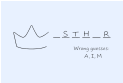
Games and Review Activities



Overview

Children (and many adults) love to play games and participate in activities. These activities can be used to enhance learning and enjoy fellowship together. God made people to enjoy connection with other people, and playing games is a great way to have fun and build connections with others.

Games are also a great way to review what has been learned. A review activity or game allows the children to play while, at the same time, reflect and remember.

Choose a variety of activities so children with different kinds of skills feel good about participating. If games include both skill and chance, then everyone has a chance to win. As a rule, I don't give out prizes for games. We play for the fun of it in my lessons.

1. Answer Circle
2. Artistic Review
3. Bible Verse Drill
4. Bible Wordz
5. Bottlecap Word Puzzles
6. Describe the Character (with Cards)
7. Drawing Out an Idea
8. Dress-up Review
9. Finger Puppet Review
10. Freeze!
11. Guess the Character (blindfolded)
12. Guess the Bible Word (Hangman)
13. Keep Them Guessing
14. Memory Game Match-Up
15. Memory Roll (Dice Game)
16. Parent Participation
17. Pass the Parcel
18. Press Conference
19. Puppet Review
20. Puzzle Hunt
21. Spinner Game
22. Story with Sound Effects
23. Teacher, Teacher
24. What's in the Bag?
25. Who's Holding the Bag?
26. Win, Lose or Draw
27. Word Scramble
28. X and O Review Game
29. True or False Toss
30. Bible Character Charades Game

1. Answer Circle

Materials:

A small object, such as a bean bag or a soft toy

Description:

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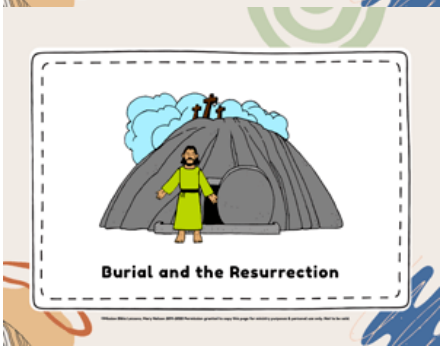
Children sit in a circle and pass a small object (such as a bean bag or soft toy) from one person to the next, moving around the circle. Either you or one of the children should turn your back on the group. Wait a few moments, then clap your hands or ring a bell and turn back to the group. The children should stop passing the object when they hear the sound. The child holding the object when you clap your hand must answer a Bible question.

2. Artistic Review



Materials:

Printed pictures from Bible stories you have learned together. A timeline illustration for every lesson on this website can be accessed through the Printables section.

Description:

Print a picture from each story you have recently covered and ask the children to put them in chronological order.

3. Bible Verse Drill

Materials:

Bibles

Description:

Conduct “Bible drills” where you call out a scripture reference (book, chapter, verse), and the children race to find it in their own Bible and read it aloud. The first child to correctly read the verse wins. Keep in mind that some children in the group have never been taught how to look up a verse in the Bible. Take the time to show them the table of contents, names of the Bible books, chapters (big numbers) and verse numbers (little numbers). Even very young children like to look up Genesis 1:1.

4. Bible Wordz

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Materials:

Letter tiles

Description:

In this adaptable game, children form words from letter tiles. The words relate to words found in the Bible lesson. Bible Wordz instructions here.

5. Bottlecap Word Puzzles

Materials:

Bottle caps and a waterproof marker (like a Sharpie pen)

Description:

Bottle caps can be used to create fun word puzzles that help children focus on important words in a Bible lesson.

Individual letters of the alphabet are written on bottle caps.

Children use these letters to form words from the Bible story they have just learned about. This can be done from memory or children can find words in an open Bible.

Keep the letters and use the puzzles over and over. Find instructions and examples here.

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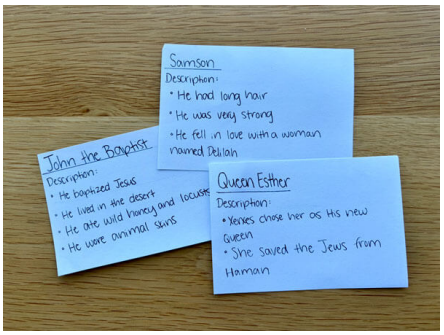
6. Describe the Character (with Cards)

Materials:

Index cards or paper and a pen

Description:

One child gives clues about a Bible character so that the other children can guess which character they are describing.



Prepare the game by writing names of individual Bible characters on cards (one character per card). Below the name, include a description of the character and perhaps a little of what happened in the story. To play, children take turns choosing a card and reading the description out loud. The other children must guess who the character is.

