THREE RING CIRCUS
APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Lesson 5 - God Gives Everyone Different Gifts So We Can Work Together!

PURPOSE:
This activity will teach the children that we all have unique gifts from God that we are designed to use together.

DESCRIPTION:
In the activity, the children will be challenged to keep three different circus type actions going at the same time to make a Three Ring Circus.

MATERIALS NEEDED:
For this activity, you will need this Help Sheet, 3 hula hoops, a frisbee, a wooden dowel, 3 balloons, a rubber playground ball, and a stopwatch.

TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY SAY:
1. We are going to find out, today, what kind of circus performers you all can be.
2. But a great circus can’t just rely on one great act.
3. Circuses often have three or more acts going on at the same time.
4. We will see how long you can keep at least two acts going out of the three to keep the audience happy.
5. Our three ring circus will feature balloon juggling, plate spinning, and ball balancing.

For detailed instructions on how to lead the activity, see the Small Group Leader DVD.

Note: Make a starting spot across the room from the rings.

TO LEAD THE ACTIVITY SAY:
1. These three hula hoops will be the three rings of our circus. When you come down to perform in the circus, your feet must stay in the hula hoop at all times.
2. You will score points when you have at least two acts going at the same time.
3. In balloon juggling, you will try to keep three balloons up in the air at the same time. You cannot touch more than one balloon at a time.
4. In plate spinning, you grab the dowel and the frisbee. You must spin the frisbee on the tip of the dowel for as long as you can.
5. In ball balancing, you will try to balance the ball on your head as long as possible.
6. If one of the performers makes a mistake, he or she must run back to the start and tag the next member of your team.
7. Then the next member will run to the ring and take that person’s place.
8. We will go until everyone has had a chance to do one of the stunts.
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9. When you have at least two acts going at the same time, I will time you to see how well you did.
10. Let the circus begin!

Note: Use the stopwatch to time the children. Press start when the children have two acts going. Press pause when they do not have two acts going. At the end the watch will show the total time. If the stopwatch does not have a pause feature, you will have to add up the times to get the total. After completing one round, have the children try again to see if they can improve their score.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY SAY:
1. When did you score the most points? When one person was doing an act, or when two or more were doing an act? (Two or more.)
2. When you put your talents together at the same time, it made our circus more exciting and you scored more points.
3. When circus performers combine their talents in a three ring show, it is far better than if the acts all happened one at a time. When we use our gifts from God together we can do more than if we were on our own.
4. Just as there are no two circus acts exactly the same, there are no two of you who will have the exact same gifts from God.
5. It takes all of us putting our gifts together to make the church the best it can be.

CLOSING STATEMENT:
God intends for us to use our gifts together in the church. That is why none of you will be gifted exactly the same as anyone else. We all have unique gifts from God that we should use together.