



PLAY IT! GAMES

10 DISCIPLESHIP
PRINCIPLES

GameLife
Experiential Games





PLAY IT! GAMES

10 DISCIPLESHIP
PRINCIPLES

GameLife
Experiential Games



- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. GRACE | Shepherd & Sheep |
| 2. LOVE | Don't Look Back |
| 3. COMPASSION | The Never Ending Cup |
| 4. REPENTANCE | Red-Light Green-Light |
| 5. WORSHIP | My Favorite Song |
| 6. COMMITMENT | True False |
| 7. DEPENDENCE | Simon Sez |
| 8. INFLUENCE | Here There Penalty and Creation to Christ Hand Motions |
| 9. DISCIPLESHIP | Net Tag |
| 10. AUTHORITY | OK Coach! |

Supply List by Week

1. --
2. Three two-foot-long cloth strips per child
3. One small cup per child (Dixie cup), two buckets, water
4. --
5. Worship Song Player (smart phone, speaker)
6. --
7. --
8. --
9. --
10. Blindfolds

1. GRACE: Shepherd & Sheep

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

GRACE: Dear heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and making me one of your children.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

Shepherd & Sheep

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Luke 15:1-7
The Parable of the Lost Sheep

CAN YOU SAY IT:

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! – 1 John 3:1



PLAY IT!: Shepherd & Sheep

1. **IMPORTANT:** This game is played like “Steal the Bacon” just with four sides and some extra twists: “sheep,” “wolves” and the “shepherd.”
 2. Show players the boundaries where the game will be played — a large square. In the center is a smaller square where the “Lost Sheep” live. There are six wolves guarding the lost sheep. Divide the players into four teams placing each team on each of the four sides of the outer square.
 3. Once the players have been divided into four teams (two teams if you have less than 10 players) assign each player on a line a number. Each team should have a one, a two, a three, and so on.
 4. Explain that when the coach shouts “Number ones,” the players with that number can run and try to tag and rescue a lost sheep in the center. If tagged by a wolf you are out till next round.
 5. **IMPORTANT:** Have more “wolves” than “rescuing sheep.”
 6. The sheep will NOT be able to capture the lost sheep because there are too many wolves.
 7. **IMPORTANT:** Play again, this time explain one of the coaches will be a “Good Shepherd” and can call out at any time “Wolves BE GONE! Sheep go HOME!” And the wolves must sit down and sheep can all go back to the line to play again.
- **Truth to Life Connection:** The Good Shepherd always makes sure that all the sheep are safe at his home.

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. In the first round of the game was anyone able to save the sheep from the wolves?
(no) Why not?
2. In the Bible how many sheep did the good shepherd go out to save? Just one! Boys and girls did you know that if you were the only one lost, the good shepherd, Jesus, would come look for you? How does that make you feel knowing that Jesus is looking out for you at all times?
3. *Let’s pray. Repeat after me. God thank you that we had fun in our game, help me understand that Grace is receiving something I did not earn or work for. It is a gift. Let’s pause and listen as God speaks to us. Have I ever asked for this gift of Grace? (**Pause) God, thank you that you can make me one of your children. I am a child of God!

**[Leader, these prayers are “repeat after me prayers.” Boys & girls repeat after me...]*

***[Leader, please pause for 10 seconds allowing God to speak to each child’s heart.*

We are teaching the children to speak in prayer and to listen in prayer.]

2. LOVE: Don't Look Back

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

LOVE: Help me love and obey you.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

Don't Look Back

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Genesis 12:1-5
The Story of Abraham

CAN YOU SAY IT:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.
– Matthew 22:37,38



