



GAME 1: CAPTAIN'S ORDERS

In this game, kids listen to the captain's orders and do the corresponding actions. Calls and actions get faster and faster.

This game works great with The Shema lesson!

Today we're playing a game called Captain's Orders. You're all the crew, and I'm the captain. Line kids up to face you. I'll call out one of seven actions. When you hear the order, you'll do the action for that order. Let's practice the orders and actions first.

If you are physically able, model each action for the kids and have them follow your lead. Otherwise, recruit an active leader or older kid to model the actions:

Make It Inclusive! Encourage kids with physical restrictions or disabilities to join the leader as a captain calling out orders.

Scrub the deck! Get down on hands and knees. Pretend to scrub the floor.

Hit the deck! Lay on stomach on the floor.

Clear the deck! Stand tall with hands on hips.

Up periscope! Lay on back with one leg lifted up in the air.

Captain's coming! Stand to attention and salute with fingers touching forehead.

Climb the rigging! Pretend to climb a rope.

To the island! Run to the left side of the room.

Once kids have practiced all the actions, call out orders one at a time with the crew members (the kids) doing the corresponding actions. Speed up the calls and actions as you go.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Demonstrate the corresponding action (or have another leader demonstrate it) each time an order is given.

After several minutes of playing, gather kids together. **As crew members, you had to listen closely to the captain's orders and remember which action to do. In God's big story today, Moses told the Israelites what it means to live as God's people—how to worship God with their whole lives by showing Him honor, remembering His ways, and following His commands.**

GAME 2: CARRY THE ARK

SUPPLIES: shoebox (1 per team of 4–10 kids), pool noodles (2 per team of 4–10 kids), clear packing tape, painter's tape or cones, blindfolds (optional, 2 per team of 4–10 kids)

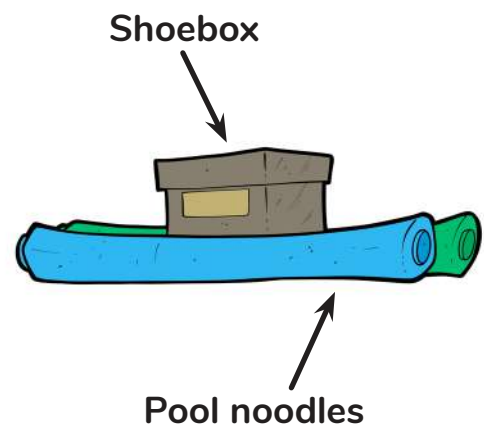
This game works great with the David Worships God lesson!

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Worship with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Leader Tip: *For Older Kids.* Challenge one of the two kids carrying the ark to do so blindfolded. For a second round, blindfold both kids! Designate a leader to keep an eye on the blindfolded teams, so they don't crash into people or things.

In this game, kids are divided into teams, and two kids at a time carry the “ark of the covenant” to one side of the room and back. Once everyone on the team has carried the ark, the whole team dances.

Ahead of time, lay two pool noodles on the floor. Using clear packing tape, attach the shorter ends of a shoebox to the middle of the pool noodles to create a homemade ark of the covenant. Repeat so each team of 4–10 kids has their own ark. Create a start line using painter's tape on the floor or cones. Then, using painter's tape or cones, mark the spot the kids should carry the ark to before turning around and returning to the start line. Alternatively, if your group is large, consider creating just two homemade arks and inviting two teams of four kids each (eight total) to race at the front of the room while the other kids cheer them on.



Gather kids together. **Let's play a game called Carry the Ark.** Help kids form teams of 4–10. **Two at a time, you'll race to carry the ark from this side of the room to the other side and back.** Show kids a homemade ark of the covenant, the start line, and the spot where they will turn around to return to the start line. **Then the next two kids in line will do**

the same. Once everyone on your team has carried the ark, the whole team can dance in celebration.

Play upbeat praise music from the [Worship with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids on each team take turns carrying their ark.

Make It Inclusive! If kids in your group have limited mobility, modify the game so that teammates are seated in a line of chairs, one in front of the other. Challenge teams to pass the homemade ark of the covenant from person to person over their heads from the front of the line to the back and then to the front again.

Once everyone has had a turn carrying her team's ark, gather kids together. **You carried the ark and then danced once everyone took a turn. In God's big story, David decided to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. The ark was a golden box that represented God's power and presence. David danced in the street while the ark was carried to Jerusalem for everyone to worship God.**

GAME 3: HOOP LASSO

SUPPLIES: athletic balls (20), index cards (2 different colors, 10 of each color), large plastic hoops (2), 6' ropes (2), pen or marker (prep only), transparent tape (prep only), large container or trash bag for balls, painter's tape or cones (optional)

This game works great with the A Psalm of Praise lesson!

