



Royal Fun Faire

You don't want your community to miss out on this awesome VBS, so get the word out by hosting your very own promo event called the Royal Fun Faire. This is a carnival-type event held two to three weeks before VBS so you can preregister children, build excitement, and spread the word throughout the community.

The Royal Fun Faire will be a good time filled with games, crafts, activities, and snacks. Admission is free. Invite the community by setting up an event page on Facebook and by mailing or handing out [“You're Invited!” invitations](#) to church attendees, friends, sports teams, clubs, and family.

For a list and description of suggested activities to offer at your carnival, check the following pages. ([Activities](#) are also on the Resource USB.)

Many of these suggestions can also be incorporated into VBS week or the closing program if not used prior to VBS.

SETUP

- Decide if your event will be indoors or outdoors. If indoors, use a multipurpose room. If outdoors, choose a grassy area or a safe area of the church parking lot.
- Each activity should have its own space, a sign with its name, prize tickets, and a marker or stamp (item 12-0-093) to use on each child's master ticket.
- Use folding tables or large cardboard boxes for activities requiring a base. Drape each table with a colorful, thematic tablecloth, fabric, or sheet. Attach boards, PVC pipe, or long cardboard tubes to each side of the table.

Stretch a colorful sign made from roll paper between the two boards and add some colorful balloons.

- A simpler option is to use rope, cones, or sidewalk chalk to mark individual activity spaces.
- Choose a few of the decorating suggestions found in the decorating section. Keep it fun, colorful, and simple.
- Play VBS music.

STAFFING

- Enlist at least one worker for each activity area. Church families may want to sign up to decorate, organize, and staff one activity each. This divides the workload into small, manageable pieces.
- Workers should dress in VBS T-shirts or medieval-themed clothing.
- Friendly, costumed greeters can welcome the arriving families.

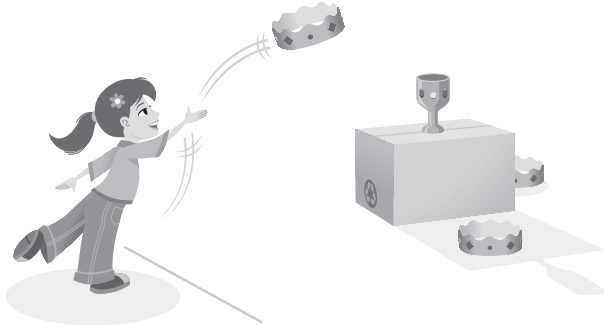
REGISTRATION

- Set up the registration area near the entrance to your event. Warmly greet each arriving family.
- Check everyone in.
- Copy extra [carnival master tickets](#) on bright card stock. Cut apart. Give one to each child. This ticket enables children to participate in each activity once and will be marked or stamped at each location when it is completed.
- Sign up any unregistered children for VBS. (See [registration forms](#) on the Resource USB.)

Activities and Games

Note: Some of the games need a start line, finish line, or throwing line. These can be made from painter's tape, masking tape, rope, cones, or chalk.

Ring Around the Chalice



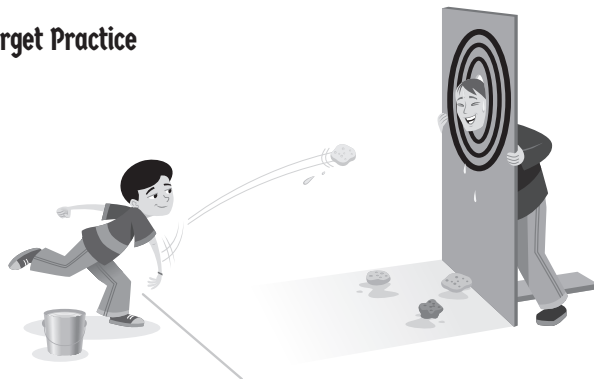
SUPPLIES

- » Fake chalice or goblet
- » Three rings (fake crowns, pool rings, whipped topping lids or paper plates with centers cut out)

DIRECTIONS

- » Players get 3 chances to toss a ring around the chalice.
- » Players get 1 ticket after completing this activity and an extra ticket for every ring they get around the chalice.

Target Practice



SUPPLIES

- » Target made on a 4x8 sheet (see illustration)
- » Bucket with wet sponges
- » 1 willing volunteer

DIRECTIONS

- » Players get 3 tries to try to hit the person at the center of the target with the sponge.
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and an additional ticket for every time the sponge hits the person in the target.

