successful outcome of the games we just played?
3. In the story of the widow of Zarephath and Elijah the prophet (1 Kings 17: 7-15), Elijah helped the widow survive the famine by supplying endless oil and flour for her family. What had Elijah asked her to do so that this could happen?
4. In feeding Elijah before feeding herself and her son, the widow showed her own willingness to put the Lord (Elijah) before herself. In the measure that we treat other people well, we are putting the Lord first in our lives. Let’s think about some ways you can treat others with genuine kindness (give encouragement, give thanks, don’t criticize, forgive, smile, acknowledge others, celebrate another person’s happiness, etc.)
5. This week, come up with a set of goals for spiritual success. Set a simple goal, e.g. I’m going to listen to others before talking. Think about your goals as you go to bed, and keep in mind that each new day is a new beginning!