Balloon Thank-Yous

MATERIALS NEEDED

three or more balloons of different colors (depending on the size of your group)
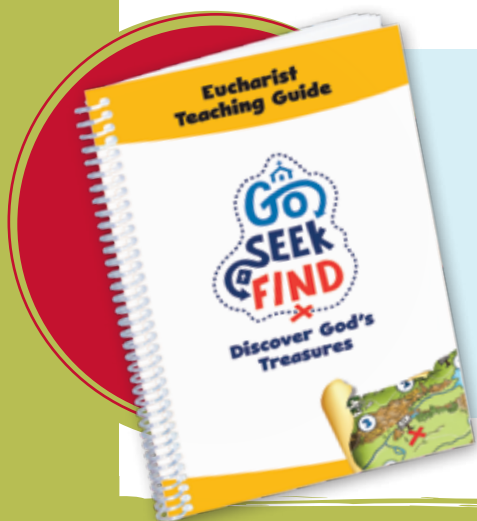
blank pieces of paper

crayons, pencils, or markers

1. Invite the children to take a minute to think of all the things they are thankful for.

2. Blow up three or more balloons of different colors and tie them.

3. Explain to the children that they are going to play a game called "Balloon Thank-Yous." Tell them that you are going to hit the balloons in the air. The goal is to keep the balloons up in the air as long as possible by taking turns hitting them. If a balloon touches the floor, it is out of play. No child can hit the same balloon two times in a row.

4. Tell the children that each time they hit the balloon, they must say something they are thankful for, trying not to say the same thing twice. If they forget to say something, the balloon is taken out of play. They must stay in their seats at all times and can't stand up.

5. Count to three, and hit the balloons to the children. Create excitement by encouraging the children as they strike the balloons, making sure they are naming things they are thankful for as they hit the balloons and try to keep them in play.

6. Time how long it takes until the last balloon goes out of play. If this happens quickly, restart play and encourage the children to try to beat their best time.

Process the Activity

• Invite the children to think about ways the activity shows us how much we have to be thankful to God for. Of course, in real life, we can thank God again and again for the same things.

• Remind the children that telling God we are thankful is important, and it is also important to show our thankfulness and gratitude through our words and actions.

This activity taken from chapter 4 of the *Eucharist Teaching Guide* in the *Go, Seek, Find: Discover God's Treasures* program.

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