

Theme: Our loyalty pleases God.

Game: Simon says.

The group stands in front of a leader. The leader gives instructions e.g. 'arms in the air', 'run on the spot' etc. If the instruction is preceded by 'Simon Says' the group must do it. If not they mustn't. The game can continue for as long as you feel appropriate. The idea for each player is to try to get through without making a mistake.

Game: Who are you?

The children sit in a circle and try to take note of where everyone is sitting. One player is then blindfolded and the other children all change position. The blindfolded player then points to anyone in the circle; that person must say something about themselves. The blindfolded player must then guess the identity of the person. He/she gets two guesses. After this another player is blindfolded.

Game: Unihoc

Get the children into pairs. Number the pairs and have each pair in a line one behind the other. Each player then moves away from his/her partner and stands facing him/her at a distance of about eight metres, thus two teams are formed. Place a large soft ball in the middle and make a goal at either end assigning one to each team. A leader then calls out the number of one of the pairs. The two children of that pair then run to the ball and try to hit it into the appropriate goal using only their hands. A player who scores a goal gets a point for his team. The team with the highest number of points after a set time is the winner.

Introduction: Following instructions. (You will need dice, paper, pencils and scissors.) See resources section

Story: Elijah is taken up to heaven, 2 Kings 2, verses 1 to 18. You could tell this story using a children's bible

Memory verse: *"The Lord is faithful and he will strengthen and protect you....."* 2 Thessalonians 3 verse 3. Put the children into teams then set an obstacle course to get pieces of memory verse.

Application: Ask the following questions about the story:-

How did God show he was pleased? (Memory verse plus took him up to heaven.)

Who else showed loyalty in the story? (Elisha.)

How? (He never left Elijah.)

What sort of things can we do to show God our loyalty?

Throughout this term we have been talking about the things that Elijah did. He was doing the things God told him to do and by doing these things he was showing God his loyalty. So God was pleased. We can show loyalty to the people that we care about; our friends, family etc. We need to be prepared to stick by them even if they sometimes upset us or do something that we don't like. If we do this it is likely that others will do the same for us. God is pleased when we show loyalty to others.

Song: 'Oi Oi', or 'Have we made our God too small'. King of Heaven CD Doug Horley

Prayer: The last circle of the term! If the children have responded well to it you could continue it into next term. If not you could try other suggestions that will appear in the teaching notes.

Resources: Introduction game, prayer, fun sheets.