

Wave Maker

Bible Story: Creation • *Genesis 1 and 2*

Bottom Line: God made people with a purpose.

Memory Verse: “Whoever believes in me . . . rivers of living water will flow from within them.”
John 7:38 (NIV)

1. Make Waves, Make a Difference

What You Need: a large space

What You Do:

- If you have a large group, divide the kids into groups of 12-15.
- Line up the kids shoulder to shoulder.
- Direct the kids to face the same direction.
- Instruct the kid on one end of the line to raise and lower both of their hands in a big, flowing motion.
- Direct each kid down the line to raise and lower their hands in turn.
- Once the “wave” reaches the last kid in the line, instruct the kids to make the “wave” go back the other way.
- The second time around, invite the kids to make the “wave” bigger by bending their knees this time as they raise and lower their arms.
- The third time around, direct the kids to make the wave go back and forth as fast as they can.
 - *If you have more than one line of kids, instruct them to compete to see which “wave” finishes first.*
- If you have the capability, make a video of the “wave” and play it back on a big screen.

What You Say:

“Great job, you guys! You had to use your energy to make the wave go fast and big. In the same way, God’s power lives in us to give us the energy to make a difference in our world.”

“As we learned today, God has made you specifically to make a difference in the world. **[Bottom Line]** **God made people with a purpose.** He gave you gifts and abilities so you can make a difference in the world around you. The things that you love to do will give you clues about figuring out the purpose God made you for. And as you learn what God made you to do, He will power you to make a difference in the world.”

2. Rivers of Living Water

What You Need: a large space

What You Do:

- Play a version of “Crack the Whip.”
- Divide the kids into groups of 6-10.
- Instruct each group to line up shoulder to shoulder.
- Direct the kids to grasp the hands of the kids on both sides of them.
 - *You can advise the kids from the beginning of the game or let them discover that they will be much more successful if they overlap their hands and hold onto wrists.*
- Instruct the leader of each line to run around in crazy zigzags.
- Direct the kids holding hands to try to hang on.
- Any kid who lets go of the hands next to them is out.
- Kids can try to re-attach by chasing the line and grabbing hold of the last person’s hand.

What You Say:

“Phew! That was hard to stay attached to your leader, but when you gripped tighter, you were better able to stay attached! In the same way, when we stay close to Jesus, His living water, His Spirit, will power His purpose in each of us. Remember: **[Bottom Line] God made people with a purpose.** That includes you! When we stay attached to Jesus, His Spirit will give us the power to live out our purpose. He will help us live out what He made us to do.”

3. Circle of Life

What You Need: paper plates with the faces of barnyard animals or zoo animals, or plates in a variety of solid colors

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle on the floor.
 - Note: This game works best when the circle is large. Also, younger kids will play the game more successfully if they're in a circle of 10 or less. You can choose how to divide your kids.
- Instruct the kids to sit with their legs crossed, and place their plate on the floor in front of them.
- Invite the kids to pat their legs in a slow, steady beat.
- As they pat their legs, instruct the first kid to say four things:
 - their own name
 - the color or animal on their plate
 - another kid's name
 - the color or animal on the other kid's plate
- For example, the first kid could say: "Henry, giraffe, Mason, tiger."
- Then instruct the kid who was named to pick up the rhythm and say the four things.
- Establish a few rules:
 - Always keep the rhythm going.
 - Do not repeat anyone who has already been called.
- If someone hesitates, jump in and help them—this can be especially helpful for younger children.

What You Say:

"Wow! There are so many different animals (or colors) and people that God made. God created everything with great variety and each one has a special purpose. You can figure out your purpose by what you like to do and what you do well. Remember: **[Bottom Line] God made people with a purpose.** And that includes you too!"

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for Games Rotation for VBS:

1. Make Waves, Make a Difference

- A large space

2. Rivers of Life

- A large space (either a field outdoors or a gym inside)

3. Circle of Life

- Paper plates with the faces of barnyard animals or zoo animals on them
- Or plates in a variety of solid colors