



THE POOL PARTY

IT'S TIME TO PARTY!

It's your party, but we are here to help. Check Out these resources:

- A Sample Schedule to Guide Your Event
- A Bible Story with Large Group Games, Large Group Lesson, Group Questions, Skit and Crazy Parent Games
- Themed Snack Ideas Plus Simple Snack Suggestions
- Craft Ideas to Take the Lesson Home
- Leader Resources to Equip Your Family to Reach Families

This Summer, we are throwing parties throughout the Crossroads so that we can introduce people to Jesus, the life of the party. To do this, we will equip your family to reach families. Think about who you could reach with a fun, family party that points people to Jesus:

- *Neighbors
- *Sports Teams
- *Friends from School
- *Family Members
- *Coworkers Families
- *Apartment Complexes
- *Underserved Areas in Our Communities

You create the connections. You pick the location, date, and time for your party. We will provide the resources (Bible Stories, Ideas for Games, Crafts, and Snacks) and the coaching that you need to successfully build a team, reach your friends and lead people to say yes to Jesus.



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WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

TEAM PRAYER

*Before attendees arrive, please lead your team in prayer.

MAKE THE CONNECTION (15 MINS)

Use this time to interact with kids and parents while people are still arriving. Feel free to add your ideas to these:

1. Bubbles
2. Frisbee Toss
3. Football Throw
4. Sidewalk Chalk
5. Hula Hoop Competition

LARGE GROUP GAME (10 MINS)

Play the large group games we have provided or create your own that ties into the lesson.

LARGE GROUP LESSON (10 MINS)

Teach kids and parents about Jesus using the provided Bible lessons.

SKIT (10 MINS)

Use the skit to reinforce the big idea from the Bible story. If you use the skit provided, volunteers are welcome to read off of the script.

CRAFT (10 MINS)

Use the crafts if you expect to have younger kids at your party. Encourage kids and parents to work together.

CRAZY PARENT GAME (5 MINS)

Get families laughing through the recommended Crazy Parent Games

CLOSING CONNECTIONS

During this time, focus on building relationships with the kids and parents. Remember that this may be the first opportunity some of the kids have heard about Jesus. Also, some of them may have made the decision to believe in Jesus for the first time. Our job is to build relationships, invite kids to Jesus, and provide them a chance to respond to the invitation.

POOL PARTY: WATER SLIDE

BOTTOM LINE:

Amazing things happen when we trust in Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that Jesus can do amazing things through them.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 14:22-36

SUMMARY:

Kids will learn that when we put our faith in Jesus, some exciting things can happen.

LARGE GROUP GAME

Supplies needed: Three clear buckets, three yardsticks, nine ping pong balls, water, and blue food coloring (to make the water in the buckets blue)

Choose three volunteers from the audience to play this game. Choose one to represent grades kindergarten through 1st, one to represent grades 2-3, and one to represent grades 4-5. The object of the game is for each participant to roll three ping pong balls down a yardstick and into their bucket. The first player to complete the challenge and roll all three balls into their bucket wins! Be sure to instruct the kids watching to cheer for their age group.

Point of the game: Just like the twists of a water slide, following Jesus is a pathway to amazing things!



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LARGE GROUP LESSON

INTRO

What's the wildest, craziest waterslide you've ever been on? Have you ridden a simple slide in a friend's backyard? Or maybe the slightly bigger ride found at the community pool? Who has had to walk up more than three flights of steps to get to the top of a slide?

Water slides come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. They are the roller coasters of water parks and every year parks compete to build bigger, faster, and more thrilling rides than ever. The biggest water slide in the world right now is in Kansas City. It's called Verruckt, and it's quite a ride. The three-person slide puts you in an inflatable boat and drops you 168 feet almost straight down. 168 feet is almost the height of the super big Cinderella castle at Disney World! You're going so fast when you reach the bottom that you head back up a second hill and then drop 50 feet back down to the end of the ride. Talk about an adventure.

Veruckt isn't for everyone, but the adventure that comes with following Jesus is. God has plans for all of us to do amazing things and, if we have faith in Jesus, we'll do some things that we never thought possible.

MAIN POINT

The disciples, who were Jesus' closest group of followers, had seen Jesus do many amazing things. They'd watched as he turned water into wine at a wedding, healed the sick, and fed 5000 people with one little boy's lunch. But today we will talk about when one of Jesus' followers had the chance to do something amazing when Peter found the faith to step out of the boat and walk on water.

