

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

These additional games and activities can be used throughout the I AMs of Jesus 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: BREAD OF LIFE

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), string, donuts (1 per 2 kids), blindfolds (1 per 2 kids), chairs (1 per 2 kids), timer

Allergy Caution

Be aware of any food allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

This game works great with the I Am the Bread of Life lesson!

In this hilarious (and delicious!) game, kids will attempt to eat a donut suspended on a string!

Ahead of time, cut string into 2–3' lengths, one per pair of kids. Tie one end of each piece of string through a donut. Set the prepared donuts in a clean place. Alternatively, if you plan on having two teams compete, each with a representative leader who eats the donuts, prepare just two strings tied to donuts.

Gather kids and help them pair up; then explain the game: **In this game, you and your partner will work together with the goal of eating a donut! Sound easy? Here's the catch ... the donut is tied to a string.** Hold up a string tied to a donut. **One of you will sit in a chair while blindfolded and try to eat the donut while your partner holds the string above your head. You will have just one minute to eat the donut!** Invite one person in each pair to sit in a chair and put on a blindfold (help them as needed). Hand stringed donuts to the non-blindfolded partners and have them stand behind their partners. Set a timer for one minute and say, **Ready, set, eat!** Cheer on the kids and be available if they are struggling with the stringed donut. After one minute, invite kids to remove their blindfolds and see how much of their donuts are gone.

Leader Tip: Don't want the kids in your ministry eating donuts? Try this alternate version of the game: Form two teams, and invite two teen or adult leaders to represent their teams as "Donut Eaters." They will sit blindfolded in chairs while kid teammates dangle the stringed donuts in front of them. All the other kids will gather around to cheer for their teams!

When the minute is up, congratulate the kids. **That was so fun, and hopefully tasty. As delicious as the donut was, it does not compare to Jesus, who is the bread of life. Jesus alone gives us life when we believe in Him.**

GAME 2: JESUS IS THE WAY

SUPPLIES: masking tape (prep only), blindfolds
(1 per 2 kids)

This game works great with the I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life lesson!

Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

Some kids become scared or anxious when blindfolded. Allow kids to simply close their eyes rather than wear a blindfold if they choose.

In this game, kids will have to listen to directions so they can know which way to go.

Ahead of time, tape out a simple maze on the floor using masking tape. It can extend from one end of your room to the other. The path-like maze should be wide enough for kids to easily walk through. Clearly delineate the starting and ending points.

Leader Tip: If you are doing the I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life lesson Prayer Walk worship response activity, you can repurpose the prayer walk path for use in this activity.

Pair up the kids and assign one partner to be the “Direction Caller” and the other the “Direction Listener.” Explain that the Direction Listener will be blindfolded. The Direction Caller will follow closely behind the blindfolded Direction Listener and instruct her which way to go to complete the maze; for example, “turn to the left,” “walk straight,” “turn to the right.” The goal is for each pair to successfully go through the maze from beginning to end.

Hand a blindfold to all the Direction Listeners. When it is their turn, they will put the blindfold on before starting through the maze with their partners. Depending on the size of your group and width of the maze, you can invite all the kids to begin or help pairs begin one at a time.

Encourage kids as they go through the maze! Then gather everyone back together.

You all did a great job! I was impressed with the Direction Callers and the listening skills of those who were blindfolded. When you are doing any kind of maze, whether on paper or in real life, there is only one way out of the maze, right? Allow kids to answer. That's right; there is only one way, just like we learned today in God's big story. Jesus said He is the One who gives life. Jesus is the only way to God the Father.

GAME 3: JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

SUPPLIES: paper (13 half sheets), pen or marker (prep only), scissors (prep only), balloons (26), tape, pool noodles (2), table

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Balloon Sheet (13, optional)

This game works great with the I Am the True Vine lesson!

Allergy Caution

Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity! If needed, use the paper balloons provided on the Balloon Sheet.

Make It Inclusive!

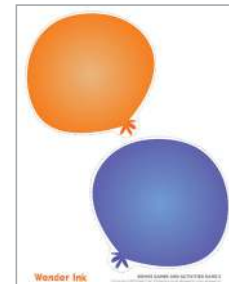
Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

If kids in your group have mobility or visual challenges, invite one of the leaders or an older kid to help them navigate finding the balloons and taping them to the vine.

In this game, the kids will search through the balloons scattered on the floor, find those with good fruit words/phrases on them, and tape them to vines (pool noodles).

Ahead of time, write the following good and bad fruit words/phrases on half sheets of paper, one word/phrase per half sheet: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, idols, fighting, hatred, jealousy. Inflate 13 balloons and tape a half sheet to each. Inflate an additional 13 balloons (these will not have anything taped to them). Scatter all 26 balloons on the floor. Place two pool noodles on a table. The pool noodles will be the vines that the kids attach the good fruit balloons to.

