



DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Kick-Off Party Plan

Crossroads Kids Club®

Goals

Students get to know their leaders, have fun, and are encouraged to invite their friends to club.

Materials

- A paper lunch bag (preferably white), one for each child
- Coloring supplies, one box per group*
- Supplies for Minute-To-Win-It games (see ideas below)
- A bag of individually wrapped candy for prizes, one per game station
- A timing device (a phone can work), one per game station

Special Note

Your kick-off party day is a great opportunity to recruit special event volunteers (or potential new Crossroads leaders) to help out for the day and run one of the game stations. The more volunteers you have for this, the more fun the day will be for the kids.

Welcome and Opening Activities 10-15 Minutes

You may or may not already have your students assigned to small groups today - today's program doesn't require it. The welcome and opening activities can be done in small groups or in a large group with leaders spread out among the children.

Check students in as they arrive, take attendance and provide a snack. While the students are eating their snack, leaders can ask students to share "highs" and "lows" (the best and worst things that happened to them this week.)

Give students a paper lunch bag and coloring supplies. Instruct them to write their name on the bag and then decorate it. They will use these bags to collect candy prizes later in the day.

Large Group Time 15-20 Minutes

Welcome the students, introduce the leaders, and explain the purpose of the Crossroads program. Introduce the [Crossroads Code of Conduct](#) and set expectations for behavior and use of the space for club (where/when to go for bathroom, water, etc.)

This year at Crossroads we're going to discover some incredible things about who we are as people all because of one man named Jesus, who is also the Son of God, who did some incredible things for us! To help us remember who Jesus is and all that he has done for us, we're going to memorize a {name}. Repeat after me and follow along with the motions. (Enlist the help of several adult volunteers to lead the kids in the hand and body motions.) Any time I say or one of your leaders says, "Who is Jesus?" this is how we are going to respond:

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.

- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, 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.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

Great job! Today, we have a fun day planned just for you! We're going to be playing fun "minute to win-it games," but first, we've got a game for all of us to try together!

Start off with the large group game below.

Rubber Band Cup Stacking Challenge

Divide children into groups of 5-8 players in each group. Mixed ages works best. Each group should receive the following supplies:

- 15 large plastic cups
- A rubber band
- String or twine, cut into strings with one end tied to the rubber band (the number of string should be equal to the number of players in the group)

When you signal “go,” groups will attempt to complete the challenge of stacking the 15 cups into a pyramid shape. The challenge is that they may not touch the cups with their hands; instead each player holds on of the strings attached to the rubber band, and the team works together to expand the rubber band and use it to grab and move the cups.

The group that successfully builds a pyramid with the cups, or the group with the most progress made when the leader signals the end of the game wins.

Explain how the rest of the day will work. Leaders will be stationed around the space with different Minute-To-Win-It games. Students will carry their decorated paper bags around as they choose a station to play. If they complete the designated challenge in a minute, they receive a piece of candy to put in their bags. Students will visit the games and play each one as many times as they'd like.

“Minute-To-Win-It” Games 45-60 Minutes

Choose from any of the following ideas and set up as many stations as you are able with the leaders you have.

Sticky Towers

Two or more children may compete at the same time. Each player is given an equal number of toothpicks and mini marshmallows. They are timed one minute to see who can build the tallest standing tower.

Block Sorting

Players must sort a bowl or bin full of Lego[®], Duplo[®], or other multi-colored building blocks into groups by color.

Stack Attack

Players must stack 36 cups in a pyramid and then back down into a single stack.

Tangram Puzzles

Build the tangram shapes into a given image. (Click here for a [free printable tangram set](#) and challenge images)

Build a Word

Using various pipe cleaners, challenge players to form their name within one minute. Adjust the difficulty level for older children and give them other words to build.

Breakfast Scramble

To set up, you will need to cut the front of a cereal box into pieces (8-16 pieces depending on how challenging you want it to be.) Players have to reassemble the puzzle within a minute.

Paper Airplane Building Contest

Two to four children have one minute to build a paper airplane and see who's goes the farthest.

Card Towers

Two to four children compete to see who can build the highest tower of index cards that remains standing after the one minute is up.

The Nutstacker

Using a chopstick and approximately 8-10 metal nuts (available in the hardware section of a store), children try to stack the nuts in a straight tower. Works best on a flat surface like a table.

Suck it Up

Using a straw, players must suck the smarties off a paper to pick them up and try to arrange them in a stack.

Face the Cookie

Each player is given a cookie placed on their forehead. The goal is for them to get it into their mouth without touching it with their hands.

Stack Attack

Players must stack 36 cups in a pyramid and then back down into a single stack.

Movin' On Up

Players start with a blue cup on top and stack the cups one by one until the blue cup is on top again. Use 8-12 cups depending on the age and ability of those playing.

Ping Pong Bounce

Players bounce ping pong balls into six cups.

Keep it Up

Players blow a feather across the room into a bucket.

Elephant March

To prepare, put a tennis ball in the end of a pair of panty hose or put a tennis ball in each leg of a pair of panty hose. Set 8 cups up on the floor to create a walkway. To play, the player must put

the panty hose on their head and knock over all the cups by swinging their head from side to side.

Scoop it Up

Using nothing but a spoon in their mouth, players must transfer six ping pong balls from one bowl to another) in less than one minute. No hands! Hands are only allowed if they drop the ping pong ball, and then they can be used to place the ball back into the original bowl for another transfer attempt. 2-3 players compete for each round of play.

Defying Gravity

Using only one hand, players must keep two balloons from touching the ground for one minute. For a more challenging game, increase the amount to three balloons per player (and use different colored balloons for each player to make it easy to differentiate!). No holding the balloons! Two players per round of competition.

Closing 5-10 Minutes

Call all the students together.

Did you have fun today? We will be back here every week on _____ (day of the week.) after school. Not every week will be like this, but we will learn exciting stories, play lots of games and have fun with our friends and leaders! Do you have any friends who should be here?

Distribute extra flyers so they can invite friends. If you have a lot of capacity to grow the number of children in your club, consider offering a group incentive such as “If we get 10 new kids here next week, we’ll have an ice cream party.”

Provide instructions to the group on your check out process so that everyone is dismissed in a safe and efficient manner. Close the group in prayer.