

Lasso the Energy, Part 2: Preschool Ideas
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Keeping Track (scripture memorization, countdown to a date)

Make a candy counter

1. Cut 4" wide strip of cellophane wrap or material
2. Fold over and tape edges together to make a tube. Can also hot glue them together or sew.
3. Seal one end shut.
4. Put one little candy in the tube and twist the tube.
5. Tie a ribbon where you twisted.
6. Put another candy in the tube and twist. Tie a ribbon.
7. Continue doing until you have the number you need.

Beanbag Games

- Catch a Fish
Cut out several large fish from wallpaper, fun foam, or construction paper & lay them on the floor. The kids will toss the beanbags at the fish. If it lands on one, they caught it! You can have them repeat a phrase ("Jesus said to let down the nets on the other side of the boat!") or they can answer a question about the story.
- Choosing someone
Provide lots of different animal beanbags. Toss them around while the music plays. When the music stops, call out the name of an animal and that child helps or answers.

Socks

- Greatest
Fill socks with various amounts of marbles or rice. Then, knot the socks. The kids will put the socks in order according to how much is in them. Then, talk about what it means to be great in God's sight.

Pancakes

- Put a pancake in a pie pan (or flip it out of a skillet) and toss it to someone who has to catch it on a paper plate. Use with the lesson where Jesus fixes breakfast, or where the widow makes Elijah a meal from what is left of the flour and oil.
- Carry a pancake on a spatula across the room. Beforehand, copy pictures from various stories and lay them on the floor OR cut them out a put them on a paper plate. The kids will place a pancake on the plates that have a picture about the story they are studying.

- Make cardboard/poster board pancakes all the same color. Gather pictures that depict the story and make 2 copies of each. Glue one picture onto each pancake. Place the pancakes with the picture side down on a table or the floor. The kids will use a spatula to turn over 2 pancakes, trying to find 2 that match. If they match, the pancakes are taken out of the game.

Snacks

- Elijah fed by ravens. Feed each other Cheeze-Its and slices of hot dog using the little pinchers.
- How many times does Jesus say to forgive? Give kids 7 mini-Oreos. Does he say to forgive 7 times? No. Put the Oreos in a ziplock bag and use a fat dowel rod (cut to 6") as a rolling pin to crush the cookies.
- Man on the mat. Icing on a full graham cracker and then lay an E.L. Fudge cookie on it.

Swim Fins

- Walk in swim fins. Try to balance something on the end of them.

Bricks

- Make bricks from cardboard ½-gallon milk cartons. Cover them with adhesive shelf paper (comes in patterns that look like marble and granite).

Playdough

- Science. Give each child 2 little balls of play dough in different colors. They will mash them together until it becomes a new color. Use with Saul becoming a new person because of his encounter with Jesus.
- Scented play dough
 - ¾ c. salt
 - 1½ c. flour
 - 3 T. vegetable oil
 - 1½ t. cream of tartar
 - 1½ c. water
 - 2 T. cinnamon

Combine and heat over medium heat in a nonstick 2-quart saucepan. Keep stirring! It will appear very lumpy, but don't worry ... they disappear. Continue stirring until it no longer has the wet shine and the play dough is clumped in one ball. Turn it out onto some waxed paper and let it cool for about 10 minutes. Then, store in sealable bags.

- Edible play dough
 - 3 c. flour
 - ½ t. baking soda
 - ½ t. salt
 - ½ c. softened margarine
 - ½ c. sugar
 - ¼ c. firmly packed light brown sugar
 - ¼ c. milk
 - 1 t. vanilla

Mix flour, soda & salt; set aside. Cream margarine with sugars; then mix in milk & vanilla. Gradually, blend in flour mixture. Each batch makes enough for about 22 locust bodies. Store remainder in the refrigerator.

Water

- Naaman is healed. Tape a picture of Naaman to the side of an empty bucket. Then, put a full bucket of water next to it, along with a cup. The kids will take turns going down to the full bucket, filling their cup, and pouring it into the Naaman bucket. He dipped in the Jordan 7 times, so have each kid call out the next number until they reach 7. All the kids will yell, "Naaman is healed!" Duplicate this to do several teams at a time, or just do it more than once so everyone gets a chance to participate.

Balloons

- Beforehand, write "Jesus loves" on a balloon for each child. Make sure the balloons are all the same color. As the children arrive, write their name on a balloon so that it now reads "Jesus loves Marci." Start the music and let the kids bat around the balloons so they are mixed up. When the music stops, the kids have to find the balloon that has their name on it, and say, "Jesus loves Marci."
- Balance on a cookie sheet – Luke 2:52, growing in a balanced way.

Marshmallows

- painting with marshmallows – show campfire marshmallows

Sequencing relays

- Jesus is Born
 - Station 1 – shepherd headpiece – say "Here, sheepie, sheepie!"
 - Station 2 – halo – say "Fear not!"
 - Station 3 – pile of hay – say, "Whaaaaaa" and suck your thumb
 - Station 4 – crown – say, "Follow that star!"

- Last Supper
At the signal, one child from each team will run to their first station. They will climb the 3 steps on the stool and shout, “**They went to a room upstairs.**” Then, they will come down the 3 steps (and make a point of telling the kids there will be no jumping off—every step must be used) and run to the second station. There they will dip the spoon into the croutons and put a spoonful on the plate. When they have done this, they will shout, “**The disciples ate together!**” And, off they go to station three. Here they will dip the cup in the bucket of water and pour the water into the empty bucket. They will say, “**Jesus washed their feet.**” The player will then run out the door and back in shouting, “Judas left!” If you have a room with two doors, then they can run out one and back in the other.
- Zacchaeus
Station 1 – find 3 coins in a tub & say “**Zacchaeus was a tax collector.**”
Station 2 – ladder lying on the ground & they will use both hands & feet to go up the ladder. Say “**Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree.**”
Station 3 – get on coffee can stilts & walk to Station 4. Say, “**Jesus went home with Zacchaeus.**”
Station 4 – get off coffee can stilts. Toss a beanbag at the Toss Across until a heart flips over. “**Zacchaeus had a change of heart.**”

Music:

- Handbells - www.gospelpublishing.com
- PVC Kazoo
- Bongo sticks
- Rhythm sticks

Storytelling using rhythm sticks

- Samson
The secret of your strength
Is a mystery to me.
So, tell me Samson dear
How it came to be.
- Prodigal Son
He’s been robbed and beaten and left for dead.
“Help me!” “Help me!” the injured man said.
- Isaac and the Wells (Genesis 36)
Dig (shovel) out the well (throw it over your shoulder)
Dig (shovel) out the well (throw it over your shoulder)
There’s water down below, so dig (shovel) out the well (throw)

Science

- Deep waters – Isaiah 43:2