



Elem Social- August

Seek and Find Bible Story

Big Goal: Remove barriers to belonging.

Supplies: Finish the Drawing Activity Pages, pencils, colored pencils

What To Do: Give each kid a an activity page and pencils.

Encourage kids to use their imagination to think of what the lines on the page could look like if they added to it.

- Show them easy ways to create that drawing.
- Praise them for effort.
- Optional- trade drawings and have others in the group add to the picture.

Connect It: Great job! All of these pictures are so creative. This month we are looking at how God made each of us uniquely. That means different and special. These pictures are a great way to see how different we can be. We want to celebrate those differences and also find ways to relate those differences to scripture.

Would You Rather Challenge

Big Goal: Remove barriers to belonging.

Supplies: Lego sets, Optional- Game Board and Instruction Page

Allow kids time to create big or little lego creations. Help kids know that the differences in how we see the world is how God made us and needs each of us to use that gift to share Jesus with others.



Elem Social- August 2

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- Who is an adult who is a big part of your life?
- If you could learn just one subject at school, which would it be?
- Which would you choose to ride in--a motorcycle, a boat, or a helicopter? Where would you go?
- Would you rather jump really high but land in the same place or go really far but slide across the ground? Why?

Square Stomp

Big Goal: Be a part of the team.

Leader Prep: Tape 2 squares on the ground, approximately 3 feet by 3 feet.

Supplies: Masking or painter's tape (1 per group), Blindfold (2 per group), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group)

What To Do: Hey, everyone! We are going to play a game called "Square Stomp." What is it called? *(Square Stomp!)* In this game, you and a teammate will start by each standing in one of these squares on the ground. Your job is to march in place. What's your job? *(To march in place!)* Every stomp you make inside your square is a point for our team. Super easy! Except, you will have to do it blindfolded. Take care! This is harder than it seems!

When you are not stomping, your job is to encourage your teammates and count how many stomps end up inside the squares. I will give you one minute to stomp. If you are ready to stomp, say, "Square Stomp!" *(Square Stomp!)*

(Choose two volunteers to begin. Direct them in the squares and blindfold them.) All right "Stompers," ready, set, stomp! *(Use the stopwatch to time the session. Afterward, pick new Stompers and start again.)*

Keep It Going: Invite kids counting stomps to count silently. See if you get more or less points that way.

Connect It: Great stomping everyone! How many points did we get? *(Allow responses.)* Wow! You sure earned a lot of points for our team! When we work together, we can do so many cool things! Let's keep working together today!



Elem Social- August 2

Rock or Sand

Big Goal: Remember how a relationship with Jesus gives us a rock-solid foundation.

Safety Tip: Tape the papers to the floor, ensuring they are secure. Monitor that kids are not slipping on the papers.

Supplies: “Rock or Sand” printable (1 per child), Adult scissors (1 per group), Masking or painter’s tape (1 per group)

What To Do: This game is called “Rock or Sand!” What is it called? (*Rock or Sand!*) In this game, you will move around our space making storm sounds with different motions. Give me your best rain sound, wiggling your fingers like rain falling! (*Allow kids to respond.*) Give me your best wind sound, wiggling your arms like they are blowing in the wind! (*Allow kids to respond.*) Finally, give me your best thunder sounds while pretending to pound on a drum! (*Allow kids to respond.*) When I say, “Rock or Sand!” you must stop your storm sounds and quickly find a piece of paper to stand beside. When everyone is standing by a paper, you will turn your paper over and see if you ended up with rock or sand. If you got rock, give yourself a point! Then turn your paper back over, and we will begin again! Ready? Let’s play “Rock or Sand!”

Keep It Going: Suggest different ways to move around the room: skipping, hopping on one foot, walking like a robot, and so forth.

Leader Tip: Direct the kids to swap their papers with each other to re-randomize the order of rocks and sand.

Loud And Clear: Great job playing “Rock or Sand!” In this game, you did not know what foundation you landed on—rock or sand. But in your life, you can choose to land on rock instead of sand by choosing to trust Jesus and follow what God says! When we trust and follow Jesus, we are like the wise builder who built his house on a rock. A relationship with God through Jesus means we are rock solid! Everyone, say, “Rock solid!” (*Rock solid!*) Jesus is the ultimate example of how to live according to God’s design. Say, **“Let’s live like Jesus!”** (*Let’s live like Jesus!*)



Elem Social- August 9

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What pet or pets do you have at home? If you do not have a pet, then what pet do you wish you could own?
- If you could always have the temperature be hot or cold, which would you pick and why?
- What do you think is the best food to eat for breakfast?
- Imagine you could give a friend a superpower. What power would you give and why?

