



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Seat Slide

[10 min]

Supplies

- baton-like object, such as a marker, a white-board eraser, or a bottle of bubbles
- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Tape a circle of X's on the floor, 1 for each child and spaced a few feet apart.

Pass a Baton

Say: **In our Bible story today we read about how Jesus said he would heal a man's daughter—and Jesus did what he said he was going to do! We can trust Jesus to do what he says. Let's play a game where we'll be a team and work together—we'll depend on each other to keep the game moving!**

- Have each child take a seat on an X you taped on the floor.
- Give the "baton" to one of the kids, who'll start the passing.
- Help the first child get up and walk the baton to the person to his or her right in the circle.
- Then that child will take the baton and get up from his or her seat (the X) to pass the baton to the next person. The first child can then take the seat of the child he or she just passed the baton to.
- Everyone will keep moving to pass the baton and trade seats.
- To keep the game fun and interesting, call out different ways for the kids to move around the circle to pass the baton, such as hopping, crawling, walking backward, and taking giant steps sideways. You could also change the direction everyone moves around the circle.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did you work together in the game?**

Say: **You worked together by keeping the baton moving. You also shared seats and knew you'd have a new seat because someone else was going to give you theirs when you moved around the circle. You could depend on each other to keep passing and playing! It's good to have friends and families you can depend on.**

Share an example or two of people in *your* life you can depend on and how you know you can depend on them, such as a sibling who's always willing to listen when you need someone to talk to or a parent who's always done his or her best to take care of you.

Ask: • Who are people *you* can depend on? Kids may share about their parents, grandparents, friends, siblings, caregivers, or even stuffed animals and pets.

Say: It's good to have people we can depend on. They help us feel loved and safe! Jesus is dependable and shows us how we can be dependable, too.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO Genvous' Story

[10 min]

Supplies

- "Genvous' Story" teaching video

Discuss and Watch "Genvous' Story"

Say: Today we're learning that Jesus is dependable, so we're dependable.

Ask: • **What are things people depend on you to do?** Share your own examples first.

Say: **We all have people depending on us. Let's learn how animals depend on a guy named Genvous.**

Watch "Genvous' Story."

Ask: • **How did Genvous and his kids show they were dependable?**
• **Why do some animals need people to depend on?**

Say: **On this reserve, animals need people to help take care of them.**

It's important that Genvous and his kids are dependable, or the animals could die! Jesus is dependable, so we're dependable by taking care of our responsibilities.



DEEPER BIBLE

Jesus Is With Us Always

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- classroom toys and objects

Talk About How Jesus Is Dependable

Say: **Jesus is dependable.** That means we can always count on Jesus to do what he says he's going to do. Just like Jesus kept his promise to heal Jairus' daughter, Jesus keeps his promises to us, too! Hold up the Bible. The Bible is filled with stories of good things Jesus promises you and me! Let me read one of Jesus' promises to us right now.

Read Matthew 28:20b.

Say: **Wow! Jesus promises to be with us always. He loves to give us his love and be our friend. We can know Jesus will never leave us, because Jesus is dependable. He always does what he says he'll do.**

Collect Objects and Sing

Say: **If Jesus promises to always be with us, that means he was with us when we were babies. Let's look for things in our room that remind us of babies.**

Lead kids in gathering objects in your room that remind them of babies, such as dolls, blankets, and bottles. Have kids set these near one side of your room.

Say: **Jesus was with you when you were a baby, and Jesus is with you now when you brush your teeth, when you go to sleep, and when you play with friends!**

Lead kids in finding toys or games they may play with a friend, and set them next to the baby items.

Say: **Jesus is with you when you go to school, too! Let's collect things that remind us of school.**

Lead kids in collecting objects such as pencils, crayons, and books and placing them next to the toys.

Say: **Jesus promises to be with you always. Jesus is with you now, and Jesus will be with you when you're older, like when you learn to drive a car!**

Lead kids in collecting a few toy cars and placing them next to the school items.

Say: **Jesus will be with you when you're a grown-up, too, and you're a firefighter, doctor, soccer player, or something else.**

Lead kids in collecting "occupation" toys in your room, such as a toy stethoscope, a firetruck, or a construction hat. Place these next to the toy cars.

Say: **Jesus promises to be with you always! Jesus is with you now, and Jesus will be with you when you're older. Jesus is with you when you're sad or scared, and Jesus is with you when you're happy. You can know that Jesus will always be with you because Jesus is dependable! He always does what he says he's going to do.**

If you have extra time, let kids think of other times Jesus is with them and collect objects in your room that represent that time—for example, when they help their parents cook or when they travel on a train or plane.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Follow Where the Rope Leads

[5 min]

Supplies

- long rope*

Hold the Rope

Say: **Today we practiced a fire drill, and we practiced being dependable by holding on to the rope and not letting go. We also found out that Jesus is dependable all the time. Let's hold our rope again**

Say: **We can hold on to Jesus like we hold on to this rope. When we trust Jesus to take care of us, it's like we're holding on to him. When we spend time with Jesus, it's like we're holding on to him.**

Walk in a Circle

Have kids stand and begin to walk in a circle while still holding the rope.

Say: **When we hold on to Jesus like we're holding on to this rope, he takes us to good places. He helps us know when to help someone and where to go.** Have kids stop and sit.

Say: **Let's thank Jesus that we can depend on him to take care of us and take us to good places.** Lead kids in a brief prayer.

Say: **Let's ask Jesus to help us be dependable friends, too.** Lead kids in a brief prayer.

Say: **I'm thankful all of you were here today to learn that you can depend on Jesus, and he'll help you be dependable, too. I hope to see you back here in the future—you can depend on me to be here!**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Dependable Drawing

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter” Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (
- pencils
- crayons

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Jesus is dependable, so he finished what he started when he brought Jairus' daughter back to life! Let's color Jesus doing what he said he'd do.**

Allow time for kids to color.