As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he walked on top of the waves. The moment he looked away, focusing on the waves instead of Jesus, he began to sink. The message for Peter, and for us, is very clear. When we keep our eyes on Jesus - when we have faith - we will do amazing things that we never dreamed possible. We can't walk on water, but we can trust Jesus so that we can do awesome things for Him and with Him.



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POOL PARTY: WATER SLIDE

DRIVE IT HOME

Peter's walk on water was only the beginning for him. Jesus used Peter to tell others about Him. Peter spread the Good News that Jesus had died and risen from the grave to the whole world.

We would not be here if it were not for Peter and the others who let God take control of their lives. Because of their faith, God spread the good news of Jesus far and wide. God continues to use people like you and me to spread the gospel, the good news about Jesus, and when we do that, many others all over the world hear about Jesus. Men, women, and kids like you share their faith in Jesus with friends, neighbors, and people on the other side of the world, and God adds to their numbers every day. Yes, kids, God wants to use you to share the good news. He wants you to invite friends to church and tell others about Him.

When we focus on Jesus and learn to follow him and trust him every day, we will soon find that God is leading us on our own adventure. Maybe you will end up traveling to a place where people haven't heard about Jesus, and he will use you to be the one to share that news. Maybe God will keep you right here, closer to home. The main thing is this - we can make a decision to believe in Jesus and ask Him to show us what he wants us to do. We should focus on him and follow him with a heart full of faith.

God can do great things in your life, even at this young an age. Focus on Jesus, not the waves, and get ready for a ride you'll never forget!

CALL IT OUT QUESTIONS

Use these questions to help kids process what they learned:

- *What are some of the amazing things that Jesus' closest followers saw Him do? (Jesus walked on water, fed the 5,000, and turned water into wine)
- *What happened when Peter took His eyes off of Jesus? (He began to sink; When we trust Jesus and keep our focus on Him, we can do awesome things)
- *What kind of things can we do, as kids, to serve God? (Trust in Jesus, tell others about Him, learn more about Jesus through reading the Bible and praying)
- *Who are some people that you can tell about what you've learned about Jesus today? (Kids can name friends, friendly members, teachers, and coaches, among others)

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you that you love us and that you want to forgive us. Today, I believe that you are the only one who can forgive me and give me eternal life. As we follow you, take our hearts and do amazing things with our lives.

In Jesus' name, Amen

KEY PASSAGE

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed. **Matthew 14:22-26**



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SKIT

ITEMS NEEDED: Whistle

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: Two adult volunteers

CHARACTERS:

Chuck- An over-enthusiastic lifeguard

Caroline- A swimmer

Chuck is standing guard by the pool. Caroline enters. She walks past Chuck. Chuck blows his whistle.

CHUCK: Just one moment, sister!

CAROLINE: What now?

CHUCK: May I have a word with you?

CAROLINE: Can it wait? I'm about to go down the slide!

CHUCK: That's what I want to talk to you about.

CAROLINE: Why? Is the slide out of order?

CHUCK: Not at all, not at all. The slide is in tiptop condition, having passed its twice-daily safety inspection not half an hour ago.

CAROLINE: Then what's the matter?

CHUCK: The matter is one of concern for your personal safety! This water slide is not for the faint of heart.

CAROLINE: I know It looks awesome!

CHUCK: This water slide will start at a height of FIFTEEN feet in the air.

CAROLINE: Really? That high?

CHUCK: It will take you through three twists, a half-gainer, a squiggle-squaggle, and then, finally, a four-foot plunge into the chlorinated depths below.

CAROLINE: Sounds like a water slide.



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POOL PARTY: WATER SLIDE

CHUCK: The staff here at Bushwood wish to remind you that all sliders slide at their own risk, and that Bushwood assumes no responsibility if you get sick or otherwise in riding what we like to call, "Old Twisty."

CAROLINE: I promise not to be mad if I get sick. May I go now?

CHUCK: Really? You still want to ride it?

CAROLINE: Why not? I've had some exciting adventures in my life. I look forward to it!

CHUCK: You're a brave woman.

CAROLINE: I don't know about that, but I am a Christian, and God has done some pretty wild and amazing things in my life.