Toss and Answer

Big Goal: Be seen, heard, and known by my team.

Supplies: Dry erase board and marker (1 per group), Masking tape (1 per group), Beanbag (1 per group), Toss and Answer Questions (1 per group)

Leader Prep- Draw a diagram on the dry erase board: a circle with the letter "A" above the square, a "B" below the square, a "C" to the left of the square, a "D" to the right of the square, and an "E" inside the square. Tape a square in the middle of the floor.

What To Do: Hello, everyone! Can you say, "Hellooooooooo?" (*Hellooooooooo!*) We are going to play "Toss (*make a tossing motion*) 'N Answer!" In "Toss 'N Answer" you will toss a beanbag toward the tape square. You will answer a question to help us get to know you based on where your beanbag lands! Your beanbag can land inside or outside of the square After you have tossed your beanbag and answered your question, grab the beanbag and hand it to the next person in line. If you are ready, say, "Toss!" (*Toss!*) If you are ready, say, "Answer!" (*Answer!*) (*Invite kids to line up a short distance from the hula hoop and toss the beanbag one at a time. Ask the corresponding question according to the area around the taped square where the beanbag lands.*)

Keep It Going: Play this game multiple times with the same questions, or three rounds using the other questions. Have the kids step farther away from the square to induce different questions.

Connect It: You are all professional beanbag tossers! It was wonderful getting to know you through this game! Some of you had the same answers and some of you had different answers. When we work together, we make our team stronger and better. Let's keep working together today.



Toss and Answer Questions

First Set of Questions

- a. *What is your name?*
- b. *How old are you?*
- c. *What sport do you like?*
- d. *What is your favorite thing to do at school?*
- e. *What is one of your favorite foods?*

Second Set of Questions

- a. *What is one of your favorite colors?*
- b. *What is a movie or TV show that you like?*
- c. *What is one of your favorite animals?*
- d. *What is a song that you like?*
- e. *Would you rather sail a boat or fly a plane?*

Third Set of Questions

- a. *What place would you like to visit?*
- b. *What do you want to do when you grow up?*
- c. *What is something you like about yourself?*
- d. *What is your favorite holiday?*
- e. *What would you buy with \$100 dollars?*



Elem Social- August 9

Move, Move, Move —

Big Goal: Break down barriers to belonging.

Leader Prep: Set out four colors of construction paper in a square to represent the four corners.

Supplies: Construction paper (1 of 4 different colors 1 set per group), Blindfolds (3 per group)

What To Do: Welcome, everyone! We are going to play “Move, Move, Move!” What are we going to play? (*Move, Move, Move!*) In this game, you will choose a hula hoop to stand in or by. Your teammate will be blindfolded in the middle of the four hula hoops. When you hear your teammate in the center say, “Move!” choose a new hula hoop to stand around.

When you are in the middle, you can say, “Move” as many times as you want before pointing to a hoop. If you are alone at a hoop and the player in the middle points to you, give that teammate a high five and switch places. If there are multiple players at a hoop, everyone gives the player in the middle a high five. If you are the player in the middle, you can say, “First” or “Last” and whoever got to the hoop first or last will switch places with you. (*Call on a player to blindfold and instruct him to stand in the middle of the four hoops.*) OK, let’s move, move, move!

Keep It Going: Suggest different ways to move between the hula hoops: skipping, sideways shuffle, walking backward, and so forth.

Leader Tip: Play this game without blindfolds by numbering your hula hoops and having players in the middle close their eyes and say a number to choose a hoop.

Connect It: Turn to your neighbor and say, “Great moves!” (*Great moves!*) We can have so much fun playing together! And the best way to play together is by making everyone feel like they belong. You did that today by moving with each other, listening to each other, and giving high fives. Remember that you belong on this team!



Elem Social- August 16

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What do you enjoy doing when you first wake up in the morning?
- If you had to pick between ketchup and mustard, which would you pick and why?
- Thunderstorms: are they neat, scary, or average?
- If you were a hot dog or a pizza, what toppings would you have?

Bucket Blast

Big Goal: Find something in common.

Leader Prep: Lay a strip of tape on the floor as a starting line. Fill one bucket with table tennis balls and place it on the line. Arrange three empty buckets at a tossing distance from the line.

