

The Early Church

Bible Story: The Early Church • *John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47, 3:32-37*

Memory Verse: "I have come so they may have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way." *John 10:10b, NIV*

Bottom Line: Live like people matter.

Games

1. Dead Ant Tag

What You Need: 4 cones

What You Do:

1. Use the cones to mark off the four corners of your playing area – make the space large enough for the kids to run around in.
2. Choose a kid to be "It" and chase the other players to tag them.
3. If a player is tagged, that player must lay down on the ground on his/ her back with arms and legs in the air. In order to come alive again, four different people must tag each limb of the person on the ground. Then that player can return to the game.
4. Once someone has been "tagged" three times, that player becomes the new "It."
5. It's possible for there to be more than one "It," which just makes the game crazier.
6. Play as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say: "In this game, once you were 'tagged,' you were like a dead ant. And it took FOUR people to bring you back to life so you could keep playing. You had to help each other; it wasn't just about you or trying to get away from the person who was "It." The people who were "out" or "dead" mattered – they needed your help. The early church understood this. They worked together and helped each other out. We can do that, too, and **[Bottom Line] live like people matter.**"

2. Catch It

What You Need: 5 or 6 playground balls

What You Do:

1. Gather the kids in a circle, shoulder to shoulder.
2. Toss a ball into the circle.
3. Kids must call out another kid's name and then toss the ball across the circle.
4. You may not pass the ball to the person next to you.
5. Every time someone tosses the ball, he or she must call out the name of the person they're tossing it to.
6. Once that ball starts moving, introduce another ball. And then another.
7. See how many balls the kids can "juggle" successfully, calling out a name each time before one gets dropped.

What You Say: "Was it crazy to hear your name along with the other friends' names? Did it get crazy? Isn't it cool to think about how God knows each of us and how He can hear all of those names at the same time? God cares for and deeply loves each one of you, and He proved his love when He sent Jesus! Once you make a choice to believe in Jesus, then you have the opportunity to tell others about

Jesus, because EVERYONE matters! God wants us to ***[Bottom Line]*** live like people matter!”