

Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones – Vacation Bible School
Recreation

Each station will play for 5 minutes and then rotate to the next station.

The last 5 minutes the group will join together for snack.

Please have the kids pray before eating saying, “Thank you Lord for the food. Amen”

Helpful hint when running relays – Once the team is finished they need to sit down on the ground, to see which team completes the task first. Winning is not that important, but it is fun to encourage the teams to compete against each other and see who finishes first.

For the younger children, you may have to simplify the games. If the younger children are having difficulty with the games, you may want to have them draw with sidewalk chalk, blow bubbles, form a circle and call out animals to walk or act like, or a parachute.

Monday – Parable of the Good Samaritan

Theme: I will be a good servant.

Items needed: Rolls of toilet paper or scraps of material, empty plastic milk jugs (one for each child), tennis balls (one for each group of 6), and chairs (one for each player).

Station 1: Bandage My Neighbor - Help kids form two teams. Have them stand behind one of the lines or bases, facing the other line. Tell kids that each team member will run, one at a time, to the far line or base and back. No one may run until both feet are completely wrapped in toilet paper – each foot separately, not together. Only one person in each team may have both feet wrapped at any time. Give each team a roll of toilet tissue. Encourage the kids to help one another wrap the runner’s feet. When that runner has run to the other line and back, encourage kids to help the next runner wrap their feet. While the second runner runs, kids will help the first runner unwrap their feet. **If time is limited** – May want to have each team select two players to be wrapped and run. You could also have them wrap their heads or hands instead of their feet. (The Humongous Book of Games for Children’s Ministry by Group Publishing)

Station 2: Servant Toss – Cut the milk jug bottoms out, so they can be used as a scoop (catcher’s mitt). Have the children each get a milk jug scoop and form teams of 6 people. One person in each group will take the ball and place it in the scoop, tossing it up in the air. Someone in the group will catch it with their scoop and then share a way that they can serve God (examples – visit an elderly person, care for a sick person, send a card to someone, help your parents, raise money for the poor or needy, etc.). They will toss it in the air and the game continues. If milk jugs are not available, one can use large cups and smaller balls or water balloons.

Station 3: Good Samaritan Game “One person is standing and the rest are sitting in a circle of chairs. The “Good Samaritan”, who is the person standing, says, “I am the good Samaritan and today I will help my neighbors who are wearing a red shirt, glasses, blue pants, sneakers, etc. and whoever is wearing the item has to get up and move to an empty chair. The Good Samaritan will then take one of the empty chairs. There should be one person left standing and they become the new Good Samaritan. It is a lot of fun when the Good Samaritan says, “I will help all my neighbors today” and then everyone has to get up and find a new chair!

Tuesday – Parable of the Widow and the Judge

Theme: Pray always: Nurturing our relationship with God.

Items needed: Battery operated CD or cassette player, CD or cassette tape with praise music or use a copy of the VBS music, paper plates (one for each child), 2 Hula hoops or 2 large balls or water balloons, volleyball net or a two poles with a rope tied to each pole, 4 buckets (2 bucket filled with water), 2 sponge, water in reserve for cup games, and 2 cups with holes in them.

Station 1: Giving Thanks to God – (This is a version of musical chairs using paper plates) Place paper plates around in a circle (one for each child). As you play the music have the children walk along in a circle walking from plate to plate. Once the music stops have the children (one at a time) share things for which they are thankful to God. After doing this a couple times, you can have the children share an instance of forgiveness or a prayer request. You can also play true musical chairs by removing a paper plate every time you stop the music, having the person without a place to stand share a prayer request to stay in the game. (Great game if it rains and you are forced to be indoors.)

Station 2: Hula Hoop or Large Ball Relay – Have the group divide up into two teams. Half of the team lines up facing the other half with about 10 feet between them. A team member will roll the hula-hoop or bounce a large ball down to the other team member. The team member will then return the hula-hoop or the ball. Each member of the team will take turns until everyone has participated. The team that finishes first is the winner! (This game can also be played with tossing water balloons back and forth, but you will need backup balloons, if the team drops their balloon.)

