

Encouragement

Paul was an encourager and a defender of the saints. In his letters to Titus and Philemon he both encouraged and instructed them in the faith of Jesus Christ. Let's play a game to encourage and teach each other in our walk with Jesus Christ.

Hot, Hot, Hot Potato ta!

Objectives:	Learn about order in the church. Find out what is most encouraging to you and to each other. Practice encouraging and teaching one another. Gain insight into our own faith. Have fun with your family.
Number of Players:	2 or more (assign one person as time-keeper, they can still play)
Length:	15 - 30 minutes
Set up:	Explain the play, assign a time-keeper, give everyone a couple pieces of paper and a pencil
Props:	small soft ball or a stuffed animal for tossing to each other Paper and pens (pencils, crayons--something to write with) Bibles a hat or large bowl to draw pieces of paper from and a trash can to toss the used papers into
The Play:	<p>round 1: Everyone take 10 minutes alone with your paper and a pencil and your bible (if you have pre-school kids, pair them with an adult or an older child to help them with this part). Write down 5 different and great things that you <i>would like</i> to hear your parents, your siblings or your friends say about you. Now cut those 5 sayings apart so that you have 5 slips of paper with one saying on each one. Fold them and place them in the bowl. Now get your bible, and using only the books of Titus and Philemon, write 5 truths about church order with the scripture references on your paper. Cut those 5 truths apart so that you have 5 slips of paper with one truth on each one. Fold them and place them in the bowl.</p> <p>round 2: Place the bowl in the middle of the room or yard where everyone can stand in a circle around it. Get the ball and toss it to someone in the circle. That person must now draw a paper from the bowl and read it. If it is an encouragement, they should read it (with great gusto and sincerity) to the person who threw the ball to them. If it is a bible truth, they should read it to the whole room for learning. (Toss the used papers in the trash after they have been read.) The person who just caught the ball and read should now toss the ball to someone else in the circle (they can choose anyone, try to make sure you are including everyone). Now that person will draw from the bowl and do the reading. Continue in this manner until all the slips of paper are gone or you get tired of playing. the funny part is that your encouragement may be read to someone else and sound totally bizarre -- allow for the laughter and the fun amidst the learning. The Divine Providence is that your encouragement may be read to you!</p>



FAMILY STUDY

Discussion: Have a seat and talk about what you learned and the fun that you had. What did you most like about this game? What did you not like? Did you find out how you can be an encouragement to each other? What is your favorite way to be encouraged? Was there something new that you learned about one of your family members? How about God's word--what new truth did you discover from your study and reading today? What positive things will you do this week to encourage each one of your family members?

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family. Be an encouragement to one another!