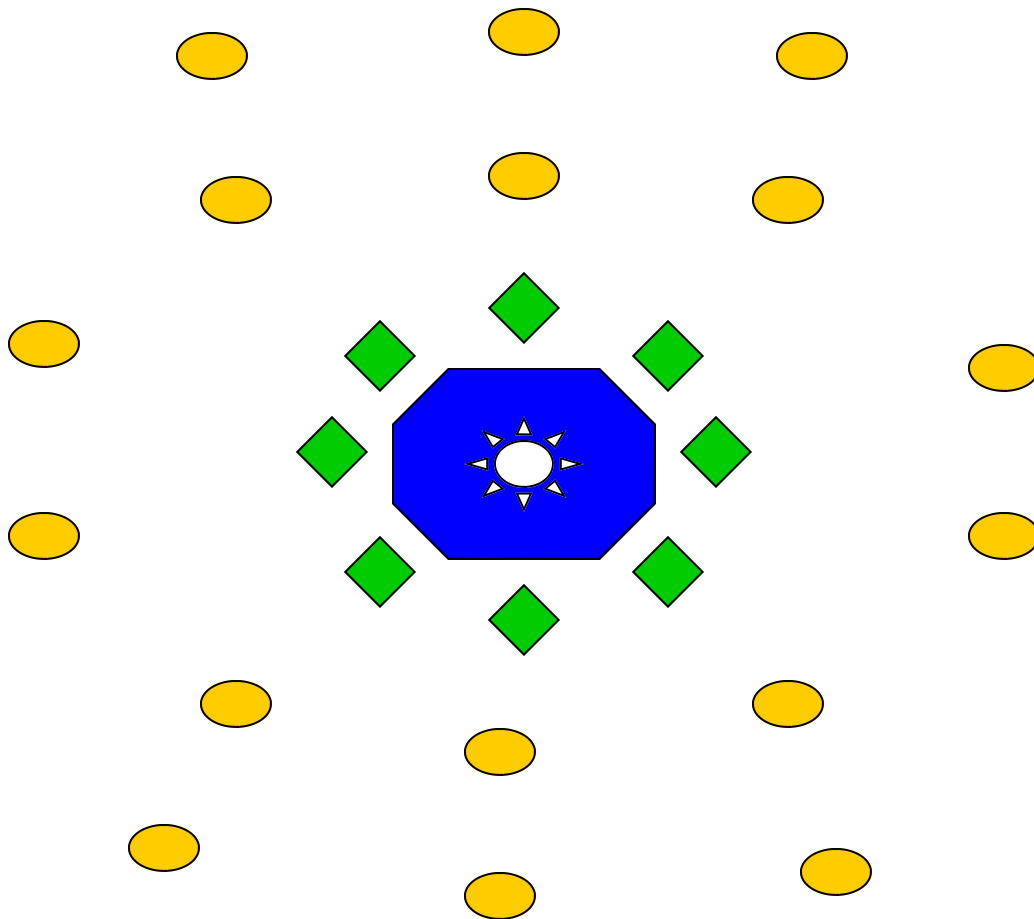


Watchmen on the Wall



Prepare ahead of time:

Soft nerf balls are perfect for playing this game. If you don't have them, roll pieces of computer paper up into a ball shape. You will need at least 5 per child and more is better.

Use tape or pieces of construction paper on the floor to designate the playing field.

To play:

The blue center represents the nation of Israel, the green diamonds are the watchmen who pray for Israel and the yellow ovals are the enemies of Israel.



The enemies have the paper balls and try to launch them past the watchman so they will land in the blue space. They are allowed to move within arms length to pick up tossed balls on the floor. They should face Israel.



The watchman must stay in their place and be diligent to swat any incoming balls away from Israel. They should face the enemies.



Only one child will stand on Israel's sun. They can only use their hands to swat at the paper balls.

Allow the enemies to launch the paper balls for a minute or so and then have the

children switch places. Have them play enough rounds so that they are getting weary of it. This is an important teaching point for later. After the children have played several rounds, ask them to divide up into small groups and ask them these questions. Let each group report after a few minutes of sharing within their section.

To the watchmen:

What was the most difficult part of being a watchman?
(distraction, outnumbered, having to stay close to the blue spot etc.)

You were greatly outnumbered. What did that feel like? Think about a time in real life when you may have been outnumbered. Give one word to describe what that felt like.

In the game, did you get tired, frustrated and want to give up?

Did any of the paper balls hit you? How did that make you feel?

To Israel:

You were greatly outnumbered. What was that like for you?

How did it feel to be confined to a small space while your enemies had room to move?

Give one word to describe how you felt with the watchmen all around you.

What would have happened to you if you did not have the watchmen?

To the enemies:

Did it bother you that you were outnumbering the blue space to such a degree?

In what way were the watchmen a problem for you?

Had they not been there, what would the outcome of this battle be?

Have the children open their Bibles and read the following verses together.

**“I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;
They will never be silent day or night.
You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest,
and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth.”
Isaiah 62: 6,7**

Explain to the children that the game they just played parallels the situation in the Middle East. But to those who make Israel their home, the situation is not a game. Real weapons are being used—not paper balls. In our game, when the watchmen got tired of swatting balls and the game seemed to go on forever, they could quit. But in real life, the watchmen can never quit praying for Israel—the watchmen and intercessors are Israel’s greatest help. The Israeli leaders have lost sight of the Biblical promises for their land and are war weary themselves. Since the nation of Israel was established in 1948, the Arab countries around them have wished that they would go away—disappear. They do not want Israel to exist. There have been wars, rocket launches, car bombings and many political treaties for peace, but the main issue remains the same:

Use a laptop and go to www.yourchildlearns.com click on **map puzzles play online** ; then **“Middle East” ; then “play”**

Allow the children to click and drag a Middle Eastern country to its place. When the map is complete, the children can see how small Israel is compared to the other countries. What do you think it must feel like to know that all those other countries wish you weren't there and some even wish to destroy you?

In the natural, it looks as if Israel's situation is impossible. They are a small country and their population is only 7.5 million people. The countries that touch Israel's borders have over 104,289,064 people. Israel is greatly outnumbered and the tension in the country has been constant. But as believers we know that God's Word concerning Israel has not changed and never will. Even now as world-wide pressure is being put on Israel to divide Jerusalem and give part of it to the Arabs. A divided Jerusalem is never mentioned in God's Word so we must take our posts as watchmen and not be silent day or night, call on the name of the Lord, never grow tired, until Jerusalem is the praise of the earth.

Allow the children to move around the game floor and pray at the different spots—pray for safety and peace hearts at Israel's blue spot—pray at the green diamonds for watchmen to not grow weary—pray at the yellow spots for those who wish harm to the Israeli people.