

Game Center:

Opposition to the Faith game

Preparation: You'll need several colors of sidewalk chalk, marbles, two basketballs, and Bibles.

In your church parking lot, use the sidewalk chalk to draw two large targets with at least four rings. Make the targets 10 to 20 feet in diameter and label each bull's eye "Jerusalem." Then label each circle outside of Jerusalem with a point value, increasing as they go farther out (10 points between Jerusalem and the first ring, 20 points between the first and second rings, and so on).

Form two teams and have them each stand near a target. Give each team a basketball and 20 marbles to place on its bull's eye. Team members will take turns throwing the basketball on Jerusalem, scattering the marbles throughout the target. After each turn, points are added up based on where in the target the marbles have rolled. Then the marbles are gathered and returned to the center of the target for the next person to scatter.

Tell the kids that the object is to have as many marbles as possible land outside of Jerusalem. Add up the points for each person on a team. Marbles landing outside the target count for 50 points each. After tallying the scores, declare the winning team.

Next have kids each choose a partner from the opposing team to form pairs. Have one partner in each pair read aloud Acts 8:1-4 and the other summarize it in one sentence. Then ask:

1. How was the persecution of the early church like this game?
2. In what way did the persecution help to spread the news of Jesus to remote areas of the earth?
3. How do you think the early Christians felt about their persecution? Explain.
4. What can we learn about how God works from this example of the early church?