

Preparation for G38 - Play's the Thing

Summertime often brings back memories of childhood play: with siblings and friends in the neighborhood, at camp, at picnics or family reunions, and so on. We invite you to remember what playing meant to you, and how it helped you grow. And we invite you to think about the role of play in your adult life. How you like to "play" now can reveal interesting things about you.

Choose any of the preparation questions that appeal to you, or find another aspect of play to share.

1. What were your favorite ways to play as a child? What made them interesting and exciting?
2. How do you "play" as an adult? Why do you value this kind of play?
3. Compare your childhood play to recreation you enjoy as an adult. Do the differences or similarities indicate anything meaningful about you and your life?
4. Do you ever feel like you just don't deserve, or can't afford to, have more fun? Why?
5. What would you do if you could spend an entire day just playing? What's stopping you from doing it?

Something to think about

This reading about work and play is adapted from an interview with an early childhood educator.

“Play is a kind of movement around itself, attention to itself. Play leaves open how a situation is going to come out. In contrast, work goes in a direction, a way. Everything is geared towards that end. Because I work directly toward that result, I miss other opportunities as I go along. My attention is either riveted on the computer, the cleaning job, or driving the car; it isn't available for appreciation of what's around me and my life. There is no free attention, and there is no play.

Yet when one is near a person who encompasses both a playfulness and a readiness to work, one feels that this person is very alive. They are immediately available in a way that overcomplicated, mental, modern people like us are not. Like children, they are free of the routine of obligation.”

Try "show and tell"

Bring a picture, memento, drawing, example of a hobby, or some interesting recreational equipment to share that reflects your ways of playing in the past or present.

Organize an activity with your small group

Consider doing something purely recreational together, completely different from the ways we usually interact in meetings, coffee hour, or worship. Take the opportunity to have fun and get to know each other on a new level. The leader has a list of suggestions if you're interested.