

Game: **Trading Places**

Discussion: **Excuses**

Scripture: **Romans 1:20**

YOU WILL NEED: *No items are needed.*

Trading Places

Trading Places—Part 1

Have the children sit in a circle facing towards the middle. Then have them scoot their chairs back so that they are about a chair's width apart. Number the children one through four all the way around the circle. (Number from one to three for smaller classes or you can join up with another class.)

Pick a child to be "it" in the center of the circle and remove his chair and any other extra chairs from the circle. Tell the students that you are going to call a number and if you call their number, they have to switch places with someone else. If it's not their number, then they remain seated.

While they are trying to trade places, "it" is going to try to get one of their chairs. Whoever doesn't get a chair is left in the middle of the circle. Then you will call another number and this child will try to get a chair and someone else will be in the middle. The aim of the game is never to be left in the middle of the circle. Play for several minutes, then add in the next variation.

Trading Places—Part 2

After playing for several minutes as described above, add a twist. When a student is left in the middle of the circle because he didn't get a chair in time, ask him to "make up" an excuse or to blame something or someone else for him not finding a new spot.

The students can make very ridiculous excuses or give silly reasons. For example, "Bobby was making faces at me." Or, "Because I'm pigeon-toed." Or, "Because my shoes are hard to run in."

Discussion

Gather kids in your lesson circle.

ASK—Can you think of a time when someone did something wrong and he made an excuse or blamed someone else?

Take a few responses. Then give an example from your own life.

ASK—What are some excuses people give when they do something wrong? (i.e., the devil made me do it, etc.)

SAY: Get your Bibles ready for a Bible Drill.

Ready...Romans 1:20...Go!

Read from your Bible:

Romans 1:20

ASK—Who does this say is without excuse?

SAY: The Bible says that those who don't give their lives to Jesus are without excuse because even creation points them to God.

ASK—How do you think that creation points people towards God? (Think about a flower's beauty or even how the universe with all its stars and galaxies works perfectly together, etc.)

At this point you can continue with a discussion on excuses, on lies (which is what most excuses are), on why people do wrong things and how to resist temptation, or on how God wants everyone to be saved, etc.)