

Games That Teach

I What? (*Games defined*)

- A. Any contrivance, arrangement, or contest intended to furnish sport, recreation, amusement, frolic, or play. *Websters Dictionary*
- B. 1) Contest with certain rules which one side/person tries to win
2) Activity or undertaking carried on under certain set rules.
3) A plan or scheme *World Book Dictionary*
- C. Activity or event with a purpose, set rules, designed to involve people, and draw them close to the Lord. *A Sunday School Director*

II Why?

- A. Variety
- B. Requires Listening
- C. Teaches Discipline
 - 1. Follow Rules
- D. Increases interaction
 - 1. Team work (*There's no "I" in team*)
- E. Adds element of surprise
- F. Causes teacher to "go the extra mile"
- G. Uses more senses
- H. Adapt to class needs
- I. Preview / Review / Reinforce Message

II When?

- A. Throughout the class
 - 1. Prepared in advance (*no "Wyatt Earp"*)
- B. Changes in Schedule
 - 1. Service goes late
 - 2. Transition time

III Who?

- A. Yes, You! (*"Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8b*)
- B. Assistants / Helpers

IV How?

- A. Long Term: week-in / week-out
 - 1. Ticket Drawing (line leaders, snack helper, other helpers...)
 - 2. Early Birds (helpers...)
 - 3. Coded Message (memory verse or special message)
 - 4. Marble Jar (reward for bringing Bible, friend, homework...)
 - 5. Progressive Football (each week closer to a "touchdown")
 - 6. Something done weekly that is unique for your class (smarties)

B. Story Preview

1. Memory Cards (Pictures relating to the story)
2. Pictionary (Nouns from the story)
3. Wheel of Fortune (letters on cardstock or felt)
4. Crossword Puzzle (on dry-erase board)
5. Treasure Hunt (objects from the story, puzzle pieces...)
6. Puzzle Picture (coloring pieces / then put together)

C. Memory Games

1. Jumprope
2. Word Jumble
3. Scripture Balloons
4. Balloon Pass (Preschool)
5. Song or jingle
6. Leap Frog (Preschool)
7. Jump the River

D. Role Play

1. Young Children
 - a. Spy out the land, build the walls of Jericho, Jesus riding into Jerusalem...
2. Older Children
 - a. Readers Theatre
 - b. Charades

E. Story Review

1. Bible baseball, football, basketball, soccer...
2. Tic-tac-toe
3. Scattergory type
4. Sequence or Chain of Events
5. Who Am I?
6. Person / Thing Association
7. Who Said It? / Who Did It?
8. Tug of War

F. Recreational

1. Adequate space
2. Adequate help
3. Boundaries marked clearly
4. Clear, simple rules
5. Noise? No problem!
6. Suggestions:
 - a. Relays: running, balloon, bean-bag, game ball, root-beer, food...
 - b. Water games: water balloon volleyball, balloon toss, balloon relay, fooseball...
 - c. Capture the Flag, dodge ball, kickball...