READY TO USE GAMES

# Games about love

February brings Valentine’s Day! And while it’s not everyone’s cup of tea, it’s a good way in to exploring the the everlasting love of Jesus! Here are some games that you can play which loosely introduce the theme, before you go deeper into how much we are loved.

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## Honey, do you love me?

**You will need:** chairs

Set out one fewer chairs in a circle than you have people. Everyone takes a seat, and the person without one stands in the middle and starts the game. They choose someone in the circle to walk up to and say: “Honey, do you love me?” The player sitting down must reply: “Honey, you know I love you, but I just can’t smile.” And they are not allowed to smile. If they remain stony-faced, the player in the middle has to go and ask someone else the same question. If they do smile, they move to the middle, and the player from the middle takes their seat.

The player in the middle is not allowed to touch anyone sitting down, but they can do anything else to try to force others to smile – saying: “Honey, do you love me?” in a funny accent, doing elaborate actions or gesticulations, or dancing around. The game continues until you run out of time or everyone is in fits of laughter.

## Sing off

Put the children or young people into groups and challenge them to come up with as many songs as they can about love. Groups must sing a different song in turn until one group has run out of suggestions. They drop out, and the game continues until one group is left singing.

## Song lyric game

**You will need:** a list of song lyrics from love songs; playlist of the songs and the means to play it

Before the session, look up some love songs that the young people will know, and take lines from the lyrics. Put these lyric extracts into a list and print off copies. Give these out to the young people and challenge them to name all the song titles…without searching for them on the web! People can work on their own or in pairs.

After a time limit, reveal the answers by playing the songs. The players or pairs with the most correct answers are the winners.

## Would you rather…

**You will need:** a list of either / or questions

Before the session, come up with a list of pairs of objects or scenarios that people might have a preference for. For example, who would you rather play at your wedding – Ed Sheeran or Sam Ryder? What would you rather eat on a romantic date – spaghetti bolognaise or chicken jalfrezi? Would rather get married or be single?

With each one, designate one wall as one option and the opposite wall as the other. Ask people to go to whichever side of the room represents their choice. After each question, ask one or two people to say why they have chosen one over the other.

## Love-heart relay

**You will need:** love heart sweets (either actual Love Hearts or heart-shaped jelly sweets); chopsticks; bowls or cups; chalk or masking tape

Split the group into teams. Mark out a line at one end of your playing space and line up the teams behind the lines. In the middle of the space, place a bowl of sweets and a pair of chopsticks per team. Then at the end of the space, put an empty bowl per team. On the signal to start, the first player of each team runs to the middle, picks up a sweet with the chopsticks and walks to the end of the room to drop the sweet in their empty bowl. They then put the chopsticks back in the middle and return to their team, whereupon the next player in their team takes their turn, and so on. Players cannot run with the chopsticks and only one player per team should be in play at one time.

The team to move all their sweets to the end of the room first is the winner.

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