



# THE PARTY PACK

HOW TO HOST A GREAT PARTY



# IT'S TIME TO PARTY!

It's your party, but we are here to help. Check Out these resources:

- A Sample Schedule to Guide Your Event
- 3 Bible Stories with Large Group Games, Large Group Lesson, Group Questions, Skit and Crazy Parent Games
- Themed Snack Ideas Plus Simple Snack Suggestions
- Craft Ideas to Take the Lesson Home
- Leader Resources to Equip Your Family to Reach Families

This Summer, we are throwing parties throughout the Crossroads so that we can introduce people to Jesus, the life of the party. To do this, we will equip your family to reach families. Think about who you could reach with a fun, family party that points people to Jesus:

- \*Neighbors
- \*Sports Teams
- \*Friends from School
- \*Family Members
- \*Coworkers Families
- \*Apartment Complexes
- \*Underserved Areas in Our Communities

You create the connections. You pick the location, date, and time for your party. We will provide the resources (3 Bible Stories, Ideas for Games, Crafts, and Snacks) and the coaching that you need to successfully build a team, reach your friends and lead people to say yes to Jesus.



**THE PARTY**

Summer 2018

# THE BIG IDEA

The Party is a simple, fun way to spend time with your friends and neighbors and to introduce them to Jesus.

# THE VISION

Because people come to Jesus best on the arm of a trusted friend, we are throwing parties to:

- \* Take the message of Jesus to your front yard, parks, living rooms, baseball fields, or anywhere else that you'd like
- \* Start new and strengthen existing relationships within your community
- \* Equip families to reach families with the Gospel



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# READY TO THROW A PARTY?

## CHOOSE A LOCATION

Choose a safe, easily accessible location to throw your party. Your front yard, backyard, or a community park are all great options. Have a swimming pool? Feel free to use it with appropriate supervision.

## PICK DATES AND TIMES

Pick the day and time that works best for you, your family, and the people that you are inviting. You can throw one, two, three or more parties. It's up to you. Parkway is providing Bible stories, craft and snack ideas for three parties. You can choose your favorite or do all three.

## BUILD YOUR TEAM

Reaching people requires a team, so invite others to serve with you. Consider inviting people who live near you. Think about people in your small group or your kids and their friends. A team of 3 to 4 people can throw a great party for 12 kids and their parents.

## SPREAD THE WORD

At least 3 to 4 weeks before your party, notify your team leader so that your party will be included on the Parkway site and so that party invites, signs, and posters can be created.

## PLAN YOUR EVENT

2 to 3 weeks before your party, choose the lesson that you want to share and prepare for the snacks and activities that will be a part of your party.

1 week before the party, connect with your team so everyone understands their role and the plan. Spend time praying together, too.



# WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

## TEAM PRAYER

\*Before attendees arrive, please lead your team in prayer.

## MAKE THE CONNECTION (15 MINS)

Use this time to interact with kids and parents while people are still arriving. Feel free to add your ideas to these:

1. Bubbles
2. Frisbee Toss
3. Football Throw
4. Sidewalk Chalk
5. Hula Hoop Competition

## LARGE GROUP GAME (10 MINS)

Play the large group games we have provided or create your own that ties into the lesson.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON (10 MINS)

Teach kids and parents about Jesus using the provided Bible lessons.

## SKIT (10 MINS)

Use the skit to reinforce the big idea from the Bible story. If you use the skit provided, volunteers are welcome to read off of the script.

## CRAFT (10 MINS)

Use the crafts if you expect to have younger kids at your party. Encourage kids and parents to work together.

## CRAZY PARENT GAME (5 MINS)

Get families laughing through the recommended Crazy Parent Games

## CLOSING CONNECTIONS

During this time, focus on building relationships with the kids and parents. Remember that this may be the first opportunity some of the kids have heard about Jesus. Also, some of them may have made the decision to believe in Jesus for the first time. Our job is to build relationships, invite kids to Jesus, and provide them a chance to respond to the invitation.

# WHEN THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED

## **WHAT IF ONLY A FEW KIDS SHOW UP?**

View this as an amazing direct answer to prayer: these are definitely the kids you should be getting to know well! Take the time to really get to know them (and their parents), as you go through your planned event. Make them truly feel loved as you invest your time in them!

## **WHAT IF MY UNCHURCHED FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR WANTS TO HELP?**

This is another great opportunity to share the Gospel with them as you teach the Bible lesson to the kids! Just be sure you are comfortable working with them, and that their 'job' or 'role' in the event is clear.