Festival Face Painting

SUPPLIES

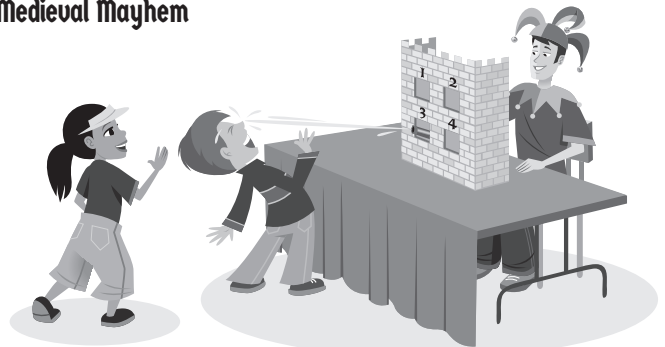
- » Face paints
- » Paintbrushes
- » Wet wipes
- » [Face Painting Reference Chart](#)

DIRECTIONS

- » Paint the kids' faces using images on the Face Painting Reference Chart.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.



Medieval Mayhem



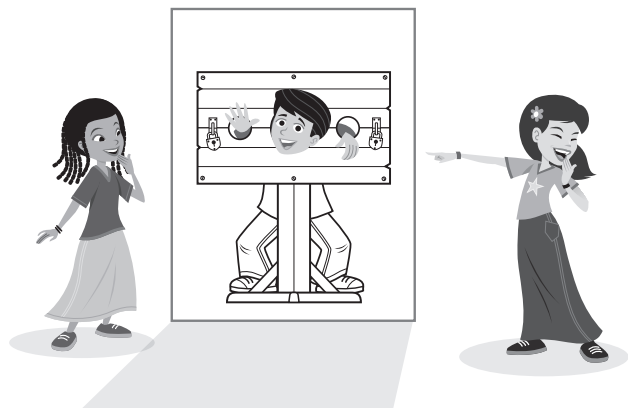
SUPPLIES

- » Castle wall backdrop with four holes that are covered (see illustration)
- » Envelopes with various numbers of tickets in them
- » Silly string or a squirt gun
- » 1 die
- » 1 willing volunteer

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, put various numbers of tickets in the envelopes so there are enough envelopes for most children to get one. Put the envelopes in a stack behind the castle wall backdrop. Station a volunteer behind there, out of sight, with the silly string or squirt gun and the die.
- » Before each person's turn, the volunteer behind the board rolls the die to see what number comes up. If it's a five or six, roll again because it must be between 1 and 4. Then the player says which hole he wants. The cover over that hole is pulled back, and either they receive an envelope with tickets or they receive a shot of silly string or a squirt from the squirt gun if that's the number the volunteer rolled. Note: Silly string is so fun but is messy to clean up. Tarp the area before using it.

Stockades Photo Spot



SUPPLIES

- » Photo spot backdrop
- » Step stool for small children
- » Camera (smartphone can work)

DIRECTIONS

- » Make or buy the photo spot and put it up. There are [clip art](#) images on the Resource USB you may want to use if making your own.
- » Children stand behind the backdrop and put their face through the hole. Photograph them and print the picture (either at the carnival or later) to give to them. You may want to have a spot during VBS where they can pick them up.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.

Cross the Moat



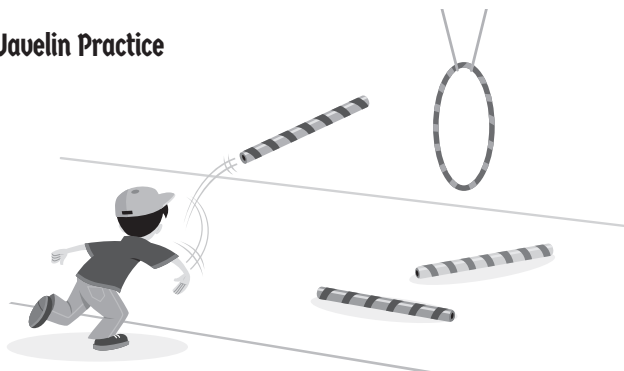
SUPPLIES

- » 2 medium width 6-foot long boards
- » Small wading pool with water
- » Several small bouncy balls (or table tennis balls)

DIRECTIONS

- » Players are given 3 tries to blow the ball across the board to the other side without it falling into the moat. Use one board for older kids and two side-by-side for younger kids.
- » Give a prize ticket for getting a ball successfully across.

Javelin Practice



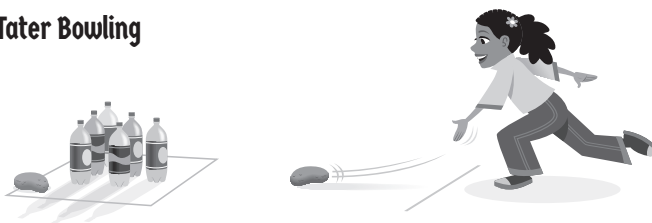
SUPPLIES

- » Several pool noodles
- » Optional: Colorful duct tape to wrap the pool noodles with (see illustration)
- » Hanging hula hoop

DIRECTIONS

- » Each child gets 3 chances to get the pool noodles through the hanging hoop.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for each one that goes through the hoop.

