



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

THESSAL-NOSE-ANS

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need a long banquet table, petroleum jelly, cotton balls, and 4 paper plates.

Have kids get in groups of five to eight (great for full grade group), and put a dab of petroleum jelly on the end of each person's nose. For each group, set a plate of cotton balls on one end of the table, and set a second empty plate on the opposite end of the table for each group. The goal of each team is to get all the cotton balls from the first plate to your team's empty plate at the other end of the table. Only one person can go at a time, and you must use only your nose to pick up the cotton balls. If the cotton drops from the nose, they have to start over.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:11

So comfort each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read aloud scripture passage above.
2. Explain **"Let's use this game to practice encouraging others. This is going to be tough, so cheer on your teammates as much as you can. Shout encouraging words, clap, and chant for your teammates."**
3. Review the directions of the game with your group.
4. Take time to discuss the questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- When it was your turn to race, what encouraged you to do your best?
- What ways did you notice others encouraging their teammates?
- Who in your life might need a little extra encouragement this week?
- How can we "build each other up" at school, home, or church?
- What are some kind words or actions we can use to show God's love to others?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

SNOWBALL FIGHT

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need newspapers, masking tape, a timer, and disposable wipes. Create an area that resembles a volleyball court with one center line. Divide your group into two and have each group line up on opposing lines of the court.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 1:18

The Lord says, "Come, we will talk these things over. Your sins are red like deep red cloth. But they can be as white as snow. Your sins are bright red. But you can be white like wool."

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Say:
 - a. **Form two groups, and head to the opposites sides of this court.**
 - b. **Each team has an equal amount of newspaper. On my signal, make newspaper "snow" balls and quickly throw them back and forth at the opposing team for two minutes. The object is to get more "snow" on the opponent's side when time's up.**
3. At the end of the game, have kids collect the newspaper and place it in your church's recycle bin.
4. Have kids clean their hands with disposable wipes.
5. Leave time to discuss the questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- What did your hands look like after the snowball fight?
- How is the newspaper like sin?
- How are the wipes like God's grace?
- What Sacrament are like the wipes? How did you feel before/after that Sacrament?



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BEATITUDES BOWLING

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need two balls and eight Beatitude pins made from empty water/soda bottles or something similar. Write the Beatitude # on each container.

Line up the Beatitude pins in a straight line. Determine a bowling line about 6 feet away from pins. Divide class into 2 teams. Have teams line up in a straight line. The first two people in their team's line get a ball and stand at the predetermined bowling line. Catechist reads a Beatitude prompt (see other side). The two people bowling must roll their ball to try to knock down the pin that the Beatitude statement is about. They may consult their team members for help at which pin to target. They must say "Blessed are the _____" as they roll their ball. One point for the team IF they are successful at knocking the right one down (if other pins are knocked down that is OK.) Pins are reset and then the next people in line get to bowl.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)

Jesus saw the crowds and went up on a mountainside to teach. He said: "Blessed are those who are kind, peaceful, and merciful. Blessed are those who do what is right and love God with all their hearts. God will reward them with love, comfort, and joy."

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain the game rules list above.
3. Read one of the Beatitude prompts on the back of this sheet. Continue to play the game until everyone has had a turn or until rotation time.
4. Leave time at the end for discussion questions.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- Can you name a time when you were kind or peaceful?
- How do you think Jesus feels when we follow the Beatitudes?
- Which Beatitude do you think is the easiest to follow? The hardest?
- How can we live out the Beatitudes at school or at home?
- Why do you think Jesus called these people "blessed"? What does that teach us about God's kingdom?



