

Games (Youth)

games...

Al Elmes & Malc Clarks

Aims of session

- To equip you with a resource of games
- To give you a fresh look at how to use games to your advantage
- To get creative with your game ideas

Games Factors

Know your crowd

- Special needs
- Is it cool (and does that matter?)
- Learning styles (visual, audio or kinaesthetic)

Lively / Non - lively?

- Probably best to calm them down before the talk
- What's appropriate for the group / space
- Healthy balance

Language

- 'Bigging up' a game is important. If **you** don't want to play the game, often they won't either.

Uses

Competitions

- Weekly competitions that only involve a few young people each week are a great way of having a different style of game. You can choose the two young people that listened / behaved the best; this is a great technique to positively encourage good behavior.
- If a young person is misbehaving you can warn them that they won't get to play it if they carry on.

Talk Games

- Sometimes it may be difficult to get young people to concentrate during the talk. A useful technique may be to combine an up the front game / quiz to emphasise a point or introduce a topic.

Creativity – *the long haul (creativity vs routine)*

Sitting at your desk, trying to come up with a great game idea is maybe one of the hardest ways to be creative. We suggest finding a different approach. What situations / environments are you most creative in? Here are some examples -

- Small group discussions
- Going for a walk
- Watching other people lead groups
- Walking through the supermarket for inspiration
- Watching Saturday morning television / Youtube
- Sat on your own with some paper



Resources

We at YoYo have created a games list that is downloadable from our website www.yoyotrust.org.uk under the downloads section.

This games list is intended to be an ever increasing list of games and resources. In order for that to happen we would love it if you could type in any games that you use that are not on the list (for 11 – 18 year olds) and email the list back to us. Then we will be able to share our creative ideas with each other.

Game examples

Only smarties have the answer

- OK so take a smartie, look at it. Depending on the colour, tell us a fact about yourself.

Blue	-	Tell us one of your earliest memories
Orange	-	Tell us a funny fact about you
Brown	-	What is your favourite film?
Green	-	Tell us an embarrassing story about yourself
Purple	-	Favourite song?
Pink	-	What was your best day of your life?
Yellow	-	What is your biggest fear?

T Break

- Freeze a T shirt in a freezer bag full of water before hand.
- Divide the group into two teams
- First group to have someone come back wearing it wins

Strawberry Lace Face Race – Competition game

- Get some strawberry laces
- Get two young people up to the front
- They each put the tip of a strawberry lace in their mouth
- First young person to chew and swallow it wins
- They are NOT allowed to use their hands

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Small groups

Joy, fun & creativity through small groups

Neil Jackson

Aims of session

- To understand how small groups can help us to nurture joy, fun & creativity with young people.
- To reflect on how to run effective small groups, full of joy, fun & creativity.
- To practice putting together a small group session, full of joy, fun & creativity.

Why Small Groups?

- Effective relationship building.
- Effective dynamics.
- Belonging.
- Greater engagement.
- Age- and Gender-specific.

The roles people play

Joker/Clown

Inject fun but can be disruptive.

Peacemaker

Person who tries to stop all arguments

Dominator

Person who talks a lot (too much) and doesn't listen to others.

Story-teller

Person who tells personal and often unrelated stories, taking over the conversation or boring others.

Ideas Person

Person with lots of new ideas, approaches and solutions, but can get carried away.

Passive group member

Person who doesn't get involved.

Don

Person who interprets conversations, but also makes complicated explanations of even simple discussions.

Fighter/Defender

Person who defends their own position (or someone else's) as though they are the only one who cares.

Helper/Facilitator

Person who tries to make sure everyone is involved.

Leading a small group

Style

Be aware of your natural style of leadership and try to develop a more rounded style:

- Relaxed
- Directive
- Co-operative

Content

Try to ensure lots of variety in what you do. This allows for:

- Learning styles
- Group roles (see above)
- Change group dynamics
- Connecting with the whole person
- Keeping it fresh



Using the bible in small groups

Why?

What are we aiming to achieve?

- Knowledge of well known bible stories.
- Understanding of how to ask and answer simple questions to aid understanding.
- Relevant application to their lives.

How?

What methods can we use?

- Use of appropriate translations.
- Asking questions.
- Respecting opinions.
- Drama
- Role play
- Video
- Games, craft, quizzes, etc.

