

Elem Social- December

Christmas Puzzle Relay

A Christmas puzzle relay involves teams competing to assemble a puzzle, often by having a player race to retrieve a puzzle piece and return it to their team, with the first team to complete their puzzle winning. Key steps include dividing into teams, preparing puzzles or puzzle pieces for each team, having each member race for a piece, and the first team to complete their puzzle wins.

Supplies Needed: 2 Christmas puzzles per group

General instructions

1. Divide into teams. Split the group into two or more teams.
2. Prepare puzzles. Create a separate, scrambled puzzle for each team. You can do this by writing a Christmas phrase or Bible verse on a piece of paper and cutting it into pieces, with the number of pieces determining the difficulty. Alternatively, give each team a set of pieces to be assembled into a picture.
3. Set up the starting line. Have each team line up at a starting point with one or more puzzle pieces for their team at a designated spot at the opposite end of the room or play area.
4. Race for pieces. When you say "go," the first person from each team runs to the puzzle pieces, picks one up, and brings it back to their team.
5. Alternate team members. The next person in line then races for a piece, and so on.
6. Complete the puzzle. The team must assemble their puzzle. Some versions require the team to spell out a word after all the pieces are collected.
7. Declare a winner. The first team to correctly complete their puzzle wins.



Elem Social- December

Roll A Nativity

Roll a Nativity Scene with Two Dice
Objective: Be the first to complete your nativity scene drawing
Supplies: Two dice, Printable game sheet for each player, Pencil for each player
Setup: Distribute a game sheet and a pencil to each player.

How to Play:
Players take turns rolling the two dice and summing the numbers. Based on their roll, they add a specific figure or element to their nativity scene. The first player to complete their nativity scene drawing wins.

Roll a Nativity Scene: Solo Challenge:
Objective: Complete the nativity scene drawing within a set number of rolls, or Challenge yourself to see if you can determine the fewest rolls needed to complete the scene.
Supplies: two dice, a piece of paper, a pencil
Setup: Prepare your paper and pencil.

How to Play:
Roll the two dice and sum the numbers. Based on your roll, add a specific figure or element to your nativity scene. Keep a count of the number of rolls you take to complete the scene.



Elem Social- December 6

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What do you like to do during December?
- If you could choose between taking a trip on a train or flying somewhere on a plane, what would you choose and where would you go?
- What would a perfect school day look like to you?
- If you could only sing instead of talk or dance instead of walk, which would you choose and why?

Three Strings Drawing

Teams will work together to draw an object by holding one of three strings attached to a marker.
Big Goal: Build courage to try something new together.
Supplies: Markers (2–4 per group), Yarn (1 per group), Paper (2–4 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group)

Leader Tip: Challenge older kids to tie the yarn to the markers themselves.

What To Do: Who is ready for something new and awesome? If you're ready say, "I'm ready!" *(I'm ready!)* We are going to make something that requires you to work well together as a team. We will form teams of three, and each team will get one marker and one piece of paper. All you have to do is work together to draw the best drawing possible. Doesn't that sound easy? Say, "So easy!" *(So easy!)*

Great, but there's a twist! Everyone, say, "Ooo! A twist!" *(Ooo! A twist!)* The twist is that each of you will have to hold onto one string that is attached to the marker and work together to draw. No one can touch the actual marker. Once your drawing is finished, the rest of us will see if we can guess what it is. The theme for this first drawing is something that you see at Christmastime.

Agree as a team on what you will draw, then get going in 3-2-1!

Keep It Going: Play multiple rounds where you switch up teams and drawing prompts. Consider doing a travel prompt and a train prompt to support the *Next Stop* Theme.

Leader Tip: Keep this lighthearted—most likely, these drawings will not look great. Help kids laugh with each other about it without being mean to other teams.

Connect It: Wow! In that game, you really had to work together as you tried something new. It probably was a little difficult as you got started, but wasn't it nice to know you weren't alone? That's one of the best parts of friendship—we have each other to help and encourage us when we want to try something new. You all showed a lot of courage. I'm so glad we are on a team together!



