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children's
small group
curriculum

U Got Game



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NewThing

children’s small group curriculum

Series: U Got Game

This series will use a sports theme to help kids understand that they have a role to play on God’s team. The object of this series is to challenge kids to contribute to the mission of the church by finding a specific role on the team.



[Session 1: God’s Team](#)

[Session 2: Kids’ City Teams](#)

[Session 3: Giving Back to God](#)

[Session 4: Lasting Impact](#)



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U Got Game – Children’s BIG IDEA Series

Session 1, God’s Team

The BIG IDEA: God picked you for his team.

Principle: I have a role to play on God’s team.

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22 (Jesus calls the disciples)

Key Verse: Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

Leader Focus

Today’s lesson is the first in the series and focuses on how God picked each of us for his team. Many children have experienced getting picked last, or not getting picked at all. Not only does God believe in each of us (and believes we have something to offer), he also likes us and want us for who you are.

Today’s discussion also takes a beginning look at the talents and gifts we have to bring to God’s team. Next week we will talk about the role those gifts can play here in KC and elsewhere.

Introduction in Small Groups - 10 minutes

As the children arrive greet them by name and tell them you are glad they are here. Ask them about their week and allow them to share any news or concerns.

As we start this new series “U Got Game,” pass out the sports matching sheet.

Kid’s City Celebration (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Music: I’m Adopted, WannaBe

Activity: KC Baseball Drill

Communicator: (A Baseball Coach) The coach talks about getting picked for a team. Jesus picked the disciples for his team. Being picked was a huge honor. God wants you on his team! God believes in you and believes you have something valuable to offer. God likes you and wants you for who you are. God has picked you for his team.

Video: Jesus and the Disciples play softball

Small Group, 25 minutes

As the children return, have them sit in a circle so everyone can be seen and heard for the discussion.

How do you feel when you are picked first for a team or to do something with someone? (*proud, happy, special*)

Many of us probably know how it feels to get picked last, or maybe not even picked to do something at all. That really hurts when something like that happens. So next time you are left out or feel unwanted, think about this: God likes you and want you for who you are!

Today we are going to start talking about how God wants you on his team! Let’s look at today’s key verse to understand what the Bible has to say about this:

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Key Verse: Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.”

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

How can you know God loves you and wants you? (*he chose us, he has a plan for us, the verse says he loves us*)

How does it make you feel to know that God picked you for his team? (*proud, happy, special*)

We all know that different people are good at different things. Those are called our gifts or talents. Do you know what any of your gifts or talents are? (*Feel free to have them share one or two; share your own if you can. Gifts may include: musical, athletic, friendly, leadership, etc.)*

God believes in you and believes you have something valuable to offer with your talents. Today we are going to start to look at the role you have to play on God’s team using your gifts and talents.



Project: Talent Pennant for God’s Team (For example see attachment A)

1. Pass out one pennant sheet per child and have them write their name on it.
2. Show them the pennant “patch” sheets next. Explain to them that these are just a few of the talents and gifts that people have been given. In a moment you will have each of them claim one talent for themselves.
3. Hold up the sheets and explain the talents. Patches include: caring, athletic, prayerful (remembers to pray and enjoys reading the Bible), creative (dancing and acting), musical (instrument or singing), leader, friendly/outgoing, artistic, and intelligent (is good at school type work).
4. Have each child pick one sheet of 12 talent “patches.” Have them write their name on each of their circles and cut out enough so they will be able to give everyone in their small group a circle. (If there is a child in your group very intent on a gift that is not listed, let me them write the talent on a set of blank patches and write their name.)
5. As they write and cut, explain that this small group is an example of God’s Team and everyone in the group has something valuable to offer. Use the pennant as a place to display the talents in your small group.
6. After everyone is done cutting out their talent patches, one at a time have each child share their talent and give everyone a circle to glue on their own pennants.
7. After everyone has shared and received one talent patch from each group member continue the discussion, even if some children are still gluing or decorating their pennant.

CHALLENGE: Take your pennant home with you today and hang it in a place you can see it. Remember God picked you for his team and you have an important role to play by using your talents.



Prayer: “Dear God, Thank you for the talents you have given us. Each of us is good at something, even if we are stilling trying to figure out what are talents are. Thank you for picking us for your team! We are so happy to know we each have a role on that team. Help us to use our gifts for you. In Jesus name, Amen.”

If time allows try this activity. And don’t forget to give each child a temporary tattoo as they leave.