Alternatively, instead of using real balloons, print 13 copies of the Balloon Sheet and cut out each paper balloon (you will end up with 26 balloons). Write the good and bad fruit words/phrases on 13 of them, one word/phrase per paper



balloon. Scatter all the paper balloons on the ground for kids to sort, word side down. They will tape the paper balloons containing good fruit words onto the pool noodle vines.

Just like healthy fruit trees grow good, healthy fruit, God helps us grow healthy spiritual fruit in our lives. What are some good things, or fruit, that God helps us grow? Allow kids to share. If they aren't sure, help them think of things such as love and kindness. **In this game, you will search through all the balloons to find those that have good fruit written on them. You will then take the good fruit balloons and attach them to the vine with a piece of tape.** Show the kids the pool noodles and how to tape a balloon to the vine. Consider tearing off pieces of tape ahead of time for kids to use. **Be careful though— there are some bad fruit balloons mixed in, and we don't want those attached to the vine!**

Ready, set, search! Cheer on the kids as they search for good fruit balloons. Let them know there are nine good fruit balloons in total. Encourage older kids to help younger kids and pre-readers.

You all did a great job finding the good fruit and attaching it to the vines! In God's big story today, we learned that when we are connected to Jesus, we bear good fruit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

GAME 4: BEGINNING AND END

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoops (1 per 20 kids)

Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

If your group includes kids with limited mobility, invite them to be coaches. They can be stationed on the inside or outside of the circle and give their peers ideas and advice to help them successfully pass the hoop.

This game works great with the I Am the Alpha and Omega lesson!

In this game, kids will hold hands in a circle and attempt to pass a large plastic hoop around the circle without letting go of each other's hands.

Gather kids in a circle and have them hold hands with the people next to them. Loop a large plastic hoop over a child's arm. Then explain that the group will work together to pass the hoop around the circle without letting go of each other's hands. Their goal is to pass the hoop all the way around the circle until it gets back to where it started. (If your group is larger than 20, consider placing kids in multiple groups. Each group will form its own circle and pass its own large plastic hoop.)

Cheer for the kids as they pass the large plastic hoop, or better yet, join the circle yourself! Offer them clues if they get frustrated. For example, they can step over and through the hoop in order to get it to the next person.

Once kids have successfully passed the hoop around the circle (with your help, if needed), gather everyone together. **Our Wonder Truth for today is JESUS IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END. Similarly, when we all held hands, our circle had no beginning or end. The hoop also has no beginning or end. Hold up the large plastic hoop. Jesus was there at the beginning before anything was created, and He will get the last word at the end.**

GAME 5: WORD OF WONDER CHARADES

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), bowls or baskets (1 per 4 kids)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Wonder Truths Review Sheet (1 per 4 kids)

This game works great as a review of the I AMs of Jesus series!

Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

This game can be played with the actors standing up or sitting down. Modify it as needed so all the kids in your group can participate, regardless of mobility limitations.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Make this activity more challenging by having kids act out the four Wonder Truths and the four I AM statements spoken by Jesus that this series explores: I am the bread of life; I am the way, the truth, and the life; I am the true vine; I am the Alpha and Omega.

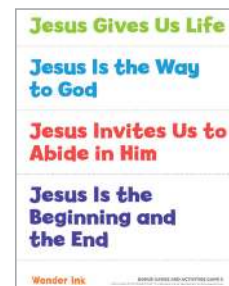
In this game, kids will review the Wonder Truths from the I AMs of Jesus series by acting them out through charades.

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Wonder Truths Review Sheet for each team of four kids. Cut the Wonder Truth slips apart, fold each slip, and place each set in a bowl or basket. Each team will need its own set of slips.

Gather kids and spend a few moments reviewing the four Wonder Truths from the I AMs of Jesus series:

- Jesus Gives Us Life
- Jesus Is the Way to God
- Jesus Invites Us to Abide in Him
- Jesus Is the Beginning and the End

Next help kids form teams of four. Explain that in their baskets are slips with the four Wonder Truths on them. Kids will take turns pulling a slip and then acting out the Wonder Truth—without words or sounds—while their teammates guess the Wonder Truth.



This game can be played as a competition to see which team acts out and correctly guesses all four Wonder Truths first, or it can be a non-competitive activity without a specified winner. (Choose whichever option will work best with your unique group of kids!)

When all the groups are ready, say: **Ready, set, act!** Be available to help younger kids read their slips, and encourage all the kids as they act and guess!

Once all the groups have successfully acted and guessed the four Wonder Truths, gather everyone together. **Amazing job acting and remembering all of the Wonder Truths! I hope that you will always remember that Jesus gives us life, Jesus is the way to God, Jesus invites us to abide in Him, and Jesus is the beginning and the end. You are a child of God, known by Him, loved by Jesus, and led by the Holy Spirit!**