

GAMES | DAY 5

Bible Story: The Greatest Commandment • Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

Bottom Line: You can LIVE for God by loving others.

Memory Verse: "Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith." Hebrews 12:2a (NirV)

GET READY

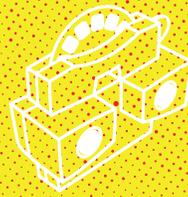
Prepare ahead of time for the Games Rotation for VBS:

1. THE GREATEST SHOT

- Two bins
 - Set one of the bins at one end of your space.
- A bunch of throwables (balls, beanbags, paper wads, etc.)
 - Place all of the throwables in the other bin.
- Floor tape
 - Tape four lines at increasing distances from the empty bin.

2. MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS

- 20+ dome cones or plastic cups
 - Make sure five or six of the cones/cups are a different color than the others, OR mark five or six cones with tape of a different color than the cone.



GAMES | DAY 5

1. THE GREATEST SHOT

What you need: Empty bin, bin full of throwables (balls, beanbags, paper wads, etc.), prepared tape lines

What You Do:

- Make sure the empty bin is set at one end of your space, where it's about five feet from the first tape line.
- Determine a point system based on how far a line is from the empty bin. Communicate the point system to the kids.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Explain how the game will be played. You can choose from the following options or come up with your own.
 - Teams take turns sending members to shoot one shot from the line of their choice.
 - One team shoots as many times as they can for a certain time period. Then the other team takes a turn.
- Just before you begin, tell kids that they can try to silently distract the members of the other team without actually getting between the shooter and the bin.
- The team with the most points wins.

What You Say:

"Great job! You guys are really good at this game and should start playing some basketball. In this game, you had to focus on what was most important, even with all the distractions. In real life, there are many things that can distract us from what is most important. Jesus made it simple by telling us the most important things to focus on: loving God and loving others. **[Bottom Line] You can LIVE for God by loving others.** When we love others, we show our love for God. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about when someone showed you the love of Jesus and how it made you feel.)** When we show people the love of Jesus by how we treat them, we can point them to Jesus. One of the best ways to LIVE for God is by loving others."

2. MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS

What You Need: Dome cones or plastic cups

What You Do:

- Spread the cones around the floor. Place half of them right side up and the other half upside down.
- Split the kids into two teams.
- Assign one group as Team Mountains (cones upside down) and the other team will be Team Valleys (cones right side up)
- On your "Go," the kids will race all together around the area for a specified amount of time flipping cones to be either mountains or valleys. Team Mountains will flip valley cones into mountains. Team Valleys will flip mountain cones to be valleys.
- All cones are worth one point except for the special cones (the five or six cones of a specific color or with tape on them). Special cones are worth five points.
- Kids must flip a different cone each time. This will keep kids from hovering around only the special cones.
- At the end of the specified time period, count the number of mountain cones and valley cones, making note of the special cones. The team with the most points wins the round.

What You Say:

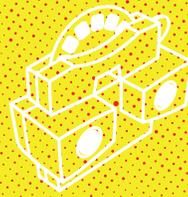
"What a great job! You guys are really good at this game. This game was a great way to focus on what was most important. The special cones were worth more points, so you had to make sure you stayed focused on them without losing track of the other cones.

"In real life, there are many things that can distract us from what is most important. Jesus made it simple by telling us the most important things to focus on: loving God and loving others. **[Bottom Line] You can LIVE for God by loving others.** When we love others, we show our love for God. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about when someone showed you the love of Jesus and how it made you feel.)** When we show people the love of Jesus by how we treat them, we can point them to Jesus. One of the best ways to LIVE for God is by loving others."

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- What makes it so hard to love others?
- What are some things that distract you from loving others?
- Who do you know that's a good example of someone who loves others?



BONUS GAMES

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for Rec Rotation for VBS:

1. KEY GAURD

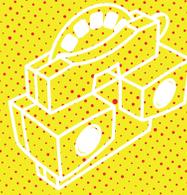
- 10-15 cones
- Three or more keys hooked together
- Blindfolds; one for each group
- Chair

2. WATER VOLLEYBALL

- Opaque sheet or curtain
- Two volleyball poles, coat trees, or other tall, freestanding items
 - Attach the sheet or curtain to these two items so the bottom touches the ground.
- Several soaked sponges or water balloons
- Floor tape
 - Mark a playing area on the floor on either side of the sheet/curtain (like a volleyball court).

3. HOLY TARP

- Circular tarps (or plastic sheet) with a six-inch hole cut in the middle; 1 for every 8-10 kids
- Tennis balls; 2-3 for every 8-10 kids



BONUS GAMES

1. KEY GAURD

What you need: Cones, three or more keys hooked together, blindfolds, chair

What You Do:

- Place the cones on the ground in the shape of a circle (about 15 feet in circumference), with the chair in the middle.
- Place the set of keys under the chair.
- Pick one child to be the "Guard." Sit him in the chair, and blindfold him. His job is to protect the keys.
- All other kids stand outside (and around) the circle.
- Silently choose one child to quietly move into the circle to take the keys without the Guard hearing her. If the Guard thinks someone is taking the keys, he must yell, "STOP," before the keys are taken outside the circle.
- If the Guard catches someone, he remains the Guard. If he yells, "STOP," but no one is in the circle, he must switch places with someone outside the circle.
- Play as long as time will allow.
- *Optional:* Have kids on the outside of the circle make noises to try to throw off the Guard.

What You Say:

"I think I should pay some of you guys to watch my stuff in real life. You were amazing at focusing on what was going on. The Guard really had to focus hard on hearing the keys get taken. Just like in the game, we will have all sorts of distractions or things in our lives that can throw us off course, but when we focus on Jesus and trust His promises, we can stay focused on the plan He has for our lives and help others do the same."

2. WATER VOLLEYBALL

What you need: Prepared court (hanging sheet/curtain and floor tape), soaked sponges or water balloons

What You Do:

- Divide kids into two even teams and have them sit or stand on their side of the sheet.
- Teams throw the water balloon or sponge back and forth over the sheet.
- When the sponge/balloon lands on the floor in the playing area on the other side of the divider (instead of being caught), the "throwing" team receives a point.
- You can play with one or more sponges/balloons depending on your playing area, number of kids, and amount of time.

What You Say:

"Great job. In this game, you had to focus to make sure you were ready when something was being thrown. The same is true for our lives. You have to focus on God in order to be ready for the things that life is going to throw your way. You may not always be ready for what is going to happen in your day, but God is never surprised by anything. When we focus on God and His Word, He will prepare us even when we don't know what is coming."