Station 3: Water Games – Balloon Toss — The two teams need to form two lines. The lines will need to face one another and pair up with a partner. Each set of partners will receive one balloon and have 3 ft. between the two of them. They will all start together and toss the balloon to their partner. Once the balloon has been safely tossed each player needs to take a step backwards and then toss again. The partners will continue to toss the balloons and step backwards until their balloon pops. The goal is to have the last unpopped balloon. This can be done a couple of times if there are enough balloons and time remaining. **Water balloon Volleyball** – Divide the group into two teams. Each team gets on one side of the net or rope and begins to toss the ball from team to team over the net/rope. Each team gets 3 balloons. If the team breaks the balloon, they get a new balloon until they are gone. The team with the last balloon is the winner. **Sponge relay** – Divide the group into two teams, kids will need to be in two lines. Each group will have a sponge and 2 buckets; one will be full of water and the other empty. The bucket full of water needs to be down with the line of kids and the other one will need to be placed about 10 ft. in front of the team. The first person will fill up the sponge with water and run down and squeeze the water out of the sponge into the empty bucket and return back and hand the sponge to the next person, who will repeat. The goal is to see who can fill up or get the water to a certain mark on the bucket. **Water Cup Game** – Divide the group into two teams, kids will need to form two lines. Each group will have a cup with small holes in it and a bucket full of water. The first person will fill the cup with water and pass the cup over the head to the person behind them. The next person will continue to pass the cup on down the line. The goal is to reach the end of the line with water still in the cup. If the cup of water is dropped, that person needs to run and to the front of the line and fill it back up and start where they left off. **Cup Game 2** – The kids stay in their two teams and form two lines. They will need an additional bucket. First person will fill up

their cup with water and run down (trying to not spill the water) and dump the remaining water into the bucket. This person returns and hands the cup off to the next person, who repeats, until everyone has participated.

Wednesday – Parable of the Prodigal Son

Theme: God loves me and forgives my sins

Items needed: Blindfolds, 3-foot sections of rope (one piece per child), tennis ball, beach ball, soccer ball and a very large ball, boundary markers (cones, paper squares, bright colored shirts, chairs, etc.)

Station 1: Shape a Square – Have the kids sit in a circle and give each child a section of rope. Pass around blindfolds, which can be pieces of cloth or toilet paper. Help the children place the blindfolds over their eyes by wrapping and tying them around their heads. Say: Now that you're each blindfolded and holding a length of rope, we're ready for our game. Your first goal is to work as a large group and combine the pieces of rope to form one large square on the ground. The square must come close to having 4 straight sides. Good Luck! When the children think they are done have them remove their blindfolds and look at the square they've formed. Try the game again, and this time, while they can see have kids combine the ropes to form a square. If time permits, have the kids try making a triangle or circle. The preschool aged group can play this without the blindfolds. (The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry by Group Publishing)

Station 2: Game 1 - Keep Together – Help kids form a large circle, and ask two kids to be in the middle. Hand a ball to one of the kids in the circle. Say: Try to pass the ball without allowing one of the middle kids to intercept it. Middle kids, work together to intercept the ball. If you're successful or if you cause the ball to go outside the circle, have the one who threw the ball to join you in the middle. Continue the game until all or almost all of the kids are in the middle. Repeat the game using a tennis ball, beach ball, soccer ball or a huge ball. (The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry by Group Publishing) **Game 2 - Balloon pop relay** – Form two teams and line up. Each team member gets a balloon and runs down to a chair or ground and sits on the balloon until it pops. This person runs back to the line of team members and this continues until everyone has participated. The group, who finishes first, is the winner.

Station 3: Repent! – To help the children understand the meaning of "repent". Mark off boundaries in a designated area and communicate this to the group. The group will be allowed to run in this area, but once they hear the word "Repent" they must freeze and shout out "God forgive me!" and then change their direction and run in the opposite way. Remind them that when we ask God to forgive our sins, we must also promise to change our behavior or actions and do what is pleasing to God. This game can be changed by having the children crab walk, crawl, skip, walk backwards or jump instead of running.

Thursday – Parable of the Lost Coin

Theme: We are God's treasure and God seeks us out when we are lost.

Items needed: Easter Eggs (3-5 per child) or something that is bright in color (ping pong or golf balls) that can be hidden and found,

Station 1: Guess Who Is Lost – Remind everyone in the group of everyone's name. Ask one person to be it and cover their eyes while the rest of the group will get in a line

of two people, standing or sitting close together. Pick one person from the large group to hide behind the rest of the group. Once the person is hidden then have the person uncover their eyes and find out, who is “lost” or hidden from the group. Once they discover who is “lost” or hidden, everyone should shout “Hooray!” Have the “lost” person be the next one to hide their eyes and repeat the game until everyone has had a turn in both roles.

