

Silent Chain Reaction

Materials

- ☐ Two balls or beanbags, one per team
- ☐ Two chairs
- ☐ Questions (next page)

Instructions

Divide the class into two equal teams and have them stand in two lines, holding hands and facing the other team. At the end of each team's row, place a ball/beanbag on a chair. The two students at the opposite end from the chair are the only students who may have their eyes open. Everyone else must close their eyes and remain silent.

Designate one team as Pharisees and one team as Sadducees and write the names on the board or a piece of paper to keep track of scores. Explain that you'll be asking questions from the lesson that may apply to just one of the groups or both. After you read each question (see next page), the two students with their eyes open must decide if the answer is true for their group. If it is, they will squeeze their teammate's hand. This will start a chain reaction with each student squeezing the next teammate's hand after theirs is squeezed. When the last student in line feels his hand squeezed, he must grab the ball/beanbag from the chair (you may let the end students open their eyes when their hand is squeezed).

If the correct team grabbed their ball/beanbag, award a point. If the other team correctly did not grab their ball, award a point to them, too. If a team grabbed the ball when the question did not apply to their group or missed grabbing it when the question did apply to their group, the team loses a point. If the statement was true for both groups, award a point to the team who grabbed the ball first.

After each round, have the students at the start of the line run to the back and a new pair come to the front to answer the question and start the chain reaction. Make sure only the students at the front have their eyes open so students can't see the hands being squeezed and skip ahead. Continue reading questions and switching the front students until all questions have been asked or until each student has a chance to be at the front or to grab the ball. You may repeat questions as necessary or change up the order. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Suggested Discussion

The Pharisees and the Sadducees formed during the time the Greeks ruled over the Jews. They had very different ideas about how their people should live and follow God's laws. They both ended up straying from God's Word. The Sadducees didn't accept all of the Old Testament books as God's Word, and the Pharisees added their own laws and made them as important as God's Word.

? What's wrong with both these things? *Allow discussion.*

We must be careful we don't add to or take away from God's Word, which both groups did. The Pharisees also placed more importance on obeying rules than on heart attitudes like repentance (being sorry for sin) and faith (trusting Jesus alone for salvation).

Questions

1. Which group formed when the Greeks had conquered Israel? *Pharisees and Sadducees*
2. Which group wanted to be separate from the Greeks? *Pharisees*
3. Which group thought the Jews should work with the Greeks and adopt their culture? *Sadducees*
4. Which group believed the books of Moses were the only words of God? *Sadducees*
5. Which group believed the books of the law and the prophets were the words of God? *Pharisees*
6. Which group made up extra laws because they didn't want to disobey God's laws? *Pharisees*
7. Which group didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead? *Sadducees*
8. Which group included many wealthy Jews who wanted to gain political power? *Sadducees*
9. Which group wrote instructions about when and where Jews must wash their hands? *Pharisees*
10. Which group asked the Roman general Pompey for help to defeat the other group? *Pharisees and Sadducees*
11. Which group got upset with Jesus' disciples for eating with unwashed hands? *Pharisees*
12. Which group was around at the time Jesus came to earth and began his ministry of teaching and healing? *Pharisees and Sadducees*