Getting practical

Planning a small group session

You are going to plan a fun, creative bible study session for use with a group of 11-14 year olds. Note down some ideas for your session below:

Resources

Websites

- LightLive: www.lightlive.org.uk
- SchoolsLive: www.schoolslive.co.uk

Printed resources

- theGRID, curriculum product for 11 to 14s (SU)
- SUstance, curriculum product for 14+ (SU)
- Ultimate Games, Patrick Goodland (SU)
- Ultimate Visual Aids, Adams & Merrell (SU)
- Ultimate Quizzes, Richard & Mary Chewter (SU)
- Ultimate Craft, Copsey & Orme (SU)
- Ultimate Creative Prayer, Judith Merrell (SU)
- Top Tips on Leading Small Groups, Barker & Whyatt (SU)

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Making More of Music (Youth)

Creative ideas for both musical and tone deaf Youth Workers.

Tim Burnage

Aims of session

- ♪ To explore how we can make more of Music in our Youthwork
- ♪ To experiment with some creative ideas

**"What would you rather go without: sex, or music?
For most young people, the answer is sex.
More than 60% of young people would rather give up sex than music..."**

Music for Fun!

Using Music just because Music is great.

There are loads of opportunities to get your young people using Music just for fun:

- ♪ Karaoke backing tracks are springing up all over YouTube – why not have a Karaoke party or X Factor style competition to raise money for charity (or just for a fun social)?
- ♪ Britain's Got Talent style competitions where young people play instruments, sing or form bands – it might not result in the greatest concert you'll ever hear, but you might be surprised by some hidden talent.

Music for Thinking

Starting where Young People are at...

There are a number of recent contemporary songs that could act as starting point for discussion, cell material starting points or themes for your youth group session. Here are some examples with ideas for themes that might be relevant.

- ♪ **Linkin' Park – Numb**; relating to the feeling of not being good enough.
- ♪ **Black Eyed Peas – Where is the Love**; exploring the impact of suffering.
- ♪ **Daniel Beddingfield – Honest Questions**; what questions would we ask God?
- ♪ **Sam Sparro – Black & Gold**; if God didn't create the earth – then what's the point?
- ♪ **The Fray – You Found Me**; how did God find you?
- ♪ **Feel My Love – Adele**;

Music for Creating

Song writing

Doesn't have to be as scary as it sounds

- ♪ For younger teenagers why not get them to write raps about the theme of your workshop. Add some simple backing beat (a drum beat from a keyboard...) and off you go.
- ♪ Use a concordance for ideas for lyrics.
- ♪ Writing new words for an existing song (one song to the tune of another?!).
- ♪ Writing / finding a melody for young people to write lyrics to based around a passage of the Bible.
- ♪ Setting a song writing challenge (e.g. write a new Christmas carol).

Other creative ideas

- ♪ There are opportunities to use music and images together. What about using Movie Maker to create a worship video with worshipful images and their favourite Christian song.
- ♪ They could make a pop video for their song / rap and upload it to YouTube.

Resources

- ♪ Andy Flannagan – Distinctive Worship
- ♪ Various Bible Interpretations (e.g. Street Bible or the Message)
- ♪ Spotify www.spotify.com & YouTube www.youtube.com

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Drama (Youth)

Greg Roberts

Aims of session

- To explore the use of monologue in teaching Gods story.
- To perform different forms of Drama, particularly that which uses comedy, as a group.
- To explore the use of various other dramatic techniques for communicating God's story.
- To explore different ways of using drama for both young people and adult outreach.

Doing Drama well

In order for Drama to be effective, be it comedy or a moving drama, it needs to be performed well. In the same way as music (in worship or otherwise) needs practice and rehearsal, so is the case with drama. Performing with a script in hand takes away most of its effectiveness unless it is a Dramatic Reading (as explored in Reading Aloud below). So the more rehearsal and the better the scripts are learnt, the more that will come out of it.

Monologue

Dramatic monologue can be a very powerful way of telling a story, either write your own or find them on the Web. Examples could be a monologue in the character of the Roman Soldier who stuck the spear in Jesus side, telling us how he just knows that man is the son of God.

Artistic license may be needed to expand the character and story, but that doesn't mean that we have to stray from the meaning and purpose of the scripture. Nothing should be added which contradicts the scripture, but often adding plausible detail or back story, within the genre, can really add to its power. Children, young people and adults alike respond to a character speaking rather than a story being told in the third person.

Pantomime

The genre of pantomime – with chase scenes, custard pies “Its behind you” “Oh no I didn't” etc. can be useful at times even with tweenagers and teenagers that you may think of as painfully “cool”. Games involving shaving foam always go down well – as does silly drama as long as it is thought through properly beforehand.

Sketches

Sketches can be used to reveal understanding of scripture, straight storytelling, gentle satire, in fact for many purposes in church. It often puts people at ease.