PLAY IT!: Don't Look Back

1. Divide all the players into groups of 10 players. Each group holds hands and forms a large circle. Drop hands and face of the back of the person to your right, facing their “tail.”
2. Distribute three tails (a strip of fabric or string or anything that can easily be pulled off) to all the players and have them tuck it into their pants, skirt or belt loop if possible. (For players who can't tuck in a tail: tie a longer piece of cloth around their waist as a belt and then tuck the tail into that.) [Important: If “tails” are not available simply tag the player in front of you.]
3. Explain that the object of the game is for the players to grab the tail of the player in front of them. When a tail is removed that player is out for this round.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Explain to players that to be successful, the players should not look back, but focus on what is in front of them — their goal.
5. **IMPORTANT:** If running in a circle (trying to reach the player's tail in front of you) is too challenging (often this is difficult if you have fewer players), simply play tails in a large square. Say “Start” and players try to protect their tails while trying to take the tails off other players.
6. When the coach says “Stop,” the players that still have their tail(s) are the winners.
 - **Truth to Life Connection:** Abraham was called by God to go to a new home. Abraham had to leave behind all that was familiar to him, his home, his parents, his job. Looking forward, Abraham obeyed God and God blessed Abraham mightily.

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. Well that game was fun! It was so important to look forward — what happened if a player looked back at his or her tail? (the player slowed down and lost his/her tail)
2. In the Bible what are some things that Abraham gave up and left behind to look forward and follow God? (his land, his job, his friends)
3. Jesus thank you for calling me here today. Show me now how you want me to obey you, and how to love you with all my heart, soul and mind. (Pause) God I love you, I want Jesus to help me obey.

3. COMPASSION: Never Ending Cup

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

COMPASSION: Help me love others the way you love me.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

Never Ending Cup

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Luke 10:25-37 | The Good Samaritan

CAN YOU SAY IT:

My command is this: love one another as I have loved you – John 15:12



PLAY IT!: Never Ending Cup

1. Divide players into at least two teams (more teams if you have lots of children).
2. Line the players up shoulder to shoulder into straight lines and have players spread out about arms' width apart.
3. At the front of each line have a large bucket and at the end of each line have a large bucket.
4. Give each player a small paper cup.
5. At the sound of "Go" the first player in each line goes to the front bucket and gets some water, runs back to the line and pours the water into the cup of the next player — not keeping the water but sharing his/her water with the next player — and so on. The last player in the line pours the water into the bucket at the end of the line and shouts "Help I Need More Water!"
6. When the first player hears the shout they can then go back to the bucket to get more water in their cup and again pass to the next player and repeat the process.
7. **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR COACHES:** The first round, have only a very little bit of water in the starting bucket; each round add additional water into the starting bucket so the children can pass more water each round.
8. **FUN FACTOR:** Make a mark about midway on the bucket at the end of the line and tell the children they have to go over the line in under five minutes!

▪ **Truth to Life Connection:** We give away to others what we have received from God.

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. Boys and girls why did you keep giving your water to the person next to you? Why didn't you just keep the water? (the more water I gave the more water I received)
2. In the Bible there was a man who was hurt and needed help; why do you think the Good Samaritan was so kind to the hurt man and helped the man? (the man was in need, and the Samaritan could meet that need)
3. God help me keep my eyes open to see people around me that need help, people that need compassion. Jesus please show me right now in my life who needs help. (Pause) Jesus help me love others and be a helper.

4. REPENT: Red-Light Green-Light

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

REPENT: I am sorry for my sins.
Wash Me Clean.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

Red-Light Green-Light

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Matthew 18:21-35
Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

CAN YOU SAY IT:

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sins. – Psalm 51:2



PLAY IT!: Red-Light Green-Light

1. Show players the starting line and finish line for the game.
2. Direct all the players to stand in line behind the starting line.
3. Explain that when the Game Zone Leader shouts “Green Light,” players can run towards the finish line. When the Game Zone Leader shouts “Red Light,” players should stop immediately. Players who do not stop at “Red Light” return to the starting line to restart.
4. Have the coach stand at the finish line and turn around facing away from the players. Alternate between shouting “Green Light” and “Red Light.” The first player to reach where the Game Zone Leader is standing wins.
5. When the coach calls “Red Light” the coach spins around to make sure all the players stopped. Any player that is running after the time the coach calls “Red Light” is breaking the rules and must 1. Stop. 2. Go Back to the Starting Line. And 3. Start over.
6. Play several rounds.

▪ **Truth to Life Connection:** This is a clear demonstration of Repentance: When one breaks the rules one must 1. Stop. 2. Turn Around. 3. Go Back to the Starting Line. And 4. Start over.