Leader Tip: This is a great game to play outdoors!

Make It Inclusive! Invite kids with limitations, such as physical restrictions or disabilities or kids who are neurodiverse, to collect the balls once they are lassoed and return them to the ball container. Also, they can collect the index cards for each team and read aloud the attributes of God at the end of the game.

In this game, kids take turns lassoing a ball with an attribute of God on it.

Ahead of time, create two sets of 10 index cards each; each set should be a different color. On each card, write one of the following attributes of God: "compassionate," "slow to anger," "loving," "good," "powerful," "kind," "patient," "promise keeper," "helps the helpless," "hears us." Alternatively, if your group is small, make just one set of 10 index cards. In this case, you will only need 10 balls, and all the kids can play the game together as one team. If your group has more than 20 kids, consider preparing additional sets of index cards.

Tape one index card to each ball. Spread balls around a large, open area. Make two "lassos" by tying each rope to a large plastic hoop. Consider marking off a game area using painter's tape on the floor or cones.

Gather kids together and help them form two equal teams. Invite teams to line up against a wall a good distance from the balls. Assign an index card color to each team. **Let's play a game called Hoop Lasso. Does anyone know what a lasso is?** Allow kids to share their ideas. **Yes! A lasso is a rope with a loop on**

the end that can be used to gather cattle or other animals. In this game, you and your teammates will take turns lassoing a ball that has an index card on it in your team's color. Demonstrate holding the rope and gently tossing the large plastic hoop toward a ball. Once you lasso a ball, you'll pull the rope until you can reach the ball and remove the index card. Place the ball in the large container (or trash bag) and then tag the next teammate in line.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Have older kids stand back 1–3 steps from the designated ball area to make it more challenging.

Cheer kids on as they take turns trying to lasso a ball with the index card color of their team. Once all balls are lassoed, encourage teams to gather all their cards and read the attributes of God aloud.

Then gather kids together. In our game, we were reminded of different reasons God is worthy of our praise. God is worthy because of who He is and what He does. In Psalm 145, we're invited to put God first and praise His name!

GAME 4: SWAP SEATS

SUPPLIES: chairs (1 per kid minus one)

In this game, kids race to find an open chair when they match the description called out.

This game works great with the Jehoshaphat and the Singing Army lesson!

Place chairs in a circle, enough for all kids minus one.

Let's play a game called Swap Seats. The kid without a chair is "It." This person will say, "Swap seats if ____" and fill in the blank with something true about herself. For example, swap seats if you're wearing red. Or if you like eating popsicles. Or if you play soccer. If you fit that description, you'll scramble to find a new chair, and the person who is It will try to snag an empty chair. The kid left standing without a chair to sit in is now It. Select one kid to be It. Invite the rest of the kids to sit in a chair. Play several rounds. (If no one shares the characteristic It calls out, that's OK! Invite the child who is It to call out something else about herself. Or, if only one person stands up to move, he can simply swap spots with the kid who is It.)

In the Swap Seats game, you had to look around and scramble to get a seat. But King Jehoshaphat (juh-HOSH-uh-fat) didn't have to battle his enemies when they tried to gang up against him. Instead, Jehoshaphat looked to the Lord for help, and God fought the battle for him!

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Modify this game for younger kids or for kids with developmental disabilities by having the same number of chairs as kids and being the one who calls out the "Swap seats if ____" directions each time.

GAME 5: DECORATE A BOOTH

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), leaf garlands (4), pillowcases (4), large cardboard boxes (4), stuffed animals or dolls (4), glue sticks (4)

This game works great with the Feast of Tabernacles lesson!

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Decorate a Booth Sheet (2)

Leader Tip: Make a sample booth, so kids visualize how to decorate the boxes using the different items.

Make It Inclusive! Kids can play this game standing or sitting! If some kids are unable to stand for long periods of time, set chairs at the tables so all the kids play while seated.

In this game, kids dash across the room to add a different decoration to their team's booth (or tabernacle).

Ahead of time, cut off one side of each box (including the top flap). Each box should have three sides and be open at the top. Print two copies of the Decorate a Booth Sheet and cut each sheet along the dotted lines. On one end of the room, space out four piles of items: a pile of four pillowcases, a pile of Decorate a Booth Sheets (cut into four half sheets), a pile of four stuffed animals or dolls, and a pile of four leaf garlands.

Spread the four cardboard boxes out on the opposite end of the room from the four piles. Set one glue stick inside each box.

If your group has 16 or fewer kids, plan on having kids form four equal teams. If your group is larger than 16, consider choosing four kids to participate in this relay race while everyone else cheers them on (the kids participating will run back and forth to the containers, grabbing all four items themselves).



