

THE GAMES WE PLAY

My friend Chris at youthministrygeek.com tells me that “Games” is the most popular search word used by youth workers. So in that spirit, here’s my top-five list of both paid-for and free tech-games.

Budget for These

- **Crowd-Control Games** (crowdcontrolgames.com, six different games, from \$15 to \$30)—The genius of these games is that your kids’ voices control them, promoting amazing group interactions.

- **Spin That Wheel** (digitalstache.com, \$25)—The creative programmers at Digital Stache just released a really fun prize game called “Spin That Wheel.” Just add names of prizes to the wheel, pick players from your group, and *spin that wheel!*

- **Power Play Games** (simplyyouthministry.com/resources-games-power-play-vol--5.html, each disk contains 20 different Power Play games, \$17 to \$18.99)—Closer to home, Power Play Games (Vol. 1-5) have been integral to our program for a long time. These PowerPoint trivia games are easy to lead and play. Don’t have PowerPoint? No problem, it comes with a free version of the PowerPoint Viewer.

- **The Applause Meter** (theapplausemeter.com, \$20)—This game is perfect for giving your teenagers ownership over choices—from prizes to competition winners—in your ministry. Drop this into your presentation software, connect a microphone, and you are ready to go.

- **Race This!** (simplyyouthministry.com/resources-media---programming-race-this-.html, each disk contains 10 different race games, \$25.99)—Pump up the energy, and the volume, in your youth room with these random-ending race games.

While these games are not voice controlled, we tell them they are, it gets them more involved...is that wrong?

Get or Create These for Free

- **Musical Chairs DJ**—There are some cool iPad, iPhone, and Android DJ apps that allow you to slow down, speed up, and reverse songs. Use these features to your advantage by putting a twist on musical chairs. If you don’t have a smartphone, borrow a record player and an album from your senior pastor’s Gaithers collection.

- **Trivia Text Messages**—Ask your group a question and have them text you their answers. Give a prize to the first message received, or choose a few random winners. This is also a good way to get your kids’ direct numbers.

- **PowerPoint Trivia Games**—Create your own PowerPoint trivia game, or check out a huge collection of free PowerPoint games at pastor2youth.com/ym-exchange/powerpoint_games.

- **Spot the Difference**—Set up a tripod and take a picture of your office. Move 20 things and take another picture. Place the two photos side-by-side in your presentation software and give your group time to find the 20 things.

- **Sherlock Holmes**—Play a video clip...any video clip. After you watch the clip as a group, ask 10 questions about specific details. For example: What was the name of...? What color was the...?

By the way, all of these games work on a Mac or PC. And for more free tech games, check out the Games section at simplyyouthministry.com. ■