Variations:

- For younger children (or any non-readers) draw a picture of the character on the card instead of writing the name and clues.
- To make the game more challenging, write the name only and let the children think of their own clues.
- Only use characters from a Bible story you have recently taught about.
- Include obscure characters or even animals in a story (innkeeper or the donkey)

7. Drawing Out an Idea

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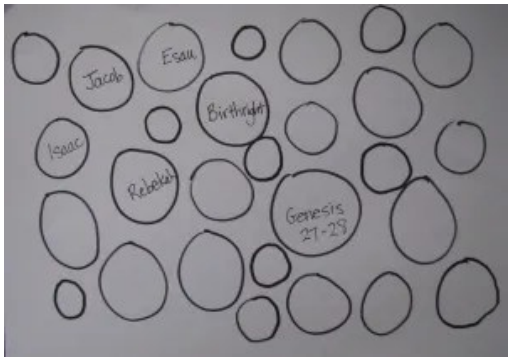

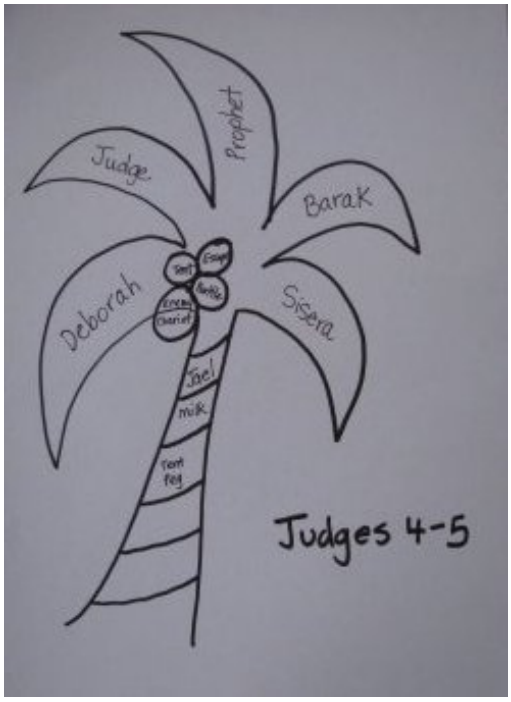

Materials:

Pen or pencil and paper. Alternatively, a whiteboard or chalkboard could be used.

Description:

This simple teaching tool gives the teacher and the children an opportunity to participate together in discovering the important words and ideas in a Bible story.

The teacher or the children draw shapes on the paper. The shapes can relate to the story if desired.

Working together, participants fill in the spaces with words and phrases that relate to the story you have just studied together.

Click here for more examples and instructions for Drawing Out an Idea.

8. Dress-up Review

Materials:

Costume for a Bible character (use a pillowcase, tie, towel, etc.)

Description:

Dress up as a Bible character and tell the Bible story from that character's point of view. Your costume might be as simple as a towel or pillowcase on your head with a man's tie for a headband. You could also let the children take turns being the characters.

9. Finger Puppet Review

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Materials:

Pen, small cloth or rubber band (optional)

Description:

Use a pen to draw a simple face on your finger. Use this as a puppet to tell the story or ask the children review questions. You could also “dress up” the character with a small cloth for a head covering or a man’s headdress. You could use a rubber band as a headband to secure the fabric. You have ten fingers, so you could be ten characters if you have the talent!

10. Freeze!

Materials:

Paper, pencil

Description:

Before the lesson, write various Bible scenes or life application scenes on pieces of paper. During the lesson, each child will get a piece of paper. When it is their turn, the child reads what their assigned scene is. When you say “go,” the child starts acting out the scene. When you say “freeze,” they should stop where they are and hold the position. At this time, everyone can guess which scene they are acting out.

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11. Guess the Character (blindfolded)

Materials:

Paper, pencil, blindfold (use a cloth, scarf, handkerchief, etc.)

Description:

Write the names of the main characters in the lesson’s story on slips of paper (or show their pictures if the children are too young to read). Blindfold one child. Hold up the name of one of the characters so that the other children know which one it is. Let the children give hints to the blindfolded person so they can guess which character it is.

