

Play-ology Omah – The W.O.R.D

Time	Activity	Instructions	Supplies
<p>12:30 – 12:35 5 minutes</p>	<p>Basket Weave Opening Prayer</p>	<p>Have everyone form a circle in the middle of the space. Ask each person to extend their right hand in front of them (you may need to check that everyone is extending the correct right hand). Ask them to move their right hand in front of the stomach of the person standing to the right of them. While keeping their right hand in this position, ask the group to extend their left hand in front of them. Have them move their left hand in front of the stomach of the person standing to the left of them. The group should now be able to join hands. Check and make sure that no one is holding the hand of the person directly beside them and that no arms are crossed - an easy way to solve this is left arm over, right arm under. Everyone should be standing on the outside of the circle. Invite participants to come into the inside of the circle by loosening their grip and slowly raising their arms over one another's heads. Once in place everyone should be able to stand comfortably with their arms behind them.¹</p> <p>One: Creator God, You know all about us. You made us from the tips of our toes to the hair on our heads – every little part. You placed us on the earth to enjoy and explore your creation. Help us to take time and today to explore your WORD with energy, eagerness, and enthusiasm!</p> <p align="center">All: Amen</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>12:35- 12:45 10 minutes</p>	<p>Magazine Hunt & Contact Paper Bible Stories</p>	<p>Put the youth into groups and know your Bible story ahead of time. Choose some common items for the groups to search for in the magazines that pertain to the Bible story. Call out an item and have groups searching thru the magazines until they find something or until you call the next item. Once the entire list of items is found, have the small groups try to determine what the Bible story is and recreate it on the poster board</p> <p>Tape contact paper around the room (non</p>	<p>Blue Tape Contact Paper Scissors Various Supplies Magazines</p> <p>Pictures to Look For: Boy Father Brother Money Fields</p>

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		<p>stick side toward the wall) Have lots of items like paper, fabric, rocks, sand, sticks pipe cleaners, tissue paper etc. out for groups to use Have group create the story on the contact paper. Each group can have a different part of the story, or different stories. If different stories are used, go around the room telling the entire story through the creations.</p> <p>Some good possibilities include Prodigal Son, Good Samaritan, Story of the Evil Farmer (Luke 20:9-18)</p>	<p>Animals Party Food and Drink Family Reunion Robe Big dinner</p>
<p>12:45-12:55 10 minutes</p>	<p>Moving Sculptures & Discussion</p>	<p>Have participants take a seat. Take the time to introduce today’s scripture. Before we hear today’s passage it is important to know that earlier in the book of Genesis we find Jacob in conflict with his brother Esau. Jacob deceives his father by pretending he is his brother and does something unthinkable. He takes his oldest brother’s birthright (inheritance/gift). Jacob lied. Jacob pretended to be something he was not. During this passage we find Jacob journeying home to see Esau. On his way he finds out that instead of a warm welcome and feast, Esau is bringing 400 warriors to meet him. Jacob, fearing his brother, sent his family back across the river and remained to face his fate, still unsure of what wild and unforeseen troubles might find him.</p> <p>Using the story of Jacob (found in Appendix G) ask for 6 volunteers to “Freeze Frame” the following story. Have one of the volunteers play Jacob and the other one, the unknown man. The catch is that the characters, which are unable to move on their own, must act out the reading. The other four volunteers will serve as sculptors and position Jacob and the unknown man to fit the story. The remaining members of the small group will be the audience. As the leader you may choose to read the story from Appendix G OR recruit another volunteer to perform the voice-over. Begin by saying “Listen for the word of the Lord.”</p>	<p>Appendix G – Story of Jacob print out</p>

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After finishing the Freeze Frame ask the large group to join their explorer groups for some discussion. Post the following discussion questions on newsprint:

- In Biblical times your name was more than just a word. It had meaning. It was your identity. The stranger, after struggling with Jacob all night, asks his name. Have you ever thought of your name as a reflection of WHO you are?
- Do you know the meaning of your name?
- All of us “struggle” to remember who we are and what we are called to do at some point. Have you ever “wrestled with God” over decisions or choices you have had to make? What are some examples?
- Jacob wasn’t honest about who he was when he stole Esau’s birthright. He wanted more. Do you ever compare yourself to others? How so?
- It wasn’t until after a long struggle that God called Jacob by his name AND renamed him that Jacob was ready to be Jacob, and not someone else. Do you think you could live in a way where you don’t compare yourself to others? Why or why not?

When you see that groups have finished discussing the passage recap the story with the following: “Jacob’s struggle was a mix of danger and excitement. The outcome was unknown. Would he be blessed? Would he be harmed by this unknown man? Struggles, decisions, and choices can be both new and exciting - while still being scary. Listening and searching for our calling can be confusing and difficult. We may wander in the wilderness, like Jacob, unsure where we should go next. It may take a struggle with God, and ourselves, to reveal where we go next!”