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BEATITUDES BOWLING

Forgiving and kind to those who have harmed us. [Merciful]

Determined to help everyone get along and not fight. [Peacemakers]

Living with clean thoughts, words, and desires. [Clean of Heart]

Never being snotty to others and being patient when others get the attention. [Meek]

Laughed at when you move a recycling item from the regular garbage to the recycling bin. [Persecuted for the sake of Righteousness]

Participating in a march against an unjust law. [Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness]

Being sad when you sin and then promise to do better. [Mournful]

Living putting your faith fully in God and knowing power comes from him. [Poor in Spirit]

Standing up to a bully who is name calling someone on the bus. [Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness]

Reading from the Bible and trying to use the Scriptures as a guideline for thought. [Clean of Heart]

Being teased by your classmates that you are trying to be the teacher's pet when you clean up the work tables for her without being asked. [Persecuted for the sake of Righteousness]



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DISCIPLE TAG

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need one pool noodle that's been cut in half at least one group of five children.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:27-28

Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ. Then whether I come and visit you or am away from you, I will hear good things about you. I will hear that you continue strong with one purpose and that you work together as a team for the faith of the Good News. And you will not be afraid of those who are against you. All of these things are proof from God that you will be saved and that your enemies will be lost

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Choose two kids to be the first disciple to tag and give them each one of the noodle pieces. Explain that you'll use this game to discuss the benefits of teamwork and that God calls us to work together and not against each other; to build one another up working for a common goal: working together as Disciples to share the Good News
3. **Say, "we'll work as a team in this game. Our disciples will chase everyone else and try to tag you with a noodle and share the Good News. If you're tagged, you become part of the team of disciples and must hold hands with the person who just tagged you. The person who was tagged will then get the noodle and you'll work with the rest of the disciples to tag others, handing off the noodle piece to the person you tag. Students must keep their hands held. The object is to be the last person tagged. Make the disciples really work for it."**
4. Check for understanding; then let kids play.
5. Take time to review the discussion questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- Explain what you enjoyed more—trying to escape being tagged or being part of the team of disciples.
- What did you do to work as a team in this game?
- What do you like or not like about working with a team?
- Read aloud the scripture passage again. Ask:
 - What do you think about being one of God's disciples?
 - What do you look forward to? What challenges might you expect?



CREATION RELAY RACE

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You will need a blindfold and all the items to complete each task. Form two teams and indicate the goal line. Give each team a copy of the instructions (copies will be placed at the center for your use). Tell teams they're to race to complete 7 steps representing the days of creation. A different person in each team must perform each step.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-2:4

In the beginning, everything was dark. Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light! He called the light "day" and the dark "night." That was the first day. On the second day, God made the sky above the earth. He looked at it and said, "That's good!" Next, on the third day, God gathered the waters into oceans and made dry land appear. Then He filled the land with trees, flowers, and plants. God saw it all and said, "It is good." On the fourth day, God made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars for the night. He smiled at His creation—it was good! On the fifth day, God filled the oceans with fish and the sky with birds. He saw them swimming and flying and said, "That's good too!" Then, on the sixth day, God made animals to live on the land—everything from tiny ants to big elephants. Last, He made people to care for everything He had created. He said, "This is very good!" On the seventh day, God rested and enjoyed all that He had made.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above before starting the game.
2. Review the rules of the game listed above. Remember that each group must shout the correct phrase after each relay and include "It is good!"
3. Spend time discussion the question(s) below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- How can we help take care of God's creations?
- Why do you think God said, "It is good" after each thing He made?
- How does it feel to know that God created YOU on purpose?
- God rested on the seventh day. Why do you think rest is important?



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CREATION RELAY RACE

Creation Tasks to Complete



Lead a blindfolded person to the goal line to represent night. At the goal line, have the person remove his or her blindfold to represent day and return to your starting place. Everyone shout, "Day one! It is good!"



Carry a small container of water to the goal line, drink it, and run back to represent water and sky. Everyone shout, "Day two! It is good!"



Carry a handful of dirt to the goal line to represent the earth. Make a small hill with it and then return. Everyone shout, "Day three! It is good!"



Carry chalk to the goal line. Draw a sun, moon, and star in the dirt to represent the lights. Return and everyone shout, "Day four! It is good!"



With two pieces of paper, make a bird to represent flying creatures. Carry the bird to the goal line, leave it, and return. Everyone shout, "Day five! It is good!"



