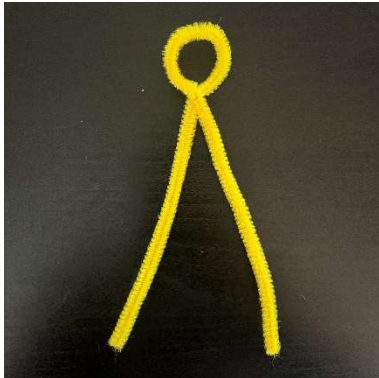


Pipe Cleaner People

A nice simple craft that just needs each person to have one pipe-cleaner. These are readily available at craft shops like The Works, HobbyCraft, The Range and Supermarkets or online! (and will be the best thing you ever buy)

Just a few bends and twists and you'll have yourself a person that can be used for story telling, prayer, reflection or play! You can also use extra pipe cleaners to create props, clothes, pets and anything else you want to accompany the people.



Start by twisting a circle in the middle of your pipe cleaner. For a standard side pipe cleaner, this loop should be about the size of your thumb. Ensure that both the ends either side of the loop are about the same size.



Fold the ends in on themselves until the cross over, the should be bent around 1/3rd to 1/4 of the way along.



Twist the short ends of these to create the arms, separating the remaining pieces.



Twist down the body until the body and legs are at a desired length.

Contortions

This is a quick and easy game that requires no set up and no resources.

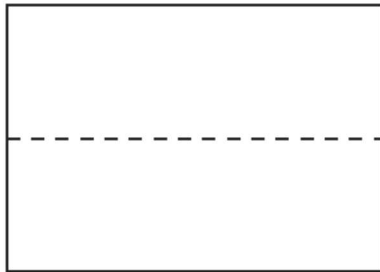
If you have a larger group, split them into a few smaller groups of 3-5 people. Set them challenges to make themselves (collectively) into the shape of a...

The challenge can be anything. They could form themselves into a crocodile, the Eiffel Tower, a Burger or a Tree. You could challenge them to form themselves into something related to your bible story that day or a theme that you are looking at in your session.

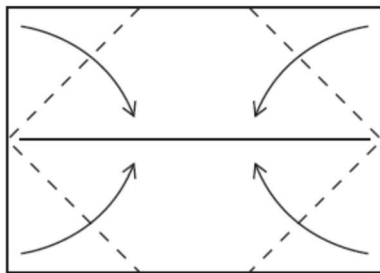
If you have a particularly competitive group, you could award points for the best one each time and then have a prize at the end, or see who can do it the quickest!

Paper Noise-Maker

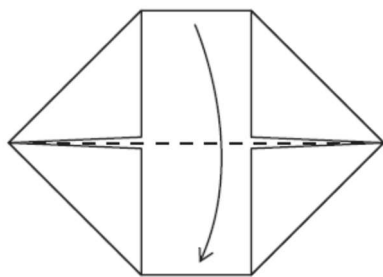
A relatively straight-forward origami noise-maker that is a lot of fun to make and use afterwards.



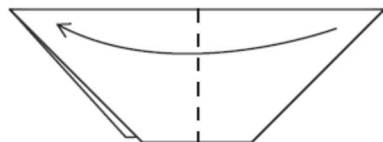
Start by folding the paper in half and unfolding again.



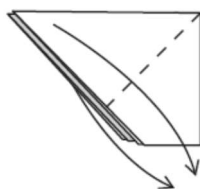
Then fold the corners into the centre as you would with a paper aeroplane.



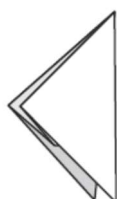
Fold the whole thing in half along the original, lengthways line.



Then fold in half again down the middle



Fold the corners down again so that the top edge meets with the side edge



With the open side facing away from you, hold the bottom corners and move your arm sharply downwards (as if you were smashing a shot in tennis!)

Sort it Out

This is a nice easy game where children have to sort themselves out. In a large group, or split into smaller groups if that would work better for you, get the children to sort themselves into the right order, according to a given category. The catch is, at no stage are they allowed to talk.

This is a good challenge of their ability to communicate without talking, and will give fascinating insights into which of your children will take charge of a situation and attempt to do the sorting and who will shrink into the background a little more.

Play a few rounds and see how well they do and how much quicker they get (even with harder categories) once they figure out some non-verbal communication techniques.

Some ideas for categories:

- Height
- Shoe size
- Age
- Date in the month of birthday
- Number of pets
- House number
- Hair length
- Favourite number
- Year in school
- Alphabetical by first name

High, Low, Buffalo

This is a fun 'getting to know you' activity or can be used at the end of a session or the end of a day to reflect on what has happened.

Going round in a circle, each person shares with the group a high, a low and a buffalo.

A high is a highlight of the day. The best moment, funniest thing, favourite activity. Whatever classes as the high point.

A low is something that wasn't so great. Maybe something that was hard or we didn't understand, something that made us sad or wasn't so enjoyable.

A buffalo is anything at all. It gives children (and grown-ups!) a chance to share something a bit more silly or just funny. Maybe something like the best thing you ate today, something that really make you laugh, a lovely moment shared between friends or an unexpected surprise.

Circle Stories

Sat in a circle, the group makes up story, or retells a bible story that you've been looking at or one that they can remember. But there's a catch. Each person can only say one word, and then the next person says a word, then the next person says a word, then the next person says a word, then the next person... you get the picture.

Taking it in turns to say one word means that suddenly stories can apples. I mean, go in a direction that you weren't expecting.

Children love that they can all contribute to what is being shared and all take part in the story. If you have a particularly silly group, then have fun! You may however, want to strategically place some leaders or more sensible children in some places around the circle to try to keep the story on track.

If you have a leader to spare, try to write down all of the words. It can be even funnier to retell the story and all of the unexpected words again at the end!

I've Hidden a Thimble

This is a bit of a mental challenge. One person says the phrase "I've hidden a thimble" whilst thinking of a physical place in all of time and space that this imaginary thimble could be hidden.

Some ideas could be:

- On Neil Armstrongs finger as he steps onto the moon in 1969
- In Queen Elizabeth II's pocket as she's coronated
- Inside the shoe of the person sat to my left
- On top of the Birmingham Cathedral

It can be anywhere. People then ask yes/no questions to try to figure out where the thimble is hidden.

"is it in the past", "could I walk to it from here", "is someone wearing it", "would I be in danger if I tried to grab it".

As you narrow down where it is, there will be a lot of excitement as you get closer and closer to finding the thimble.

Paper I can step Through

This one's a fun challenge that can perplex children, young people, grown-ups – anyone.

Hand out a plain sheet of A4 paper and challenge people to make a whole in this sheet of paper that a person could walk through. If you want to give out scissors you can, or just make them rip it.

After struggling for a while, you can reveal the answer using the template on the next page.

To use the template:

1. Fold the paper in half, lengthwise, along the black dotted line.
2. Cut along the red lines, then the green lines.
3. Cut along the black dotted line down the middle but DO NOT cut either of the end segments (purple hash marks).
4. Hold up the paper by one end, let it fall open.
5. Walk through the hole!

A series of horizontal lines for handwriting practice. Each row consists of a solid red top line, a dashed black middle line, and a solid green bottom line. There are 10 such rows. The first and last rows are capped with purple diagonal hatching at the right end. The middle lines are dashed, while the top and bottom lines are solid.