READY TO USE GAMES

# Spring into summer

The weather is getting warmer and the sun is (hopefully) coming out. Let’s take full advantage of God’s beautiful creation and go outside! Grab the sunscreen and first-aid kit and bring on the fun.

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## Treasure hunt

**You will need:** prepared clues and prizes (depending on the variation you choose)

Young children can have a hunt similar to an Easter egg hunt, where they need to find objects that are hidden around an area – make sure this is done within set boundaries for the safety of the children.

Slightly older children can be split into groups and have a competition to find or source the treasure first. Tell them what they are to find and the group that finds it and brings it to you first is the winner. For example, the ‘treasure’ can range from something basic like a fork to a bunch of trainers tied together that the children have already sorted themselves.

Older children or young people could do a photo treasure hunt with clues. Split them into teams and give each team a scene to act out and photograph. Give them a clue where they can find the next challenge, for example: “You bang it during worship!” Leave an envelope with the next photo scene and clue on the drum kit. The aim of the game is to complete all the challenges with epic pictures for the judges to deliberate on at the end of the hunt. Have prizes for the winners and runners-up.

## Teacups and saucers

**You will need:** sports cones

Split the young people into two groups and label one group ‘cups’ and the other ‘saucers’. Spread the cones across the ground with some the right way up and the others upside down. Those that are the right way are ‘saucers’ and those that are upside down are the ‘cups’. In their teams, players must try to turn the cones the way of their team name in an allotted time. At the end of the allotted time the winning team is the one with the most cones turned their way up.

## Seaweed

Ask a volunteer from the group to be the seaweed and stand in the middle of your playing area. The one rule is that they must only move side to side and not forward and back. Stand the rest of the players at one end of the grass. The aim of the game is to run to the other end of the grass without being caught by the seaweed. Once caught you hold hands with the person in the middle and create a wider piece of seaweed. Again, you can only move side to side as a group in the middle and the aim is to be the last person not caught by the seaweed.

## Birdies to the perch

Get the young people into pairs and tell them to label themselves A and B. A is the ‘birdie’ and B is the ‘perch’. The ‘As’ must then walk in a circle going clockwise – ‘Bs’ must be in a bigger circle around them but walking anti-clockwise. When you shout: “Birdies to their perch!” the pairs must find one another and the ‘perch’ should kneel so that the ‘birdie’ can sit on their knee. The last to find their duo unfortunately must then sit out of the game. This continues until there are only two couples left. Once only two couples remain the circle must have bigger boundaries for them to race around. Then you shout: “Birdies to their perch!” one final time to find out who will be victorious.

## Lava land

**You will need:** four pieces of A4 paper and one piece of A3 per group

Split the young people into groups of seven or fewer and give each group four pieces of A4 paper and one piece of A3. They should all begin at one end of a grassy area. It should be explained that the rest of the grass, except the safe space they are standing on, is now red-hot lava which cannot be touched with their feet. They must use only the pieces of paper to get across to the other side / set finish line without the soles of their shoes / feet touching the grass. It is great to see how people can get creative with this game – obviously edit it to fit the needs of your group. Often it is good to give them five minutes to prepare and plan before the game commences. Feel free to add in extra rules – for example, someone has to remain blindfolded while they do it and guided by others, or two people could be tied together.

**Created by the children’s and youth team at HOLY TRINITY, BROMPTON.**