Using small sticks, make a human figure to represent humankind. Carry the person to the goal line, leave it, and return. Everyone shout, "Day six! It is good!"



All teammates run to the goal line and sit in a circle. Everyone shout, "Day seven! Day of rest!"



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TEN COMMANDMENT TOSS

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need 12-15 balls and ten buckets each numbered 1-10 for each of the Commandment.

Line up the buckets in a straight line. Determine a throwing line about 6 feet away from pins. Divide class into 2 teams, have teams line up in a straight line. The first two people in their team's line get a ball and stand at the predetermined line. Catechist reads a Commandment prompt (see other side). The two people throwing must throw their ball to the correct bucket that the statement is about. They may consult their team members for help at which bucket to target. One point for the team IF they are successful at getting the ball in the right bucket.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke these words: I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves. Don't have any gods except Me. Don't make idols or statues to worship. Only worship Me, not things you can see or make. Don't use My name in a bad or careless way. Always speak God's name with love and respect. Keep the Sabbath day holy. Work for six days, but rest on the seventh day and spend time with God. Honor your father and mother. Love and obey them, so you will have a good, long life. Don't hurt others. God wants us to care for one another. Be faithful to your husband or wife. Keep your promises in your family. Don't steal. Respect what belongs to others. Don't lie. Always tell the truth. Don't be jealous of what other people have. Be thankful for your own blessings.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain the rules listed above.
3. Read one of the prompts on the back of this sheet. Continue to play the game until everyone has had a turn or until rotation time.
4. Leave time at the end for discussion questions.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- Why do you think God gave us the Ten Commandments?
- Which commandment do you think is the easiest to follow? Why?
- Which one is the hardest for you to follow sometimes?
- How do you keep Sunday (or the Sabbath) special?
- What are some ways you can honor your parents or caregivers?
- What can we do when we feel like being unkind to someone?
- What would you do if you saw someone taking something that didn't belong to them?
- Have you ever felt jealous of something a friend had? What did you do?



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TEN COMMANDMENT TOSS

You pray to God and thank Him every day. (#1 - I am the Lord your God)

You trust lucky charms more than God. (#1 - I am the Lord your God)

You say, "Oh my God!" when you're mad. (#2 - Don't take the name of the Lord in vain)

You sing at church and listen to the Gospel. (#3 - Keep the Sabbath day holy)

You argue and ignore your parents when they ask for help. (#4 - Honor your father and mother)

You help your little sibling when they fall. (#5 - You shall not kill)

You take a toy from your friend without asking. (#7 - You shall not steal)

You tell your teacher the truth, even when it's hard. (#8 - You shall not lie)

You're jealous because your friend got a new video game. (#10 - You shall not covet your neighbor's goods)

You are happy for your friend's success and tell them "Great job!" (#10 - You shall not covet)

You think someone else's family is better than yours. (#9 - You shall not covet your neighbor's wife/family)

You worship only God and not statues or made-up gods. (#2 - No false gods)



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NEED AN ARK: I NOAH GUY

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need 2 hoola hoops, 12 or more water balls (the animals), and three buckets. Two buckets will serve as Arks, and the third will be filled with water and the water balls or animals.

Divide your group into two teams with either one child being Noah or each child rotating for one round. The goal is to get the most animals into your team's Ark. Have another child hold the hoola hoop and move it like ocean waves for an added challenge. Noah can only throw one animal at a time. The Ark with the most animals wins.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Summarize Genesis 6:9-22

Noah was a good man who loved God and tried to do what was right. The people around him were hurting one another and filling the world with violence, so God chose to send a flood to wash away the evil and make a new beginning. God told Noah to build a large ark to keep his family safe. He also told Noah to bring animals onto the ark and gather food for everyone. Noah trusted God and obeyed everything God asked him to do.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain **"We're playing this game because Noah trusted God, followed directions, and kept going even when the task seemed huge. Just like Noah had to listen carefully and stay faithful, this game reminds us to trust God, work together, and keep trying when something feels difficult."**
3. Review the game directions and rules above with your group.
4. On your signal, let kids play the game and help the "animals" get out of the water bucket and on their team's Ark.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- Why do you think God chose Noah to build the ark?
- What does it mean to trust God, like Noah did—even when it's hard or people don't understand?
- Have you ever done something brave because you knew it was the right thing?
- What do you think it felt like for Noah and his family to be on the ark for so long?
- How do you think the animals got along on the ark? What animal would you want to care for?
- What does the rainbow mean in the story? What does it remind us of today?
- What would you pack if you had to go on the ark for a long time?



