

# Dodgeball & Open Gates!

## **Lesson Idea:**

*Ephesians 6:16*

*16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.*

Play a few rounds of the game with the children before doing the lesson. Ask them how many of them got hit. Ask them how many of them would have liked a shield to protect themselves?

Do you think this shield would help? (Hold up a small shield and demonstrate a person still getting hit when the balls come).

What about this shield? (Hold up a HUGE piece of material with the word "JESUS" written on it and demonstrate that a person cannot get hit with the balls!)

The Bible tells us that as Christians we need to hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. That means we need to have faith in Jesus that He will look after us. We need to remember that when we have Jesus, nothing can come against us!

## **Items needed:**

- Tape/rope to mark the playing area.
- Soft small dodge balls
- Large buckets to hold the balls
- Whistle

## **Game instructions:**

Link to video demonstration: <https://youtu.be/dBlmvJDKuM4>

1. Set up a square play area.
2. Children all line up along one side.
3. The leader nominates one person to become the thrower. They stand on the line perpendicular to the rest of the children. The thrower has a bucket of balls next to them.
4. The leader nominates one runner who must try and cross to the other side without being hit by the dodge balls thrown by the thrower.
5. If they are hit, they immediately join the thrower, and a new runner is nominated.

6. If the runner is able to reach the other side without being hit, they shout "open gates".
7. Now the rest of the players are then allowed to run to the other side.
8. If the children get hit on the way, they also become throwers and may pick up a ball to hit others.
9. Everyone that was hit is now a thrower for the next round. Play continues.

