



# Egg Carton Mancala Game

## MISSION

### What Kids Do

Kids make a mancala game to use while spending time caring for others.

### Get Ready

Print out a set of directions for a game of mancala for each kid.

### Supplies

- Egg cartons, one per kid
- 36 decorative gems or small pebbles, one set per kid
- Scissors
- Acrylic paints
- Paint brushes
- Directions for the game of mancala
- Masking tape

### Baobab Trivia

The word "mancala" comes from the Arabic word "nagala," meaning "to move." There are over 20 versions of this game.

### Community Help

Ask people in your faith community to donate cardboard egg cartons.

### Let's Do It!

The people kids meet who are in need will not be injured at the side of the road; instead, they will be people needing care and kindness in simpler ways. One of the easiest ways to show care is to spend time with someone. Why not invite them to play a game of mancala? This traditional game, played with a simple wooden board and a few pebbles or other playing pieces, is refashioned at VBS using a decorated egg carton and some buttons (or other small objects). Kids might be interested to know that kids sometimes play mancala just by drawing a board in the dirt and using a set of pebbles.

1. Give each kid an empty cardboard egg carton.
2. Cut off the top of the carton along the hinge.
3. Cut the top portion of the carton into two sections, 2 inches x 3 inches [5 cm x 8 cm]. Save these for the endcaps of the game board.
4. Use colorful acrylic paints to paint the inside and outside of the egg carton.
5. When dry, slide one of the top halves under each of the bottom ends. They should extend out a bit to serve as a collection area for the game pieces.
6. Put three gems or small rocks into each of the 12 cups of the main carton.
7. Find a friend to play a game of mancala.

*NOTE: While the cartons are drying, teach the kids how to play a game of mancala using a pre-made game board.*

### Follow-up Questions

1. How are you showing care by playing a game with someone?
2. What does it take to be a good sport or a graceful loser at a game?
3. Are there people everywhere who need care?

### Wrap Up

#### Acrostic about Caring

**C** is for compassion that the Good Samaritan showed.

**A** is for always finding ways to help those in need.

**R** is for remembering to help not only our neighbors and friends but even strangers in need.

**I** is for the ingredients we mixed together to create a caring person.

**N** is for learning new ways to care for others.

**G** is for the generosity we can show to others in simple ways.

### Prayer

Dear Jesus, open my eyes and heart so I can offer kindness and help to those in need. Help me to show care to people I know and to strangers, just like the Good Samaritan. Help me be a caring friend. Amen.