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MOTHER MARY, MAY I?

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

No props needed! This is a Marian version of Simon Says.

Line up each player shoulder to shoulder about a foot apart. The player who is "Mother Mary" stands in front of the other players and can wear the crown. Mother Mary then plays a game of Simon Says, but uses the words "Mother Mary says..." If a child makes a move without hearing "Mother Mary says..." they must go back to the starting line. The first child to reach Mother Mary, wins!

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 30-38

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus." Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen?" The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!" Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. [Yes!] Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain **"We're playing this game because Mary listened carefully to the angel, trusted God, and said yes to His plan. Just like in Simon Says, we have to listen closely and respond well. This game reminds us that God speaks to us too, and we can choose to listen and follow Him with trust."**
3. Allow the children to take turns being Mother Mary as time allows.
4. Spend time discussing the questions below as a large group.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- What do you think Mary felt when the angel told her she would be Jesus' mother?
- Why do you think Mary said "yes" even though she didn't understand everything?
- Have you ever said "yes" to something that felt hard or scary? What happened?
- What do you think it means to trust God like Mary did?
- How do you think Mary's "yes" helped change the world?
- What are some small ways you can say "yes" to God every day?
- How can you be brave like Mary when God asks you to help someone or do the right thing?
- What do you think it means to have a heart like Mary's?
- Can you think of a time when someone asked you for help and you said yes? How did it feel?
- Why is Mary such an important example for us today?



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ROSARY RELAY

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You need two sets of rosary “beads” created from cut up pool noodles. The kids will split themselves into two teams and race to complete a rosary using the attached photo. As they make it, they must say the words (not the full prayer) of “Hail Mary” with each hail Mary bead, “Our Father” with each relevant bead, and “Make the Sign of the Cross” at the beginning and end of their task. Whomever completes it first wins.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-42

