

Backward Night

As the name implies, everything about this special event is done *in reverse*. Print invitations and posters backward (even from bottom to top). Invite everyone to come to this event with their clothes on backward and inside out.

Before the young people arrive, set up signs directing them to use the back door of the building. Spell everything backward.

When the participants arrive, greet them, "Good-bye, we hope you had a great time!" Continue the program exactly in reverse, so begin with prayer if you usually end with prayer. As the young people leave, put name tags on them, welcome them, and introduce visitors. If paper plates are used for refreshments, use them upside down and make everyone eat wrong-handed. Oral announcements should be made with your back to the crowd.

The games for Backward Night all require teams. Divide the group into four or more teams for all the following games. For each game, each team begins with one thousand points, and they lose points as they win.

1. Backward barnyard: Choose a different farm animal for each team. Give each person on a team the name of their barnyard animal. Turn off the lights. Have each team member mingle while making the sound of that animal in order to find the rest of his or her team. However, on Backward Night, the sounds are reversed, so the cow's sound is oooom; the dog's, wow-bow; the donkey's, haw-hee, and so on.

2. Backward charades: This game is like regular charades, but the titles must be acted out in reverse. For example, *Gone with the Wind* would be *Wind the with Gone*.

3. Backward letter scramble: Ahead of time, make four sets of cards (one set per team) with the letters *B, A, C, K, W, A, R, and D* on them. Pass out the cards and have each team member hold one or more cards, depending on how many members are on each team. Call out a word using those letters (e.g., *drab, raw, bark, crab*). Have the

players holding those letters line up with their letters, spelling the named word *backward*. The first team to do so wins.

4. Relay games: Use any relay game you like, but run it *backward*—have the players run backward, crawl backward, or walk backward.

5. Behind-the-back pass: Teams line up shoulder-to-shoulder. Pass several objects down the line from player to player behind their back. The first team to pass a certain number of these objects to the end of the line is the winner. For fun, try using cups of water. Spilling is a penalty, and points will be added to the score.