

Scepter Relay

Materials

- ☐ Wrapping paper tubes, paper towel rolls, or wooden dowels, one per team
- ☐ Aluminum foil, tape, yellow construction paper, jewel stickers, markers
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Optional: balloons

Instructions

There are two phases of this activity. The first is a race for teams to take their supplies and create their own “scepter” in five minutes. The second is a relay race using the scepters they’ve created. You may choose to do one or both activities. If you want to skip phase one, you may prepare your own scepters (undecorated wrapping paper tubes, dowels, or yardsticks) and bring those for students to use in the relay.

Scepter race: Divide students into teams based on the supplies you have (teams of 2–4 would work well). Give each team a tube, roll, or dowel and other supplies. Explain that they will be racing to create the best scepter possible in five minutes (or whatever time you choose: less time for a crazy race, more time if you have students who enjoy crafts). Start the timer and have students make their scepters. Have teams show their finished scepters to the class. Praise teamwork and creativity.

Scepter relay: Use masking tape to mark a start line at one side of the room or hallway. Divide students into teams based on the number of scepters made or brought (one per team). Have the first students in line on each team hold the scepters. When you say “Go,” students with scepters will race across the room (or to the end of the hallway) and back, hand off the scepter to the next teammate, and go to the end of the line. The next teammate with the scepter will run. Continue until everyone has had a turn to run with the scepter. The first team to finish wins.

Relay option: For a challenge, you may give each team a balloon and have the runners use their scepters to keep a balloon in the air on the way there and back, batting it as they go. Runners must return both the scepter and balloon to the next teammate in line. They can use their free hand to pick up the balloon when it falls, but only to get it back in the air to continue batting along.

Suggested Discussion

The scepter played an important role in today’s lesson. If King Ahasuerus hadn’t extended his scepter to Esther when she came before him, she could have been killed! But Esther found favor in his sight, and he held out his scepter to her and offered to do whatever she asked. Esther requested a banquet, and at the second banquet she told the king about Haman’s plot to kill her and her people. The king had Haman killed. He then gave Esther and Mordecai permission to write letters to undo Haman’s decree calling for the death of all Jews. This was all part of God’s plan to save his people from destruction.