

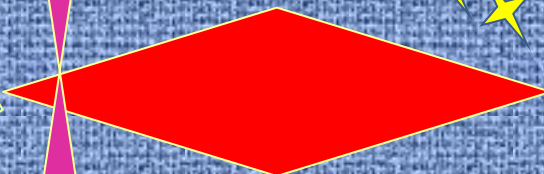


Let's Play!

Games? How could we use games at church?

- Whole church educational fun events
- youth group fun
- Sunday school activity for preschoolers, older youth and even for adults
- Great way to have fun
- Great way to learn

Read on to see what games the Resource Center has that you might use with your congregation



Africa Game: Roll the die then count the spaces to move as you become a student from an African village trying to finish school and earn a place at the university. Typical life problems interfere, such as having a bad year for crops or needing to stay home with a sick family member. You advance when good things happen, like your uncle helps pay for your schooling or the church builds a new classroom. The large playing board has photographs of real village situations as you move toward your goal. The playing pieces are photos of African students.

Presbyopoly for Youth and Adults: Here is a board game and pieces that all fit in a little square box. Play begins with each “person” starting on the Advent square since that is the beginning of the church year. The first part of the game is played according to the rules of the world with correct answers allowing each player to move ahead toward the center of the labyrinth while others fall behind. This changes once all players reach the center. The player then places his or her piece into a tiny pair of sandals (Jesus’ shoes). At that point all work together to answer questions until everyone is around the Table. This game was developed for a confirmation class but works well with youth groups or adults. It is for up to five players or teams. Throughout the game players learn about Bible characters, stories and general Bible facts as well as learning about tithing, helping our neighbor and generosity.

(Presbyopoly games were developed by St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Tulsa Oklahoma)

Presbyopoly for Kids I: Comes in a hand-size clear zipped bag. It contains colorful four-inch cards and a key to the meaning of each card. This game is a fun way for children to learn about Christian symbols.

Presbyopoly for Kids II: For children age three and older. In this version, children work together so that everyone moves through the church year and ends up back at Advent – the beginning. Set up like the original Presbyopoly, this game involves a fold-out board, player pieces, cards to draw and a key to pictures on the board.



The Uprooted Game: A game to help understand some of the realities

faced by refugees: Here is a game to teach our youth just a little of what a refugee goes through to reach safety. Moving on a game board drawn in black and white in the style of some graphic novels, players roll the die and move toward the refugee camp facing dangers such as land mines, bandits, collapsed bridges and crossfire. Once in the refugee camp, players get one more roll to see what happens next. This game would be good for a group made up of both adults and youth. It should probably include discussion either afterwards or throughout the game.

(Developed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)



Our last game offering is Bible Mystery Events: For Youth Ministry, including *The Case of the Missing Professor* and *Murder at Vold Castle*. These are pretty complex games. While the game is meant for youth, it would work for adults too. It doesn't include much physical activity, but players need to stay in character from the moment they enter the game area. Players also need to come in costume. Each *Mystery* comes with a Guide, *How to Lead a Bible Mystery Event*. Participants are each given a character in the mystery play. Characters reveal clues during intervals declared by the leader. Once the case has been solved, participants take part in a short Bible study of scripture that inspired the mystery. Preparation for this game takes at least a couple weeks, including gathering costumes and other props.

For more information or to check out one of these games from the Resource Center, please contact Nellie Howard, Resource Center Director, at resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org or 304-744-7684.

