

Day I

Whale of a Problem

Supplies

- ☐ Large water balloons
- ☐ Cones (18 or more)
- ☐ Bandanas, strips of cloth, jerseys, or wristbands for half the kids
- ☐ Recycled water bottles with lids, 1 per child

Pre-Prep

1. Drill a hole in the cap of each water bottle and fill with water.
2. Make an 80x40 yard playing field (or whatever rectangular size fits your space). Put a cone on each corner, and divide the field in half with six cones.
3. Make a small 4x4 yard box toward the back of each half, and place a cone on each corner.
4. Put a water balloon in the middle of both 4x4 boxes.

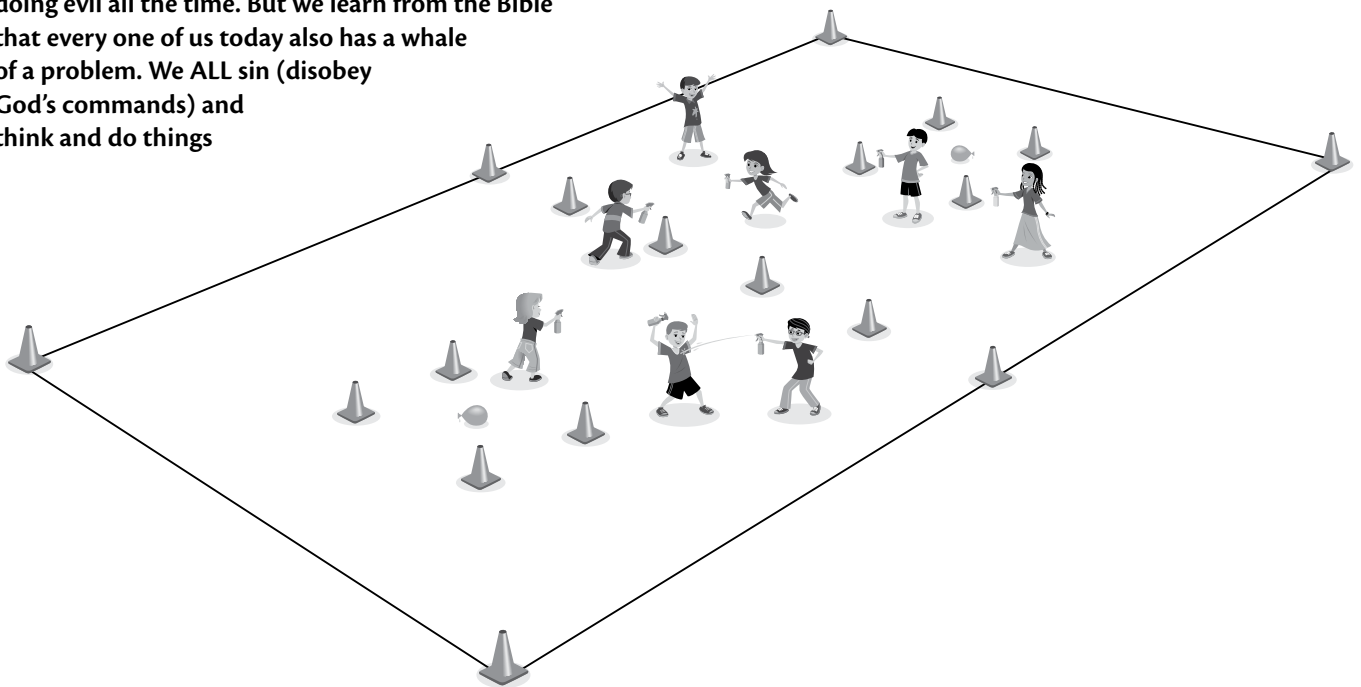
Teaching Tie-In

Today we're playing a game called Whale of a Problem. You know, there was a whale of a problem back in Noah's day. According to the Bible, everyone was thinking and doing evil all the time. But we learn from the Bible that every one of us today also has a whale of a problem. We ALL sin (disobey God's commands) and think and do things

that don't please God. There's only ONE solution to that problem. Do you know what (or should I say WHO) it is? Yes! Jesus! He came to Earth to take the punishment for sin we deserve! Wow, that's an amazing thought to think about as we get ready to play Whale of a Problem.

