

Get Your Youth Planning Youth Group with Presby Land

Presby Land is a game like Candy Land, where the players will encounter the Prayer Path, the Service Sector, the Worship Wizard, the Fun-Meister, the challenging Homework Hut with no doors to get out, the Busy Bees that sting you with their overcommitments, and the Wallowing (in self-pity or importance) Wall. There are also Sharing Bridges that players must participate in before moving on to the next sector. These bridges are where the creative ideas start flowing! Get your youth group to plan events and activities for the year while literally walking through planning possibilities!

Suggestions for Sector Designations

Prayer Path—blue
Service Sector—orange
Worship Wizard—purple
Fun-Meister—lime green
Homework Hut—beige
Busy Bees—yellow
Wallowing Wall—gray
Sharing Bridge—black

This game is life-size, meaning the game board will need to be a large room or hallway. The squares are made of 8½ x 11 sheets of paper. You will need newsprint pads or large chalk/white boards at each Sharing Bridge.

As in the board game Candy Land, players will pass through each sector, following the directions on the squares. Some squares strand players there for a few turns. Depending on the size of your group, players may use their own die to roll or they may be in small groups taking turns rolling the die but doing all the activities together. (You can get packs of dice at local dollar stores.) There should be at least 12 spaces with different instructions for each sector. You can also include blank spaces with no instructions that players might land on (pull out the old Candy Land board if you need a visual). Each sector should also have a few Busy Bee, Wallowing Wall, or Homework Hut squares. If your group is large, have people start in different sectors, but make sure they understand that they have to go through all the sectors in order to get to the Kingdom of Presby Land.

Place the black Sharing Bridge between sectors (you might use a piece of black posterboard). Set a newsprint sheet or chalk/white board and markers next to the bridge, and tell each person/group that they must, before leaving the sector, write down three ideas related to it that they would like to do with the youth group in the coming year. No person/group can pass over the bridge without sharing some of their good ideas. At the finish line, have a picture of the PC(USA) cross and the words “Well done, good and faithful servant.” After everyone has reached the Kingdom of Presby Land, hang the newsprint pages up for each sector, and highlight ideas that are similar. Read over the lists as a group. You might give each person a marker or sticker and have people put stickers or a check mark on the two ideas from each sector that they are most excited about. Use these to create your program for the year.

Optional Opening

As youth arrive, get them in groups of 3–4 and give them a paper and pen with the word PRESBYTERIAN spelled out vertically. Ask them to come up with descriptive words about your congregation/group for each letter that would help to explain how it is part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). You might take the opportunity to have groups share and talk about the words they chose. Then keep those same groups and hand out the dice and give instructions for walking through the game.

Optional Closing

Have the outline of the PC(USA) cross copied onto 8½ x 11 sheets of paper and make these and markers/crayons available to people/groups as they wait for everyone to finish the game. Ask them to find and color all the different symbols represented in the cross. If time permits, ask them to think about and discuss what each symbol is and why it is part of the PC(USA) seal. You can find an explanation of each component on the PC(USA) website.

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