Activity: Fast Pass. Take out the Koosh (or other soft ball) and have the children sit in a circle. Begin by asking them to go around the circle and remind each other which patch each one choose for the penant. Then have one person hold the ball and begin by passing it to another person and saying that person’s gift area. Example: “Creative.” Then that player repeats his or her area and then throws to someone else. “Creative, prayerful.” The patterns continues. “Prayerful, caring.” Children should keep

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going and a keep a quick rhythm. If the rhythm gets broken start again. You can also switch questions, such as:

If this is too hard for your group, try it just using the game to practice first names.

Session 2, Kids’ City Teams

The BIG IDEA: Every person has a role to play on God’s team.

Principle: I have a role to play on God’s team.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10

Key Verse: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Leader Focus

Today’s lesson launches our plan for Kids’ City Teams. The goal is to help kids grab on to that third “C” – contribute. Children will be encouraged to explore their gifts and think about how they could be a part of the mission by giving of their time and talents.

This lesson also reminds kids that they are a valuable part of our church, and that their contributions are as important to us as their parents’.

Introduction in Small Groups, 10 minutes

As the children arrive greet them by name and tell them you are glad they are here. Ask them about their week and allow them to share any news or concerns.

Place an (approx.) 8 foot piece of tape on the floor, in a place where all the children in your small group could stand on or near the tape. Tape the two face pictures at opposite ends of the line, so one end represents positive feelings and the other negative.

Read the following statements and have the children pick a place to stand on the line that represents how they feel about what you have said. For example, you might read, “Making new friends.” If a child really enjoyed that, they would stand on one end of the line near the positive face. If another child didn’t enjoy making new friends, they would stand on the opposite end of the line. If a child was neutral they would stand in the middle. Read the next statement and have them move to their new location based on how they feel.

Statements:

1. Singing
2. Being the leader
3. Organizing things and making them look neat
4. Making new friends
5. Dancing
6. Teaching someone how to do something
7. Helping pass out papers at school
8. Trying new things and learning something new
9. Working alone, by myself
10. Meeting new people
11. Helping my teacher set something up
12. Spending time praying for my friends or family
13. Working with one person, rather than a group
14. Encouraging people to do their best

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Kids’ City Celebration (Large Group – 25 minutes)

Music: I’m Gonna Walk
My God

Communicator: (A Football Coach) Each player on a team has a specific role. When they join the team, the coach assigns them a specific position. Take a football team for example. How many of you have heard of the quarterback? Running back? How many of you have heard of the long snapper?

Video: Longsnapper—explaining the role of the longsnapper on a football team.

Communicator: Talk about the role of the long snapper (longsnapper.com). Role may seem small, but every team has one because every team needs one. Every kid has a role to play on the team. The players have different talents and skills and should find the spot on the team where they can contribute the most to the team.

Video: Introducing Kids’ City Teams

Small Group Time

As the children return, have them sit in a circle so everyone can be seen and heard for the discussion.

When you come into church each week, do you ever stop to think about who gets everything ready for Kid’s City and for the adult service? Did you ever wonder where the small group leaders come from, and who puts the snacks out on the table, and who cleans up afterwards? How do you think the work that needs to get done for church gets done? (Have them share. Make sure they understand that most of the work being done is not done by paid staff people, but by people who have chosen to serve.)

Why do you think people volunteer to do work at church without getting paid any money? (because they know it’s the right thing to do, because they want to help people find their way back to God. Please share with them why you are a small group leader.)

Without the help of the people who have decided to contribute –which means to do the work of the church – we couldn’t have Kid’s City or adult service or anything of the fun things that happen at our church. And the only reason that we are able to “Help People Find Their Way Back To God,” is because so many people believe in that mission and are working hard to help accomplish it.

Let’s look at what the Bible says about what God expects of us.



Key Verse: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

This verse tells us that we were created to do good works, and that God has planned some good works for each of us to do. What kind of good works do you think God might have planned for you? (Allow them to share.)

How do you think we can figure out what kind of good works God created us for? (we can read God’s word, we can ask advice from other Christians, we can look at the things we’re good at and enjoy doing, and ask God to show us how to use those gifts for Him.)

If you were paying attention in KC Celebration, you’ll remember that we’re starting something new in KC called, “Kids’ City Teams.” These teams will give you a chance to do some of the good works that you

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were created for. We’re going to take some time now to help other think about which team is the right one for each of us. We’ll do that by going around to each person in our circle. Let’s think back to each which end of the line people stood on during our intro game. Then we’ll help each person decide which team is the best match. I’ll read five different gifts and we’ll help each other decide which is the best fit.

