



10 CHRISTMAS GAMES

DECK THE HALLS IN THE DARK

Items needed:

Two blindfolds, two colors of candy canes, a Christmas tree

Instructions:

Pick two players for this game. Give each kid eight candy canes, a different color each. Put blindfolds on each kid. The kids will throw their candy canes at the tree to see how many they can get on the tree. The kid who gets the most canes to stick wins.

Variation:

This can also be a timed game for one player. The player has 60 seconds to get five candy canes to stick on the tree. Keep giving him candy canes to throw until time runs out or he gets five on the tree.

What's the Point?

Jesus is the light that broke into our darkened world.

LIGHT IT UP

Items needed:

A box of Christmas light strings - including one that's not working

Instructions:

Choose two players for this game. Have the players come on stage and stand by the box. One by one have the players pull out strings of lights. When the first player pulls out his first string, have an adult plug the string in. If it lights up, the game continues and the other player picks a string. The game lasts until one person picks the dead light string. That person loses and the other one wins.

Variation:

An alternate version would be to let three kids pick strings of lights. If their string lights up, they win a prize. If it doesn't, they do not get a prize.

What's the Point?

Jesus is the light shining bright in our world.

TINSEL TIME

Items needed:

Christmas tree tinsel

Instructions:

Choose two teams. The two teams will race to see which team can get the tallest stack of tinsel on one of their teammates heads. The team with the most tinsel on their teammates head after 1 minute is the winner.

Variation:

You could also have the kids see who could hang all of tinsel on a tree the fastest.

What's the Point?

The cross is the tree where God gave us the real gift of Christmas, eternal life.

SNOW DROP

Items needed:

Paper snowflakes, two colors

A small hoop

A step stool

Instructions:

Set the hoop on the floor in front of the step stool. Choose two players for this game. Each player will be given five colored snowflakes. Choose which player goes first. The player will step up on the stool and attempt to drop the snowflakes into the target hoop. The player with the most snowflakes in the hoop is the winner.

Variation:

Instead of dropping snowflakes, you can have the kids toss them like frisbees and see who can get the most distance.

What's the Point?

Jesus forgives our sins and makes our hearts white as snow.

CANDY CANE WREATH

Items needed:

Two wreaths

Candy canes

Instructions:

Pass candy canes out to the kids in the audience. Choose two players for the game. The players will have 60 seconds to run through the audience and gather as many candy canes on their wreath as possible. The player who makes it back on stage in 60 seconds with the most candy canes on their wreath is the winner.

Variation:

An alternate way to play is to have the kids pull candy canes from a pile or a bucket and hook them on the wreath without running through the audience.

What's the Point?

The candy canes remind us of the shepherds staffs and the shepherds the angels announced the birth of Jesus to.

O CHRISTMAS TREE RELAY

Items needed:

Artificial Christmas Tree

12 –24 Red Plastic Ornaments

12 –24 Green Plastic Ornaments

Instructions:

Select two teams for this game – one red and one green. Have the teams line up 10 feet away from the tree. When you say “go” the first kid from each team will run to the tree with their ornament and then back to the line to tag the next kid who will do the same. The first team to hang all of their ornaments wins.

What’s the Point?

The Christmas tree points up to heaven to remind us that Jesus is the reason we celebrate at Christmas time.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Items needed:

Two sets of Nesting Gifts (set consists of six boxes of varying sizes, each wrapped and placed within the next largest box)

Candy

Instructions:

Select two players. Set a large gift-wrapped box in front of each kid, with the simple instruction that the first player to find the candy inside wins. Do not warn the kids that there is another box inside, and another inside that and so on. This moment of discovery may be a frustration for the player, but it will delight your audience.

Variation:

This could be a cooperative game against the clock, where kids form a line. A kid unwraps a box and then passes it down to the next player to unwrap.

What’s the Point?

When we unwrap presents on Christmas, we can remember that the greatest gift we can ever get is having our sins forgiven by Jesus. nounced the birth of Jesus to.

WRAP HIM (OR HER) UP

Items needed:

Wrapping paper
Scotch tape
Sticky gift bows

Instructions:

Choose two teams of three for this game - one team of boys, and one team of girls. Give each a new roll of wrapping paper, Scotch tape, and a sticky bow. The teams will race to wrap up one of their team members completely in the wrapping paper with the bow on top. The first team to complete their wrapping job wins.

Variation:

Instead of wrapping up a teammate, you can pick two teams of two to wrap identical sized boxes and see who finishes first.

What's the Point?

Let's thank God for the incredible gift He gave us by sending Jesus to save us from sin.

GIFTS OF THE MAGI

Items needed:

3 boxes, decorated like gifts but with open tops
5-8 White ping pong balls
5-8 Orange ping pong balls

Instructions:

Set the three boxes – representing gold, frankincense, and myrrh – in the middle of the stage. Select two teams of two – one team is white, the other is orange. Have teams stand on opposite sides of the stage, and equal distance from the gifts. On your mark, have the kids start tossing the ping pong balls into the boxes. As the balls bounce around, the kids have to chase after them and return to the starting point before tossing them again. The first team to get at least one ping pong ball into each of the three boxes wins.

Variation:

You can make this a non-competitive game by using a single color of ping pong ball and changing the collective goal of getting all of the ping pong balls into one of the boxes.

What's the Point?

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor the baby Jesus.

GIFT TOSS

Items needed:

A large assortment of cardboard boxes (they can be many different sizes and shapes, but aim for about fifty boxes total)

Premade, stick-on gift bows

Note: Before the game begins, stick bows onto all of the cardboard boxes to make them “Christmas gifts.”

Instructions:

Place two equal piles of “gifts” at the front of the room. Divide your group into two teams, and have each team form a line from the front to the back of the room, facing the gifts. Tell the teams that they must get these gifts to the back of the room. Each gift must pass through the hands of every person on the team (in other words, everyone has to participate).

When passing the gifts from one team member to another, they must be tossed underhand (demonstrate an underhanded throw). If a gift hits the floor because the receiver doesn’t catch it, the same thrower must toss it again. If it’s dropped three times by the same two people, the receiver can just pick it up and toss it to the next person. (They don’t have to keep trying forever.)

If possible, play some music while the teams compete. Award the winning team a round of applause.

Variation:

If you can’t come up with fifty cardboard boxes, use building blocks instead. Keep the festive touch of decorating them with bows. If the blocks are heavy, or if you’re using boxes but you’re afraid your students might still hurt each other, don’t allow students to toss them. Instead, pass them from hand to hand. (However, this approach will make the contest very easy.)

What’s the Point?

This game demonstrates the attitude of giving that God wants us to have. The people in front started the game with a pile of presents, right? But by the end of the game, they were gone—all of them given away to the people in the back.

In the same way, God has given us some pretty awesome gifts, beginning with the gift of life itself. He wants us to give him something back, and that’s the gift of service. We can serve him and other people as an expression of thanks for what he’s given to us.

Who can name one way that you can serve God, as a way of thanking him for his amazing gifts to us? (Allow several students to raise their hands and share an answer as you conclude the activity.)