

Missions Lesson

Evangelistic Block Parties

July, Week 1

By Benita Decker

Objective: Children will learn that evangelistic block parties and other festival-type events are a way to share Jesus in their own communities.

Materials:

6,16 oz. disposable cups

3 ping-pong balls

6-10 bottles of water

3 small embroidery hoops

Option: other small carnival-type games

Popcorn

Bottled water or lemonade

Bible

Preparation:

Set up two games before children arrive.

- a. Set cups up in a pattern with the rim up. Children will stand at a distance and throw the ping-pong balls and try to get them in the cup.
- b. Set bottles of water up and separate them by about 6 inches. Children will stand at a distance and throw the embroidery hoop to try to get them around the bottle.
- c. You may choose to have another available carnival-type game instead of these suggestions. When children arrive, have them play the games for about 10 minutes.

Procedure:

1. Gather the children. Ask them if they have ever been to a block party or festival. Ask them what some of their favorite activities are when they go (games, food, inflatables, etc.). Say: Block parties are a way our church can meet people and tell them about Jesus.

2. Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Say: *Just before Jesus went back to heaven He told his disciples :*

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

Say: Jesus was telling His disciples and us that we need to tell people about Him around where we live (our Jerusalem), in our state and country (our Judea), in the countries next to us (our Samaria) and to everyone in the world (to the ends of the earth). Block parties or festivals are a way to meet people in our Jerusalem, in the area around where we live or go to church, and tell them about Jesus.

3. Say: *Block parties can take place at a church but usually they take place somewhere away from church (a park, someone's yard, a vacant parking lot, etc.). People who do not usually go to church may not come to the church building but they will go to a park or other location.*

Ask: If we were having a block party, what type of activities would we want to have for everyone? (Let the children discuss what different activities they would want: games, inflatables, crafts, giveaways, food-popcorn, sno-cones, hot dogs, etc.)

Ask: What about activities for the adults? Let the children discuss (Suggestions: music, health fair, giveaways, food, etc.)

Say: People have a lot of fun at block parties but the main reason a church has a block party or festival is to gather people together, talk to them and get to know them and share about Jesus. So it is important for people to be walking around and starting conversations with the people attending the block party. Conversations with children and teenagers may be about where they go to school or what sports they play or what they like to do. Conversations with parents and other adults may be about where they work, what they like to do with their family, or asking them if

they have a specific prayer request. The conversation always includes telling the people about Jesus and about their church and inviting them to visit.

4. Have 2 children pretend they are at a block party. Child #1 is attending the block party from the neighborhood. He/she does not go to church. Child #2 is a church member walking through the crowd at the block party and starting a conversation. Child #2 should approach Child #1 and start a conversation. Encourage her to include telling Child #1 about her church and that Jesus loves her. Allow multiple children to role play if time permits.
5. Serve popcorn and a drink. Say: *Food always brings a crowd to a block party or festival. Sometimes it is as simple as popcorn and lemonade. Sometimes it is as extravagant as burgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies and all other kinds of food.*

We need to share Jesus in any way we can so that people can come to Him and be saved. Block parties are a great way to build relationships with the people in the community so that they will be more willing to hear the gospel.



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