



Tweakage 2018 “Teambuilding”

Using Activities to Share Biblical Truth

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Goals for Using Activities

The goal of using activities to teach biblical truth is to holistically engage participants in an experience (physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually). Most “discipleship” is attempted through simply information exchange (many times through a lecture format or one way communication). When information is exchanged in a holistic way, it can be quickly transferred to long term memory because it is personally connected and effectively assimilated into everyday life. “Fun”, social interaction, and physical activity can be powerful tools for creating strong memories. When these memories are connected with biblical truth, they are not easily forgotten.

Biblical Principles for Using Activity to Share Biblical Truth

“And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments or no. And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only; but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.” KJV **Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

1. **Reflection** - “Reflect on Experiences” – (Thou shalt remember)

God told His people to reflect on previous experiences in order to learn the powerful lessons that were connected with them. By reflecting (thinking about & meditating) on experiences, learning can take place. Fun can be a legitimate purpose in doing an activity but many times, just by asking a simple reflection question, participants can connect biblical truth to their fun experience.

a. **Simple Reflection Questions**

What happened during the activity? What did you observe taking place throughout the activity? So, what could you learn about yourself or others through this activity? So, what might God want us to learn from that experience? So, what is a Bible verse that relates to what we have been doing and talking about? Now, what will you do to apply this to your life, church, home, school, relationship with God, relationship with others, etc.? Now, what are you willing to change to improve your personal walk with God?

b. **Frontloading**

Before you do an activity, ask a question – that gets the group thinking about the spiritual application before they participate.

2. **Intentionality** - “Intentionally Design Experiences to Meet Participant Needs” – (God led thee)

As the Master Programmer, God always works with intentionality and purpose. Always ask yourself, “What is the main purpose of doing this activity?” Don’t just randomly do activities. Intentionally choose ones that will help you meet your purpose. God intentionally designed experiences for specific people in specific circumstances to teach specific lessons.

- a. **Consider the Participants in the Activity** – (thee, not live by bread only, but by every word from God)
Since God created and designed us, He knows our needs better than anyone. He also knows how to best meet those needs through the life circumstances and people He allows in our lives. Understanding the needs of participants will allow you to adjust each activity to better meet those particular needs. Consider things like age, gender, skill, number in the group, spiritual maturity, etc. Pray for God’s wisdom in better understanding your participants.
 - b. **Consider the Length & Order of the Activity** – (these 40 years)
God intentionally chose how long the Israelites would be in the wilderness as well as the order and length of each challenge they faced along the way. Be sure to plan enough time to complete the activity along with time for reflection and application at the end. Sequencing or organizing the activity in a logical flow will also help participants progress appropriately in each area (physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually).
 - c. **Consider the Location & Setting of the Activity** – (the wilderness)
God intentionally used specific places to connect spiritual lessons to them. Remember the Red Sea, Mount Carmel, the sermon on the mountain, the Sea of Galilee, or Mount Calvary? Depending on what is available, the size and features of your play area may restrict what you can do. Keep in mind the safety of participants when considering an activity for a particular setting. If you have the options available, choose a location and setting that will enhance the experience and aid the learning process.
 - d. **Consider Using Challenge Activities** – (to humble thee, to test thee, suffered thee to hunger)
Since God is the perfect facilitator, He knows what we can handle. Giving a difficult challenge to a group might be what they need to motivate them to take the next spiritual step. Even the experience of failure, by not being able to complete an activity, might be a good lesson for them. God frequently used adversity as part of the molding process. Note: When planning challenge activities, use wisdom and discernment to care for the safety needs of the group.
3. **Transparency** - “Create an Atmosphere of Openness and Sharing” – (To know what was in thine heart)
Because God is omniscient, He did not need to learn what was in the hearts of the Israelites. He used the experiences to show THEM how THEY would behave in challenging situations. Their outward actions demonstrated what was already in their hearts. One benefit of using activities for social interaction is that you can observe how participants respond in different circumstances. It is easy to put on a façade during a Bible study but anger, frustration, selfishness, etc. can easily be observed during an activity. Seek to create an atmosphere of transparency where people are encouraged to share their real struggles and frustrations after an activity. Let them know they will not be criticized or made fun of if they are honest and open up with the group.
 4. **Transference** - “Connect the Experience to Biblical Principles and Truths” – (that He might make thee know)
The end goal for God was not the experience but for the transformation that would take place in Israelites as they connected the experience to their walk with God. Give participants the opportunity to apply the biblical truths from the activity to everyday life. Participants can be transformed when truths are internalized and used in the home, school, church, and work. Transference happens as the end result of designing intentional activities and then reflecting on them in an atmosphere of transparency.