Station 2: Game 1 – Lost – Lost – Found! (same as duck – duck – goose) One person in the group is “It”. The rest of the group will sit in a circle. The “It” person will go around the circle touching everyone on the head and saying “Lost”. If the “It” person touches some one and says “Found” that person must get up and chase this person, trying to catch them. If they catch them, they can return to their original spot. If they don’t catch them, they are “It” and the game is repeated.

Game 2 – Feet Ball Pass – Divide the group into two equal teams. Have each team them lay on the ground in two parallel lines on their backs, side-by-side, squeezed to each other and in front of each other meeting at the feet. They are to form a single file line, side-by side and in front of each other with their feet in the air meeting heel to heel. At the beginning of the line, give them a big ball to pass down the line by using only their feet. (Have the feet to work similar to that of a “gutter” allowing the ball to move down the line.) Have them practice moving the ball to the end of the line and return it back to the beginning of the line. Try to see which team can pass the ball the quickest from the beginning to the end of their lines. If the girls are in dresses, this game can be played without lying down. Have the teams line up facing each other and have them move the ball over their heads, passing it with their raised arms over their heads.

Station 3: Easter Egg Hunt in the Summer – Hide brightly colored eggs or other objects around the recreation area and have the children hunt for them. You can put messages inside the eggs (example – Bible verses, God loves you, God created you, You are special to God, You are God’s children or put pictured messages for the non-readers, etc.) Once all the eggs have been found have the group sit in a circle and open your eggs together. Go around the circle and have the children read or tell what was inside their eggs. You may have a special “gold” colored egg and whoever finds this egg receives a special cheer from the group. May want to set a limit on how many each person can find. Once they have found their limit instruct them to help their classmates find their eggs.

Friday - Parable of the Sower

Theme: The love of God grows in our hearts.

Items needed: A big flat bed sheet or long strip of material, 2 hula hoops or rope tied to form a 2 ½ feet diameter, and beach balls (one for every group of 4 kids).

Station 1: Charades (use the parables from this week or other familiar stories from the Bible and have these written on paper or cards – feeding the five thousand, Jonah in the whale, David and Goliath, Noah boarding the animals or building the ark, Jesus walking on the water or calming the storm, etc.) As each person or persons act these out, the group is trying to guess what they are doing.

Station 2: Good Soil – Tell the children about the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:1-15) and then tell them that they will be acting out this parable. Have kids form groups of four, and have each group make a small circle. Say: I’m going to give you a motion to do. You’ll use the motion to try to bat a beach ball around your group. Give each group a beach ball, and have all the members pretend to be birds. Have kids put their hands at their ribs and flap their arms like bird wings. They can use only their “wings” to bat the

ball. Play the game a second time and have kids pretend to be rocks. Rocks will put their hands at their sides and stand very still. They may use only their heads and shoulders to bat the ball. Play the game a third time and have kids pretend to be thorns. Thorns will put their hands at their sides. They may use only their legs and feet to kick the ball. Play the game a fourth time and have kids pretend to be good dirt. Good dirt will stand relaxed. Kids may use either their hands or their feet to bat or kick the ball. At the end ask the children, which way was the easiest way to play the game? (The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry by Group Publishing)

Station 3: Game 1 – Wrap Each Other in God's Love - Gather kids in a circle, and ask a volunteer to be "It." Give the volunteer a bed sheet to hold. Say: In this game, the person holding the sheet will try to tag you by touching you with the sheet or wrapping it around you. If you get tagged, you'll then join that person by grabbing one end of the sheet and both of you will try to catch another person. Each time you catch someone, the person will join you in holding onto the sheet. Hold the sheet at waist level, no higher! Let's see how big the sheet can be spread out to catch the people, who God loves! (The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry by Group Publishing)

Game 2 – Surrounded by Love – Ask kids to form a large circle with the hula hoop (or large rope tied circle) resting on a child's arm. Say: The goal of this game is to work the hula hoop or rope around the circle without letting go of one another's hands. You'll need to figure out how to get it over your head, climb through it, and pass it on – without breaking the circle. Ready? Go! (The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry by Group Publishing)

Parachute games: If a parachute is available, you may want to try these games.

Big Ball Parachute – Have the group take the parachute and place a ball on it. Throw the ball up in the air and try and catch it. You can also use water balloons.

Trading Spaces – Give everyone in the group a number and have the group hold on to the parachute. Have them raise the parachute high above their head and then someone call out two numbers. The two, whose numbers were called, will let go of the parachute and trade spaces quickly before the parachute comes down on them. If the parachute comes down and they have not arrived, then they are out.