12. Guess the Bible Word (Hangman)

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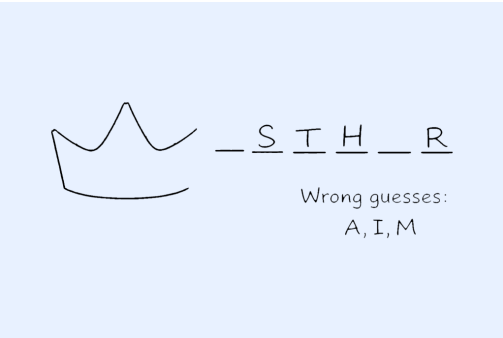
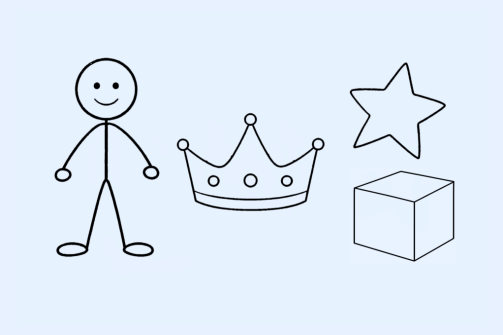




Materials:

Paper or whiteboard, pencil or whiteboard marker

Description:

This less-morbid version of the classic “hangman” game will help reinforce Bible words in a fun and interactive way. This game can be adapted to any Bible lesson. For a change, you can try using different pictures that relate to the story instead of drawing gallows. For example, when studying manna and quail, you could add parts to a quail (head, body, wings, beak) when an incorrect letter is chosen. More “Guess the Bible Word (Hangman)” instructions here.

13. Keep Them Guessing

Materials:

Items related to the lesson that you want to hide

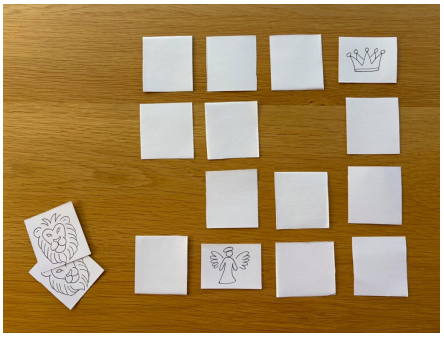
Description:

In this guessing game, children are given clues to guess story-related items that are hidden from view. This can help create interest in what the Bible story is about before the lesson even begins. Instructions and examples here.

14. Memory Game Match-Up

Materials:

Pictures printed on paper, scissors



Description:

Print or draw pairs of cards depicting words or pictures from the story you have covered. Cut the cards into equal sizes, like playing cards. Make sure the paper you use is thick enough that the word or picture cannot be seen through the paper. Lay all the cards on a flat surface such as a table. The cards should be facing down.

Children take turns turning over two cards at a time. If the cards do not match, then they turn them back over. The next child then takes a turn, turning over two cards. If any child turns over two cards that match, then they take that pair of cards off the board and get to have another turn. The player who has gathered the most pairs of cards by the end of the game wins.

Variation: Write a question on one card and the answer on another. This becomes a pair, and children have to turn over matching pairs of questions and answers.

15. Memory Roll (Dice Game)

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Materials:

One six-sided die, prepared activities (see below)

Description:

Before the lesson, think of actions or activities that go along with whatever you are reviewing. Assign a number 1-6 to each activity. Children can take turns rolling die to see which activity to perform. Examples might be to roll a six and recite the memory verse or roll a three and name a character from the story. More instruction for this game here.

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16. Parent Participation

Materials:

Parents or adults!

Description:

Invite parents or other adult guests to join the group for games. In addition, children can demonstrate what they have learned. Children love to have competitions with adults.

17. Pass the Parcel

Materials:

Wrapped gift, paper instructions, prize

Description:

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This great kids' party game can be adapted to any lesson! A wrapped gift is passed from child to child until the music stops. The child holding the gift unwraps it and finds instructions on a card. The child completes the action, and then the music starts again. This is repeated until a final wrapped prize is revealed. Instructions for this game.

18. Press Conference

Materials:

Microphones and costumes (optional)Description:

Description:

Description:

Conduct a "Press Conference" with one or more children acting the parts of the main characters in the story. The rest of the students can be reporters asking questions you have prepared. For fun, provide microphones or costumes (they can be toys or makeshift props)

19. Puppet Review

Materials:

Hand Puppet

Description:

Use a hand puppet to tell or review the story from a different point of view. For example, if you were reviewing the story of Daniel and the Writing on the Wall, try telling the story from the point of view of Daniel, Belshazzar or even – with great imagination – one of the cups.

20. Puzzle Hunt

Materials:

Picture coloured in or printed with colour, scissorsDescription:

Description:

Before the lesson, colour a picture depicting the story and cut it into jigsaw puzzle-type pieces. Hide the pieces around the room. At a suitable time during the lesson, have the children hunt for the picture and put the puzzle together. You could do the same thing by writing letters of a word or parts of a phrase and hiding them. Have the children find them and then put them together.