Building community through Drama – Musicals

I have seen in different locations, both affluent and non-affluent, how involvement in Church-linked Drama can draw people of all ages into youth groups, Church etc. Advertise around Church and the community for performers, costume makers, musicians etc. and people will turn up who would never dream of either turning up on a Sunday morning or even attending an Alpha course. Have it all led by Church but very much with community involvement. Achieving a show like “Joseph...” brings people together and builds friendships which can last a lifetime. You can put on a Church service to pray for the show the week before, and invite all involved to social events.

Suitable musicals for linking Church with community, with either Christian or moral good values are:

“Joseph and the amazing Technicolour® dreamcoat”

“Godspell”

“Jesus Christ Superstar” – although it is still debatable whether this is suitable (it's easy to add a resurrection scene by just miming a very brief scene involving the women visiting the empty tomb as a short epilogue – this does not add to the script or score and so doesn't infringe performance rules.)



"The Wizard of Oz"
"Oliver"
"High School Musical"

I wrote my dissertation on "How can Drama build Community?" – you probably wouldn't want to read it but your welcome to!

Space for "Ideas I have taken from the session"

Resources

Riding Lights Theatre Company sketch book "**Rough Diamonds**" – probably only now available from Riding Lights themselves. Covers themes including Grace, life and death, the Good Samaritan, Road to Emmaus, Christmas.

Books by Saltmine Theatre Company or Viz-a-Viz theatre company.

Be cautious about selecting titles similar to "100 fab Youth Sketches" Christian books. Some are good but do read a couple of sketches in them to decide for yourself you think children could benefit from them.

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Youth Activities

The value of interactive learning with children and young people

John Stephenson

Aims of session

- To look at the potential learning opportunities offered by youth activities
- To examine some example of interactive learning and their advantages and disadvantages
- To look afresh at programmes for extended periods of time with young people
- To look at the practical issues involved particularly for residential activities

Why?

- Learning styles – connecting with different learners
- Making memories
- Informal opportunities: relaxing together allows you to relate to young people naturally
- Shared experiences: what you do together is often more memorable than what you talk about
- Community living: living together grows relationships
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Models

We will examine the advantages and disadvantages of these activities in the seminar

- Role Play
- Simulation Games
- Creative Bible Engagement
- Practical Service
- Sleepover
- Take your group away to a centre or a large event e.g. Soul Survivor, Spring Harvest
- Take part in a regional or national holiday e.g. Scripture Union, CPAS, Urban Saints
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Programming

Many activities employ a fairly traditional approach to programming with clearly defined teaching slots and activity slots. Although there is nothing wrong with this we will explore other possible models including

- An integrated approach where activities and teaching are intertwined
- An approach based on allowing individuals to choose the level and style of input they feel is appropriate
- Making the most of your space to enhance learning
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Practical

Issues to consider when choosing activities

- Time needed – time for debrief is an essential part of the exercise
- Unplanned outcomes – living with not knowing
- Space available – often need more space(s) than a traditional group room
- Raised emotions – involvement raises the stakes
- Learning from failure – not all learning is pleasant
- Learning together – leaders are also learning not simply teaching
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Below is a list of issues to consider when planning a residential.

- Venue – what will it allow you to do or restrict you
- Length – the greater the length the greater the cost
- Food – who will cook? Are they qualified?
- Budget – what will it all cost and how will you fund it?
- Sleeping arrangements – separation of male/female and team/young people
- Child Protection – is everyone cleared? What is your policy?
- Insurance – who is covering you for liability? This is particularly important if you are planning outdoor activities
- Health and Safety – Risk assessments are essential
- Parental Permission – parents need enough information to know what they are giving permission to
- Publicity – how will you recruit
- Programme – what will you do? What needs booking in advance? What will it cost?
- Transport – how will you travel? Is the car insurance adequate? Who can drive a minibus?
- First Aid – who is qualified and will take responsibility
- Theme – will you have a theme for the teaching or for other activities
- Evaluation – how will it be even better next time?

Resources

Multi-sensory series produced by Scripture Union offer some excellent activities that you can incorporate into your sessions.

Many fair-trade and climate change issues are covered by charities. Check out websites for CAFOD, Christian Aid, TearFund and Traidcraft for some excellent ideas. In particular the Paper Bag game <http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/YouthLeaderResources/pbag.aspx> and the Trading Trainers Game <http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/TeachersResources/secondary/trainers.aspx>.

There is very little published about residential. However CCI (Christian Camping International) produce a series of 25 resource sheets as well as offering a venue finding service. They are at <http://www.cci.org.uk/> and the resource sheets are at http://www.cci.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=42

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