



## LOW-ENERGY GAME After You

[10 min]

### Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Repeat and Add Movements

Say: **How much can your brain remember? Let's play a game and find out!**

- Form groups of six to eight kids. Have each group stand in a circle so kids are facing each other.
- Encourage kids to think of a unique movement to show the group. Examples include doing two jumping jacks, pretending to shoot a basketball, tapping your toe, and clapping a specific rhythm. Give kids a few moments to come up with their movements.
- Choose one child in the circle to go first. That child will do his or her movement, and then the next person must repeat that movement before demonstrating a new one. Continue in this way to create a chain of movements, with kids first repeating all the movements before adding their own.
- If a child forgets a movement, he or she is "out" and must sit down. Continue around the circle as many times as needed, adding more movements. The last child standing is the winner.
- If you'd like, play high-energy music while kids play.

### Talk About It

Ask: • **Was it difficult to repeat others' actions first before doing your own? Why or why not?**

• **When is it hardest for you to remember to put God first? Why?**

Say: **In this game, we had to remember what came first. In our lives, we put God first. We look to him and follow his lead.**



## TALK-ABOUT VIDEO Puppy Priorities

[10 min]

### Supplies

- “Puppy Priorities” teaching video

### Discuss and Watch “Puppy Priorities”

Say: **We’re learning that we put God first. It’s okay to *like* other things, but God should come first.**

Ask: • **What’s your favorite thing to do?**

Say: **Let’s see what happens when some animals make their favorite things to do their top priority—more important than anything or anyone else.**

Watch “Puppy Priorities.”

Ask: • **What was the problem with Peanut’s, Biscuit’s, and Shadow’s priorities?**

• **Peanut, Biscuit, and Shadow rearranged their priorities. What would it look like to reprioritize your life to put God first?**

Say: **Rowley said it’s okay to have things we enjoy, but when we start being too focused on those things, it’s not good. When we give too much time and attention to something besides God, that’s worship. But we put God first and worship only him.**



## DEEPER BIBLE

### What Does It Look Like to Put God First While I'm Doing Other Things?

[15 min]

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- paper towels
- washable markers
- "My Time, My Heart" handout (1 per child)
- spray bottles of water
- transparency sheets (1 per child)
- permanent markers

#### Chart Your Time

Give each child a paper towel, and have kids use washable markers to draw a clock face.

Say: **Fill your clock with the things that take up your time in a day. Try to include everything you spend time on: school, sleeping, choosing an outfit, homework, games, surfing the internet, and so on. Maybe you spend time worrying or complaining, too. Write the things that take a *lot* of time bigger and the things that take only a little time smaller.**

Allow time for kids to fill their clocks. This is a great time to ask kids about what they're writing and find out more about their lives.

Say: **Wow! Our lives are full! We're learning that we put God first, but we have a lot of things to do. So what does it look like to put God first while we're doing other things? Let's dig in to that.**

#### Dig Deeper

Say: **First of all, there's something you should know about how we spend our time and what we give our attention to.**

Read Matthew 6:21.

Say: **Let's see what this verse means.**

Give each child a "My Time, My Heart" handout, and have kids place their paper towels over the hearts. Have kids take turns spraying their paper towels with water and letting the water soak through to the hearts.

As the water soaks through, lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask: • **What do you think it means that our hearts are where our treasure is?**

• **Think of the things you wrote on your clock. What impact do you think they have on your heart?**

Read 1 John 5:21.

Ask: • **How can you tell if something has taken God's place in your heart? Give a specific example.**

Say: **We can spend time on other things, but we have to be careful that God stays in first place, because the things we spend time and focus on get into our hearts!**

Have kids lift up their paper towels to see the marker soaked through onto their hearts. Collect and dispose of the paper towels.

Ask: • **You don't have to answer this question aloud, but think about it in your mind: Was there anything you wrote on your clock that you wish didn't**

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**make it into your heart? Why?** Pause for kids to reflect.

**Say: The fact is, a lot of the things you wrote are probably not *bad* things. Maybe some are, and you need to cut those out. But for the rest of them, putting God first just means putting a new lens on the way we look at those things.**

Give each child a transparency sheet and a permanent marker. Have kids write "GOD" in big letters on their transparencies.

Then have kids look up Philippians 4:8 and follow along as you read it. Kids can write the adjectives from the verse, such as *true*, *honorable*, and *right*, around the word "GOD."

When kids have finished, have them place their transparencies on their hearts.

**Say: When we put God first in our hearts, we can focus on him even when we're doing other things. We can put what we do through the Philippians 4:8 test. If you're doing something that doesn't fit into one of those categories—true, honorable, right, and so on—it might not be something that fits with putting God first. Or maybe you just need to reframe how you think about it. Maybe you can watch YouTube but change which videos you watch so you're watching ones that are honorable. Or you could keep playing soccer, but you need God to help you have a more admirable attitude.**

**Ask: • What are other activities you might need to do differently so they fit the Philippians 4:8 test? What would you change about how you do those activities to make them honorable?**

**Say: The good news is, if you're not sure how to put God first, you can always ask God to help. Let's do that now.**

**Pray: God, help us put you first in everything we do. Help us see all we do as a chance to serve and honor you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Kids can throw away their soggy paper hearts, but encourage them to take home their transparencies as a reminder to focus on God in all they do.



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

### He's #1

[5 min]

#### Pray and Commit

Say: **We put God first.** Let's commit to putting him first this week! I'll name some situations, and then you'll finish the prayer by holding up your index finger and saying, "We'll put you first." Read the following prayer starters, pausing after each one for kids to finish the prayer.

- **When we just can't stop playing that video game...**
- **When we get caught in a web of YouTube videos...**
- **When we just want to worry...**
- **When we want what we want...**
- **When our days are busy...**
- **When we're hanging out with friends...**
- **When school is hard...**
- **When we're playing sports...**

#### Wrap Up

Pray: **God, help us put you first this week. Our lives keep us busy and entertained, but don't let those things distract us from you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



## ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT First Step

[10 min]

### Supplies

- “God's Commandments: Worship God” Coloring Page
- pencils
- crayons

### Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **We're learning that we put God first. The people of Athens didn't get that. They didn't know the one true God! Let's see why it's important to put first things first.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will do the connect the dots puzzle twice, the first time not following the numbers in order. Have kids show their pages.

Ask: • **What happened when you didn't go in the right order?**

• **How can this remind us of what happens when we don't make God our first priority?**

Say: **We put God first. When you connected the dots in the wrong order, it made a mess! And we make a mess of our lives when we worship other things and put them before God. God comes first!**

### Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **One of God's commandments is that we put God first. But when Paul went to visit Athens, he saw they were worshipping a lot of fake gods! Let's color Paul as he teaches them about the one true God.**

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.