

Ashes,

ashes...

Description:

nursery rhyme games with mission-oriented words

Aim: teach that kids can do missions, too

Audience: 2-5 year olds, any size class with adequate helpers

Time:

5 minutes each

Equipment:

inflatable globe

Scripture to Study:

Luke 18:28-30

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Leader's Instructions:

Here are familiar games, revised to teach basic mission concepts to preschoolers. Play them often. Instead of nonsensical rhymes, children will memorize valuable life lessons.

Game #1 Reach Around the World

(Ring Around the Rosie)

Equipment Needed: 36" inflatable globe*

Pre-class Preparations:

Inflate your beach ball-sized globe. Play this game to the tune of 'Ring Around the Rosie'. Only here the children actually learn something useful. It just might stick in their heads for the rest of their lives when you play it week after week!

*Reach around the world.
Tell each boy and girl,
God sent Jesus,
To save each one!*

Class Time:

1. Put the inflatable beach-ball-sized globe* in the middle of the circle. (Improvise with a map if you need to.)
2. Children join hands, walk or skip around the globe and sing the song above.
3. Everyone quickly sits down on the last word. Send the child who sits down last into the center of the circle. He or she goes to the globe and you show him or her where you are. (A little geography lesson here.)
4. Have the child put a finger on your location and everyone repeats after you: "People in (_____) need to know," *pause* "that God sent Jesus to save them."
5. The first child stays in the center and keeps his or her finger on that spot while you sing the song again, circling the world. The last child to sit down this time is also sent to the

center, but can choose a place to put his or her finger. (Help with choosing land. Only whales, dolphins and such creatures live in the blue areas! More geography lessons.) Read the country chosen and have everyone repeat after you; “People in (_____) need to know,” *pause* “that God sent Jesus to save them.”

5. Play again and again until the outer circle contains too few children to stretch around the group of children touching the globe in the center.

**At the time of this revision (late 2006), these sturdy globes were available through many teacher supply stores, ‘Wide World of Maps’ at www.maps4u.com and Oriental Trading Company at www.orientaltrading.com. Several catalogs carry similar ones, too.*

Game #2 One Child Prays (Peas Porridge Hot)

Pre-class Preparations: None

*One child prays.
One child gives.
Kids can tell th’world,
Jesus lives!*

*Prayer does work!
And money helps pay,
T’send God’s Word out,
Every day!*

Class Time:

1. Divide the children by pairs, sitting opposite each other or standing face-to-face.
2. As when playing ‘Peas Porridge Hot, Peas Porridge Cold’, repeat the words while clapping rhythmically as follows:

Notes:

Notes:

Verse 1

One: Both hands clap on your own upper thighs

child: clap both hands in front of chest

prays: 'high five' clap both hands with your partner

One: both hands clap on your own upper thigh

child: clap both hands in front of chest

gives: 'high five' clap both hands with your partner

Kids: Both hands clap on your own upper thigh

can: clap both hands in front of chest

tell: 'high five' clap one hand with your partner

th'world: 'high five' clap other hand with partner

Je-: Both hands clap on your own upper thigh

sus: clap both hands in front of chest

lives: 'high five' clap both hands with your partner

Verse 2

Repeat identical motions for the second verse as for the first, saying 'T'send' on one action as you did with 'th'world' in verse 1.

3. Speed up the verse and clapping when children become familiar with the words and gain coordination. By the end of the year, some will be able to speed along. Be careful! Teachers might have to work hard to keep up.
4. Send copies of these instructions home with parents for playtime at home, if you like. Siblings can also enjoy this simple activity anytime on their own.

Drama Team Option (four-five year olds)

Notes:

Can preschoolers do drama? In its simplest form, yes! Add this facet to 'One Kid Prays' and turn the familiar clapping game into a presentation for your yearly mission conference. (Projecting the words with an overhead or PowerPoint will help adults understand, just in case little voices don't ring out very loudly.) After you have done the clapping game enough times that the class can do it easily, move on to the frozen statues below.

1. Choose the natural 'hams' in your class to play the frozen statues. In a small class, use 3 frozen statues. A larger class can use 6 frozen statues. Older preschoolers find this task easier than younger ones.
2. All frozen statues line up in front of the pairs of clappers. They begin as frozen statues, with their backs turned to the audience. As each of their assigned phrases begins, they unfreeze for the blink of an eye, whirl around and strike their pose listed below, freezing again immediately.
3. Help statues perform exaggerated actions as a mime might do. Teacher may have to lend a hand in the beginning, signaling statues when to turn and play their part. After a few weeks, it will become apparent which children are your best statues and which are best at clapping.

Words

One child prays:

One child gives:

*Kids can tell the
world Jesus lives!*

Prayer does work!

*Money helps pay,
T'send God's Word
Out every day*

Statue's Action

head bowed, hands folded in prayer

both hands extended at arm's length

hands cupped around mouth, head up

big smile, looking up, arms out high
reach into pocket, extend wad of cash
hold up large Bible (the only prop)

Notes:

Game #3 God Has Things for Kids to Do

(London Bridge is Falling Down)

Pre-class Preparations: None

Verse 1

*God has things for kids to do,
kids to do,
kids to do.*

*God has things for kids to do,
kids who love Him.*

Verse 2

*Where's the one who loves the Lord,
loves the Lord,
loves the Lord?*

*Where's the one who loves the Lord?
Is it you?*

(Capture one child.)

Verse 3

*Pray and give and tell the world,
tell the world,
tell the world.*

*Pray and give and tell the world,
Jesus loves them!*

Class Time:

1. Choose two children to hold hands and form an archway for all the other children to file under in a large circle, just like with 'London Bridge is Falling Down'. Sing Verse 1 while everyone walks through the archway.
2. When you sing the final line of Verse 2, "Is it you?" have the archway children bring their arms down and capture

the child who happens to be walking underneath at the moment.

3. While singing Verse 3, the two archway children step to the right and left, gently jostling the captured child. They release the captured one as everyone sings the final line, "Jesus loves them."
4. The captured and then released child takes the place of one archway child and the game starts over. (The replaced child, who used to be half of the archway, now joins the line filing under the arch. After a second round, the other original archway child will be replaced, too, and so on.)
5. Teachers and helpers should encourage children to capture someone who has not been captured already. If the same children are chosen over and over, it's just no fun. Help them spread the joy around.
6. Before, during and after, talk with the children about concepts in the game:
 - Can preschoolers really tell the world?
Where does 'the world' begin and end?
Can preschoolers tell any part of the world right now?
Neighbors? Friends? Family?
 - Can preschoolers give offerings to pay for missionaries to go to faraway places?
To send Bibles to those who have none?
Are there other mission uses for offering?
 - Can preschoolers pray?
Does God answer?
 - Why did God make each of us?
Ephesians 2:10 (God made us to do good works which He planned before we were born!)

Notes: