**Chain Link Tag**

**Topic: Community**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

**Game Supplies:**

* Bag of candy for all players when game is over

**Game Directions:**

* Have preteens get into pairs.
* Once everyone has a partner, they need to decide who is the peanut butter and who is the jelly.
* Once decided, players line up facing each other, peanut butter line facing the jelly line.
* Player take 5-8 large steps backwards.
* Mark off a line directly in between the two teams.
* Have each team link their arms together so they are like a chain.
* One team at a time will send over one player.
* Their job is to tag anyone on the other team and run back across the dividing line before getting tagged.
* The opposing team must try to tag him or her without unlinking arms and cannot cross the middle line while chasing him.
* If he is tagged before he crosses the line they now join that team making them larger.
* If he makes it across the line he is safe and the game continues.
* Teams will continue to send over players, taking turns until one team runs out of players and there is one long team.
* Pass out a candy to all players after game.

**Say:** Wow, that was fun and everyone did an amazing job. It just seems right for peanut butter and jelly to be joined together. As different at they are, they go so well together. God really hit it out of the park creating two different things that are meant to go together. Just like in the game, God created each of you differently. However, as followers of Jesus we are meant to be together. Let me explain.

God has specifically told us in the Bible that we are to build a community of believers. We are more powerful with others than alone. Just like in the game, linked together you were more powerful than unlinked. Maybe at first, it didn’t feel that way. But as the one side got bigger by bringing in more members, you got more powerful. You were able to help each other until you brought everyone over to one team.

**Have a preteen read out loud:**

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**Ask:**

* In the game was it easier to tag players, as you got bigger?
* For the smaller team, was it harder to tag players?
* What is God telling us here in the verses?
* What is a community?
* Where can you as preteens build a community?
* What are ways for you to build a community?

**Say:** God tells us we need to build a community to rely on each other and help each other. We are all different because God designed us that way - so we can look at things differently. When we sin we sometimes don’t realize it. People who are different from us can see this and help us. We can do the same for them. We are not designed to live along. He designed us to do life connected to others with God in the picture. A single link in a chain can do nothing, but a bunch of links together can do so much.

End in Prayer