**Launch and Catch**

**Topic: Listening and Reacting**

**James 1:19**

Supplies:

* Lots of water balloons
* Water Balloon Launcher: available at most department stores or online
* Large plastic sheeting
* Bottles of baby shampoo
* Water sprinkler

Directions:

1. Divide students into equal teams-no more than 6 on a team.
2. Lay out your plastic sheeting.
3. Begin spraying down the sheeting with a sprinkler, and keep it going throughout game.
4. Squirt baby shampoo on the sheeting for an extra slippery surface.
5. Teams will get eight balloons at a time.
6. Each team will have members launch balloons up into the air towards the plastic sheeting using the balloon launcher.
7. The remaining members will have to try and catch the balloons before they hit the ground.
8. One member from each of the remaining teams will be allowed to try and keep them from catching the balloons.
9. It is important for the launching/catching team to talk to each other so they know where they are launching the balloons.
10. Play a few round with each team getting a turn launching.
11. The team with the most catches wins.

Say: WOW, that was crazy and exciting. To the winning team congratulations. That was not an easy win, but everyone did amazing. One thing I noticed was that there was a lot of communicating that needed to happen-from the people launching the balloons, to the teams trying to block them from catching balloons. Communication is all about listening and then doing isn’t it?

Ask:

* What was the hardest part of the game?
* Was it hard to hear your teammates and then understand what they wanted you to do?
* Did you get frustrated with each other if they were not listening to you?
* How did that make you feel?
* How did you handle the situation? And what other situations in your lives are like this?
* How do you react to those?

Say: Sometimes it can be hard to listen to someone when they are yelling at you. Or what if you are the one that is yelling at someone? What reaction do you think they may have? Sometimes in our lives we run into situations where we need to listen and not react because when we allow ourselves to react right away we say things out of frustration and anger.

Read: James 1:19

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

See when we are quick to listen and slow to speak, we can take the time to respond in a way that is respectful and God honoring. When we don’t listen and instead react quickly, we don’t take that time and things can spiral out of control and an argument can start or someone’s feeling get hurt. This then fails to yield the righteous life that God desires.

So when things are crazy let’s make sure we are listening close and reacting slow.

Close: End in prayer