

GAME
PRETZEL OLYMPICS

Greece has never seen Olympic events quite like these.

All you'll really need to stage these Olympics are rod pretzels and large and small traditional pretzels. But if you're ambitious, make Olympic "medals" out of construction paper and yarn; play Olympic-themed music; create a silly, pretzel-themed athletes' oath; and stage mock media interviews after each "event."

Pretzel Towers—Form small teams. Using large pretzels, see which team can stack the most pretzels on top of one another without the stack falling.

Pretzcrabble—Have kids race against the clock to spell your church or youth ministry name—with pretzels, of course. Have kids bite or break pretzels to form the letters needed.

The Pretzel Feed—One person on each team—the Pretzel Feeder—puts a pretzel on each finger and thumb on each hand. On "go" the other team members, one at a time, must eat one pretzel off the Pretzel Feeder's fingers without using their hands.

Sword Fight—Use rod pretzels for 20-second "sword fights." Have one person from each team—preferably a guy against a girl—duel with a pretzel in one hand and the other hand on his or her hip. The person with the longest pretzel after 20 seconds is the winner. Continue until everyone has dueled.

OUTREACH
THE CHRIST WALK

This Easter involve your kids and church members in dramatizing events from Jesus' life.

Outdoors, preferably in a natural setting, stage 12 scenes from Jesus' life, such as the ones suggested below. Have kids and church members dress up to play the parts. Keep things simple but be creative; for example, use bathrobes for costumes, and use minimal props such as a boat for the calling of the disciples, a table for the Last Supper, or a hay wagon for Pilot's palace. Provide sound effects at the different scenes, such as the sound of hammering nails for the crucifixion scene. Have players act out the scene by reading or memorizing a few lines from Scripture.

Have several people in costume lead the "crowd"—people who've come to the event—through the scenes. For extra realism, have two "criminals" make mischief throughout the crowd, even stealing a wallet from someone (staged). Then have these two criminals "hang" on the crosses next to Jesus.

After the crowd moves away from the crucifixion scene, have the person playing Jesus clean up and then walk down the road through the crowd to the empty tomb (the last scene). Have the joyful disciples run to hug Jesus.

Afterward have church members available to pray with people desiring prayer or to share more about Jesus and the Christian life.

FUND-RAISER
MISSION MILES

Clueing church members into your group's travel plans creates interest in your group's activities and also nets dollars to help fund the trip.

The next time your group takes a road trip, call your local Automobile Association of America (AAA) office to get the approximate number of miles to your destination. Then sell miles for \$2 apiece. Make a map that plots your group's movement from your church to your destination by way of a clip-art van. Display the map in a prominent location at the church.

Each week during announcements, update the congregation on where you're at on the map and how many miles are left. People who want to contribute can do so by placing a check in the offering plate, noting "mission miles" in the memo field.

The best part of this fund-raiser is that it requires little preparation and no high-pressure selling. It also builds excitement in your group and in the church body as the van inches closer to your destination.

Tony Akers
Bowling Green, Kentucky

try this one

READYTOGO

9 tried-and-tested ideas sent in by youth workers—ready to cut out and file

WE'LL PAY YOU \$40!

We're on the lookout for discussion starters, crowdbreakers, group builders, helpful hints, publicity ideas, special events, and especially fund-raisers, games, no prop—no prep ideas, and active Bible studies. If you've created a tried-and-true idea found in no other publication, send it in.

We'll pay you \$40 if we publish it. Just send your ideas, daytime phone number, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to group's "Try This One," P.O. Box 481, Loveland, CO 80539-0481 or email editor@groupmag.com. For more ideas visit our Web site at <http://www.youthministry.com>.

cut along the dotted lines!

Javelin Throw—Again using rod pretzels, have kids see who can throw the pretzel the farthest. . . with his or her foot (pretzel between toes)!

Bob Anderson
Downingtown, Pennsylvania

group magazine

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- Scene 1: Angel announces the coming birth of Jesus to Mary
- Scene 2: Jesus' baptism
- Scene 3: Jesus' temptation
- Scene 4: Calling of the disciples
- Scene 5: The Sermon on the Mount
- Scene 6: The Last Supper
- Scene 7: Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' arrest
- Scene 8: Peter's denial of Christ
- Scene 9: Jesus before Pilot; Jesus flogged
- Scene 10: Crucifixion
- Scene 11: Empty tomb

Rod Schutte
Sioux Center, Iowa

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