

RESOURCES: YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN PERSON OPTIONS

Icebreakers

Animal Noise Game

Get the group to stand around in a big circle, all facing inwards. Choose a leader (who knows how to play) to start the game by demonstrating their animal noise. For example, they might do an elephant, making a trumpet-like noise while waving their arm like a trunk. Then continue going around the circle, getting each player to choose a unique, individual animal noise (and action). When everyone has had their turn then get someone to start...

The game works in a "pass the buck" style. The first player will do their own animal noise, then pass it on to someone else by doing their animal noise. So, it might go "elephant – cat" then whoever is the cat must respond "cat – donkey" etc. If a player takes too long to respond, or passes back, or stuffs it up, then they are out!

Never Have I Ever (Socially Distanced)

Hold out 5 fingers (well, 4 and your thumb) Go around the circle and one at a time, each person announces something that they have never done, beginning the sentence with the phrase "Never have I ever..." For example, a person could say, "Never have I ever been to Europe." For each statement that is said, all the other players drop a finger if they have done that statement. So, if three other people have been to Europe before, those three people must put down a finger, leaving them with 4 fingers. The goal is to stay in the game the longest (to be the last person with fingers remaining).

To win, it is a good strategy to say statements that most people have done, but you haven't. Be creative and silly (but not rude, of course).

Two Truths and a Lie

The students sit in a circle and tell three "fun facts" about themselves, two are true and one is a lie. The group then guesses which "fun fact" is the lie. These facts can be simple or elaborate depending on how much time you have. This helps groups get to know each other better.

Infection Tag

Each student will need a pool noodle.

1. Chose a certain number of players to be IT. There needs to be an appropriate ratio of ITS to players (e.g. 5 ITS: 25 Players). Then set boundaries for the area they can play in.
2. The ITS will have a special infectious "virus" on their pool noodles. If they tag another player with the pool noodle, the virus has now transferred to the other player. Now they are a "pod" and must work together to tag others. The infected population will grow. The last person not in the infected "pod" wins.

Mafia

Naturally socially-distant game that our group loves. Instead of having the narrator tap with their hand, consider having them tap with their foot on others' feet. Rules can be found here <https://youthgroupgames.com.au/games/mafia/>

Activities/Lessons

Modified Kickball

Traditional Kickball with a COVID-safe spin. No one could run up and tag the other person, those manning the base had to take a step back when people began to run through, and masks were always worn. Hand sanitizer was available after individuals touched the ball.

Life-size foosball

All you need for this is a soccer ball and two ropes with notches. Split your groups into teams and have them try to play a normal game of soccer, while only able to move backwards and forwards. If the ball goes behind the ropes, or reaches a certain point, it can count as a goal. You will need one leader to bring the ball back when it goes out of bounds.

Things to look out for: this has a bit more movement, so make sure you are keeping an eye on how people are using the rope.

Lima Bean Relay Race

Materials Needed:

- One Straw for each team member
- one bag of lima beans.
- 2 paper plates for each team.
- 2 card tables

Keep everyone in their spray-painted circle and divide into 2 teams.

Give each team member a straw. Place two tables about 10 feet apart. One the first table have a paper plate filled with lima beans. On the second table have another paper plate to deposit the beans on.

The object of the game is for the teammate to suck a bean up and run to the other table and deposit the bean on the second plate. The players return to the back of the line.

You do not need to wait until the player returns to the line for the next person to start.

This is a timed race. Game continues until time is called. If the bean bounces off the plate it does not count. If teammate drops the bean before getting to the second table, he returns to the end of their line.

Events

Youth Pizza Party

For this event youth brought towels at least 8 ft apart (marked by cones). RSVPs and pizza orders were required. Pizza was handed out to each group or individual by masked and gloved volunteers. Each youth or sibling group got their own pizza. We also provided bottled water.

Mission Ideas

- Make Manna Bags for the Stewpot. [Learn more about Manna bags here.](#)
- Write cards or draw pictures for the members in your congregation who are isolated. (have the envelopes pre-addressed and with pre-stamped.)
- Make snack bags for a local school.
- DIY mini putt-putt golf out of canned/boxed food

Have the youth set up their own putt-putt obstacle course, and let the fun begin. Split into teams and give each team a theme.

At the end, the teams get judged for creativity and play the “course” to see who gets the best score.

Things to look out for: make sure you have enough equipment so that each student can use their own or have systems in place to clean it as you go. It could also be helpful to have markers where youth can line up safely.

Helpful Links

<https://apcenet.org/resources/>

This is the site for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. There are curated resources from past event, and links to many other resources for all ages.

<https://store.illustratedministry.com>

Illustrated Ministry offers resources for faith formation for all ages for purchase based on church size. There are devotionals, coloring pages, worship bulletins, stickers, cards and so much more which go with the church season.

<https://buildfaith.org>

Building Faith is published by Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary. Their mission is to equip and inspire churches and individuals for the ministry of Christian education and faith formation. Full of helpful articles and practical resources and ideas to download for all ages.

ONLINE OPTIONS

Icebreakers

Candy Bar Chopped

Use this Power Point of Chopped Up Candy Bars and get the Youth to guess what candy bar it is! [Click Here to access the PowerPoint](#)

Read My Lips

Say something on mute and have others guess what you are saying.

Example: What have you done today? Private message the person who guesses it. Then they turn mute and others must guess what is being said. And repeat!

Examples:

1. What time is it?
2. In go to _____ school.
3. Superman is my hero.
4. I consider myself to be a morning person.
5. Chocolate cake is the best!

Color Scavenger Hunt

- Leader calls out a color
- Participants reach for something that is that color within reach of them and holds it up.
- Leader repeats several times.

Activities/Lessons

COVID-Jeopardy game

Play a classic game with a fun spin! [Click Here to download the Jeopardy PowerPoint](#)

The Price is Right Game

Take a guess at what things cost with this fun game. For extra entertainment show your group part of [The Price is Right Pre-school Edition](#)

[Click here to download the Price is Right PowerPoint](#)

Earth Care Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Walk around your neighborhood, enjoy nature. Find all the objects (from the list you create) and put together a photo collage of your pictures and post it to the youth social media or text it to Youth Director or volunteer. Examples: Find 6 kinds of flowers, find a body of water, have a waste free meal, find a building with solar panels, etc.

Events

Youth Sunday Worship

Youth are given parts to read or sing for a worship service. Parents can record using their devices and send in to be put into the worship service. This can work for pre-recorded worship services or for services that are streamed using a streaming software.

Chopped

Send the parents a list of 5 secret ingredients a week before. The Zoom call begins before the students have seen the secret ingredients. Then, the students will each have to cook an appetizer, entrée, or dessert using these 5 secret ingredients just like in the Food Network Show Chopped—you assign which category it is in. They may need help from a parent or sibling, but they have 45 minutes to make their dish. They can use pantry items such as spices, flour, eggs, oil, butter, milk, etc. At the end of this event the parent or caregiver judges for taste, and the online “judges” can make judgement calls for creativity and presentation. We gave each person a unique prize but labeled one person the “Queen/King of Chopped” for the overall best performance. This is best for students ages 4th grade and up.

Helpful Links

Youth Ministry Institute: [Games & Activities for Digital Gatherings](#)