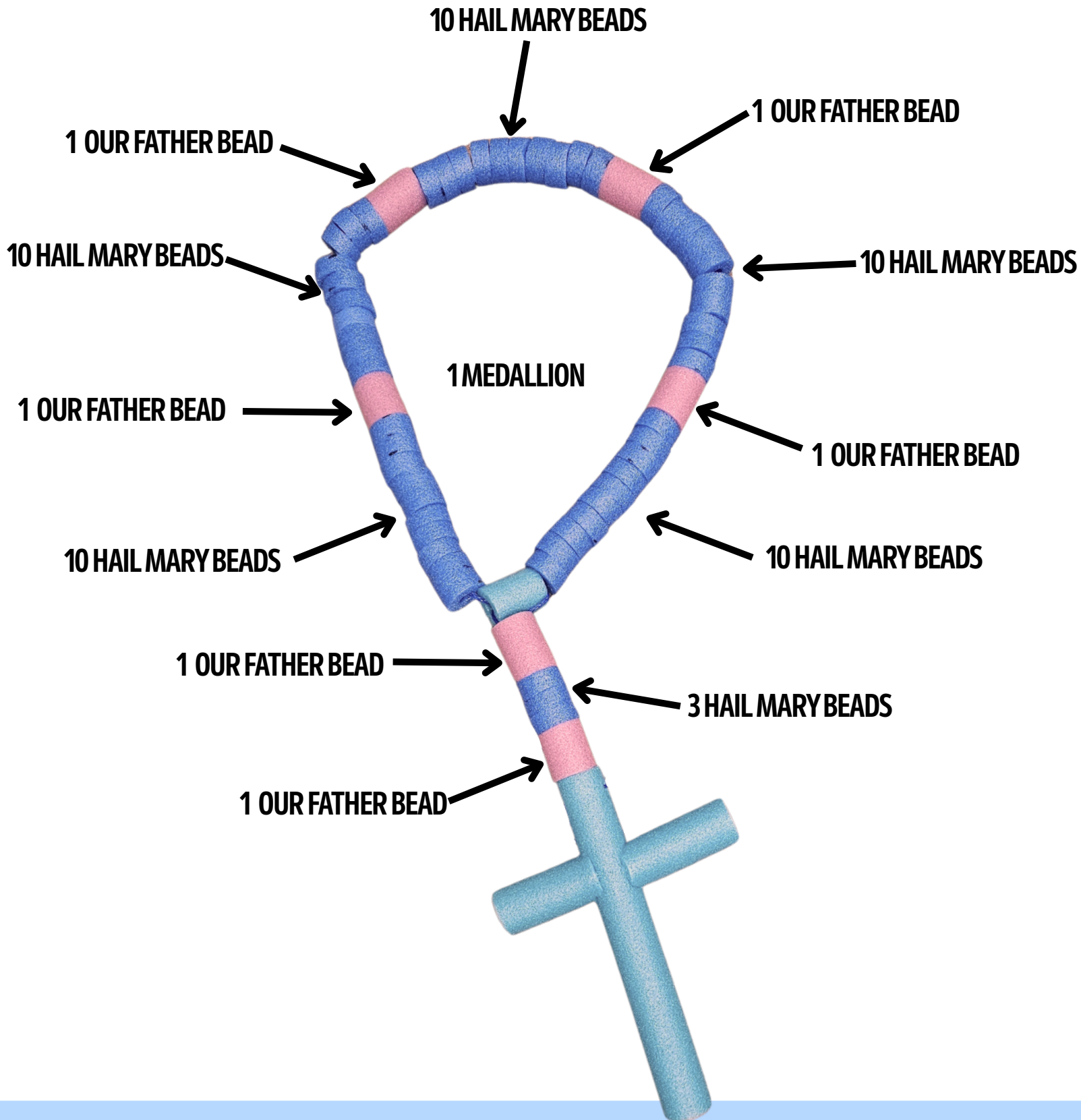
“Mary got ready for her trip and hurried to a town in Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary, [Elizabeth’s] baby leaped in her womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!”

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain “**this is where we get part of the Hail Mary prayer. When Elizabeth says, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb,” we repeat those words in the prayer, honoring Mary and the baby Jesus she carries. It’s a special way to remember how Mary was chosen by God to bring Jesus into the world!”**
3. Explain the rules of the game to the kids.
4. Spend time discussing the questions below as a large group.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- What do you think the Rosary helps us do? Why do we use it to pray and what does it help us remember?
- What do you know about the Hail Mary prayer? Why is it so special?
- Why do you think we pray to Mary in the Rosary? What do you think Mary does for us when we pray to her?
- Does anyone know what we meditate during the Rosary? ***The mysteries; important events from the life of Jesus and Mary, like the Annunciation, where Mary said “yes” to God, and the Crucifixion of Jesus. There are four sets of mysteries we pray about, and each set helps us think about different parts of their lives: Joyful Mysteries (e.g., The Birth of Jesus), Sorrowful Mysteries (e.g., The Passion of Jesus), Glorious Mysteries (e.g., The Resurrection of Jesus), Luminous Mysteries (e.g., The Baptism of Jesus).***
- How is the Rosary Different from Other Prayers?
 - ***It helps you focus: The beads help you keep track of your prayers, so you don’t get distracted.***
 - ***It tells a story: As you pray, you reflect on important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. It’s like praying with a storybook!***
 - ***It’s repetitive: Saying the same prayers over and over helps you focus more deeply and can be calming, like a special rhythm.***
 - ***It’s peaceful: The Rosary helps you slow down, relax, and connect with God, while other prayers might be shorter or less structured.***





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HOSANNA HUSTLE

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need "palm branches" and a space to crawl on. Use the carpet squares as the palm leaves. Four per team.

