



Learn it... Live it!

THEME: School's Out!

BIBLE STORY: We Do What It Says (*James 1:22-25*)

MATERIALS NEEDED

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

- [Certificates, one per Crossroads student](#)

GAMES

- Two pool noodles
- Two inflatable pool tubes
- Two pairs of swimming flippers
- A giant beach ball
- Four cones or markers

CRAFT: Family Bucket of Summer Activities

- Small plastic buckets, one per family
- A pack of adhesive foam stickers
- Packs of colored markers, one per family
- Sheets of colored construction paper (any color), approximately two sheets per family
- A pair of scissors

90-MINUTE SESSION OUTLINE

- [Introduction and Opening Game](#) (10 minutes)
- [Craft Activity](#) (30 minutes)
- [Games](#) (20 minutes)
- [Devotional Thought](#) (10 minutes)
- [Family Discussion](#) (15 minutes)
- [Closing Prayer and Dismissal](#) (5 minutes)

Introduction and Opening Game

(10 MINUTES)

Introduction

Welcome to family fun night! We are so glad you're here. Our goals are to help your family have fun together and to learn about God's love and his word.

Tonight, our theme is "School's Out!" because the time has come for the school year to end and the summer to begin! It can be easy to set the books and homework aside, but it's important to not forget the things that we've learned throughout the school year. What are you going to do this summer to practice what you've learned in school this year?

Allow each family to talk amongst themselves.

It's important to put into practice what we've learned. Let's hear what God's word has to tell us about this!

Read James 1:22-25.

We'll come back to this passage later, but right now let's play a game together!

Opening Game: Simon Says

Object: To do only what Simon says. To be the team with the last player standing.

Setup: Divide the families into two teams.

Instructions: Explain that the goal of this game is to do what Simon says! The leader will give commands and the participants must follow the commands, but only if the leader says "Simon Says. . ." For example, if the leader says, "Simon says hop up and down three times," all the players should hop up and down three

times. If the leader doesn't start with "Simon Says" and a participant follows the command, they must sit down. Play continues until one player remains standing, and their team wins.

Craft Activity

(30 MINUTES)

Family Bucket of Summer Activities

Preparation:

Give each family a plastic bucket, a pack of colored markers, and a handful of colored foam stickers.

Cut colored sheets of construction paper into small rectangle slips of paper. Each family should receive between 20-30 slips of paper.

Instructions:

1. Invite each family to turn to one another and describe their ideal summer. Then, give each family an opportunity to share aloud.
2. Decorate the outside of the plastic bucket with the colored foam stickers.
3. On the rectangle slips of paper, family members can write down activities that they'd like to do together as a family this summer. *Some parents may need to assist their younger children.
4. Families will take their buckets home and can take turns drawing an activity from the bucket to participate in together. To stress the theme and Bible passage, emphasize to the families that it would be silly to create such a fun craft without putting it to use!

Games

(20 MINUTES)

Inflatable Relays

Object: To be the first team to finish the relay.

Setup: Divide up the families into two equal teams and have them line up in two relay-style lines.

Lay the pool noodles down to mark the finish line - once each player crosses over the pool noodle, they can turn around and race back to their team.

In front of each team, lay a pair of swimming flippers and an inflated pool tube.

Instructions: To begin, each player must put on the flippers and the inflatable pool tube that is placed there for them, and race to the pool noodle and back. Once they've removed the flippers and inflatables, the next player must put them on and run. Play continues until all players have gone. The first team to finish wins the round. If time remains, play a second round. (Note: This game is best played on a grassy area for safety purposes. Avoid concrete.)

Giant Beach Volleyball

Object: To be the team with the most points.

Setup: Set up the cones or markers to designate the opposing sides of the "court."

Divide the families into two teams and assign them each to one side of the "court."

Set a timer for 10 minutes. The game will end when time is up.

Instructions: Participants may hit the ball back and forth using only their hands. If the ball touches the ground on one team's side, the opposing team gets a point. Set a reasonable "out of bounds" limit (doesn't necessarily have to be marked by cones, but participants should be informed that if the ball is way beyond any player's reasonable reach, it doesn't count.) Play until time is up. The team that has the most points wins.

Devotional Thought

(10 MINUTES)

Let's return to the Bible passage we read earlier.

Read James 1:22-25.

What do you notice about this Bible passage?

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

This is what I notice. Those that do NOT put into practice what they've learned forget, and those that do put into practice what they've learned do NOT forget.

I also notice that these verses remind us that reading God's word tells us who we are by comparing it to looking at ourselves in the mirror. Every morning we look at ourselves in the mirror to see what we look like on the outside. It's just as important to read God's word everyday so that we can see what we look like on the inside. At Crossroads this year, we've talked about who we are in Christ. We looked at the works of Jesus to help us discover what God, our Creator, says about us.

Invite the children to present the *Who Is Jesus? Call and Response* to their parents.

How do we put into practice what we've learned about Jesus? We read God's word and as we do, with God's help, we make sure we look like who God says we are on the inside.

Let's use this new call and response to help us remember who we are in Christ!

Invite the families to participate in this together.

- **Jesus, the Son of God, has come to me and called me by name.**
 - Point to the sky.
 - Bring your arms down to create a circle, and then point to yourself.
 - Next, point to your mouth and then point away.
- **The perfect life of Jesus has become my life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
 - Then point your two thumbs to yourself.
- **I have been crucified with Christ. All my sins have been paid for.**
 - Make a cross with both your arms.
 - While still making a cross, rub your two thumbs on your middle and index finger.
- **My old sinful nature has died and been buried with Christ, and the life I now live I live in Him.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees. Then stand back up quickly.
- **I have been raised to a new life, victorious in Jesus.**
 - Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **Right now, I am seated with Jesus in heavenly places. Jesus has prepared a place for me. Jesus has prepared a place for me.**

- Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- With two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **The Holy Spirit is the Father's gift to me.**
 - Open both hands like receiving a gift.
- **And I know that he is coming back for me, and I will be ready for him when he comes!**
 - Point to your mind.
 - Wave both hands like you are summoning someone to "come."
 - Point to yourself.
 - Stand at attention.

Let's pray. Lord Jesus, help us to put into practice that which you've taught us about yourself and about ourselves. Thank you that we can see ourselves as God sees us by looking to you, God's word made flesh. Amen.

Close by presenting the printed certificates to the children who participated in Crossroads this year.

Family Discussion

(15 MINUTES)

Distribute the family discussion guide and give the families time to discuss the questions there together.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal

(5

MINUTES)

Thank everyone for coming. Make any announcements about future family fun nights or other events at your church. Let the families know you love them and want to serve them. If anyone needs prayer, offer to pray for them.

Close the evening in prayer.

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

What is something you have “put into practice” recently? How do you know?

Read the story together again, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. (James 1:22-25, NLT).

To Discuss

- What's the difference between listening to God's word and doing what it says?
- Can you think of a time when you listened to your parents but did not do what they asked? What was the result?
- How often do you look at your face in the mirror? How much more important is it to look at ourselves as God sees us? How can we look at ourselves and see what God sees?
- What is promised to those who do what God's word says and don't forget what they've heard?
- What will you DO differently this summer because of what you've learned about Jesus and about yourself this year?