



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Domino Chain

Supplies

- dominoes (1 set per small group)
- ping-pong balls (1 per small group)
- cups (1 per small group)
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tips

- If possible, set up each group at different tables so kids don't accidentally bump the table and knock down other groups' dominoes.
- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Make a Domino Chain

Say: **Can you use dominoes to guide a ping-pong ball into a cup? Let's give it a try!**

- Give each small group a set of dominoes, a ping-pong ball, and a cup.
- Have each group tape its cup to the edge of the table, then set up a domino chain toward the cup. The end of the chain needs to push the ping-pong ball into the cup.
- If you'd like, set additional rules to make it more challenging. For example, the chain needs to have at least three curves or the ping-pong ball needs to be positioned at least 6 inches from the cup.
- Once all groups have set up their domino chains, have the kids in each group knock over the first domino at the same time. Watch to see which chains successfully land the ball in the cup.
- Play again as time allows. If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Have small groups discuss this question.

Ask: • **How did your domino chain remind you of God guiding our lives?**

Say: **God guides us each step of the way. And each step leads us somewhere on purpose.**

Ask: • **What's an event in your life that led you in a specific direction?** Have small-group leaders share first, and then have kids share in their small groups.

Say: **God guides us like a shepherd guides sheep and like dominoes guided our ping-pong balls. We can trust that his guidance will take us where he wants us to be!**

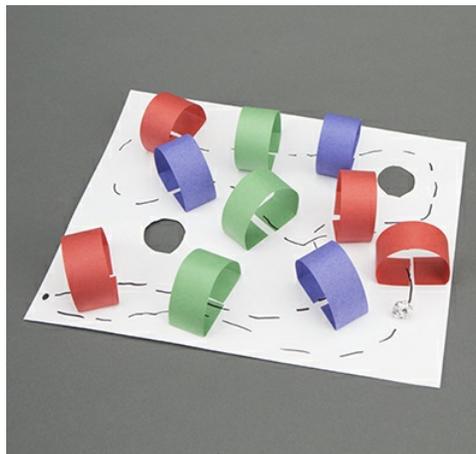


Supplies

- 8½ x11-inch card stock* (1 piece per child)
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue sticks
- permanent markers
- aluminum foil

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Twists 'n Turns Game

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make their own games.

- Cut several 1x6-inch strips of construction paper.
- Cut two to three ½-inch holes in your card stock.
- Fold the ends of the construction paper strips in to create loops, and glue the loops onto the card stock to make tunnels in a winding path. Place a few tunnels near holes for an added challenge.
- Use a permanent marker to draw a dotted-line path through all the tunnels and around the holes. It should have a starting point and then ultimately lead back to the start.
- Roll a small piece of aluminum foil into a ball about the size of a marble. It should be smaller than the holes in your game board.

Play the Game

Allow time for kids to practice their games by following these instructions.

- Set your foil ball at the starting point.
- Hold your game in your hand and tilt it to make the ball roll along the winding path, following the path through the tunnels and avoiding falling through holes or off the edges of the game board.
- See if you can take the ball all the way around the board without it falling through a hole or veering off course!

Talk About It

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **At what points on your game board was it hardest for you to get the ball to follow the path?**

• **When is it hardest for you to follow God's plan?**

Say: **In this game, you have to guide the ball along the path. Even if you were to set the ball and**

game board down on a breezy day, there's no way the wind would just happen to blow the ball along the right path. It takes guidance! In the same way, God guides us through life's twists and turns. We don't always follow our shepherd's guidance perfectly, but the more we practice, the better we get!

Have kids take their games home and keep practicing, setting time records and trying to beat them.

Epic Teachings of the Bible, Lesson 7: Psalm 23: My Shepherd. Design and base content copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. Licensed for use with 61-100 students. Permission to reproduce granted for local church use only.