

SQUISH TOGETHER, RUN APART

ENERGY LEVEL: HIGH

LEVEL OF PREPARATION: NONE

WHAT YOU NEED

No supplies needed.

WHAT TO DO

Assemble the kids in an area with enough space to run. Explain that they will be playing a game where everyone will squish together and then run far apart.

Explain the rules. When a leader says, “Squish together,” the kids all move in close together around the leader. When a leader says, “Run apart,” the kids run far away from each other and spread out around the room. Demonstrate what is a safe amount to squish together, if necessary, so that nobody tries to push in too close. Play several rounds, coaching the kids on when they are supposed to squish together or run away from each other.

OTHER IDEAS

For larger groups, have several leaders stand in spots around the middle of the area, and assign some of the kids to each leader so that smaller amounts of kids are squishing together around several leaders.

For younger children, make this game slower, having the kids walk instead of run, allowing them to be more gentle by not getting too close when they squish together.

LESSON CONNECTION

You can play this game anytime, especially with lessons that mention friends and community, such as the early church.

MAKE A MISTAKE

ENERGY LEVEL: LOW

LEVEL OF PREPARATION: LOW

WHAT YOU NEED

Sticky notes or slips of paper, marker

PREPARE AHEAD

Write some silly nouns on the sticky notes or slips of paper that you can substitute in to surprise your kids during Bible memory. Some examples include: chicken, lollipop, robot, or broccoli.

WHAT TO DO

Gather the kids together, and explain that they will be playing a game where they need to spot the silly word when you are helping them say a Bible verse. Talk about the verse they are memorizing, and explain its meaning. Say the verse for them several times, and help them say it with you to begin to memorize it. After a while of working on the verse with your children, say, “Listen, I’m going to say the verse, but part of it will be wrong. See if you can tell me the part that’s wrong.” Then pull out one of your slips of paper or sticky notes, and add that word to your verse instead of one of the nouns in the verse. Try to find a place in the verse to do this that allows for it to be memorable yet tasteful. Say the verse with the modified word, and let the kids guess what the correct word should be instead. Play several rounds, and end the game by saying the verse correctly one last time.

LET THE CHILDREN COME

ENERGY LEVEL: MEDIUM

LEVEL OF PREPARATION: LOW

WHAT YOU NEED

Picture of Jesus, picture of a stop sign, tape

Note—You can copy the images at the back of the book instead of making your own.

PREPARE AHEAD

Tape the picture of Jesus to one wall of your area.

WHAT TO DO

Invite your preschoolers to join you in your play area, lining up on one side of the room across from the picture of Jesus. Tell them that they will be playing a game that involves trying to get from one side of the room to the other side. Remind them of the story about the disciples trying to stop the little children from coming to Jesus and how He told them to let the children come to him. Show them the picture of Jesus on the wall, and explain that they will get to take steps toward it but that you will hold up the stop sign at various intervals and make them stop, just like the disciples told the children to stop. If you have enough leaders, you can also designate one leader to play Jesus and another leader to play a disciple. These leaders will stand together at the opposite side of the room. Have the kids line up on one side of the room. To start, say, “Let the children come to Jesus!” The kids can then run, walk, hop, or skip towards Jesus. When you hold up the stop sign and say, “Stop!” the children must freeze in place. Repeat this sequence until all the kids reach Jesus. Repeat and make it fun and challenging for the children to know what to do next as they cross the room. End the game by telling them that Jesus cared about the children in the story, and Jesus cares about them too!

LESSON CONNECTION

This game works best when done with a Bible lesson about Jesus and children.



JESUS



STOP SIGN