Likes making friends (Welcome Team)

Likes to be helpful (Set-up team, Tear-down team)

Likes to make others feel special (Small group host)

Likes talking to God (Prayer Team)

Likes Performing (Kids’ City Dancers)

Go around the circle and affirm each child’s gifts together as a small group, and help them decide which team is the best match.

When God made a promise to his people in the Bible, he called it a covenant. When we decide to serve in the church, we make a promise to our church family that they can count on us to do what we say we’re going to do. So now that we’ve decided what team everybody wants to be on, we’re going to fill out a covenant – which is a promise to help with the work of the church.



Project: Kids’ City Teams Covenant.

Pass out the covenant pages and have kids write their names on it. Then help them to fill in the name of the team they’ve chosen. Each small group leader will fill in a “Kids’ City Teams Roster” to schedule each child for one weekend a month of contribution. NOTE: You do not have to have every role filled for every week. There will be blank spaces, just allow your kids to use their gifts and leave the other roles or dates open. Remind children that they need a parent to sign the covenant, and that they should bring it back the following week to get the leader’s signature after the parents have signed. Small group leaders will keep the roster in a plastic sleeve in the bin, but children will take their covenants home as a reminder of their commitment. Kids’ City Teams begin the first week of December.

CHALLENGE: Talk to your parents about the team you want to join and ask them to help remind you about the promise you’ve made.



Prayer:

This week we will begin using new prayer request cards. These cards will be available each week on the curriculum table. Please ask your small group for their prayer requests each week and write them down on a card. If you have a child who has chosen to serve on the Prayer team, he or she may take the card home to pray for the requests during the week. If not, the small group leader can take the card home.

“Dear God, thank you for all the people in our church who work so hard to make it a good place for us. Help me to join in the work of the church, and to do the good works God created me for. We pray for everybody in our small group and all the prayer requests. . . Keep us safe and bring us back together next week. Amen.



Activity: Throw and Stoop

Supplies: 2 Koosh type (soft throwable) balls or small beach balls

The emphasis of this game is teamwork! Form two teams of at least 4 players, and have your small group line up, one behind the other. Pick a leader for each team. Ask leaders to stand approx. 4 feet in front of their team and face their team.

To start the game, give each leader a ball. Each leader will throw the ball to the first team member, who then will throw the ball back to the leader and stoop (squat) in place. The leader then will throw the ball

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over the stooped player to the next teammate, who will throw the ball back to the leader and stoop in place. If a player drops the ball, that player must retrieve it and return to his or her position before throwing it back.

Leaders will continue to throw to the next team member until the last team member has the ball. The last people then will carry the ball to the front and become the leaders. The previous leaders will take their places at the front of their teams’ lines. Repeat the game until the original leaders are the leaders again.

Note: If you do not have enough children to make two teams, have them stand in one line and play as one team. Emphasize the importance of team work and hopefully each round they will get faster and more efficient.

Source: The Humongous Book of Games for Children’s Ministry (Group Publishing, 2002)

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U Got Game: Session 3, Giving Back to God

The BIG IDEA: God uses His team’s offerings to change the world.

Principle: I have a role to play on God’s team.

Scripture: Acts 1:8-9 (NirV)

Key Verse: “God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7b (NirV)

Leader Focus

Today’s lesson continues the focus on being a part of God’s team, but this time by giving back to God part of the money we earn. This important role can have an impact that reaches the ends of the earth. Using the perspective of 2 Corinthians 9:7 the discussion will center on the heart side of giving, with a generous and cheerful attitude.

Children will decorate a canvas pouch to remind them to bring their money to KC Celebration, where a portion goes to help people such as the orphans in Rwanda.

Introduction in Small Groups – 10 minutes

As the children arrive greet them by name and tell them you are glad they are here. Ask them about their week and allow them to share any news or concerns.

Take out the World Map. As a group help your children follow the instructions and color in the indicated countries on the map using a WASHABLE MARKERS. When you are finished please clean off the map so the next small group can use it.

World Map Intro Questions

1. The US is the richest country in the world. Find the US and put a dollar sign on it.
2. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Find Haiti and circle it. (Hint: Haiti is half of an island, and you won’t need a very big marker.)
3. China is the country with the most people. Find China and draw a smiley face on it.
4. Africa is a continent dealing with overwhelming hunger, war, and disease. Find Africa and draw a triangle on it.
5. Our church takes mission trips to Mexico each year. Find Mexico and put a cross on it.
6. Chicago is one of the most segregated cities in the US. (Which means that people of different races don’t live often in the same neighborhoods.) Find Chicago and put a dot on it for the city. (Hint: Look for Lake Michigan.)
7. India is the largest democracy in the world. Find India and put a star on it.
8. The Kid’s City Giving Back to God money goes to support orphans in Rwanda. Find Rwanda and put a heart on it. (Hint: Rwanda is a small African country near a lake.)

