

'Being Part Of God's Team'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 7 years.

Aim:

To use the friendship of David and Jonathan to illustrate what a difference it makes to know Jesus (Friend of Sinners).

Bible focus:

1 Samuel 18 - 20; 2 Samuel 1:9; 2 Samuel 9

You will need:

Decorate the area beforehand with streamers, pictures of sporting teams, trophies, posters of upcoming sporting events, to resemble a stadium or sports centre.

Background:

The week before invite the children and leaders to come dressed in the colours or uniform of their favourite sporting teams and to bring trophies or certificates of their own achievements on a team.

Give the children and leaders an opportunity to share why they got the trophy or certificate and how they felt when it was presented to them. (If your group is large you may have to limit the number of people who share to four or five.)

Bible time:

Each of us loves to get trophies and awards. Sometimes we get them because the team we are on wins a competition.

- ◆ What do you have to do to be on a team? (Go to training, be able to play the game, work hard)

Read John 3:16. We can be on God's team too. This verse tells us that all we need to do to join God's team is to ask Him and believe that Jesus came to save us. And

God never says 'no' to that request because He wants everyone to be on His team.

God wants us to be part of His team but unlike a team here on Earth we don't need any special skills or abilities to be on His team. Anyone can join. Now sometimes when we play on our teams we don't always do the right thing. We don't play fairly or we get angry and fight with other team members. The Bible calls those things sin. God knows that we aren't perfect. He knows that sometimes we will forget that we are part of God's team and that we need to live our lives to please Him. That's why He sent His Son Jesus to Earth. Jesus died on the cross to take away those sins so that we can join God's team and let Him help us to always live to please Him.

Response time:

I'm going to talk to God now and if you would like to be on God's team you can pray with me telling God you want to join His team. If you're already on God's team but would like to let Him know that you are still following Him then you can also pray with me. God wants everyone to be on His team and live for Him and all of Heaven rejoices when we make that decision.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to die to take away my sins (pause). I'm sorry for all the wrong things I've done (pause) and I ask you to please help me to live your way (pause). I want to join your team today (pause). Amen.

Follow up:

Try to encourage the children who have made first time decisions to come and talk to you or another leader after this session. There may be questions that some children would like to ask and this opportunity will help them to do that.

It will be helpful to have copies of *Would you like to know Jesus?* for under eights as a follow-up resource for the children. Some age-appropriate Bible reading notes may also be appropriate. These resources are available from your local Scripture Union Resources For Ministry bookshop ph. 02 4337 0200 or check out the website www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources_ministry.htm.

Make time to go through the Bible reading notes with parents and children to ensure they have a good understanding of how to use the notes.

