**Flip Flop Toss**

**Topic: Being Different**

**Bible: Proverbs 1:15**

Supplies:

* Water balloons
* Shaving cream
* Pair of flip flops

Directions:

1. Fill balloons with shaving cream, and then cover the balloons with shaving cream
2. Divide students into pairs.
3. Each pair will play balloon toss but will be wearing flip flops as gloves.
4. They will toss the shaving cream bomb back and forth to each other.
5. After each successful catch they will take one step backwards.
6. The team that gets the furthest distance away from each other without popping or dropping their balloon wins.
7. Play a few rounds.

Say: Never thought I would see students playing catch with flip-flops as gloves, but that was super fun to watch. Hopefully you had a good time and sorry if you got messy. (Not really.) This game has that old time balloon toss feel, but we made some changes to it. The changes we made really made this a totally different game. The object of the game was the same but everything else was different. It kind of reminds me of students; you are all students but yet all of you are different. Let’s look at the topic of being different and how you respond to being different from other students.

Ask:

* What are some of the differences between our game and a regular balloon toss?
* How extreme of a change does something have to be to make something different?
* Why would someone want to be the same as everyone else?
* What do you think about when someone tells you you are different and you need to try and be like everyone else?
* How do you respond to people who try to get you to do what they do?
* Where does your faith in Jesus come into play when being different from others?
* Do you ever put Jesus second so you are not considered different?
* Have you ever been called different or weird because you follow Jesus?
* How did you respond?

Say: The world we live in is full of fads, trends, things that are hip or cool. When you do these things, you are considered cool. When you don’t, you are looked at as different. The problem with fads is that they change almost daily, and then you are forced to change with them. When you are walking closely with Jesus some of the things that are cool to everybody else may not be cool with Him. These are times when people can make you feel like you are wrong and it isn’t ok to be different.

Let me tell you with confidence that it is ok to be different. I know this because God says so. In fact He tells us that we should be different as followers of Him.

Read: Proverbs 1:15

My child, don’t go along with them! Stay far away from their paths.

See here God tells us clearly that we should not go along with them; them is the world. Just because someone tells you this is cool and you should do it, you really need to see what affect this has on your life with Jesus. Being different from others is ok. God created us differently for a reason. God wants us to live differently to glorify him differently.

Ask:

* What would it be like if everyone was the same?

Say: Things would be boring and dull and God would not be glorified like He deserves. Being different however doesn’t mean we can do whatever we want. We still need to make sure we are living for Him.

Read: Philippians 2:15

…so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

We want to make sure that by us being different, we are also letting others around us be different. We need to love everyone and accept everyone no matter how different they are.

Close: Break into teams again and have them pray for each other, making sure they are praying for strength to be different for Jesus, that in times when they do follow a different path that the Holy Spirit lifts them up. Remind them they may have not allowed someone else to be different, either in the name of Jesus or as a worldly issue, and they need to ask for help and forgiveness for this.