Class Time Directions

1. Divide kids into 2 teams and put bandanas, jerseys, or wristbands on one team.
2. Give each child a water bottle.
3. Explain that the goal of the game is to burst the other team's "whale" (represented by the balloon). The game begins with each team on their side of the field. When a leader says, "Go!" the children try to burst the other team's balloon by running across the center line toward the other team's balloon.
4. As soon as a child crosses the center line into the other team's territory, they can be "frozen" (stopped). This occurs if the child is hit with water from a water bottle of the opposing team.
5. A child can be frozen only when he is on the opposition's side.



Whale of a Problem

6. While frozen, the child must stand with his arms in the air until a child from his team runs to him and squirts him with water. (This is an honor situation.)

7. After a child is unfrozen, he must return to his side, at which point he can start making his way across the line again.

8. No child can stand inside the box with his balloon. He can guard by standing outside the box, but not inside.

9. The winning team is the one that first bursts the other team's balloon.
10. If time, play more than one round.

Tip Corner

- Draw an outline of a whale on each balloon using a permanent marker. Or substitute items like a stuffed animal whale (often found at dollar stores) or a stuffed sock whale in place of the water balloon whale.
- Substitute masking tape for the cones.

Day 1 Overview

Stand for God!

Lesson Focus		Bible Passages
Just like Noah, we can rely on God to help us stand for Him.		Genesis 1–3; Genesis 6:5–9
Lifeline Verse	Animal Pal Fun Phrase	Contest
1 Corinthians 16:13	Hydro the Whale reminds us there's a whale of a problem.	Goldfish Guess
Sunsational Science and Crafts	Seaside Snacks	Splish! Splash! Games
Experiment: Ocean in a Bottle Main Craft: Lone Lighthouse	Pail of Whales	Whale of a Problem Octo-Ball

Notes _____

Day I

Octo-Ball

Supplies

- ☐ Small sponges and zip ties to make octo-balls (see Pre-Prep)
- ☐ One or two kiddie pools with water (see Tip Corner)
- ☐ Cones (10 or more)

Pre-Prep

1. Make a number of octo-balls (enough for approximately one per child). To do so, cut the sponges into 4 long strips each. Stack two of the long strips on top of the other two long strips. Put the zip tie in the middle and tighten. Fan out the 8 small strips of the octo-ball.
2. Make an 80x40 yard playing field (or whatever rectangular size fits your space). Put a cone on each corner, and divide the field in half with six cones.
3. Position the kiddie pool at the halfway line and put the octo-balls in the water.

Teaching Tie-In

The ocean is an amazing place. It's so huge and deep that less than 5% of the ocean (hardly any of it) has even been explored! And it's filled with all kinds of incredible creatures God has made, like the octopus. We all know octopuses have eight arms, right? But did you know they can lose an arm and grow it back? Or that they have three hearts and blue blood? Or that they are masters of disguise and can hide in plain sight? You can go right past them and not even realize they're there because they can blend in instantly to the colors and patterns of their surroundings. Isn't God creative to think of all this? Let's have fun

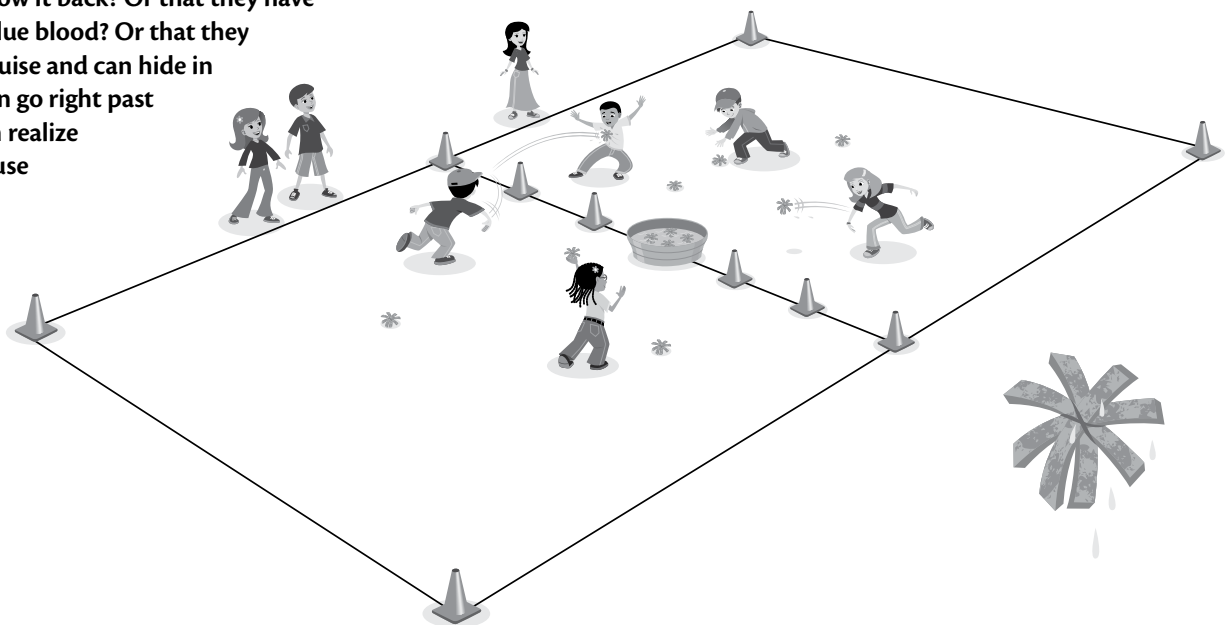
remembering octopuses as we play with an eight-armed octo-ball!