CHUCK: He has?

CAROLINE: You bet he has. I've been on mission trips at home and overseas. I've sung in praise bands, fed the homeless, and led one of my good friends to Jesus. And I'm only just beginning.

CHUCK: Sounds like you have a real taste for adventure.

CAROLINE: With Jesus by my side, I'm up for anything. Including Old Twisty here.

CHUCK: I guess so. Enjoy the ride, ma'am.

CAROLINE: Believe me, I will.

Caroline exits.

CHUCK: This Jesus sounds like my kind of guy. Huh.



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CRAZY PARENT GAME

PARENT ROLLER COASTER

Items needed: at least 1 water balloon per child

Preparation: Filled water balloons (at least 1 per child)

Instructions: Play a game of “roller coaster,” a follow the leader game. Have parents line up, one in front of the other. The person at the front is in the front car of the roller coaster. Have that person pretend to ride on a coaster with all its twists and turns. Everyone behind the leader has to follow the leader’s movements as they all go for a ride. If the leader leans left, everyone else leans left. If the leader leans forward, everyone else leans forward. And so on.

Kids will each receive a water balloon and take turns trying to distract the parents by throwing water balloons at them because this is a wet roller coaster!



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SNACK IDEAS

Fun for "Pool Party: Water Slide" Lesson

Jello Pools

Ingredients needed:

- *Blue Raspberry Jello (1 box)
- *Whipped Topping (Redi-whip or cool-whip)
- *Life Saver Candies (1 bag)
- *Teddy Bear cookies (1 box of Teddy Grahams)
- *Umbrellas, optional
- *Clear drink cups, small
- *Ice chest to keep pools cool



Directions:

1. Prepare your Jello according to the package and pour into small clear cups. Refrigerate until Jello is fully set.
2. Place a small dollop of whipped topping on one half of the Jello.
3. Take the little teddy bear cookies and place them in the middle hole of the Life Saver candy
4. Add your Teddy Bears, umbrellas and any other edible embellishments to your Jello and enjoy a cool, kid-friendly treat!

Underwater Wonders

*Ingredients needed

- *Blue Raspberry Jello (1 box)
- *Whipped Topping (Redi-whip or cool-whip)
- *Candy fish (1 bag)
- *Clear drink cups, small

Directions:

1. Prepare your Jello according to the package and pour into small clear cups. Refrigerate until Jello is partially set.
2. Place candy fish in the jello.
3. Allow to fully set and add cool whip for a "wave" effect."



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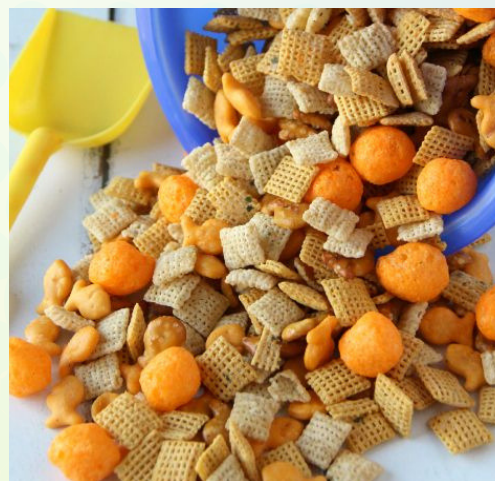
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Great for the "Pool Party: Water Slide" Lesson

Beach Ball Chex Mix

Ingredients needed:

- *3 cups Rice Chex™ cereal
- *3 cups Corn Chex™ cereal
- *1 cup tiny fish-shaped pretzel crackers
- *1 cup tiny fish-shaped cheese-flavored crackers
- *½ cup butter
- *1 tablespoon dry ranch dressing mix
- *2 cups puffed cheese balls
- *Cups for serving



SIMPLE SNACK IDEAS

- *Individual store-bought snacks (Ex: Cheez-its, cookies, animal crackers, etc.)
- *Chex Party Mix
- *Fruit Kabobs (cooler needed)
- *Drinks could include water, Gatorade, Capri-sun, etc.

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CRAFT IDEAS

Fun for "Pool Party: Water Slide" Lesson

Build Your Own Sailboat

Supplies needed: Pool Noodles, scissors, sailboat sails made from felt triangles, and straws.

Kids will build sailboats as pictured below.



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