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<p>12:55- 1:15 20 minutes</p>	<p>Psalm Remix Psalm 139</p>	<p>David wrote poems and songs to express his thoughts and feelings just as contemporary songwriters and poets do today. Although David’s songs are from many, many years ago – the message is still relevant and meaningful. Many times popular songs from years past are remade so that another generation is able to experience and enjoy them. Some examples you might be familiar with are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The First Cut is the Deepest</i> by Sheryl Crow (originally by Cat Stevens) • <i>Forever Young</i> by Jay Z and Mr. Hudson (originally by Alphaville) • <i>Life is a Highway</i> by The Rascal Flatts (originally by Tom Cochrane) • <i>Diamonds Are Forever</i> by Kanye West (originally by Shirley Bassey) • <i>I Love Rock ‘N Roll</i> by Britney Spears (originally by Arrows) • <i>You Spin Me (Right) Round</i> by Flo Rida (originally by Dead or Alive) • <i>Sweet Home Alabama</i> by Kid Rock (originally by Lynyrd Skynyrd) • <i>Just the Two of Us</i> by Will Smith (originally by Grover Washington Jr. and Bill Withers) <p>Divide into groups. Explain that Psalm 139 has an important message that all God’s people should hear. Each group is asked to “remix” David’s psalm for a specific group today (which you will assign). Ask them to look at what David wrote thousands of years ago and consider how they might reinterpret the psalm in a way that will communicate God’s word, as well as be relevant today. Encourage them to be creative! Assign each group one of the following audiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool children or little brother/sister • Someone from outer space • An athlete • A musician • Parents 	<p>Ipod/song examples Bible Markers Newsprint Appendix F for each group</p>
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<p>1:15 - 1:40 25 mins</p>	<p>Mixed Up Messages Mad-Lib</p>	<p>Sometimes it takes something really WILD to get our attention. Have each group come up with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A person’s name A place An action Verb Animal Feeling <p>Make sure each group has come up with their list of words <u>before</u> passing out a copy of Mixed Up Messages Mad Lib (Appendix B) to each group. Have them fill in the blanks with the words from their list. Ask for volunteers to share their Mixed Up Messages with the larger group. After the giggles have subsided, discuss the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was this Wild enough to grab your attention? • What was it like to hear a familiar story with new words? 	<p>Notecards Markers Newsprint Bibles Appendix B handout</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would we do this activity? <p>Encourage each group to take a moment and try to figure out which words should really be in the blanks. Have them write down their guesses before opening the Bible. Ask a volunteer in each group to read the scripture aloud. Have each group discuss the following before opening up the questions to the larger group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What stuck out to you in the passage? • What momentous event took place? • What does it mean to be baptized? “Baptism is a sacrament (a sacrament is a gift from God, given by Jesus Christ, to the church to establish and nourish our faith) of the church that takes place during a worship service. It marks the entrance into God’s covenant family. The promises of God are received by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the water of baptism.”ⁱⁱ <p>Point out that sometimes messages in our own lives get mixed up. Often times we are so consumed by what surrounds us that we fail to really listen to what is being said and it takes something WILD (like our Mad – Lib) to jar us into paying attention. The WILD message we see in Matthew 3:13-17 communicates loud and clear that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus is baptized by the Spirit, identified as a child of God, and celebrated in the community. In the same way, when we are baptized, we celebrate that we are God’s children.</p>	
<p>1:40-1:50 10 minutes</p>	<p>Closing</p>	<p>Have the prepared material spread out in the middle of the space, relaxing music or sounds of water playing in the background. Find a place on the floor near one of the material. Post the following instructions on newsprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write, draw, or doodle an image of water on the material in front of you. • Complete this sentence: Water is _____. Write 5-6 describing words on the material in front of you. • Feel free to doodle and draw images relating to water in the space remaining on your section of material. <p>Once everyone has completed the activity invite the group to stand, join hands, and form a circle. Close your time in prayer.</p>	<p>CD Player/Ipod Blue/Teal/Purple crepe paper Markers Newsprint</p>

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		<p>One: Creator of the oceans and the seas, Guide us as we continue to explore your Wild World. Open our eyes so that we may see the beauty of your creation. Perk up our ears so we may hear your word. Energize our bodies so that we may live the life you have called us to live. Be with us this day and in the days to come. And all God's people said, All: Amen</p>	
1:50-2:00pm	Process the Day	Handouts Q&A	

ⁱ Aimee Wallis Buchanan, Bill Buchanan, and Jodi B. Martin, Making Worship Real (Geneva Press, 2001) 22.

ⁱⁱ The Presbyterian Handbook (Geneva Press, 2006) 35.