Have kids get into two teams. Each team consists of one "donkey", one "Jesus", and the rest are townspeople (at least two). If you only have enough for one team, then use a stop watch to time them changing out the roles. Designate a start and finish line. The children chosen to be Jesus ride their donkey team member from the start line to the finish line. Townspeople pick up "branches" after the team's donkey passes over them and put them in front again. Townspeople yell "Hosanna" as they run with the branches. The donkeys can only move ahead if their "feet" are on palm branches that the townspeople lay down in front of them.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:9

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

- Read aloud the scripture above.
- Explain:
 - ***This game will help us to remember that just like the people in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with joy, we are called to make room for Him in our own hearts. Following Jesus isn't just about waving palms one day—it's about celebrating Him with our words, actions, and love every day.***
 - ***This is a relay race, and your team's goal is to get Jesus to ride the donkey team member from the start line to the finish line. Townspeople pick up branches after the team's donkey passes over them and put them in front again. Townspeople yell "Hosanna" as they run with the branches. The donkeys can only move ahead if their "feet" are on palm branches that the townspeople lay down in front of them.***
- Complete the race.
- Take time to discuss the questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- What do you think it would have felt like to see Jesus riding into Jerusalem?
- What are some ways we can welcome Jesus into our lives today?
- How did your team help each other in this game—and how can we help others follow Jesus?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need frozen pieces of gum (and possibly a cooler) for each child in your group.

Give each child a frozen piece of bubble gum with the goal is to be the first to soften the gum and blow a bubble. Only when the "cold heart" gets warm enough should you be able to blow the bubble.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Hebrew 3:12-15

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..."

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read aloud the scripture passage above.
2. Explain "**Let's play a game to show us what a cold, hardened heart might feel like.**"
3. Review the games directions.
4. Spend time discussing the questions below as a large group.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- How was your cold gum like a hardened heart?
- What did you have to do to successfully blow a bubble?
- **BIG THOUGHT:** When you blow a bubble, you're blowing air (aka life). A warm heart has life and can bring "life" and love to others.
- What things might be difficult to do if your heart is cold?
- What do we have to do to keep our hearts from becoming cold and hardened?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

FISHERS OF MEN

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need a kiddie pool, "fishing rods" with magnets on the end of their strings, laminated fish with magnets.

Allow the children to take turns fishing. As they catch a fish, have them flip over the fish to read the story on the back. Discuss as a group, 1:1, or partnered up.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Luke 5: 1-11

Jesus had finished speaking to a crowd, and noticed some fishermen returning to shore. They were upset because they had not caught any fish. Jesus said to [one of the men] Simon, "I want you to take the boat [back out] into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish." Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will." The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full that they were almost sinking. The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus. Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishermen for men."

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain "**Just like Jesus asked his new disciples, we're going to pretend to be fishers of men**".
3. Review the instructions for the game with your group.
4. Take time to discuss additional questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- How does following Jesus affect:
 - How you make friends?
 - How you act at home?
 - What I watch on TV, YouTube, etc?
 - What kind of student I am?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

STRAIGHT AND NARROW

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You will need a yardstick, one hockey puck, a bucket or basket, and a spot to prop one end of the yardstick up.

Use the yardstick positioned at an angle toward the bucket, and have children roll the hockey puck on its edge down the yardstick into the bucket. The goal is for each child to guide the puck down the narrow path and into the bucket within three attempts. Children take turns rolling carefully, learning that patience, focus, and steady hands often lead to success.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways remember Him, and he will make your paths straight.”