Supplies: Masking or painter's tape (1 per group), Buckets (4 per group), Table tennis balls (1 per child)

What To Do: Everyone, say, "Bucket!" (*Bucket!*) Everyone, say, "Blast!" (*Blast!*) This game is called "Bucket Blast!" In this game, everyone will stand side by side on the starting line. I will ask you a question and give some suggested answers. Each bucket represents an answer to the question. For each question, pick an answer bucket and toss a table tennis ball into it. Let's see who else tosses a ball into the same bucket! Ready? Let's play "Bucket Blast!"

(Stand behind the three buckets. Indicate which buckets represent which answers each time you ask a question.)

Suggested Questions and Answers:

How many siblings do you have? Zero, one or two, three or more

What is your favorite time of day? Morning, afternoon, night

What is your favorite color? Red or blue, green or yellow, purple or something else

How many pets do you have? Zero, one or two, three or more

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Vanilla, chocolate, other

Which is better to visit? Mountains, beach, a city

What is the best way to travel? Car, train, plane

Keep It Going: Invite the kids to step behind the buckets and ask their own questions to their team.

Connect It: It was a blast to use buckets and see what we have in common with each other! When we are curious about each other and ask each other questions, we can always find something in common. And knowing we have something in common makes our team stronger. Let's work together today and have fun!



Elem Social-August 16

Buzzer Bucket Toss

Big Goal: See that we can turn to God and trust Him when we are worried.

Leader Prep: Place a 6-foot tape line on the floor as the tossing line. Place 10 cotton balls in each cup and place one bucket about 6 feet away from the tossing line. Place the table tennis balls in the second bucket and keep the bucket out of sight.

Supplies: Masking or painter's tape (1 per group), Plastic cups (1 per child), Buckets (2 per group), Cotton balls (10 per child), Table tennis balls (20-30 per group)

What To Do: *(Make a buzzer noise.)* Give me your best buzzer noise! "Bzzz!" *(Bzzz!)* Next up is "Buzzer Bucket Toss!" In this game, you will take a cup filled with cotton balls and find a spot on our tossing line. When I say, "Toss," you will toss your cotton balls one at a time into that bucket.

Now ask, "What about the buzzer?" *(What about the buzzer?)* Good question! When you run out of cotton balls and feel you need a little help, just make a buzzer sound and see what happens! Come get your cotton balls! *(Allow kids to grab cups of cotton balls and find a place on the tossing line.)* On your mark, get set, toss!

(Allow kids to attempt to toss the cotton balls into the farthest bucket. This will be very challenging. Once someone makes a buzzer sound, go to him and allow him to swap his cotton balls for table tennis balls. This will make tossing much easier.)

Keep It Going: Invite kids to make a buzzer sound twice for help. First time, exchange their cotton balls for table tennis balls. Second time they buzz for help, lay down the new tossing line. Invite kids to give suggestions of what else could help them when they buzz.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to keep tossing, even though it is challenging.

Loud And Clear: Bzzzzz! Time is up! Way to stick with "Buzzer Bucket Toss!" This game was designed to be a bit challenging at the beginning. Cotton balls are not easy to throw! But what happened when you got worried and made a buzzer noise? *(Allow kids to answer.)* Right! You got some help! Tossing table tennis balls into a bucket from only 3 feet away is much easier! Just like our help buzzer in the game, we can always ask God for help when we are worried. He loves you and knows what is up next in your life. When you are worried, you can always turn to God! He is better than a help buzzer. Say, "Bzzzzz!" *(Bzzzzz!)*



Elem Social- August 23

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- Finish this sentence and explain why: "My weekend is best when I"
- If you could pick between never having to go to sleep or getting to sleep whenever you want, which would you choose and why?
- What is the best smell in the world?
- If trees, flowers, and bushes could talk, what do you think they would talk about?

Foil Recreate

Big Goal: Be a part of the team.

Supplies: "Foil Recreate" printable (1 per group), Aluminum foil (1 per child), Adult scissors (1 per group)

What To Do: Say, "Foil!" (*Foil!*) Say, "Recreate!" (*Recreate!*) We are about to play "Foil Recreate!" We will make four groups, and each person in your group will get a piece of foil. Your job is to work with your teammates and recreate your picture using your pieces of foil.

(Invite kids to make four groups. Give each group a picture from the "Foil Recreate" printable, pages 2–5. Save the context picture of the man, dog, and table for the end. Give each child a 1-ft piece of aluminum foil.)

