**One God – Many Games Curriculum**

**Day 1: 1**

Centering and Welcome

Once everyone is seated in a circle or around a table, welcome them and introduce yourself and other leaders. Ask everyone to share name and age. Explain that we will practice “Centering Time” in this space and manner each day. This is a simple process of asking how everyone is doing and helping them to focus on where they are right now. This is a chance to check energy levels and to see if there is anything special going on with the kids that will impact your group.

Introductions

Invite children to share their name and their favorite game to play.

After each one has shared, ask each to share name again. Give one person a ball and have that person call someone’s name and pass it to him or her. That person does the same, passing the ball to a different person. Continue this until everyone has handled the ball once (and only once). See if you can repeat the pattern, remembering names and not dropping the ball. Younger kids may want to roll the ball.

Scripture

**Read** John 17: 20 – 21

**Say**: Jesus prayed that all of God’s people would be one big family. God wants us to love each other and care for each other. This week we will remember Jesus’ prayer “that all may be one.” We will work together to show God’s love to every person.

**Ask**: What are different words we use for groups of people? Team, family- what are some others? (Club, community, gang, country, state, congregation, church, etc.)

**Say**: For this week, each group will be its own country. Our country is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Help the children find it on the globe during the next activity)

Introduce Map or Globe and the Olympics

Explain that we will be learning about lots of different places this week. Show the group your map or globe. Help them find the United States and specifically, your state. Let them point to other countries they know about. Show them where Japan is and explain that the Olympic Games will be held there this summer, bringing people from all over the world together. Spend a few minutes talking about what the Olympics is, and invite the children to share what they know or what they remember from past Olympics.

**Ask**: How do you think the Olympics might help all people become united like Jesus’ prayer? (Meet people from other countries, play games together, etc.)

Daily Praise

Each day will have a different focus country, and we will learn how to say *Praise God* in that country’s language. Today’s focus country will be Japan. Japanese is the primary language in Japan.

Teach the children today’s Daily Praise which is Japanese for *Praise God*: “Sanbi-shin (san-bee-sheen)”

Practice this with the children a few times.

Any time you greet the group the rest of the day, use this phrase.

Prayer

**Say**: God be with us as we play together and pray together. Help us all be like one family and never forget how much you love us all. AMEN

**Day 1: 2**

Centering and Review

After centering, ask each group member to share a favorite part of the day. Go around the group again and let each person share one thing he or she learned today. If they can’t think of anything, remind them of the *Praise God* they learned in the first group. That can be something everyone learns each day. Finally, ask each person to share a time in the day where he or she saw God or saw God’s people helping.

Story

Read or watch *The Rolling Rice Ball,* a Japanese folktake.

\* Provide a copy of the story (book or [video](https://youtu.be/CNAiXxOHcms)) for each group, or have a group story time before gathering with groups.

Story: <https://journeys.dartmouth.edu/folklorearchive/2016/11/18/omusubi-kororin-rolling-riceball/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgTooPDko6U>

**Ask**: What did you like about the story?

What questions do you have about the story?

(Allow time for discussion if it bubbles up from the questions.)

Response

Ask the children to name some differences between the two old men. What happened when one was willing to respect and work with the mice? Why did the other have so much trouble? Why do you think the first man and his wife gave their gold away? How did the actions of the mice and the first man help them to become friends? Make a list: What are ways that we take care of each other? Who do we expect to take care of? Can we help people who surprise us?

**Read** John 17: 20 – 21again.

**Ask**: What lesson from *The Rolling Rice Ball* might help us help Jesus’ prayer come true?

How can this story help us be one people?

Rules for Welcoming

**Say**: This week will be lots of fun and allow us to learn about people from all around the world. To make sure we learn a lot and have fun together, we need to be sure to respect our differences. We need to be careful to not make fun of things that are different. Remember, some of the things we do and the way we talk may sound strange to people who are not from our home. Please, don’t try to copy someone’s way of speaking to make a joke, or say rude things about other countries. Questions are always good, but we want to learn about others to grow closer to God and we can’t do that if we are putting them down or making fun of them. That means we are also respectful of the differences between all of us in this group.

Coloring Time

If you have time, provide copies of the daily coloring sheet that goes with the story. Provide crayons, markers, or colored pencils. This is a great time to have casual conversation with your group and get to know each child better. Any time you have extra time, pull out these sheets and let children work on them some more.

Closing

Close your time with a prayer. You can let one of the group members pray, you can pray, or invite each person to offer up something they are thankful for today.

**Craft:**

**Olympic Rings Flag**

Supplies: Reusable dishes

Red, blue, green, yellow, and black acrylic craft paint

Paper cups or toilet paper rolls

White cardstock paper

An example of the Olympic Flag

Share the meaning behind the Olympic rings. ([Olympic Flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_symbols))

Here are three options for creating an Olympic flag. Option 1 is for younger children. Option 3 is a way to make personalized VBS t-shirts.

**Option 1**:

1. Squeeze a moderate amount of each color of paint into a dish, and set a cup/roll with each.
2. Instruct the children to dip the top of the cup or one end of the roll into the paint, and to gently press it onto their paper, making a painted ring.
3. Instruct the children to imitate the flag, creating their own version.
4. OPTIONAL: After having explained the meaning behind the colors and rings, invite the children to design their own flags on another piece of paper, susing the supplies offered.

**Option 2:**

Additional Supplies:

corrugated cardboard

heavy duty scissors/skewers

large paint brushes

1. Invite the children to trace the rings pattern onto a piece of cardboard.
2. Demonstrate how to press/carve into the cardboard using the scissors/skewers, so that the rings pattern is deeper than the original surface.
3. Paint over the pattern with the large paint brush using one of more of the colors. Do this quickly so that the paint doesn’t have time to dry before the next step.
4. Gently lay a piece of cardstock over the painted cardboard, and then gently rub over its surface without moving it.
5. Peel off the cardstock and admire your print.

**Option 3:**

1. Follow the directions for Options 1 or 2, but:
2. Use a t-shirt instead of cardstock.

**Game:**

[**Keidoro**](http://trip-n-travel.com/listicle/8838/)

Divide the children into two equal groups; one group are the police, the other are thieves. Designate an area to be used as a “jail.” The “police” give the “thieves” a brief amount of time to disperse and hide. Then, the police begin the chasing! When a thief is tagged, they must go to jail and stay there. However, if another thief gets around the police and tags the one in jail, they may leave and resume play. The game ends when all of the thieves are in jail, or you call it.