Kids’ City Celebration (Large Group Time – 35 minutes)

Music: I Am Somebody
Christmas and Kids
Joy to the World

Communicator: (A Soccer Coach) Coach giving locker room talk before the big game. Jesus had a locker room talk with His first followers. It was the very last thing he said to them before He left the earth

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and returned to heaven. He told them to make an impact on the world starting where they lived and moving out to the farthest places of the earth.

We can play on God’s Team right here in Kids’ City (KC Teams), but we also can contribute in ways that impact the ends of the earth. Another way we can play on God’s team is by giving money to help people in need. Every week in Kids’ City we take time to Give Back to God (explain). Part of the money we give each week goes to help people who live in a country in Africa called Rwanda.

Video: Orphan House in Rwanda

Prayer for Rwanda orphans

Christmas Family Service Explanation—This week we’ll tell kids about the Christmas Family Service and teach them the first 2 of 3 songs they will be singing in the service.

Small Group Time – 15 minutes

As the children return, have them sit in a circle so everyone can be seen and heard for the discussion. Pass out the pouches, and have the plates of paint ready. Please have hand-wipes and paper towels available also.



Project: Canvas zipper change pouch

Have the children decorate their canvas change pouch as you lead the discussion time. They may use the paint and stamps to decorate one side of the bag.

1. First have them unzipper their bag and place a folded paper towel inside to ensure the paint doesn’t bleed through causing the bag to dry closed.
2. Please encourage them to dip the stamp and blot it on the paper plate (or towel) so there is not a lot of excess paint to dry on their bag.
3. With a small amount of paint on the stamp, press down on the bag. Less paint means they will dry quicker and it is less likely to make a large mess (on themselves or others). Too much paint will also leak through the pouch to the other side.
4. Please attach the card to the pouch with the yarn so their parents can continue the discussion at home and understand what was learned today.



Start discussion:

What did you think when you saw the video of the orphans in Rwanda?
(allow them to share; answers may include: sad how poor they are, surprised by their home, interested to see how they live)

We are so blessed to have clothes, homes, and food to eat. Today in KC Celebration we heard about one way you can help on God’s team, and that is by giving your offering (money) to change the world. Did you know that some of the money that you bring forward during the “giving back to God” time during KC Celebration goes to helps many different people, including the orphans in Rwanda? How does that make you feel? *(Good to know I can have a part, makes me want to give more because I know where the money goes)*

Why do we call it “giving back to God”? *(God created us and everything around us, it all belongs to Him; He has given it to us to use while we are here doing His work)*

Why should we give to God first, rather than what we have left over after we buy what we want? *(because God asks us to, God gave everything to us—it’s all his, we might forget and have nothing left to give)*

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Why is it sometimes hard to share, or be generous with what we have? *(we feel like it is ours, we want to have at least as much as everyone else... if not more, we are greedy in our hearts)*

How many of you get an allowance, or money by doing chores? *(allow them to share)*

Right now you are decorating a change pouch with some crosses, Bibles and other symbols. Hopefully this will be a reminder to you of another role you have to play on God’s team by giving back to God some of what you have. You can use this pouch to bring your money to church every week.

Let’s look at the key verse and see what the Bible has to say about giving back to God.



Key Verse: “God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7b (Repeat together several times.)

So what does this verse tell us about your attitude when giving back to God? *(God wants us to be happy about it and God knows our heart)*

Should we give because we feel guilty, or because somebody told us we should? *(No)* What should motivate us to give? *(We should be generous with our money because it belongs to God and he wants to use it to help others—ex. Rwanda orphans)*

CHALLENGE: Give back to God a portion of your allowance or money you earn by doing chores. Use your zipper change pouch to put your offering in to bring to KC.

Take out the prayer card to record today’s requests. Give the card to the member of your small group to take home who has signed up for the prayer team this week.



Prayer: “Dear God, We are so blessed to have food, clothes, and homes. Thank you for all the blessings we have been given! We also thank you for the allowances we get (or money we have) and ask you to help us be generous with it. God, help us to be cheerful givers. We want to help the orphans in Rwanda, and other people our church is helping. Help us to remember to give back to you, God, a portion of the money we have been given, and to remember that you want to change the world with that money. Thank you for making us an important part of your team right here in Kids’ City. In Jesus Name, Amen.”