Tater Bowling



SUPPLIES

- » Several potatoes
- » 10 empty plastic bottles or cans of uniform size (make sure there are no rough edges on the cans)

DIRECTIONS

- » Players have 2 tries to knock over as many bottles/cans as they can, using a potato as the bowling ball.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for each bottle/can knocked down.

Pin the Fire on the Dragon's Mouth



SUPPLIES

- » Dragon poster (see Resource USB for clip art)
- » Fire cutouts (lamine if possible)
- » Blindfold
- » Tape

DIRECTIONS

- » Draw a dragon on a piece of poster board (use the clip art on the Resource USB to help) and attach it to a wall or firm surface. Draw and copy multiple “fires” to attach to the dragon’s mouth and cut out and laminate if possible.
- » Players put on a blindfold, turn around a couple times, and walk forward, trying to pin (tape) the fire on the dragon.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for getting the tail on the poster and a bonus ticket for pinning it in the right place.

Balloon Swords

SUPPLIES

- » Long balloons
- » Balloon pump

DIRECTIONS

- » Search the internet for a simple tutorial on how to make balloon swords. A volunteer can blow up the balloons and either make the balloon swords himself if the kids are very young, or give directions on how older children can complete their own balloon swords.
- » Give 1 ticket for completing this activity.



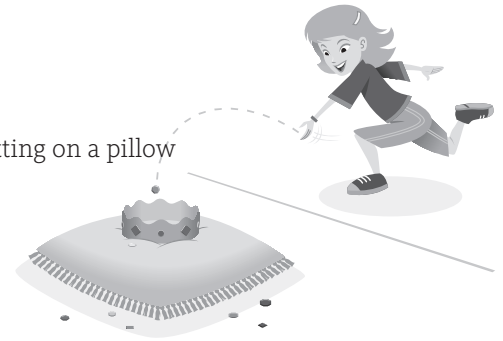
Treasure Toss

SUPPLIES

- » Fancy pillow
- » Play crown, sitting on a pillow
- » Fake gems

DIRECTIONS

- » Players are given five gems. They toss them, one at a time, and try to get them inside the crown.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for each gem that lands inside the crown.



Stained Glass Coloring Contest



SUPPLIES

- » Photocopies of the [Stained Glass Coloring Contest](#) page on overhead projector transparencies (see Resource USB), 1 per child
- » Brightly colored permanent markers

DIRECTIONS

- » Clearly write the name and age of each child on the transparency.
- » Children color the picture. Collect the pictures and hang them somewhere during VBS week.
- » Announce winners during VBS week. If you have a lot of entries, you can have winners of various age categories. Return pictures to the children the last day of VBS.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.
- » Note: If you want to get really fancy, put silver or gold foil behind the colored transparency and mount onto a heavy piece of black cardstock that is slightly larger than the transparency.

Follow the Ball SUPPLIES

- » 3 gold or silver plastic cups (not transparent)
- » 1 small bouncy ball

DIRECTIONS

- » The booth worker first shows the child the ball and which cup it is under. Then he begins to shuffle the cups around on top of the table. When he's done it for a little bit, the child tries to guess which cup the ball is under.
- » Give 1 ticket if they guess correctly.
- » Note: For added thematic fun, use plastic chalice-type or fake jeweled cups.



Guess the Dragon Nails SUPPLIES

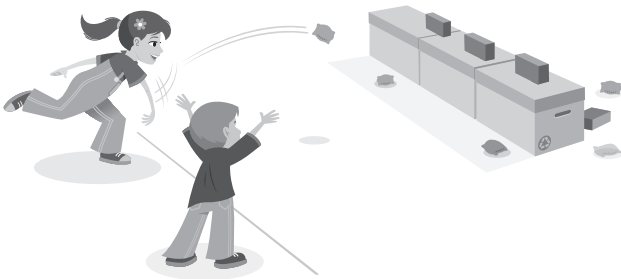
- » A large plastic jar with lid
- » Cone-shaped corn snacks, such as Bugles
- » Small pieces of paper and markers
- » Basket to put the guesses in

DIRECTIONS

- » Before the Faire, count how many corn snacks are in the jar and tape the answer inside the lid.
- » Have each child write her guess on a piece of paper. Make sure each child has her name on the paper as well.
- » Reveal the correct number in the jar at the end of the Faire (winner receives the jar) or on the first day of VBS.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.



Knock it Off



SUPPLIES

- » Play "bricks" (purchase or make your own: stuff lunch sacks with wadded paper, fold down the open end to square it off, and tape shut)
- » Beanbags
- » Bankers boxes or other large box-shaped items to create a "wall."

