

God *with* Us

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

These additional games and activities can be used throughout the God with Us series. If you want to integrate more movement and interaction in your lesson, check out these options. We've included tips to make the games and activities inclusive for all kids and have designated which games are intended for each lesson in the series.

GAME 1: MESSAGE RELAY RACE

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), bowls (1 per team), pen (optional), paper (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Message Relay Race Sheet (1 per team)

This game works great with the Isaiah lesson!

Leader Tip: Are there tasks that would work better for your kids and setting? Consider writing your own messages rather than using the Message Relay Race Sheet.

Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

If kids in your group have mobility challenges, use only the messages from the Message Relay Race Sheet that can be followed while seated, or create your own messages. If any kids are nonverbal, modify tasks to include them. For example, write the Word of Wonder and Wonder Truth on a whiteboard so kids can point to them rather than say them out loud.

In this game, kids will bring “messages” back to their team to complete. The first team to follow all of the instructions in their bowl wins.

Print a copy of the Message Relay Race Sheet for each group. Cut out and fold each message (one per kid on each team) and place in a bowl. Each team needs its own bowl with the same number of messages inside as there will be kids on the team.

Sing "Happy Birthday."	Do three jumping jacks.
Give four people high-fives.	Say the Word of Wonder as a group.
Tap your nose five times.	Say the Word of Wonder as a group.
Spin around three times.	Clap ten times.
Stomp five times.	Hop three times.
Wonder Ink	<small>GRADE 1-2 AND ACTIVITY CARD 1</small>

Group kids into equal teams of 10 or fewer and invite them to line up in their teams on one side of the room. Place bowls with the messages across from each team. Teams can have any number of players, but the number of messages in the bowls should be the same. If your teams are uneven, choose a volunteer from the team with the fewest number of kids to run twice. If your group is small, all the kids can be on one team, and the game can be a team-building opportunity rather than a race.

In this game, each of you will get the chance to be a messenger. When I say, “Go,” each team will send one messenger to grab a message and come back. The messenger will show or read the message to the group. The team will follow the instructions on the message before sending the next messenger to grab a new message. The first team to complete the instructions on all of its messages wins.

Ready, set, go! Cheer kids on and be available to help as they play. Encourage nonreaders to show their messages to teammates who can help them read the messages aloud.

When all the teams have finished all their message instructions, gather everyone together. **You did a great job delivering and performing these messages! In God’s big story today, God called Isaiah to be His messenger to the people of Israel. And while God isn’t calling us in the same way He called Isaiah, as His kids, we do get to share the message of God’s love with others!**

GAME 2: BLINDFOLDED BRICK BUILD

SUPPLIES: blindfolds (1 per pair), 2x4 interlocking bricks (5 per pair), timer

This game works great with the Esther lesson!

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Blindfolded Brick Build Sheets or Blindfolded Brick Build Slides

Leader Tip: There are three structures to choose from on the Blindfolded Brick Build Sheets and Slides, ranging from simple to difficult. Choose the structure you feel will work best for your kids. Consider giving older kids a more challenging structure and younger kids a simpler one. Or start with the simple structure, and when kids are successful, give them an opportunity to do the activity a second time with a more challenging structure.

Make It Inclusive!

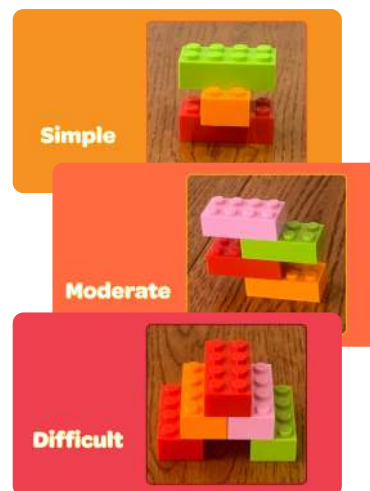
Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

Invite kids who are nonverbal and/or hearing impaired to partner with an older kid or leader. Instead of her partner giving her verbal instructions, her partner can guide her hands to build the intended structure.

In this game, kids will experience firsthand how difficult it is to do a task without being able to see.

Ahead of time, choose which structure (or structures) kids will build from the Blindfolded Brick Build Sheets or Slides. Print enough copies of that page (or pages) for each pair of kids to have one, or prepare the slide you want to display (but don't display it yet). Encourage kids to find a partner. Once paired, they can choose one person to be the Builder and the other to be the Instructor.

I've got a challenge for you. In this game, one of you will be the Builder and the other will be the Instructor. Together, you will build a structure from the picture I'll give you. The catch is that the Builder will be blindfolded, and the Instructor can only use his words, not his hands.



Give each pair five 2x4 brick building blocks. Tie a blindfold around the Builder's eyes and give the Instructor one of the Blindfolded Brick Build Sheets or display the Blindfolded Brick Build Slide with the image of the structure you've chosen.

The Instructors' goal is to give clear directions to their Builders about where to place their blocks. The color of the blocks doesn't matter, just the shape of the structure. Builders need to listen to and trust their Instructors. You have one minute to build your structure. Ready, set, go!

Set a timer for 60 seconds, and allow pairs to attempt their structures. You can monitor the pairs to see who might need help. After one minute, invite the Builders to take off their blindfolds and the pairs to step away from their structures. Take a moment to admire everyone's work! As time allows, consider giving partners an opportunity to switch roles and build one of the other structures from the Blindfolded Brick Build Sheets or Slides.