Elem Social- December 6

Train, Brain, Crane

Supplies: Three posters labeled Train, Brain, and Crane, with a picture and simple action instructions on each; optional music and audio player.
Leader Prep: Prepare the posters and clear a small space for movement. Keep all children within their small group; separate teams are not needed.
Game Instructions:

1. Show the posters and practice each action:
   - Train: Give a partner a double high-five and say, "Train!"
   - Brain: Face a partner, each point to your own head, and say, "Brain!"
   - Crane: Stretch one arm up high like a crane and say, "Crane!"
2. Invite children to walk, march, or dance within the group's space while music plays or the leader claps.
3. Stop the music or clapping and hold up a poster. Children find a partner when needed and complete the action. Leaders can join in so everyone has a partner.
4. Play seven rounds using the order below. For rounds with multiple actions, show the posters one at a time so children complete the actions in order.

Round	Poster Order
1	Train
2	Brain
3	Crane
4	Train-Crane
5	Brain- Train
6	Crane- Brain- Train
7	Train- Brain- Crane

- Allow everyone to finish before starting the next round. Encourage children to move carefully and celebrate one another.

Keep It Going: Mix up the poster order or invite children to take turns choosing the actions. For younger children, continue with one action per round.
Make the Connection: Remind children that the posters helped them learn how to play. God gives us the Bible to help us learn about Him. Invite everyone to repeat, "God wants me to know Him!"



Elem Social- December 13

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is an interesting food you've tried, and how did you like it?
- What are some of your favorite parts of Christmas?
- Where would you go if you could ride anywhere on a train, and what would you do once you got there?
- If you could invent a new holiday, what would it be called and what would it celebrate?

Deck the Halls with Doodles

Big Goal: Have fun creating art together.
Supplies: Cardstock, black construction paper, red and green markers or crayons, child-safe scissors, glue sticks, and a timer. Optional: circle punch.
Leader Prep: Set out supplies and prepare a few extra doodle papers for late arrivals.

Instructions:

1. Give each child cardstock and red and green markers or crayons. Have kids write their names on the back.
2. Let kids draw lines, shapes, and doodles for one minute.
3. Say, "Switch!" and have kids trade papers and add more doodles. Repeat a few times.
4. Return each paper to the child whose name is on it.
5. Help kids cut circles from their doodle papers and glue them onto black construction paper. Kids may trade circles with friends!

Keep It Going: Let kids cut out other shapes.

Connect It: Your friends helped create your artwork! When you take it home, remember your church friends and the fun we have together.



Elem Social- December 13

A Very Merry Memory-

Supplies: Paper and pencils (1 per child), nine Christmas shape posters, timer, and optional clipboards.
Leader Prep: Prepare one poster for each round using the sequences below. Arrange pictures in a clear left-to-right order. Keep posters hidden until needed.

Game Instructions:

1. Give each child paper and a pencil.
2. Show the first poster for 10 seconds. Encourage kids to study the shapes and their order without drawing.
3. Hide the poster and have kids draw the shapes in the order they remember.
4. Reveal the poster so kids can check their drawings. Simple sketches are fine!
5. Repeat with the remaining posters as time allows. Encourage kids to keep trying as the sequences get longer.

Poster Sequences:

Round 1 *Shapes in Order* - Ornament, present, tree
Round 2 *Shapes in Order*- Ornament, tree, present, tree
Round 3 *Shapes in Order*- Present, ornament, ornament, present, tree
Round 4 *Shapes in Order*- Train, ornament, present, tree, train
Round 5 *Shapes in Order*- Present, train, tree, ornament, present, tree
Round 6 *Shapes in Orde*r- Ornament, present, train, train, tree, ornament, present
Round 7 *Shapes in Order*- Ornament, snowflake, train, ornament, tree, snowflake, present, tree
Round 8 *Shapes in Order*- Train, present, snowflake, tree, present, ornament, present, tree, tree
Round 9 Present, present, snowflake, snowflake, train, ornament, present, tree, ornament, tree

Leader Tip: Allow more viewing time or use shorter sequences for younger kids. Children who find drawing difficult can tell a leader the order instead.

