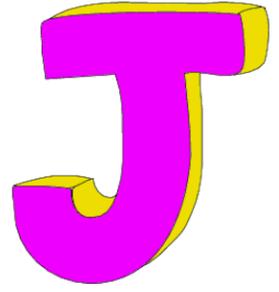


"J" is the Name Activity

Materials: *Any ball or an easy thing to toss*



Have everyone stand in a circle. Give one player the ball. Instruct him or her to say a name that begins with the letter *J*. Then they should toss the ball to another person. That person will say another name that begins with *J* and then toss the ball to another. Continue passing the ball and saying names until everyone cannot think of any other names.

Sample names: Jack, Jacob, Jessica, James, Joshua, Jake, Jayden, Jermaine, Jade, Julia, Jasmine, Jackson, Joel, Jamal, Jason, Jennifer, Jesse, Jonah, Jonathan, José, Jared, Jeff.

Did anyone say the names *John* or *Jesus*? Today's Bible story told us about Jesus and John the Baptist. John had been preaching about the kingdom of God and baptizing people to prepare them for Jesus. Jesus came from heaven to earth and started doing many of the same things—teaching about the kingdom of heaven and telling people to repent of their sins. It might have seemed to some of John's followers as though Jesus were copying John, but John knew that Jesus is God's Son. John stepped aside to let Jesus take His rightful place as most important. John knew that only Jesus has the power to save people from sin.