

Activity: Exciting Christians



**FAMILY TIME
TRAINING**

Teaching Goal: Being a Christian can be the most exciting thing in life!

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:14 David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the Lord with all his might, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

Matthew 14:13 The crowds followed Jesus on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick...Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the {5,000} people.

Colossians 3:23 Everything you do, do your best as unto the Lord.

Materials: 2 liter bottle of Diet Coke (not opened)
1 packet of Mentos candy
Paper and pen
Music

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY #1: Let's talk about times when we've been really excited! Great days, great times, great people and great places. Listen. Give each person an opportunity to share a memory for each topic in the following list. Write down the answers to "THINGS THAT EXCITE US":

Most Exciting Song
Most Exciting Movie or TV Show
Most Exciting Book
Most Exciting Activity with a Family Member
Most Exciting Sports Memory
Most Exciting Experience from School
Most Exciting (Bizarre or Best) Food You Have Eaten
Most Exciting Memory You Want to Share

B. Being a Christian can be the most exciting thing in our life! However, most people don't think of being a Christian as being exciting. Most people have a

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hard time naming Christians that they know who live an exciting Christian life.

In the Old Testament, the Lord lived in the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was a fancy box that the people carried with them from place to place. David, the shepherd boy who became King and killed Goliath, had the Ark stolen from him during a war. He was sad and discouraged until one day; they found the Ark and brought it back! This was exciting because the Ark meant that God had returned! He was with them again! Listen to what King David and the people did when the Ark was returned. Invite a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 6:14.

C. ACTIVITY #2: Play an upbeat song. Let me see you dance with all your might. And while you dance we'll shout! Give everyone an opportunity to dance with all their might.

Have you ever seen someone this excited about being a Christian or worshipping God? Unfortunately, we often take the excitement out of being Christians.

WE NEED TO BE EXCITING CHRISTIANS. Why? Because exciting is different, and that will cause people to ask about the difference. It will cause people to ask about Jesus! In the Bible, we hear over and over how people followed Jesus in large numbers. Being around Jesus was exciting! Listen to this story from Matthew. Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 14:13.

We may not be able to heal people or break bread until we feed 5,000, but when we give our best to Jesus that can create excitement for others to see.

Here are examples of people who gave their best to Jesus in a way that was exciting and attracted people to ask about Jesus.

1. Phil Vischer was a college student who loved making cartoons! Phil committed to use his excitement for cartoons to tell others about Jesus and created the Veggie Tales videos! These videos are loved and watched by Christians and non-Christians alike. They cause people to think and ask about God's Bible stories.
2. There was a family that liked amusement parks and roller coasters. They committed their excitement for family entertainment to Jesus and created "Silver Dollar City" in Branson, MO. At Silver Dollar City, families will hear Christian music playing, there is a Chapel that holds services, they interact with staff that is trained to serve and care, and the stores do not sell immodest clothes, books or toys.
3. Some Christian athletes who score important touchdowns or hit big home runs will give God the credit for their talents during interviews. Mitch Webster, who played baseball for the Indians, Cubs, and Dodgers, would sign baseball cards for fans and then write a verse next to his signature: Colossians 3:23 "Everything you do, do your best as unto the Lord."

4. Chick-fil-a makes tasty food that people want to eat. They close on Sunday to honor God and give out character-building toys in their kid's meals.

Provide other examples of Christians whom people want to be around and who tell people about Jesus.

D. ACTIVITY #3: Let's look at our list of "Things that Excite Us" and no matter how bizarre it may sound, think of some ways we could use these exciting ideas to give honor to God and encourage people to ask about Jesus.

E. ACTIVITY #4: DO THIS ACTIVITY OUTSIDE. Lots of soda will spill so you may want to capture it in a plastic bucket or be prepared to hose down the area.

The bottle represents us. The soda represents the Godly interests, passions and excitement that God has placed inside each one of us. When we keep our faith inside, it is hard to tell the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian. The world needs people who are excited about Jesus and who will take the passions that God gives them and use them to share the faith!

Here are eight Mentos candies, which I am going to drop in the soda. They represent eight exciting ideas that we listed and can be used to draw people to Jesus. Name eight ideas.

Make a paper tube by rolling up a piece of paper. You want all eight Mentos to slide down the tube quickly into the soda. Then, MOVE BACK OR YOU WILL GET WET!

V. Memorize:

I want friends to see
Jesus in me!

VI. Close in Prayer. Make an extra copy of this activity and pass *it* on to another family.