

Game: **Waterballoon Catch**

Discussion: What Does God Seek?

Scripture: Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9; Luke 15

YOU WILL NEED: Waterballoons—enough for each group of 8 to 10 students to have 10 shots; a waterballoon slingshot is optional; a bucket for each student (if you don't have buckets, you can also have them try to catch the balloons by holding out the front of their shirts.)

Waterballoon Catch

Give each child a bucket and put them out in an open outside area. (For large groups, you will need to split them into groups of about 5 to 8). You will either throw or shoot a waterballoon. Their goal is to catch it—even if it explodes—in their bucket.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

*(1) One rule is that the students cannot hold the buckets over their heads. When this happens, the balloon hits the bucket and knocks it into their head. They **MUST** hold the bucket in front of their stomach.*

(2) Waterballoon slingshots can be bought fairly cheaply from a variety of vendors online. One excellent resource is www.usgames.com.

*(3) If you buy a waterballoon slingshot, make sure that the sponsors operating it understand that they can **NEVER** shoot it directly at a student. It **MUST** only be used for shooting the waterballoon in the air with a loft. See the waterballoon slingshot's instructions for more information on this.*

Discussion

Ask the students: **What were you seeking for in the game?** (To catch the balloons)

Ask the students: **What do you think God seeks for?** (Today we're going to find out.)

Read Luke 10:19

Read 2 Peter 3:9

KEY: God seeks for everyone to be saved.

(NOTE: Great stories to share here could come from Luke 15—where the women seeks the lost coin; the shepherd seeks the lost sheep and the father waits for the lost son.)

(For older children)

If God wants everyone to go to heaven, why did He create Hell? (According to Matthew 25, He made hell for the devil and the other angels who rebelled against Him, but when we sinned, it became our punishment too.)

Does God send anybody to Hell? (No, people send themselves there by choosing not to give their lives to Jesus—God has done everything He can to save everyone.)

What if someone never hears about Jesus, will they go to heaven? (No, a person must give their life to Jesus.)

Is that fair? (Yes, the Bible says that God has built eternity into our hearts—that even creation teaches the Gospel [Romans 1:20] and if someone hasn't heard about Jesus and they seek the truth, God will make a way for them to find it. If not hearing about Jesus could get a person into heaven, then we shouldn't do missions and Jesus would have never told us to "go." Jesus told us to go into all the world because not knowing about Jesus is not an excuse for not seeking and finding Him.)

KEY: Each of us can be a part of telling others about Jesus and showing people the way to heaven.

Take prayer requests and pray

(NOTE: From what God seeks, you could also shift the conversation to what we should seek in Matthew 6:33).