You all did a good job under some very difficult circumstances! As you can tell, it can be very hard to do things when we can't see! Sometimes in our lives, it might be hard for us to trust that God is still working, especially when we can't see Him working. But God shows us through stories in the Bible, like Esther's, that we can trust Him. We see in Esther's life, and in our own lives, that God is working even when we can't see it.

GAME 3: GOD WITH US TAG

In this game, kids will experience how God is with us in difficult things as they wait for the “With Us” to unfreeze them after being tagged.

This game works great with The Fiery Furnace lesson!

We’ve seen how God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. In our game, you won’t be thrown into a furnace, but you will be put in a difficult situation. However, just like God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you too will have a “With Us” to help you out!

This game is a variation of freeze tag. Designate one kid to be the With Us and one to be It. Have It chase and tag others. Upon being tagged the first time, the kid must put one hand behind her back. If tagged a second time, she must put her second hand behind her back and freeze.

The With Us will help frozen players by touching their shoulders and counting to ten. After the With Us finishes counting, the frozen player unfreezes and continues to play. It cannot tag the With Us.

Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

For kids with mobility limitations, invite them to the center of the group and designate them as the “With Us.” Instead of freezing, allow kids who have been tagged twice to go to the With Us in the middle to get “untagged” and then rejoin the game.

Time permitting, give multiple kids the opportunity to be It and the With Us. There is no official end to the game, so after several minutes, gather everyone together. **This game was a silly way to remind us of today’s Wonder Truth. In the game, the “With Us” came to help you when you were stuck and couldn’t help yourself. What a difficult situation to be in! But just like the “With Us” came to you, God is also with us in difficult things.**

GAME 4: DANIEL VS. LIONS

In this game, kids will remember how God kept Daniel safe from the lions as the group of “Daniels” grows larger and the group of “Lions” gets smaller.

This game works great with the Daniel and the Lions’ Den lesson!

We saw in God’s big story how God protected Daniel from the lions. God kept Daniel safe in a miraculous and amazing way! There were many lions and only one Daniel. Our game will start off the same—many lions and only one Daniel—but as we play, that may change! Let’s see how it goes!

This game is played like Sharks and Minnows. Designate one person to start as Daniel (played like the Shark). The rest of the group is Lions (played like the Minnows). Encourage the Lions to stand on one side of the room and Daniel to stand in the center.

When you say, “Go,” the Lions should run to the other side of the room. Daniel will try to tag as many Lions as possible. Lions who get tagged become Daniels. Lions cannot turn Daniels back into Lions. Play until there are no more Lions. Play multiple rounds as time allows, and then gather kids together.

Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

If you have kids with mobility limitations, consider designating them the official “Starter,” who will tell the “Lions” when to run.

Wow! At the end of the game, we had no more Lions left! In this game, the Lions couldn’t hurt or tag the Daniels because of the rules. The rules of the game protected the Daniels. In God’s big story, the lions couldn’t hurt Daniel because God protected him.

God chose an amazing way to protect Daniel in a very scary situation. God can also protect you in your own life. Sometimes God’s protection doesn’t come in the way we think it should. But we can rest in the truth that God is always with us and can protect us in amazing ways!

GAME 5: GOD WITH US OVER/UNDER RELAY

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), bowls or baskets (1 per team), cardstock (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God with Us Over Under Relay Sheets (1 set per team)

This game works great as a review of the God with Us series!

Leader Tip: You can review the Wonder Truths before playing if kids need a reminder. Also consider writing the Wonder Truths on the whiteboard for kids to reference.

Make It Inclusive!
Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities
If any kids have limited mobility, invite them to be the “Wonder Truth Expert” who helps teams put their Wonder Truth slips in order. Consider writing the four Wonder Truths on paper and giving them to your experts so they are better equipped to help each team.

In this game, kids will review the Wonder Truths from the God with Us series by racing to gather all the pieces of the Wonder Truths and putting them in order.

Before the game, print one set of the God with Us Over Under Relay Sheets on cardstock (if possible) for each team and cut out the cards. Place each set of cards in a bowl or basket. Each team will need a bowl/basket.



Today we’re going to recall some truths we know about God. To do that, we’re going to play a little game.

Divide kids into at least two equal teams. For smaller groups, play this game as one united team as a team-building exercise. Encourage teams to line up in a single file line, front to back. Place the bowl or basket in front of the first person in line.

Each team has a basket (bowl) with parts of the Wonder Truths mixed together. When I say, “Go,” the first person in line will pick a card out of his basket (bowl), and the team will “over/under” the card to the back of the line, which means that the first person will lift the card over his head to the teammate behind him, who then passes it between her legs to the teammate behind her. Continue that pattern

until the card gets all the way to the end. The last person in line will shout, “Ready!” This signals the first person in line to grab the next card and start again. Repeat until you’ve “over/under”-ed all your cards.

Once your team has passed back all the cards, gather round and help each other build the four Wonder Truths. The first team to get all the Wonder Truths in correct order wins the game! Are you ready? Pause for kids to answer or to ask any questions. **Great! Go!**

Be available to help teams put all the Wonder Truths in order if needed. Once every team has successfully put together all four Wonder Truths, encourage them to say each out loud:

God Calls People to Be His Messengers

God Is Working Even When We Can’t See It

God Is with Us in Difficult Things

God Can Protect Us in Amazing Ways

Gather everyone together.

Wow, you all did amazing jobs! It’s not easy to remember all those Wonder Truths, but I hope they stick with you. Whenever you face difficult things, remember that God is with you, can protect you in amazing ways, and is working even when you can’t see it. Then you can share God’s message with others: You are known, loved, and led by God, and they can be too!