

Ready, Set, Go!

Topic: Names

Scripture: Mark 5:9

Familiarity Between Children: A little to a lot

Materials: None

Game: Have the children form two groups. Have one group stand side by side at one end of the room. Have the other group stand in a single line at the other end of the room. Say, "In Mark 5:9, Jesus asked someone to tell his name. Now we're going to play a name game."

Explain that children in the single line will take turns running up to the other line and naming children from left to right. If the child doesn't know a child's name, he or she can ask but then has to run back to take a place at the end of the single line. If the child can name every child in the side-by-side line correctly, that child takes a place at the far right of the side-by-side line and the child at the far left of the side-by-side line runs to take a place at the end of the single line. Then the next child at the front of the single line runs up to the side-by-side line and tries to name each child from left to right.

Slowly walk this game through first so that the children are clear about how it works. (It can seem complex at first, but once the children get the hang of it, the game will really move.) Play the game. As the children get better at knowing names, have them move faster.

End the game by saying, "Whenever we don't know someone's name, it's always good to ask. Jesus knows each one of us by name, and now we know one another's names."



Kind Compliments

Topic: Kindness, self-esteem

Scripture: Nehemiah 9:17b

Familiarity Between Children: Some to a lot

Materials: A piece of paper for each child, something for each child to write with, and a box



Game: Have each older child pair up with a younger child. (Ideally, match up a child who can write with a child who isn't old enough to write.) Give each child a piece of paper and something to write with. Say, "We're going

to play a game about kindness and compliments. I want each of you to write your name on the top of the paper. Either you can write on the paper or your partner can. When you finish, drop the paper into this box."

Once the children have finished, have each child take one paper out of the box. Say, "I want you to write one kind thing or one compliment about the person on the sheet. After you have written something nice, write your name at the bottom of the paper. If you need help with writing, have your partner help you."

Once the children finish, have them place their papers back into the box. Then have each child choose one paper out of the box. Take turns reading only the compliment. Have the children guess who the compliment is about and then who gave the compliment. (This way you end up complimenting lots of children.)

End the activity by saying, "God is kind to all of us. God loves us, and God always has good things to say about us. Each one of you is a child of God, and you are special."