Before you are a picture and a blank canvas of tin foil! Work with your teammates to use your imagination and recreate your picture! 3-2-1 Recreate!

(Allow kids to shape their foil pieces. Then bring out page 5 of the printable.) We have one last picture to recreate! Do you think we have all the parts of this picture to recreate it? *(Allow kids to answer.)* Awesome! Let's take our foil sculptures and recreate this scene!

Keep It Going: Give kids extra pieces of foil and ask them to create whatever they want. Let the kids add their creations to the scene.

Leader Tip: Smaller Group Option: Invite the kids to work together to create all four pictures.

Connect It: Way to go recreating that scene with foil! You may not have known why you were creating a chair or a table out of foil at first. But once you saw the scene at the end, you understood that what you made was actually a piece of a larger puzzle! You and your teammates worked together to put that scene together. Let's keep working together as we go throughout the day! Say, "Let's go ____ Team!" (*Let's go ____ Team!*)



Elem Social- August 23

Abstractly Me

GBig Goal: Find something in common.

Supplies: "Abstractly Me" printable (2-4 per group), Paper (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several per child)

What To Do: Turn to a neighbor and say, "Let's find something in common!" (Let's find something in common!) That sounds like a great idea! We are going to find something in common in a very unique way—by making a piece of abstract art!

You will share one of these printables which has shapes and questions. There are five get-to-know-you questions. To create your art, find the colored shape that matches how you would answer that question and draw it with the correct color on your piece of paper. You might have more than one answer, and that is OK! The result will be a piece of abstract art that represents you. Let's see how you make "Abstractly Me!"

Keep It Going: Invite kids to brainstorm new questions and match answers and shapes.

Keep It Going: Invite kids to stand up and share their art piece, including how they answered each get-to-know-you question.

Connect It: What awesome pieces of abstract art! Each piece of art is unique because it represents you. But it is also wonderful that our art shares some common shapes and colors. This means that you have things in common with your teammates! Throughout our time together today, remember that you belong on this team!



Elem Social- August 30

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is one of your favorite memories from this summer?
- What is something you like about going back to school?
- What is a new hobby you would like to try?
- If you could travel in a time machine to one place in time, where would you go and what would you do?

Hidden Colors

Big Goal: Be a part of the team.

Leader Prep: Hide multiple colors of chenille stems around the room, ensuring that each chenille stem has at least one matching stem that is also hidden.

Supplies: Chenille stems (1-2 per child)

What To Do: We are going to search around the room and find some hidden objects today! Everyone, look to the left! (*Point and look.*) Everyone, look to the right! (*Point and look.*) Everyone, look up! (*Point and look.*) Everyone, look down! (*Point and look.*) We are going to be looking left, right, up, and down for some of these! (*Hold up chenille stems.*) On “Go,” you will look all around the room to find one of these. Once you find one, you will then start looking for other kids who have found the same color as you. Group up with them and ask them their favorite thing to do and their favorite thing to eat! If you have got it, say, “I got it!” (*I got it!*)

Keep It Going: Allow kids to hide the chenille stems and find them all over again, joining a new team and answering new questions together.

Leader Tip: Set parameters of where kids can look and what they can move in the room as they search.

Connect It: Those colors were hidden, but you found them, and they led you to friends! These hidden colors led you to be part of a group and helped you get to know someone better than you did at the beginning of the day. Let’s keep having fun together today!



Elem Social- August 30

Trade It

Big Goal: Build connections with others.

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

Supplies: Index cards (4 per child), Markers or crayons (several per child)

What To Do: Let's make a trade today! Everyone, say, "Trade It!" (*Trade It!*) You have four index cards. Think of one of your favorite things—maybe a sport or animal. Draw a picture of that favorite thing on each of your cards, making them all look exactly the same! (*Allow time.*)

Now, I will pick up the cards, shuffle them, and give everyone four new cards. On "Go," walk around the room and trade cards with other kids so you can be the first to end up with a complete set of four matching cards. As you trade, do not show other kids your cards. Just let your teammates know how many cards you are willing to trade. Let's trade!

Keep It Going: Shuffle the cards and play again.

Leader Tip: Teach kids that they do not have to trade for their original cards—they just need four of the same cards created by the same artist.

Connect It: That was some great trading, ____ Team! It was fun to see you working together even when you could not show each other your cards. Did anyone see any pictures of things that you also liked? (*Allow responses.*) It is fun when we can build connections and get to know each other a little better. We are going to have a blast together!