**Fun with Games**

Why Games?

Games can be used to Release Energy, teach a lesson, and Unify the group.

We are made In God’s Image:

Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in *his own image*.

   In the image of God he *created* them;

   male and female he *created* them.

I am created in God’s Image that makes me a Creative person.

This scripture was written right after God created all the earth. If we are made in His image, we have His creativity. So what’s stopping you?

The best way to learn is from each other.

3 Types of Games I feel are valuable:

Let It Loose:

Energetic game to involve everyone to get energy out and regain focus.

* Start with it
* Use it at a time they are very wiggly and not listening
* End the lesson with it to leave them in an exciting way

Example: Balloon Game

Unify :

Games that promote togetherness. This can be done through large group games that help them interact in a way they might not have naturally or in small groups to help connect their interests.

* Enjoy each other’s company
* learn to work together
* meet new people

Example: Connection

Make  It  Stick :

A game to make your point understood and fun. A time to help them apply what you are talking about in a way they will not forget.

* End the game with an explanation to connect it to the lesson
* Ask questions to make them think and connect the game to the lesson

Example: Capture the treasure

**Example Games:**

Capture the Treasure:

Separate the kids into 2 teams. Put a bucket of 10 paper balls on each side in one corner. Make a barrier around the balls, a circle about 6 feet from the balls. Only one person of the team can stand guard on the outside of that 6 foot circle.  In the other corner, put a 6 foot circle that will be the jail. Make a line in the center of the field. The idea is that you want to run to the other side and steal their balls. But, if you are on their side, they can tag you and put you in prison. Once you put your hand on a ball, you are safe to walk back to your side. You can only take one ball at a time. A team mate may go and rescue their teammate from prison. Once they have made it safe to the prison, they may both walk back without being tagged. They may only take one prisoner at a time.

Let the kids play as long as they want then call “Time” and stop the game. The team with the most balls in their circle wins.

Let this be an intro to today’s lesson, Ask the kids: “How did you like your balls being stolen? It’s not fun when things are taken from us. How did it feel to be captured when you were working hard to complete a mission? It’s not easy when things get taken and when we get stopped. Did some of you get a bad attitude when it didn’t go your way? Who had a positive attitude even when they did not have the most balls? We are going to learn from a man who had everything taken away from him but still he praised God. We need to learn no matter what happens around us we should always praise God.”

Say the main point together.

Connection:

The purpose of this game is to help them get to know other kids and see how we have things in common. You are going to call out a certain theme and they must make groups with the people who this applies to them. Examples: find everyone who has the same birthday month, same amount of siblings, how long you have been in children’s ministry, close to the same height, people with same color shirt.

Balloon game:

Throw out as many balloons as you want and tell them they must keep them up in the air as long as they can. If it lands on the ground they must not pick it back up. They must stay seated at all times. When you call “Time”, they must catch any balloon still in the air and then hold it high so you can count how many stayed in play. Optional: Whoever catches the balloon, have them come up and continue a game that could go with the theme of your lesson.

Websites with game ideas:

<http://www.campaugusta.org/Partnering/Play_Serious/Games/games.html#Active>

<https://www.pinterest.com/>

<http://ministry-to-children.com/childrens-church-games/>