Keep It Going: Show a challenging poster again for five seconds, then hide it and let kids finish or correct their drawings.

Make the Connection: Kids studied the posters to learn the shapes and their order. Remind them that God made us to know Him, and we can learn about Him through the Bible and His people. Invite everyone to repeat, “I am meant to know God!”



Elem Social- December 20

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is a Christmas memory that makes you smile?
- What gift would you like to give to someone in your family or a friend that could not be bought from a store or online?
- What would you pack if you could only bring three things on a Christmas vacation?
- If you were a snowflake, what do you think it would be like and what would you say?

Recall Race

Teams will work together to remember as many Christmas objects as they can.
Leader Prep: Place line 1 for each team facedown on the ground about 10 feet away from where the team will line up, keeping lines 2 and 3 in separate stacks. Place the line 4s for each team where they will stand.
Supplies: "Relay Recall" printable (3–5 per group)**,** Blank paper (2–4 per group), Pencils (2–4 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Child-safe scissors (2–4 per group)

What To Do: Merry Christmas, everyone! Since Christmas is almost here, let's play a little game using Christmas objects! We'll group up into teams of three. Before we begin, cut out all the objects on the paper strips at your team's starting line. *(Allow time.)*

Now we're ready for "Recall Race." What are we playing? *(Recall Race!)* The first player on each team will race to your team's paper on the other side of the room, flip it over, remember all the objects in order, flip the paper back over, hurry back, and work with your teammates to place the objects in the correct order. So we will run, flip, remember, and hurry back!

If you can only remember a few of them, no worries—that's why you've got teammates! Send the next teammate to study the paper and hurry back to the team, continuing to place objects in order. The team who places all their objects in order first and calls out, "Merry Christmas!" wins that round! If you think you can do that, say, "Recall Race!" (*Recall Race!)*

(Play multiple rounds with the additional lines, including the reminder of the directions: run, flip, remember, and hurry back.)

Keep It Going: Play with no talking.

Connect It: You all had some excellent remembering *and* racing skills! You worked together so well as a team, and you needed each other in that game! One person couldn't remember everything. Working together helps us do more than we could do alone. Teamwork means we share, help, and win together. Let's keep working together like a team today!



Elem Social- December 20

Christmas Color Craziness

Supplies:

- 2 plastic bins
- 15 red and 15 green ball pit balls
- Table or clear floor space

Leader Prep: Place the bins side by side, with red balls in one and green balls in the other.

Game Instructions

1. Invite one child to play while the others cheer.
2. On "Go," the player picks up one red ball in one hand and one green ball in the other, then places them into the opposite bins at the same time.
3. Continue swapping one ball of each color until all the red and green balls have switched bins. Players must take balls of their original colors each time.
4. Let children take turns. After each turn, the sorted balls are ready for the next player to swap back.
5. If time allows, play again and challenge children to complete their turn with fewer pauses.

Leader Tip: Use fewer balls for younger children. Red and green Christmas bows may be used instead.

READY, SET, SWAP!
🔴 Pick up one red ball in one hand.
🟢 Pick up one green ball in your other hand.
↔️ Put both balls into the opposite bins at the same time.

Keep going until every ball has switched bins!

- Move only one red and one green ball at a time.
- Keep the balls inside the bins.
- Cheer for each player!

I AM MEANT TO KNOW GOD!

Discussion and Connection

- What helped you remember which color to pick up?
- When did you need to slow down and think?

Sometimes we get busy or distracted and forget what is true about God. Slowing down to pray, read His Word, and talk with people who follow Jesus helps us remember who He is and how much He loves us. God made us to know Him and have a real relationship with Him!
Say together: "I am meant to know God!"