

## Notes to the Leader for G38 - Play's the Thing

### Session Preparation

The depth of this session will be enhanced if each member thinks about the topic in advance. Please distribute the preparation sheet at the end of the prior session and make sure absent members receive a copy. Have extra copies available at the gathering for people who have forgotten to bring their copies.

### Table Display

For the session, consider creating a table display of fun summer stuff: marbles, a deck of cards, or other toys, vacation postcards, suntan lotion, sea shells, etc. You could put everything on a beach towel or picnic tablecloth. The group can add their own mementos to the display.

### Suggested Group Activities

The Preparation sheet suggests organizing a playful activity for your group. If any are interested, here are some ideas:

- \* Have a picnic lunch or supper with games like croquet, Frisbee, badminton, or volleyball.
- \* Spend an afternoon hanging out at the beach or a local park.
- \* Organize a games night at church. Let us know about it, because other groups might be interested.
- \* See a summer blockbuster movie together and have dessert afterwards.
- \* Learn bocce ball (in Los Gatos at Campo di Bocce) or play miniature golf.

### Preliminaries

Prior to beginning the session, take a few minutes to go over the announcements of church events given at the last leader meeting or from a recent church bulletin. Also, remind members of the next meeting date. Get volunteers to light the chalice, read the opening words, and lead the Responsive Reading (regular type).

### “Story Time”

So that members don't read ahead and spoil the story, we've included it here instead of in the Order of Worship.

One day a little boy was playing in front of his house, when it occurred to him that he had never seen an adult playing with a red wagon like his. And he burst into tears.

When his mother asked why he was crying, the boy said he was afraid that when he grew up he wouldn't be able to play with his red wagon anymore.

The mother assured the child that when he grew up he could play with his red wagon if he wanted to. That quieted him for a moment. Then he burst into even greater sobs.

The mother asked, “What's the matter now?” The boy replied, “I'm afraid that when I grow up, I won't want to play with my red wagon anymore.”

### Discussion

The discussion period is meant to allow group members to go deeper, share things they may have forgotten to share, and exchange ideas. It is important that people not comment on others' sharing except in a very supportive way.

### Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track.

preliminaries	2 minutes	deep listening	60 minutes
opening	1 minute	discussion	15 minutes
check-in	15 minutes	singing	1 minute
story time	5 minutes	closing	1 minute
silence	5 minutes	<u>total</u>	<u>approx. 105 minutes</u>

### Preparation for the Next Session

Make sure everyone gets a copy of the preparation sheet for the next session.