

Activity #4: Balancing Act

Instructions:

Divide into two teams and give each kid a spoon. Line the teams up on a start line. The first person on each team balances a ping-pong ball on their spoon. They must run to a designated line/spot and back with the ball balanced on their spoon. If they lose their ball, they have to pick it up, go back to the beginning, and start all over. After everyone has run one time, start a new rule:

If a player drops their egg, they can put it on their spoon right where they are, and run from there—BUT they have to do it backward!

Play until all the members of one team successfully run with their ball to the far line and back.

Questions:

- Why do you think we added the second rule to our game? Why would we need to allow team members to begin from where they messed up?
- When was a time when you had to change your behavior toward a friend, like if you stopped using a nickname they didn't like or you quit teasing them about a past mistake. How did they tell you that their feelings were hurt? Did they forgive you? How did their forgiveness change how you saw what you had done?

Application:

In the second round of this game, we got to show something cool—when we messed up, we could start again from where we were. It was like forgiveness in action. Whether in games, on the playground, or in class, we can show that **friends forgive one another** when we give each other a second chance.

But this also shows us that when our friends forgive US, we need to turn our behavior around to show them we love them and won't repeat our mistake. If you've been saying words that hurt people, even if you don't mean it, you should stop and think about what you say before you say it. Even though your friends say it's okay, if they're upset, it's not okay. Show how much you value your friendships by how you act after **friends forgive one another.**"

Pray:

Dear God, thank You for forgiving us and not holding our mistakes against us. Thank You that You have shown us what we need to forgive each other. Please, help us erase our friends' mistakes and ask them to forgive us, as well. Amen.