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain **“We’re using this golf game to learn that just as the puck must stay on the path to reach the goal, God helps guide our lives when we trust Him.”**
3. Help children form two teams.
4. Review the directions of the game listed above.
5. Take time to review the discussion questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- Was it harder than it looked to keep the puck on the path? Why do you think that was?
- What happened when you rushed your turn or used too much force?
- How is this game like making choices in real life?
- What are some things that can pull us off the right path with God?
- What helps you stay focused and make good choices?
- In Proverbs 3:5-6, it says to trust in the Lord. What do you think trusting God looks like for a kid your age?
- Can you think of a time when doing the right thing was harder than doing the easy thing?
- Why do you think God wants to guide our path instead of letting us figure everything out alone?
- When the puck missed the bucket, you got another chance. How is that like God giving us grace and new chances?
- What is one way you can let God guide your path this week at home, school, or with friends?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

PSOCCER PSLAM

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need a blindfold and at least 10 students; and as much as 25 so this game could be done as one full grade.

Choose one player on your team to be a human soccer ball and have him or her come up to get a blindfold. The rest of the team members will spread out in a bowling pin pattern with two individuals at the end point of the group like goal posts. Blindfold each human soccer ball, and lead him or her to stand somewhere between the third and fourth rows (or in the middle of the longer rows if you have smaller teams). The object of this game is for the blindfolded human soccer ball to score a goal by walking between the two goal-post players in the first row. No one may talk, but if your soccer ball is going to bump into you, you can try to spin him or her in the right direction. You can touch only your soccer ball's arms or shoulders, and only for one second.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Psalm 37:23-24

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain that **"Use this game to discuss remind students when we're lost and need guidance to ask God for wisdom and guidance."**
3. Review the directions of the game listed above. Help children form the bowling pin formation and select a "soccer ball".
4. Play several rounds, having teams choose a new soccer ball with each round.
5. Take time to review the discussion questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- What helped you—and what didn't help—you in this game?
- How did it feel to be blindfolded and not know exactly where to go?
- Tell about a time you had a difficult time knowing what to do. What made it hard?
- Who are some people God gives us to help guide us when we feel confused?
- In the game, people could only guide you for a second at a time. How does God sometimes guide us one step at a time instead of showing everything at once?
- The Psalm says, "The Lord makes firm the steps..." What do you think that means?
- Have you ever made a mistake but learned something important from it afterward?
- What are some ways God can give you direction when you need it? (Prayer, parents, teachers, Scripture, quiet thinking, good friends, etc.)
- Why is asking for help sometimes hard for people?
- What does trusting God look like when you are nervous or unsure?
- What is one decision or situation this week where you can ask God to guide your steps?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

BENEDICTION BEACH BALL

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need an inflated beach ball and use of the questions assigned to each color as listed below. The beach ball will be tossed around to discuss prayer intentions or how God has answered a particular prayer using the questions for each color.

Yellow: What are you thankful to God for?

Red: What is something you are sorry for?

Blue: Does someone you know need prayer? What for?

White: What is something you need God's help with?

Other: What is a reason you can praise God?

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:6-9

Don't worry about anything. [Just] pray and ask God for everything you need. And when you pray, always give thanks. And God's peace will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The peace that God gives is so great that we cannot understand it. Brothers, continue to think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. And do what you learned and received from me. Do what I told you and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above before starting the game.
2. Explain **"We're using this game to remember how important prayer is, to know that God stays with us all summer long, and to give everyone a chance to share things they'd like prayers for."**
3. Review the instructions of the game.
4. If there's time, discuss the questions below as a large group.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- What is prayer?
- Can you pray when you are in trouble?
- Can you pray when you are happy?
- Is the prayer powerful? Is it effective?
- What happens when we don't think our prayers are answered?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

WHALE WIGGLES... AND JONAH JIGGLES

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You'll need one bucket, a medium sized blanket or beach towel, and a doll. Place the bucket in the center somewhere kids have an unobstructed view. Your group should be at least six to eight feet away from the bucket. Imagine that your blanket is the sea, your action figure (or doll) is Jonah, and the bucket is the mouth of the big fish. You'll use your blanket to get Jonah into the bucket—without getting any closer to it. Have kids work together to try to launch their action figure or doll into the bucket using the blanket (this will probably work best if the blanket is folded once so it's not too big). Have kids take as many turns as time allows.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Summarize Jonah 1:1-2:10 using the following script:

God told Jonah to deliver an important message to the people in a city called Ninevah, but Jonah didn't want to go. So instead, he took off and tried to get away from God. He got on a ship. But a huge storm came up, and the others on the ship figured out that Jonah had disobeyed God and that's why the storm was so fierce. So they threw him overboard. There in the water, a big fish swallowed him. Jonah was inside the fish's belly for three days. He prayed to God and asked for forgiveness for not following God's command. Finally, God spoke to the fish, and the fish spit Jonah out on the beach. Then, Jonah went and delivered the message to the people of Ninevah.

