Rescue an Ice Cube

This is a great "icebreaker" for a party! Challenge your guests to use a string to rescue an ice cube from a glass of water without getting their hands wet. Tell them they may use anything on the party table except the dishes or utensils. After they have tried, show them how to do it.

What to do: Float the ice cube in the glass of water. Hang one end of the string over the edge of the glass. Place the other end of it on the ice cube. Then sprinkle a little salt on the ice cube and let it stand for 10 minutes.

What happens: The string freezes onto the ice cube. Then you pull on the string and lift the ice cube out of the water.

Why: When the salt strikes the ice, it lowers the freezing point of the water to a little below 32 degrees F (0 degrees C) and causes the surface of the ice cube to melt a little. As the ice refreezes, it traps the string.