## **WHAT IF A CHILD WON'T PARTICIPATE?**

Help them feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. But allowing them to sit on the side for a bit to acclimate to the event is okay, too. Continue to invite them to join the group and respond to their questions with a smile. Also, try giving children special jobs. For example, assign them the task of helping serve snack. If someone doesn't want to participate in active games, that's okay.

## **WHAT IF THE KIDS DON'T GET ALONG?**

Hopefully, this won't happen, but if it does, quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together at the Party, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE AN OVERLY ACTIVE CHILD?**

Pair this child with yourself or another adult during partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. Try to make sitting still a game by saying, "Let's see how long you can sit still without interrupting. I'm timing you. Ready? Go!"

Thanks to <https://lefc.net> for these tips.

# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

Throwing a party for Jesus can seem a bit overwhelming, but you can do it and we are here to help! Our church will be praying for you and our team is here to provide any coaching or advice that you may need. You are not alone! Be sure to stay in touch to find support, share ideas, and tell your stories.

## 3 BIBLE LESSON OPTIONS

We have created three Bible lessons with large group games, teaching notes, a skit, discussion questions, and a crazy parent game. Each of these is designed to help you engage kids in fun, activity-based learning.

- \*The Pool Party: The Story of Peter Walking on the Water
- \*The Messy Party: Only Jesus Can Forgive Us and Clean Us Up
- \*The Superhero Party: Jesus Calls Us to Serve Him

## PROMOTION PIECES

Ready to spread the word about your party? We are here to help. Let us know the details of your event and we will produce flyers, posters, and even a sign for your yard so that you can let your friends and neighbors know about your party. Your party can also be added to our website so that others can join you.

## ONE-ON-ONE COACHING

Aside from resources and promotional materials, the most important thing we have to share is personal coaching so that your party is a huge success.



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# SIX COMMON MISTAKES OF A ONE HIT WONDER

After you have met neighbors and other new friends, thrown a great party, and heard too many names to remember, it is time to take preventative steps to keep your efforts from turning into a one-hit wonder. Like Vanilla Ice (Ice Ice Baby), Los Del Río (The Macarena), and the Sugarhill Gang (Rapper's Delight), no one really remembers the one-hit wonders. Keep your block party from ending up on the top 100 greatest one-hit wonders by thinking about your block party as the starting blocks for a marathon of building relationships. Here are 6 common problems that will leave you with a one-hit wonder after your party:

## **ONE: NEVER TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS AGAIN.**

Chalk it up to busyness, laziness, or forgetfulness, not talking to your neighbors for another 6 months after your party will definitely leave you with little more than an event and no new friendships. Set a time of the week to engage your neighbors by being outside, walking the neighborhood, or delivering a batch of brownies "just because."

## **TWO: FORGET THEIR NAMES.**

Forget the names of people you meet and they are likely to forget about you. A person's name is the single most important word to him/her. Use creative strategies to remember the names of neighbors and strangers that you meet! After they introduce themselves, repeat the person's name in your head a few times. End conversations by saying, "Great talking to you First Name. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood."

## **THREE: START BY SHARING YOUR "WEIRD" GOD STORY.**

Many people have a "weird" God story of how something miraculous happened in their life and it was life-changing. If you want to scare people away, then start with this story. If not, then take time to listen and learn about the other person rather than unloading your "weird" God story from the beginning. Save this story of importance for later in your newly forged friendship.

# NO ONE HIT WONDERS

## **FOUR: BE INHOSPITABLE.**

If you never invite your neighbors into your home, extend a dinner invitation and keep rescheduling, or make your guests feel like a burden at dinner, you are being inhospitable. The importance of hospitality and invitation to your dinner table cannot be underestimated. Have you ever noticed how many of Jesus's meals are featured prominently in the Gospels and how much ministry took place around the dinner table? Hospitality is essential.

## **FIVE: ASK FOR FREE HELP.**

You might be redecorating your house, landscaping your lawn, building a fence, or attempting a new Pinterest idea. Avoid asking the new people you meet to come and lend free help on your projects, even if they happen to have a career in that field. They will feel obligated to help, will likely respond by saying yes, and then avoid you in the future out of fear that you will want more free help. Instead, find ways to be part of their projects and offer your help for free.

## **SIX: BE TOO BUSY FOR INTERRUPTIONS.**

We all have busy and demanding schedules that require us to carefully prioritize. If you want to stop new friendships from forming, then always be too busy for interruptions. Letting someone interrupt you while mowing your lawn, going for a jog, or running errands communicates that you care about getting to know that person. Start seeing interruptions as Godappointed opportunities for building relationships.

Thanks to <https://gcc.org/> for these tips.