

Oasis Encore

Thank you.

Thank you so much for attending Oasis 2016! We hope this experience helped your students connect with Jesus and each other. Our team at Oasis is honored to partner with you to set up your youth group for a “win”- for this weekend and beyond. Oasis Encore is designed to help you follow up with your students after this impactful weekend. Included is a game idea, brief devotional thought, and group discussion questions. Our prayer is that this guide would help continue to spur on what God has in store for your student ministry this year.

Group Game:

The Blob Game

Object: Game of tag. Avoid being tagged by the blob.

How to Play The Blob Game:

1. Pick three volunteers. Have the volunteers line up in the front and hold each other's hands. These volunteers will start off as the Blob and must hold hands at all times.
2. The purpose of the game is to not be touched by the Blob. If a person is touched by the Blob, the person then becomes part of the Blob and must hold hands with a person on either end.
3. The Blob tries to tag everyone while running together and holding hands. The last person standing wins the game.

Connect It: An encounter with the love of Jesus leaves us changed. God has entrusted Christians with the gospel and a calling to live out the great commission. Once you become a part of the family of God, your goal is to help others join the family as well. Just like the goal of this game was to tag others into the Blob, one of the goals of the Christian is to bring others to Jesus.

Devotional Thought:

We live in a society infatuated with love. We *love* love. Love songs, romantic comedies, and love stories capture our imagination. But somewhere along the way, our definition of love was distorted. Love became just an emotional feeling devoid of any real substance. To understand the love of Jesus, we must rethink our faulty ideas of love. Let God define love in your life- not pop culture.

Bob shared some incredible stories this weekend of love in action. God wants us to love others how Jesus loves us. This is a love that shares an encouraging word with a discouraged member on your sports team. This is a love that befriends the misfits at your school and invites them to sit with you at lunch. This type of love gives others the benefit of the doubt. This is a love where our lives give others a glimpse of Heaven on earth.

In Matthew 22:36, the Pharisees ask Jesus - "Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" They were hoping Jesus would give an answer that would cause division amongst His followers. The Bible says they tried to "trap" Him. Everyone knows about the ten commandments, but Jewish tradition taught that there were actually 613 total commandments in the law! Jesus didn't answer with a long theological discourse but summed up the whole law in what would amount to little more than a tweet. "Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Love God and love people. That's it. That is what the life of the Christian is to be about. We can't just talk about Jesus; we've got to live like Him. And to live like Him- we must love God and love others.

The love of Jesus changed lives over 2,000 years ago and continues to change lives today. Regardless of your current circumstances, Jesus longs for you to know His love. 1st John 4:19 says "We love, because He first loved us." Please get this: ***An encounter with the love of Jesus changes how you encounter other people.*** If you've experienced the love of God first hand, you can't help but share it with others! Instead of viewing others with judgment or condemnation, you will view them through the eyes of Jesus' love and compassion. Instead of being obsessed with selfish desires, you'll become obsessed with drawing closer to God and sharing His love with others. An encounter with the awe-inspiring love of God should manifest itself in a radical love for other people. An encounter with the love of Jesus should change how you view all other encounters for the rest of your life.

Discussion Questions:

What was a highlight of Oasis for you?

Is there a specific story or point you connected with from Bob's messages?

What are ways you can show others the love of God?

How did you experience the love of God this weekend?

What are ways you can live in grace and walk in love?

How might your life look differently because of this weekend?