Thanksgiving

Active Game Center: Pumpkin Praise

Materials

Four to eight pumpkins of any size for every 10 students, black permanent markers.

Thanksgiving time reminds us to give thanks to God for His care for us. Let's play a game to thank God for the great things He has given us.

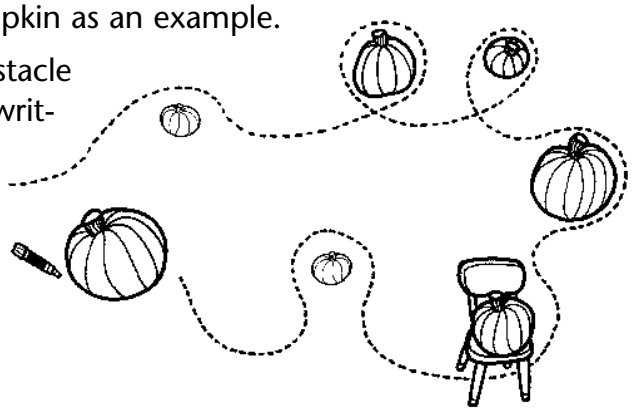
Prepare the Game

Arrange pumpkins to create an obstacle course in your playing area (see sketch). Create one obstacle course for every 10 students. Place a marker next to the last pumpkin in each course.

Lead the Game

1. Students line up in a single-file line at the beginning of the obstacle course. Demonstrate how to complete the obstacle course (which order and direction to run around each pumpkin, whether to circle around each pumpkin or just pass by it, etc.). **When you reach the last pumpkin in your course, use the marker to write or draw on the pumpkin something for which you are thankful. What is something that you are thankful for?** Print volunteer's response on the pumpkin as an example.

2. At your signal, first student in line begins obstacle course. When student has finished course and written on pumpkin, he or she tags the next student in line who begins obstacle course. Continue until each student has had a turn. Then ask volunteers to tell their responses from the pumpkins.



Options

1. Instead of using real pumpkins, cut pumpkin shapes from orange construction paper or make your own paper-bag pumpkins by painting or coloring small paper bags orange, stuffing them with newspaper and tying bags closed with green yarn.

2. Challenge older students to roll an ear of dried corn through the obstacle course or to complete the course while walking on knees, hopping while holding on to one foot, etc.

3. Help younger students by allowing them to dictate responses for you to write on pumpkins.

Discussion Questions

1. ***What are some ways God cares for your family?***
2. ***How can you show God that you are thankful for His love and care?*** (Name the things you are thankful for when you pray. Write God a thank-you prayer. Sing praise songs to Him.)
3. ***What is your favorite way to tell God thank-you?***

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