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain **"we're using this game to discuss why trusting God is important through Jonah's experience; God wants us to know that obeying him is always right—even when we are afraid—because he'll be there for us."**
3. Help children form a circle around the blanket each taking a section .
4. Review the directions of the game listed above.
5. Take time to review the discussion questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- Why do you think Jonah ran away from God at first?
- Have you ever tried to avoid doing something you knew was right? What happened?
- What do you think Jonah learned while he was in the belly of the whale?
- How do you think Jonah felt when the whale spit him out?
- Why do you think God gave Jonah a second chance?
- How do you think Jonah felt when he finally went to Nineveh and shared God's message?
- What does it mean to listen to God, even when it's hard or we don't understand?
- How can we be brave and do what God asks us, even if we're afraid or unsure?
- What can we learn from Jonah's story about forgiveness and second chances?



Holy Spirit Parish Children's Ministry

PUTT OTHERS FIRST

STEP 1 PLAN & PREP

You will need a putting green or target cup, one putter, several plastic golf balls, a scoreboard (sheet of paper or dry erase board), and enough open space for children to safely take turns.

Divide the group into two teams and place the hole several feet away with a clear putting lane. The goal is for both teams to work toward a target score together before time runs out; Catechist and/or team should determine an appropriate target score. On each turn, a child chooses between a solo shot, which is harder but worth more points, or a team shot, which is easier because teammates can physically help but worth fewer points. The breakdown of method and points are listed on the back of this sheet. Unless otherwise indicated, all shots begin at the front of the green. Continue rotating turns as teams decide whether to chase big points alone or score steadily through teamwork, discovering along the way which path leads to greater success.

STEP 2 START WITH SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain glory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.”

STEP 3 SAY THEN PLAY

1. Read the scripture passage above.
2. Explain **“We’re using this golf game to learn an important truth: sometimes we want the glory for ourselves, to do everything alone, or to be first. But Jesus teaches us that putting others first and working together often leads to greater joy and success. Today you’ll choose between selfish shots worth more points or teamwork shots worth fewer points—but let’s see which path really helps us win.”**
3. Help children form two teams.
4. Review the directions of the game listed above.
5. Take time to review the discussion questions below.

STEP 4 CONNECT AND CLOSE

- Which shots looked more exciting at first? Why?
- Which way helped your team score more consistently?
- Why do people sometimes choose selfish glory over teamwork?
- Was it hard to choose the lower-point team option? Why?
- How did it feel when teammates helped you succeed?
- What does it mean to “put others first” in school, sports, or at home?
- Why do you think Jesus teaches humility instead of selfish ambition?
- Can teamwork sometimes be stronger than individual talent?
- How can we act more like Christ this week?



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PUTT OTHERS FIRST

TEAM SHOT METHODS/POINTS

Move Me Closer 2 Points:

Your teammates may move your ball one club-length closer to the hole before you putt.

Guard Rails 3 Points:

Two teammates place their hands/arms along the sides of the path as bumpers to help keep the ball straight.

Human Funnel 2 Points:

Two teammates use arms/hands to create a funnel right near the hole so the ball is guided in.

Mercy Drop 1 Point:

Stand up high and drop it directly into the hole.

SOLO SHOT METHODS/POINTS

One-Leg Wonder 5 Points:

Make the putt while standing on one foot from the front of the green.

Kneeling Knight 6 Points:

Take the shot while kneeling.

Thou Shall Spin 6 Points:

Spin in a circle five times, then shoot.

Lefty Legend / Opposite Hand 8 Points:

Use your non-dominant hand only.