



Blessed Are Who?

**This is the Games Guide for Day Two.
The complete Guide is available online at
bannerblue.org.**



Day Two: Not Dodge Ball

These games are intended to be played at home by a family or with a small group of neighbors or friends. During this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic, these games are not intended for large groups or public spaces. Please remind the kids to wash their hands frequently and to wear masks when needed.

Key Beatitude: Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.

Character Story: Mary Magdalene the First Apostle

Game Overview: Not Dodge Ball is pretty much the reverse of dodge ball. Instead of dodging as many balls that are thrown at them as they can, the kids will catch as many pillows that are tossed to them as they can. The object of the game is to have as many pillows off the floor on your side as possible. You can do this by holding them and earning points for your team. You can also do this by putting them on the other side and giving the other team negative points, unless they pick them up!

Learning Objective: Can we play a sport where the last to be picked is best? Jesus liked to pick and lift up the people that everyone else ignored or underestimated. When he gave those people a chance, they proved to be incredible! Who will you give a chance to shine?

Questions to ask the kids while you're playing together:

- Have you ever been picked last for something?
- What did it feel like?
- Has Jesus picked you to be on his team? *Yes he has!*
- Who did Jesus pick to first share his good news? *Mary Magdalene*
- Do you think Mary was someone who usually got picked last for things?
- Why did Jesus choose to pick Mary first?



Supplies Needed:

- Pillows (as many as you can spare)
- Balls (optional)

Game Instructions:

1. Mark off a rectangular play area with clear boundaries and then divide that area in half. Not Dodge Ball can be played inside, in fact you may prefer to play it inside. A living room is a pretty good size for this game.
2. Divide the kids into two teams and give each team a side. You can play too!
3. Explain to the kids that the object of the game is to have as many pillows off the floor on your side as possible. You can do this by holding them and earning points for your team. You can also do this by putting them on the other side and giving the other team negative points. The kids will have to figure out creative ways to hold as many pillows as they can without them touching the ground before time runs out.
 - a. Kids are not allowed to cross to the other team's side but can kick or toss pillows across the line. Any pillows they're not able to hold should be tossed to the other side.
 - b. If a pillow gets tossed out of bounds, it should go back to the side that tossed it. If any pillows get dropped they need to be picked up or tossed before the timer runs out.
 - c. **Hint:** Older kids might figure out that one person can lie on the ground and act as a pillow platform. This is totally allowed. Just make sure the pile doesn't fall over or get knocked over by an opposing team's toss!
 - d. **Scoring:** Any pillow you are holding earns two points for your team. Any pillow on the ground on your side is worth one negative point for your team.



4. Divide the pillows in half and give each team half. (You can also play the game with balls but pillows seem to be more fun.)
5. Set a timer and begin the game. 5-10 minutes is a good amount of time for a round. When the timer goes off you may count up the pillows on and off the floor on each side. Do not make a big deal of the points. Instead, emphasize having fun and playing again.

Lesson Reflection: It can be hard to be picked last for a team. Often the people who get picked first are the most competitive. Not Dodge Ball is competitive but the best competitors are kids who are patient and plan ahead. These kids might typically get picked last, even though they might have the best chance of winning! Today we have been learning about people who are ignored or forgotten like Mary Magdalene. But once you dig a little deeper and find out the whole story you realize just how important Mary was. It doesn't matter if you are the strongest or fastest; in Not Dodge Ball being careful and smart is what helps you win. And even if you don't win you should still be happy for whoever did. Like Jesus teaches us, having a pure heart means having a full heart. Win or lose you are filled with the excitement of playing and having fun with your friends.

Extra/Alternative Game: Elbow Tag

You will need to mark off a rectangular play area with clear boundaries. In this game, everyone gets a partner and links arms. Anyone who is linked with a partner cannot move from their spot. Two people are chosen to split up. One will be "it" and the other will be chased. Whenever the person being chased links with a pair of players, the person on the opposite end must break off. They will now become chased. If the person being chased gets tagged, they become "it." The good news about Jesus that Mary shared was incredible. When people heard it, they literally went running to tell others.