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. In the game what did you have to do if you kept running or fell down when a leader called out red light? (stop, turn around, go back, and start over).
2. In the Bible did the man receive Grace and Forgiveness from the king? (yes) Then did that man give Grace and Forgiveness to the man that owed him money? (no) Was the king pleased or displeased with the man that did not forgive? (displeased!)
3. Jesus you give us forgiveness, Jesus you give us grace. When I do things I’m not supposed to do please remind me to Repent: to stop, to turn around, to go back, and to start over. Please show me areas that I need to repent. (Pause) Thank you for your grace, for washing and cleansing me, and forgiving me Lord Jesus. Let me forgive others too.

5. WORSHIP: My Favorite Song

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

WORSHIP: I will praise you with all my heart!

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

My Favorite Song

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Luke 2:1-20
The Christmas Story

CAN YOU SAY IT:

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart: I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. – Psalm 9:1



PLAY IT!: My Favorite Song

1. Demonstrate the hand motions for the song “Humble Yourself in the Sight of the Lord.”
 2. www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpyDJMCL9yc
 3. (Humble yourself = put hands palms up and face towards the ground
He will lift you up = from a kneeling position, first raise to one knee then stand up, then have hands fully extended up in worship to the Lord)
 4. Divide the players into two groups and give each group one song to listen to and create their own hand motions (have two of your favorite worship songs ready).
 5. Let each group practice their motions then teach their motions and “perform” for the other group. Then the other group teaches and “performs” their worship song motions.
 6. At the very end have all players vote for their favorite worship song of the three experienced. After voting ask, “Why is that your favorite worship song?”
- **Truth to Life Connection:** Children are learning to worship in a way that is meaningful to them, and most important — children are beginning to reflect and consider what is “MY favorite worship song” & why? Coach, share your favorite worship song and share why it is your favorite with the children.

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. In the game why did you choose the worship song you chose? (Important: Take time to ask the “why” question; this experience allows children to truly begin to consider worship and why they enjoy worship, and what worship song is their favorite.)
2. In the Bible God sent his son, Jesus, and the shepherds, wise men and even the kings worshiped Jesus. What part of Jesus’ life — his birth, his life, his death to pay your penalty, or his resurrection — rising from the dead — are you most thankful for in your life?
3. Dear Jesus thank you for coming in the form of a baby. Jesus thank you for being my Savior, dying to pay my penalty. Jesus thank you for being my Lord. Jesus show me other ways I can worship you other than singing worship songs. (Pause) Jesus help me tell others about your wonderful works through my words, my actions and my attitudes.

6. COMMITMENT : True False

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

COMMITMENT: Jesus, I want to follow you as my Lord. Change me any way you want.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

True False

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Luke 22:54-62
Peter Wasn't Perfect

CAN YOU SAY IT:

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.
– Luke 9:23



PLAY IT!: True False

1. Have all players line up in the center of the room, players are to stand in line standing front to back.
 2. Make the line dividing the room in half. A right side and a left side. Explain that you will ask a question that the players must answer True or False, but rather than saying "True" or "False" the players will answer by running to the Right for a True answer or running to the Left for a False answer.
 3. Questions can start out fun like "The moon is made of green cheese!" (The answer is false and players must run to their left towards the "left wall.")
 4. FUN FACTOR: The last two players to make it to the wall are out and must sit out until the next game. Keep playing until there are four players left and announce them as the "Truth Champions."
 5. IMPORTANT: Ask review questions from previous sessions, "Jesus, the good shepherd, lost zero sheep!" (The answer is true and players must run to their right towards the "right wall.")
- **Truth to Life Connection:** Peter did not tell the truth; Peter lied to protect himself and felt very sad after he lied. God desires for us to always tell the truth. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, believers are to commit to follow and obey the truth.

