



PLAY IT

FILL 'ER UP

Supplies

- Paper towels
- Plastic cups (1 per person)
- Water source (We used pitchers of water.)
- Chairs (1 per 2 people)

Directions

1. Form pairs. Give each pair 2 cups and a chair. Fill the cup of one person in each pair with water.
2. Explain that partners who have empty cups (Holders) will sit in their chairs and hold their cups on top of their heads. Partners who have water in cups (Pourers) will stand behind their seated partners and pour water a little at a time from their full cups into their partners' empty cups.
3. Partners will pour water only at your signal as they follow your directions to add water 8 different times.

Note: This activity requires participants to be as wise as Solomon and make a judgment call: Will they do as you ask, or will they turn this activity into an excuse for a water fight? If you're with people who are likely to misbehave, have Holders hold the cups in their hands, not on their heads.

Explain: We worship when we focus on God and express our love for Him. That's what Solomon did in his dedication of the temple. Solomon said things that were true about God—and they're still true now. All of them fill our hearts and turn our attention to God, and that helps us worship Him. Let's do some heart-filling right now.

Remind Pourers to add water to their partners' cups a little at a time—no spilling, or they're out! Give a signal for them to pour a little water after you read each of the following statements.

- Solomon reminded the people that God always shows up to keep His promises. (1 Kings 8:56)
God never fails to keep His promises to you. God is worthy of worship!



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- Solomon praised God for who He is. (1 Kings 8:23)
We can do that too.
God is worthy of worship!
- Solomon saw God at work throughout time. (1 Kings 8:24)
We can see God working today. God is worthy of worship!
- Solomon knew God would hear his prayers. (1 Kings 8:28)
We know God hears ours as well. God is worthy of worship!
- Solomon knew God would forgive him. (1 Kings 8:33-34)
We know God forgives us too! God is worthy of worship!
- Solomon trusted God to teach His people the right way to live. (1 Kings 1:36)
God is teaching us how to live. God is worthy of worship!
- Solomon knew God knew the hearts of His people. (1 Kings 8:39)
God also knows your heart. God is worthy of worship!
- Solomon promised to obey God—and obedience is worship. (1 Kings 8:58)
We can obey God too. God is worthy of worship.

Have partners switch places. Do the activity again. (Tip: If time is a factor, partners may switch after you read the fourth point; then continue the activity.)

When we know all of these facts are true, how can we not praise and worship God?

After the activity, talk about this:

- How easy or hard was it to focus on worship when someone was behind you pouring water? What gets in the way of focusing on God and worshiping Him in normal life?
- Which of the things Solomon said about God jump out at you? Which one is a good reminder for you right now?
- How can you worship God today in a way that doesn't involve singing, praying, or giving money? What is it and when will you do it?



PLAY IT

GOTCHA!

If worship is in part responding when we see God working in our lives and our world, it's a good idea to sharpen our ability to pay attention. With that in mind, let's play a game of "Gotcha!"

Supplies

Plastic cups (We used them earlier!)

Directions

1. Form pairs and ask each pair to decide who'll be that pair's Gotcha Guy. Line the Gotcha Guys up against one wall. Give the other partner a plastic cup and ask the person to sit 6 to 8 feet away on the floor, facing away from the Gotcha Guy partner.
2. Ask partners with a cup to hold their cups on the palm of one hand and to close their eyes. Their eyes will remain closed until you say they can open their eyes.
3. Explain the goal of the game is for the Gotcha Guys to sneak up to their partners and snatch away cups without being detected. The nano-second a partner says, "Freeze!" the Gotcha Guy has to do so—no moving at all.
4. If the Gotcha Guy's hand is within 12 inches of the cup—that Gotcha Guy has been caught. If the cup is snatched away, that's a win for the Gotcha Guy. If the Gotcha Guy's hand is more than 12 inches from the cup, that's a win for the Gotcha Guy too.
5. If you haven't noticed, with eyes closed it'll be astoundingly hard to catch a Gotcha Guy—just try it!
6. Play several rounds, changing partners' roles as you do so.

After the game, talk about this:

- How easy or hard was it for you to pay attention to the Gotcha Guy trying to get close to you? What got in the way?
- What gets in the way when you're trying to pay attention to God? What might you do to remove some of those in-the-way things?
- Solomon and all the Israelites saw fire from Heaven sizzle down and consume an offering (2 Chronicles 7:1, 3). That's dramatic! How have you seen God at work in an equally dramatic or less dramatic way?
- What's something God is doing for you, or has done, that you've not yet thanked Him for? Thank Him now—that's worship!



PLAY IT

TIMBER!

We don't know exactly how many cedars were imported from Lebanon to build the temple, but it was a *lot*—and every one of those trees had to be felled before being shipped to Jerusalem.

In this game you'll do a bit of cedar-felling ... or be a tree that falls in the forest. Maybe both!

Directions

1. Have players form pairs and stand face to face, about a foot apart. Each player must stand with his or her feet side by side and a comfortable distance apart.
2. Explain the goal of the game is to knock one's partner off balance, but the only contact can be palm to palm. Otherwise, no touching.
3. A player is considered off balance if that player moves one or both feet to retain balance.
4. If a player gets off balance, that player's opponent can shout out, "Timber!"
5. Switch partners after each round.

After the game, talk about this:

- What strategy worked best for you in felling your partner while staying upright yourself?
- Solomon used cedars to build the temple because he wanted to give God only the best as a dwelling place. As a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit dwells in you. What are you doing to give the Spirit the best possible place to dwell?
- How do you feel about the presence of God, in the form of the Holy Spirit, dwelling in you?