

Glean the Grain

Materials

- ☐ Large room or space outside
- ☐ Orange cones or masking tape
- ☐ Drinking straws (at least 5 times the number of students)
- ☐ Large cups or containers to hold straws
- ☐ Timer or stopwatch

Instructions

Use cones/masking tape to mark boundaries for the “field” area. Spread straws on the floor to be “grain” in the field.

Have students find a partner and give each pair a cup/container. Explain that each pair of students must link arms so they each have only one hand free. Two pairs of students (or more if you have a large space) will be sent into the field to collect as much grain (straws) as they can in 15–30 seconds (adjust time according to size of the area and number of straws) and put it in their container. Pairs must work together to pick up straws and put them in their container without unlinking their arms. If they come unlinked, they must dump out the straws they’ve collected and start over.

When time is up, count the collected straws and declare a winning pair. After all pairs have competed once, have the winning pairs play against each other until there is a final winner.

Suggested Discussion

Our game today was a bit like how Ruth collected grain in Boaz’s field. This work was called gleaning, which is another word for gathering or collecting. Ruth went through the field after the workers and picked up the stalks of grain that were left behind. Ruth was willing to work hard to get food for herself and Naomi.

God was watching over both Ruth and Naomi by having Ruth work in Boaz’s field. Boaz noticed Ruth and was kind to her. Later, Boaz married Ruth and cared for her and Naomi. God was in control of everything that happened!