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. In the game there were only two possible answers for every question, "True" or "False." What direction did you run when the statement was true? (right)
2. In the Bible did Peter tell the truth or tell a lie? Why did Peter lie? When you have a choice to tell the truth or lie what should you do? (tell the truth) Why? (lies make us feel bad, telling lies is disobeying God)
3. Dear Jesus I want to follow you as my Lord. Change me any way you want. Jesus show me ways I can follow you. (Pause) The way may not be easy but I trust you to guide me.

7. DEPENDENCE : Simon Sez

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

DEPENDENCE: Fill me with your Holy Spirit. I want to know your plans for me

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

Simon Sez

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

John 14:15-31
The Comforter

CAN YOU SAY IT:

Be filled with the Spirit.
– Ephesians 5:18b



PLAY IT!: Simon Sez

1. Before you start explain that players will need to listen carefully in this next game.
 2. One coach is “Simon.” Simon makes a request like “touch your toes.” Children only respond if Simon says, “Simon Sez touch your toes.”
 3. Children are out if they do something that Simon does not tell them to do.
 4. At first all the requests Simon asks the children to do should be easy to follow. Such as touch your ear, do five jumping jacks. Lie on your tummy, sit down, stand up. As the game progresses Simon can make the requests more challenging like “Simon Sez touch your toes but not your nose,” “Simon Sez touch your nose and your toes,” “Touch you ears” (without saying “Simon Sez”).
 5. Play until there are four players left and announce them as Champion Listeners and Champion Followers.
 6. IMPORTANT: Play again; this time have Simon WHISPER QUIETLY.
 7. Play until there are four players left and announce them as Master Champion Listeners and Master Champion Followers.
- **Truth to Life Connection:** God is always talking to us through the Holy Spirit. We must depend and trust that God will comfort, teach and guide us. We need to pay attention and listen for God speaking to our heart.

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. To quickly obey “Simon” what did you have to do? (listen closely, focus, and obey immediately the command from Simon) What did you have to do when Simon whispered?
2. We need to hear God’s Holy Spirit, our comforter, teacher and guide. How can we hear God speaking to us? What should we do? (listen closely, focus, obey immediately the commands from God) What does it mean to depend, trust, rely on the Holy Spirit to guide you?
3. God fill me with your Holy Spirit, help me to listen closely for your quiet voice when you speak to me. Holy Spirit speak to my heart now and show me one way I can follow you more closely. (Pause) Holy Spirit, thank you for being my teacher and my guide.

8. INFLUENCE : Here There Penalty & Good News Hand Motions

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

INFLUENCE: Make me an messenger of your grace, truth and justice.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

Here There Penalty & Good News Hand Motions

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Matthew 18:1-6
Jesus and the Children

CAN YOU SAY IT:

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14



PLAY IT!: Here There Penalty & Good News Hand Motions

1. All players line up on one side of the room or field space. Point out a spot in the distance. Instruct players to run from here (the starting line) to there (the point in the distance) and return.
2. **IMPORTANT:** Note the time it takes for all the players to return to the starting line. Tell the players they must run again, but this time in half the time or there is a penalty of 10 pushups. **IMPORTANT:** For this experience the players must NOT be able to finish under the time — the race is designed for the players to fail.
3. Allow players to try again. Allow just the girls to run, allow just the boys to run, allow just the younger players to run.
4. After the players have tried many times sadly explain that they did not accomplish the goal, they fell short, and there must be a penalty for falling short.
5. Just before having the players pay the penalty by doing the pushups — have one of the other coaches come running up and state something like this: “Coach, you cannot make these players do pushups! Look how tired they are!” Reply: Yes, but we agreed there must be a penalty. Have the other coach say: “Wait! I’ll pay their penalty” (before there can be any discussion, have the other coach begin the 10 pushups).
6. Have the children countdown the penalty pushups as the other coach takes their place 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10!
7. Share with the children and train them how to do the “Creation to Christ Hand Motions” (see appendix page for pictures of motions).