Gather kids and assign them to four teams (or choose four volunteers to race while everyone cheers for them). Assign each team to a cardboard box and invite them to line up near their box, facing the piles of items across the room. **Let's play a game called Decorate a Booth. When I say, "Go!" the first person in line will race to the pile of pillowcases, grab one, run back to their team, and set the pillowcase in the bottom of their team's box like a rug.** Demonstrate placing a pillowcase at the bottom of one of the cardboard boxes. **Then the second person will race to pile of papers, grab one copy of the Word of Wonder, return to their team, and glue the Word of Wonder to the back inside of the box, like a decorative picture on the wall.** Pretend to glue one of the Word of Wonder half sheets to the inside back of the box. **Then the next person in line will run to the next pile, grab a stuffed animal or doll, bring it back to their team, and set it neatly in the box.** Demonstrate setting a doll or stuffed animal in the box. **Finally, the last person in line will run to the leaf garlands, grab one, bring it back to their team, and place it over the box to make a roof. The first team to finish decorating their booth with all four items wins!** Return all items to their respective piles before the game begins.

On your signal, have kids begin! When finished, gather everyone together. **In today's game, we decorated boxes as booths, or tabernacles. In God's big story, we learned how during the Feast of Tabernacles, the Israelites celebrated by living in temporary shelters called tabernacles, or booths. Festivals like the Feast of Tabernacles were opportunities to remember what God had done in the past, when He rescued and provided for His people.**

GAME 6: FLY SWATTER REVIEW

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), fly swatters (2 or more), whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), clear tape or dry-erase marker

This game works great as a review for the Worship with Wonder series!

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Fly Swatter Review Sheet

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Provide two possible answers from the word list for each question. For example, “Who reminded God’s people to worship God with their whole lives by showing Him honor, remembering His ways, and following His commands? Moses or Jehoshaphat?”

In this team game, kids are asked review questions and slap the correct answers with a fly swatter.

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Fly Swatter Sheet and cut along the dotted lines. Tape the words to a wall and spread them out. Make sure kids can reach all words with a fly swatter. Alternatively, write the following words on a whiteboard, so they’re spread out with at least the width of a fly swatter between each: “Moses,” “Deuteronomy,” “Worship,” “David,” “2 Samuel,” “Psalms,” “Worthy,” “2 Chronicles,” “Jehoshaphat,” “Tabernacle.”



Gather kids together and help them form two teams. (If your group is large, consider having more than two teams. Each team will need their own fly swatter.) **Let’s play a review game called Fly Swatter Review. I will ask questions from our Worship with Wonder series, and you and your teammates will take turns finding the correct answer on the wall and swatting it before the other team does. If you don’t know the answer, your team can help you by calling it out.**

Hand a fly swatter to each team. Invite one person from each team to come up to the wall where the answer choices are posted. Ask the following questions, inviting a new team member to come up each time. If kids are young or unsure about coming up by themselves, invite them to come up with a partner.

- Who reminded God's people to worship God with their whole lives by showing Him honor, remembering His ways, and following His commands? (Moses)
- In which book of the Bible is this verse found? "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength." (Deuteronomy)
- Who told God's people to teach their children God's commands? (Moses)
- Fill in the missing word: God wants us to ____ with our whole selves. (worship)
- Fill in the missing word: God is honored when we ____ with our whole hearts. (worship)
- Which king wanted Jerusalem to be the center of Israel's worship, not just the center of his rule? (David)
- Which book of the Bible tells the story of King David dancing while the ark of the covenant was carried to Jerusalem? (2 Samuel)
- Who wore a special linen apron sometimes used by priests and danced in the streets while the ark of the covenant was carried to Jerusalem? (David)
- In which book of the Bible is this verse found? "I will praise the LORD with my mouth. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever." (Psalms)
- Who made music by writing beautiful song poems called psalms to praise God? (David)
- Fill in the missing word: God is ____ of worship. (worthy)
- Fill in the missing word: God is with us when we ____ . (worship)
- King Jehoshaphat and others from Judah prayed, "You are strong and powerful. No one can fight against you and win." Which book of the Bible is this verse found in? (2 Chronicles)
- Who was the king of Judah who worked against fake gods called idols and had God fight for him? (Jehoshaphat)
- Fill in the missing word: God invites us to ____ and celebrate. (worship)
- Fill in the missing word: The Feast of ____ came after the final harvest of the year and was a time to worship God and celebrate how generously He gives. (Tabernacles)
- During the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, the Israelites lived in temporary shelters called ____, or booths. (tabernacles)
- In which book of the Bible is our Word of Wonder? "Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy." (Psalms)

You've learned so much about worshiping God with wonder during this series! Our Word of Wonder reminds us to "Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy" (Psalm 100:2).