Class Time Directions

1. This game is similar to Dodgeball, but it is played with octo-balls, which act like water balls.
2. Divide into two teams, each lining up on opposite sides.
3. Explain that an octo-ball can remind us of an octopus with eight legs.
4. On the "Go!" signal, everyone rushes to get a ball. Play begins as balls are thrown across the line. Players must stay on their side of the field.
5. If a ball hits a player on the other side, that player is out. If a ball is caught by a player on the other side, the person who threw it is out.
6. The winner is the team that has the most players who are still in at the end of time.

Tip Corner

- If you can round up two kiddie pools, each with water and balls, it will work even better. Place one at each end line.
- Packages of sponges and zip ties can be found at most dollar stores.



Super Simple Ideas

Each day, two super simple ideas are suggested—an outdoor and an indoor. Depending on your space, however, the outdoor games may be able to be played indoors and vice versa. Check them out and adapt for your area.

Outdoor Option: Chase the Whale Tail

Divide into several groups. Each group stands in line and the kids put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. The person at the back of the line puts a bandana in his back pocket so it's hanging out by a lot. On "Go!" the teams begin running around, trying to grab each others' "tails." Only the person at the front of the line can grab it. The people in the middle must stay attached and serve as defense. Once the tail has been grabbed, that team is out. The last team standing wins.

Note: This is adapted from a famous Chinese game—Chase the Dragon Tail.

Indoor Option: Noah Walked with God

Talk about what the verse means to walk with God. What do you do on a walk with a good friend? (You spend time

together. You talk. You listen. You enjoy being together.) God wants us to walk with Him. That doesn't mean to physically take a walk. Ask the kids what they think it means. (It means to have a relationship with Him and spend time with Him by listening to His Word and praying to Him!) While we walk around in our game today, we can remember that God wants us to have a relationship with Him and spend time with Him!

To play, everyone will be looking for four bright green pieces of paper that are hidden ahead of time around the building. One has a big N, one has an O, one an A, and one an H. Pair up in teams. The first team that gets back, spells out the word NOAH, and says the verse (Noah walked with God) wins. But remind them they will be out if they run. They must walk, or they will be disqualified.

Just for the Younger Set

Each day, three options are listed for the younger set. All three work with Pre-Primaries, and most with Toddlers. (Some can even work for the older kids!) Because the little divers' attention spans are short, it's good to have several shorter games like these. Use one at a time, or if you have at least three leaders and twelve kids, it works well to set up three daily stations using the three options. The kids rotate in small groups from one option to the next, spending approximately a third of their time at each. You can also substitute other games suggested in this guide in place of any of these options.

Option 1: Water Relay

Kids dip sponges in a bucket of water, run down to the other end of the field, and squeeze their sponge into the other bucket.

Option 2: Beach Ball Bouncers

Grab a parachute (see Parachute Fun, page 8) and a couple beach balls. Have the kids gather around the parachute and try to keep the beach balls bouncing in the middle of

the parachute. Start with one, then add another one, and maybe a third! Try some of the other parachute games listed on p. 8 as well.

Option 3: Crab Claws

Take turns trying to pick up items with either two pairs of tongs (one in each hand, like crab pincers) or big tweezers. You may also want to try two oven mitts. God designed crabs with great claws that work like chopsticks to pick up food, scissors for cutting, and a vice for crushing!