▪ **Truth to Life Connection: God desires to use children to influence their family and friends.**

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. Boys and girls are your arms tired from doing all the penalty pushups? (no, Coach blank took our penalty and did the pushups) Wow! Why would Coach blank take your penalty?
2. In the Bible because of our sin, things displeasing to God, we have earned a penalty (death). Who paid your penalty? (Jesus) Why would Jesus pay your penalty?
3. Jesus thank you for loving me so much that you died in my place, you took my penalty. Boys and girls let’s be quiet for a moment and think about how much Jesus loves you. (Pause) Jesus please forgive me for my sins. I want to repent and turn from my sins. Jesus please be my Savior. Jesus how can my life show Grace, Truth and Justice? (Pause) Jesus thank you for making me one of God’s children. Holy Spirit shine through me every way and everyday!

9. DISCIPLESHIP : Net Tag

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

DISCIPLESHIP: Use me for your glory and invite others to follow you.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

Net Tag

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Acts 9:1-22
Saul of Tarsus Becomes Paul,
an Apostle of Jesus Christ

CAN YOU SAY IT:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. – Matthew 28:19



PLAY IT!: Net Tag

1. Show players the boundaries that the game will be played in.
2. For safety: If there are many players, divide them into several groups with the youngest players in one area and the oldest players playing in another area.
3. **IMPORTANT:** Explain that the game is not over until ALL players are caught in the net.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Choose the smallest player to be the one “It.” Choose one player to be “It.” The player selected to be “It” then chases the others, attempting to “Tag” one of them (touching them with a hand) while the other players try to escape.
5. Once the “It” player tags another player both players are now “It,” and the two players hold hands stretching out like a “Net.”
6. Each new player tagged joins the “Net”— players holding hands in a long line.
7. Continue playing until the “Net” catches ALL the players.
8. Continue playing more rounds as time allows, each time with a small player as the first player being “It.”

▪ **Truth to Life Connection:** One player started by simply capturing one player, then the net grew larger and caught more at one time, until finally ALL were caught in the net. Disciple making starts with discipling just one person then it multiplies to many!

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

1. In the game how many children had to be caught in the net for the game to be over, three or four? (everyone!) Wait, how did one player all by himself/herself capture everyone in the net? (started with one player then it multiplied fast)
2. In the Bible what did Jesus ask his followers, the disciples, to do? Did Jesus tell his disciples to make disciples of only one nation? (no, all nations!)
3. Dear Jesus I want to obey you by making disciples of all nations. I can start right now today by praying for all nations and by telling everyone I know about Jesus. God show me right now who are the people you want me to encourage to follow you. (Pause) Jesus teach me how to be a good disciple maker.

10. AUTHORITY : OK Coach!"

DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE

AUTHORITY: In Jesus' name
I pray. Amen.

CAN YOU PLAY IT:

OK Coach!

CAN YOU HEAR IT:

Mark 10:46-52
Blind Bartimaeus

CAN YOU SAY IT:

Therefore God exalted him to the
highest place and gave him a name
that is above every name.
– Philippians 2:9



PLAY IT!: OK Coach!"

1. Explain to the players that you are the game coach and you are going to challenge the players in this game.
2. Players stand shoulder to shoulder in two different lines facing each other — close enough to touch the others' outstretched arms. One player at a time will run from the front of the line to the end, between the outstretched arms.
3. Sounds easy? The player has to run blindfolded (a cloth blindfold, or three socks tied together, or the player is simply told to close his/her eyes).
4. **IMPORTANT FOR COACHES:** One coach stands at the end of the line to stop the players when they finish. Important: It is the coaches' responsibility for the safety of all players.
5. **IMPORTANT FOR PLAYERS:** Make sure the players standing in the lines understand that if the player runs off course they need to gently guide them back with their hands into the line.
6. One player at a time is chosen to run between the two lines from start to finish.

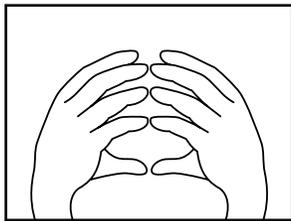
▪ **Truth to Life Connection:** The players listened and obeyed the coach because they trusted the coach — we all listen to our “coaches.” Even more believers in Jesus should trust, listen and obey Jesus because he has all authority!

