RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM
(REINDEER GAMES)

TAKE OFF
Place a piece of masking tape on the floor. One at a time, have your students put their toes on the tape and jump as far as they can. Mark the landing spots with more pieces of tape with their names written on them.

HOW HIGH?
You’ll need a room with a high ceiling. Divide into smaller groups and give each a roll of masking tape. The group that can place a piece of tape highest on the wall wins. No chairs, tables, or ladders are permitted.

ANTLER BUILDER
This one can be slightly painful, so use your own judgment. You’ll need some plastic coat hangers. (Don’t buy the cheap ones with sharp edges.) Place two contestants in the center of a circle, which you’ve already marked out with tape on the floor. Give both of them a plastic hanger to pull down over their heads—but just to their foreheads. On “Go!” they each try to hook their opponent’s hanger and pull it off.

ICEBERG WALK
You’ll need a supply of carpet squares and a large room. Separate your group into relay teams. Give each team two carpet squares. On “Go” runners must make their way to the other end of the room while standing only on the squares, then run back and hand their squares to the next runners on their teams. Option: Give each team three or four squares and tell them they can simultaneously “launch” as many people as they want, but the runners must share the same squares. If any part

RATING:
Not Rated

LENGTH:
44 min.

SYNOPSIS:
(Be sure you get the Rankin/Bass version on DVD.) Rudolph is born with a very special gift, but everyone else seems to think it’s not a gift at all. Even Rudolph’s father is ashamed of his son’s glowing red nose. So Rudolph sets out on a journey with a “misfit” elf, and the two of them search for a place to fit in. Along the way they meet an arctic explorer, an abominable snowmonster, and an island full of other misfits who are looking for a place to call home.

SCRIPTURES:
Certain discussion questions may direct you to specific Scriptures. Take a look at these and use them according to your group’s needs.

1 Samuel 16:7—Don’t judge by looks; God doesn’t
Proverbs 3:3-4—What is friendship made of?
Matthew 5:11-12—Blessed are you when others put you down because of your nose
Luke 14:16-24—Who gets to come to the party?
John 8:7—Who will throw the first snowball?
Romans 12:6—Use your red nose for God because he gave it to you in the first place
Colossians 3:23—Do it as if God were receiving it; sing as if God were listening
1 Timothy 4:12—Don’t let anyone look down on you
2 Timothy 1:6—God’s gifts are fire; fan the flames
James 1:4-6—Doubt can drown
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How old were you the first time you saw Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? Did the abominable snow-monster give you the creeps?

If we think of “silver and gold” as being any kind of treasure, then what’s the most desired “silver and gold” in your generation?

Do you think we judge people by what they own? Explain.

Think of someone you know who seems to be totally comfortable within his own skin. How much “stuff” does he have?

What is God’s favorite toy? Explain.

When the elves sing for Santa, the workshop foreman speaks with a different voice. This is either a production error or else the elf changed his voice because he was standing in front of Santa. Have you ever worked with someone who completely changes his personality when the boss (or a teacher, coach, or another adult) shows up? Talk about it.

Are you more like Hermey or Rudolph?

Have you ever felt as though someone else already had your career picked out for you?

What kind of career do you want?

What would have happened if Hermey had given up his dream of becoming a dentist, said, “Okay, I’ll go make toys,” and then just shut up about it?

Do you know someone who is completely unhappy in her job but stays there just because it’s safer that way?

Read Colossians 3:23. Which Rudolph character is the best example of this?

Were Hermey and Rudolph ready for in-de-pen-dence?

When does independence begin? In other words, when does our society consider a person to be an adult? When do your parents? How about you?

Who is your “Yukon Cornelius”? Who guides you and helps you in your journey?

Give a modern-day equivalent to the word misfit.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7. How hard is it to accept someone who is totally different than you are? Explain.

Rudolph’s dad hides his son’s nose as if it were something to be ashamed of. Do you think we still tend to “hide” those who are different from us?

Even Santa says, “What a shame. He had a good take-off, too,” as if, because of his nose, Rudolph could never be a “real” reindeer. Have you ever watched someone “TALK…REALLLEEE…LOUUUDLLEE… AND…SLOOOOOWLLEE” to disabled people, as if they’re stupid? Why do we do this?

Did God give Rudolph the red nose? Would God ever give someone a gift that he knew would cause only pain and anguish?

What is your “red nose”? How has this unusual trait of yours been held against you and by whom?

Read Romans 12:6. In what way is this unique characteristic a gift from God? And how can you use it to guide the sleigh (metaphorically, of course)?
On the Island of Misfit Toys, there was a Charlie-in-the-box, a squirt gun that squirts jelly, and a cowboy who rides an ostrich. What was the little dolly’s “misfit-ism”?

Imagine you’re a toy—what are you and what makes you a misfit? (“I’m a Tickle Me Elmo with a foul mouth.” “I’m an iPod that only plays one song.”)

Have you ever been on the Island of Misfit Toys (again, metaphorically)? Why?

There’s a great verse in the Bible about Jesus having lunch with sinners and tax collectors. What if Jesus were on the Island of Misfit Toys?

*Read John 8:7. Are we all misfits in a way? Describe why that’s encouraging or discouraging.*

Have you ever known someone who wanted so badly to stand out from the crowd that they joined some group and wound up becoming just like everyone else in that group? It’s been said that teenagers face the ultimate contradiction in our society—“How do I get out of here and where do I fit in?” Talk about a time when you felt this way.

When King Moon Racer tells Hermey and Rudolph they can’t stay on the island, Yukon says, “Even among the misfits, you’re misfits.” Do you think even the “rejects”—as they’re labeled by society—reject other people?

Why do we pass on the hate to others? At what point do you say, “That’s it. Enough.”

**CLOSING PRAYER**

God, we are all misfits. Let us stand up and be proud. Let us take the gifts you’ve given to us and continue to use them to shine a light that leads people to you. Let us lead all the toys into your arms. You want us all. Amen.

**OTHER IDEAS**

**SNACK IDEAS**

Serve pea soup and peanut butter sandwiches. (Like the fog.) You can also serve bacon. (The Bumble likes bacon.) And if you’re a little twisted, serve venison jerky.

**MISFIT CHURCH AD**

Pass out sheets of paper and markers. Have each student design an ad for “The Church of the Island of Misfit Toys.” Or if you have a theatrical bunch, have them make a television commercial instead.

**TRIVIA* (TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A COOL YOUTH WORKER)**

Did you notice that during the end credits, the elf in the back of the sleigh is handing out umbrellas to the misfit toys and tossing them off the sleigh, but when the swimming bird that can’t fly gets tossed off without an umbrella?

Hermey is the only elf without pointy ears.

Sam the Snowman has a banjo, even though there’s no banjo being played in the song.

Rudolph makes the ninth reindeer to pull Santa’s sleigh, but in the flying scene there are only seven reindeer.

The same technology used to make this version of Rudolph was used to make the original King Kong (RKO, 1933).

Yukon licks his pickaxe because in the original script he was looking for a peppermint mine.