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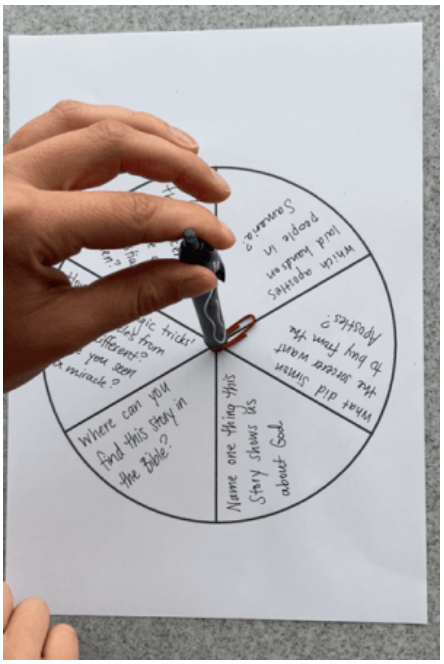
21. Spinner Game



Materials:

Paper, pencil or pen, paper clip

Description:

Create your own game by drawing a circle on a piece of paper and drawing lines to divide it into equal wedges (like a pizza). Write a question on each wedge. Use a pen or pencil to hold a paper clip down in the centre of the circle. Spin the clip around. Whichever wedge the paper clip points to is the question the children answer. Click here for complete instructions.

22. Story with Sound Effects

Materials:

None

Description:

Let one of the children retell the story while the other children provide sound effects.

23. Teacher, Teacher

Materials:

None

Description:

Children take turns “teaching” the group. They can take your place and ask the group review questions.

24. What’s in the Bag?

Materials:

Review questions on paper, bags/boxes/containers, prizes, and number labels

Description:

Write a list of review questions. For this example, write 20 questions and number them 1 to 20. Collect 20 bags, boxes or any other containers (they don’t need to match). Put a little prize in each container. The prizes don’t need to be elaborate (I always throw in some “special” ones and some silly ones).

Attach a number (from 1-20) on each container. Question number 1 will correspond to container 1, question 2 will correspond to container 2, etc.

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One at a time, each child gets a chance to choose one bag. If they choose bag number 5, then read question number 5. If they answer the question correctly, they get to keep what is in the bag. If they get it wrong, then it goes back into the pile. Other children will choose the same bag (and the same question) later. This allows you to throw in some tough questions.

25. Who's Holding the Bag?

Materials:

Bag, questions prepared to ask during the game

Description:

Children sit in a circle or around a table. The bag will be passed from child to child around the circle as the teacher sings a song or plays music. Whoever is holding the bag when the song stops must answer a question about the story. Once the child has answered, the song starts again, and the bag continues to be passed around. Instructions and a video example found here.

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26. Win, Lose or Draw

Children take turns drawing pictures while the other children guess what they are drawing.

Materials:

Paper, pencil, whiteboard (optional), timer (watch or phone)

Description:

- To Prepare: Write simple phrases from the story on small pieces of paper(one phrase per paper). For example, if you were studying the parables of Jesus, you would write phrases like "The Lost Sheep", "Wise Man", "Salt of the Earth or Treasure". Fold the papers and place them in a container.
- To Play:
  - A child chooses one of the papers and looks at the phrase.
  - Set the time for one minute (or longer if you wish). When you say "go" the child has one minute to draw pictures on the whiteboard while the rest of the group guesses what they are drawing.
  - The child who is drawing cannot talk, write words or numbers, or signal with their hands while drawing.

27. Word Scramble

Materials:

Paper, pencil

Description:

Scramble phrases or words from verses and write them on paper before the lesson starts. Let the children work in teams to unscramble the phrases. For Example: "het slot eehps" is "The Lost Sheep."

28. X and O Review Game

Materials:

Bible, pencil or pen, scissors, paper, coloured paper or game markers, small bag, bowl or basket

Description:

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This simple game is a great way to review a Bible story. Children list words and ideas and then play a game similar to “tic-tac-toe” or “noughts and crosses.” Each child can prepare their own game board to take home later, or alternatively, the game can be done as a group. This game can be played over and over and adapted to any Bible story. Instructions here.

29. True or False Toss

Materials:

An object to toss, such as a beanbag or a ball

Description:

In this activity, children determine whether a statement is true or false and then toss an object into a container to score a point. Complete instructions for this game here.

30. Bible Character Charades Game

Materials:

- Small papers
- Pencil or Pen
- A container such as a bowl, basket or bag, to place the papers in.

Description:

Help children learn and remember Bible characters in a fun and active way. One child acts out the character and the other children guess which Bible character they are portraying. Full Charades instructions.

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