

Goal Tenders

An object lesson to remind children to keep their eyes on Jesus, pressing on to achieve the goal of becoming who God designed them to be.

Materials Needed:

Something small like buttons or coins.
An empty bowl

Instructions:

Form groups and give each group an empty bowl and a handful of buttons/coins.

Say: January 1st is the first day of the new year. On New Year's Day, many people set goals they'd like to achieve in the coming year. *Hold up an empty bowl.* This bowl reminds me of an empty new year, ready to be filled with new experiences, activities, and people. Let's pretend your buttons (or coins) represent all those fun things. Your goal is to toss your buttons into the empty bowl from one meter away.

If this is too easy, have them stand further away. After two minutes, collect the bowls.

Say: Were you able to achieve your goal and pop a button into the bowl each time? In life, sometimes you have to try several times to achieve your goals. But God gives us each a special goal to strive for every day, week, month, and year. Listen to what that goal is.

Read *Philippians 2:12-14* . "I have not yet received all these things. I have not yet reached my goal. Christ Jesus took hold of me so that I could reach that goal. So I keep pushing myself forward to reach it. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I don't consider that I have taken hold of it yet. But here is the one thing I do. I forget what is behind me. I push hard toward what is ahead of me. ¹⁴I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself."

Say: Our goal is to become what God wants us to be. We can't achieve that in one year. We keep striving toward the goal and trust that God will help us as we go.

Place a bowl in the middle of the group.

As we close, toss a button(or coin) into this bowl. When you do, think of one way you'll try to become what God wants you to be. Maybe you'll think of reading your Bible, praying, singing songs to God, or showing love and kindness to others. Remember to keep your eyes on Jesus even when things get difficult. The Holy Spirit will help you to live for God!