DIRECTIONS

- » Players have three tries to toss beanbags at the wall to try to knock the bricks to the ground.
- » Give one ticket for each brick knocked off the wall.

Scale the Castle Wall SUPPLIES

- » Small, well-secured ladder, leaning against a wall
- » Small buckets
- » Beanbags

DIRECTIONS

- » Before the Faire, attach the buckets to rungs of the ladder.
- » Players try to get the beanbags in the buckets.
- » Give 1 ticket for each beanbag that goes in a bucket.
- » Note: If you want to go all out, you can put a castle wall backdrop behind the ladder.



Ye Olde Pin Drop

SUPPLIES

- » 5 clothespins (old-fashioned kind)
- » 2 plastic jars (one with a wider mouth for younger kids and one with narrower mouth for older kids)

DIRECTIONS

- » Players stand next to the jar and try to drop the clothespins, one at a time, into it.
- » They need to stand straight, hold the clothespin near their nose, and let go.
- » Give one prize ticket for each clothespin that lands in the jar.
- » Note: Old-fashioned clothespins make great mini people, so you may want to color some with markers ahead of time to jazz them up.



Treasure Trove



Glittering Goblets

SUPPLIES

- » Plastic punch cups or plastic goblet cups
- » Self-adhesive fake jewels

DIRECTIONS

- » Children arrange the jewels on the cups to make fancy goblets.
- » Make sure names are on the bottom of each cup and take to the Fun Faire Food Booth, where treats will be served in them.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.



- » Set up an area called the Treasure Trove with various prizes worth a various number of tickets. Place some of them inside a treasure chest for display. Children turn in their tickets to receive prizes. Check Oriental Trading Company or Rhode Island Novelty for inexpensive prize possibilities. The following are some possible suggestions: crowns, mini dragons (dinosaurs), gem rings and necklaces, inflatable play swords, crosses, tiaras, gold-wrapped coins, and gold or silver-wrapped candies.
- » Another option is to give prizes at each location. If this option is chosen, children will need bags of some kind to keep their prizes in as they move from activity to activity.

Fun Faire Food Booth

Set up the Fun Faire Food Booth area and choose one or more fun snacks from the suggestions listed below. Make signs that announce the name of each snack.

Note: There are also lots of additional great ideas in the *Tessa's Treats in the Town Snack Guide* and the Training Workshop section of this guide. You may want to make some of the snacks you will be serving during VBS week. Check out the snack guide!

SWEET POCKET PIES

- » These were a favorite during medieval times. Buy prepared ones (in the cookie aisle—usually individually packaged and called fruit pies), or make your own from refrigerated biscuits. Roll out the biscuits, put a dollop of canned cherry or apple pie filling on one half of the circle, fold the other half over, and pinch closed with your fingers to seal so they're in the shape of a half circle. Bake until golden brown according to biscuit package directions. While still warm, drizzle with confectioners' icing (made from mixing a few tablespoons of confectioners' sugar with several drops of milk and vanilla until it's a consistency that can be drizzled).

GOBLET GOODIES

- » Serve goodies in the "goblets" the kids made by making a kind of trifle bar, with various items they can mix and match in their goblets, such as broken up pieces of brownies, chocolate chip cookies, or angel food cake; vanilla or chocolate pudding; sliced strawberries, bananas or kiwi; whipped topping.

DRAGON WINGS

- » Buy or make buffalo chicken wings and serve with dipping sauce.

CASTLE CONES

- » Display sugar cones (the kind with pointy ends) upside- down at your serving area, reminiscent of castle towers. Make mini flags out of toothpicks and sticky labels that are cut into pennant shapes and place in the upside- down tip of the cone. As a child comes up for a treat, take the pennant out, flip the cone over so it's now right-side-up and scoop ice cream into it. Top it off with the mini flag.

"SWORD" KABOBS

- » Use long plastic toothpicks as imaginary "swords" and put chunks of fruit, such as bananas, strawberries, grapes, and pineapple, to make a "sword" kabob.

PRETZELS

- » According to some accounts, during the Middle Ages, children were given pretzels as a reward for saying their prayers correctly. Serve some pretzels with sour cream and onion soup dip. (Search the Internet for a sour cream and onion soup dip recipe.)

DRINKS

- » Lemonade and apple juice were both favorite drinks of the times. Serve some in small silver or gold-colored plastic cups.
- » Water: Wrap water bottles with labels that say [Vas-sal's Water](#).



Additional Ideas

- » Arrange to have a juggler come perform and teach the kids how to juggle.
- » Besides swords, make balloon creations such as flowers or dragons.
- » Set up a puppet booth or marionette show.
- » Rent a giant castle inflatable.
- » If someone in your church has artistic ability, have a station for making charcoal or silhouette drawings of the children.