Activity: Map

If there is extra time allow the children to look at the erasable map and find other countries and places.

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U Got Game: Session 4, Lasting Impact

The BIG IDEA: God uses His team to make an impact that lasts forever.

Principle: I have a role to play on God’s team.

Scripture: Mark 14:3-9 (NirV)

Key Verse: “God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. ²¹Give him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. Give him glory through all time and for ever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21(NirV)

Leader Focus

Today’s lesson asks kids to think about what forever means, and to think about how actions they take right now can have an impact that reaches into forever. The goal is to give kids a glimpse of eternity and the confidence to know that they are a vital part of God’s team and can affect other people in ways that last forever.

Introduction in Small Groups – 10 minutes

As the children arrive greet them by name and tell them you are glad they are here. Ask them about their week and allow them to share any news or concerns.

Have your children work on the “Lasting Impact” word find, and talk about what the words mean.

Kids’ City Celebration (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Music: Joy to the World
J.O.Y.
Christmas and Kids

Sketch: Post-game interview (reporter & old man). Reporter interviewing old man about being on a God’s Team. The old man remembers the first day he came to Kids’ City.

(Video) Black and white video of old man as a small boy visiting Kids’ City for the first time. Old man narrates video. Recounts how the kids who were serving on God’s Team impacted him that day.

Old man talks about how he found his way back to God and has been playing on God’s Team ever since. He started playing on God’s Team in Kids’ City. Eventually all his family became Christ-followers.

Communicator: (A Basketball Coach) Talks about old man and how he has been a star player for 76 seasons. Old man is making a lasting impact just like Jesus said he would. Communicator tells story of woman anointing Jesus.

We can be part of a dynasty that never ends. God’s team has been changing the world since the beginning of time, and it will continue to make an impact forever. The woman who did that beautiful thing for Jesus had no idea at the time that what she did would still make an impact 2000 years later. She simply loved Jesus and wanted to do whatever she could for Him. When we play on God’s team today, we can make an impact that will last forever.

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Small Group – 25 minutes

As the children return, have them sit in a circle so everyone can be seen and heard for the discussion.

Have you ever heard somebody say something like, “I’ve been waiting forever for my food to come,” or “This meeting is taking forever.” What do they mean when they say those things? *(That it’s taking a very long time, longer than they expected it to, that they are tired of waiting.)*

Sometimes people use the word “forever” to mean “a very long time.” But what does it really mean? *(Always, never stopping, going on and on without ending.)*

Forever is a pretty hard thing to imagine. That’s because not much on earth will last forever. Most things break, or die, or wear-out, or get used up. So what kinds of things actually last?



Activity: What Lasts?

Place one large piece of paper on the wall with a line down the center. On one side write “stuff that lasts” and the other side write “stuff that doesn’t last.” Go around the circle and have children draw slips of paper from the provided bag. Give them small pieces of tape so they can attach each slip to one of the sides of the paper hanging on the wall. Some items will be material things that don’t last, and some will be actions that can make a lasting impact. **Discuss each item with your small group and why it is or is not lasting.**

There are a lot of things you could give people. You could give your friend a toy for his birthday, your mother some flowers for Mother’s day, or your sister a cookie just for fun. Those things are nice, but none of them will last forever. Does anything really last forever? What? *(Jesus’ love, God’s promises, God’s Word, our souls if we give ourselves to Jesus.)*

So what can you give someone if you want it to last forever? *(You can tell them about Jesus, you can pray with them and for them to become a Christian, you can invite others to church to hear God’s Word, you can do anything that helps someone Find Their Way Back To God.)*

Do you remember who first told you about Jesus? Was it one of your parents? Or a Kid’s City Leader? **(Have them each share. Feel free to share your own story.)**

Whoever first told you about Jesus was doing something that will affect you forever. What would your life be like now if you didn’t know Jesus? *(Lonely, empty, sad, scary, no one to pray to when I need help.)*

Challenge: Say a special thank you to the person who first told you about Jesus.



Prayer: Ask children for their prayer requests and write them down on a prayer card.

“Dear God, thank you that you last forever even though nothing else does. Thank you for your love, your promises, and your Word. And thanks for your son Jesus. Please help me make a lasting impact on my friends and family by talking to them about you. And help everyone in our small group to be a Christ-follower so we can live together in heaven forever. Amen.”

If time allows, try this activity.



Play a few rounds of the game, “Who can do something the longest?” You might have them sit in a circle and see who can go the longest without blinking. Who can stand the longest on one leg? Or go the longest without making a noise?