PLAY IT!: QUESTIONS

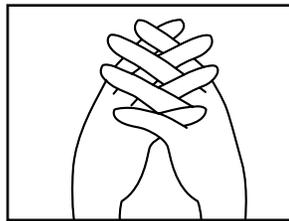
1. In the game did you find it difficult to trust your coach when your coach told you to run blindfolded? Why did you listen to your coach; why do athletes listen to their coach? (the coach has more experience, the coach wants me to win, the coach has a playbook, and the coach has a better perspective)
2. Since God created everything and is in control of all things, and God's son, Jesus, is the King of Kings, how much power do you think is available when we ask and pray for something according to God's will in Jesus' name? (all power is available)
3. God thank you for sending Jesus to the earth, thank you that you allow me, one of your children, to pray in Jesus' name. God I rely, trust and depend on the Holy Spirit to guide me. God how would you use my life to bring you glory? (Pause) I ask this in Jesus' name.

CREATION TO CHRIST HAND MOTIONS

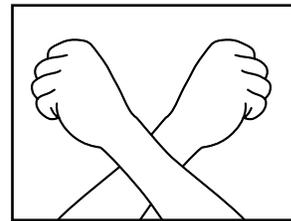
Here is a simple way for children to share the gospel message using hand motions. Please follow each diagram below and see just how fun and it easy it is to share with your friends and family! This is a great tool that ties in well with the Discipleship prayer, "Use me for your glory and to invite others to follow you."



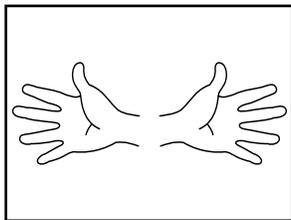
1. In the beginning God created a perfect world.



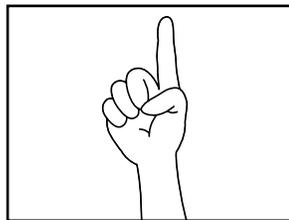
2. Sin broke God's perfect world.



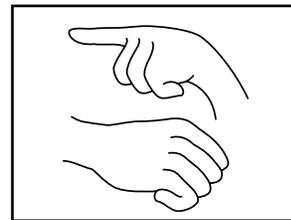
3. The penalty for sin is death.



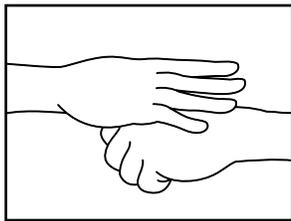
4. God's Son, Jesus, paid sin's penalty.



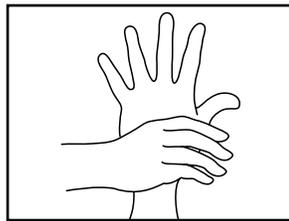
5. Jesus was the only perfect man.



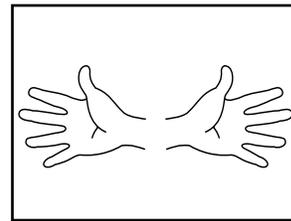
6. Jesus died.



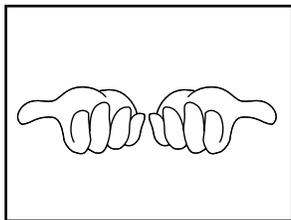
7. Jesus was buried.



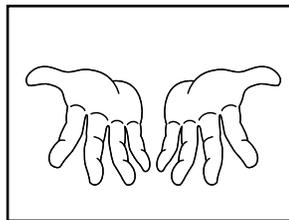
8. Jesus rose from death to life.



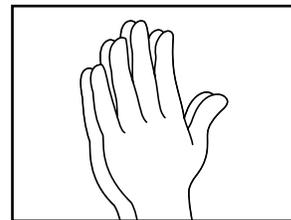
9. Because Jesus died for your sins,



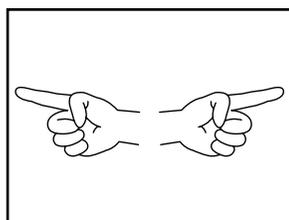
10. Jesus now offers you the gift of eternal life.



11. Would you like this gift?



12. With faith ask Jesus to be your Savior.



13. Go tell everyone this good news!