

# 'Deal Or No Deal'



This material is suitable for ages 8+.

Adapted from 'Let's Make A Deal' in *Helping Children Know God* edited and compiled by Christine Yount. Group Publishing, 1995.)

### Aim:

God is completely trustworthy.

### Bible focus:

Psalm 89:1 - 8.

### You will need:

Three shoe boxes turned upside down with the numbers 1, 2 and 3 written on them, two really good prizes e.g. a large chocolate, some money, etc. and one not so good prize, e.g. a pile of rocks, a small piece of chocolate, etc. and enough small lollies or sweets for each child.

### Introduction:

Before the children arrive, set the shoe boxes upside down on the table so the numbers are facing up. Place under two of the boxes the really good prizes and under the third the not so good prize.

Give each child a lolly or sweet. In the same manner as the host of TV's Deal or No Deal, stand behind the table and make deals with the children. Try to get them to trade their lolly for what's under one of the boxes. Warn them that they may get something good but they also may get something not so good. It's OK if children choose not to trade. While they are deciding, ask: 'Don't you trust me?' After everyone has had a chance to choose one of the boxes, show them what they've traded for.

### Ask:

- ◆ Was it easy or difficult to make a decision? Why?
- ◆ Was it easy or difficult to trust me? Why?

## Bible time:

Being able to trust someone is important because it means we know that person is not going to do anything that will hurt us or put us in danger. How does someone gain our trust? (They prove themselves trustworthy.)

Bible talks about God as being trustworthy. Read Psalm 89:1 - 8. According to the person who wrote the Psalm, God had proven himself to be trustworthy many times because of His love for people. In verse 2 he writes, 'God's love can always be trusted'. In verse 4 he reminds us that God had promised to King David that someone from his family would always be a King of Israel and God kept this promise. Jesus, God's Son, became the ultimate King not just for the people of Israel but the whole world, and he was born into King David's family on earth.

In the game we played at the beginning we talked about how easy or difficult it was to decide which deal to take. We also talked about how difficult or easy it was to trust me with the kind of prizes you would get. The Bible proves that when it comes to trusting God with our lives, that decision is not hard to make because He has proven himself to be completely trustworthy. We can trust God to be in charge of our life and know that He will never trick you with a bad prize like I did. Things may not always be easy for us. Bad things will still happen but we can trust God to be there with us because He has promised He will. He kept His promise to David and He will keep His promise to us.

## Response time:

I'm going to pray with you now. If you would like to tell God today that you want to trust Him with your life - that He has proven to you that He is trustworthy - then you can pray with me. I will leave some time after each sentence so you can pray this prayer quietly to God.

## Prayer:

Dear God

Thank you for keeping your promises (pause). Thank you for sending Jesus to be the Ultimate King of the world (pause). I know you can be trusted with my life (pause). Help me to trust you and live the right way (pause). Amen.

## Follow up:

Encourage the children that if they have further questions they would like to ask before they decide to let God be in charge of their life, to come and speak to you or one of the other leaders about this. Also encourage any children who have prayed this prayer for the first time to come and tell you so you can pray for them this week and help them to keep on trusting God.



It will be helpful to have copies of Starting Out: how to be a follower of Jesus for 8 - 11's to help you follow up the children. Part 2 of the Starting Out booklet introduces the child to the Bible and helps them understand what it's like to live as a friend of Jesus. Some age-appropriate Bible Reading notes may also be an appropriate method of following up the children who made decisions. These resources are available from your local Scripture Union Resources For Ministry bookshop. Make time to go through the Bible Reading notes to ensure the children have a good understanding of how to use these notes.

A further counselling resource that may be helpful if a child has more questions is Team Talk, again produced by Scripture Union. It is available through their Resources For Ministry department ph. 02 4337 0200 [www. scriptureunion.org.au/resources\\_ministry.htm](http://www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources_ministry.htm) or Koorong Books [www.koorong.com.au](http://www.koorong.com.au). This resource includes pages for children who are recommitting their lives or for children who have asked questions about a particular issue. E.g. Why did dad leave home?

Linking children in to other sections in the corps e.g. Sunday School, SAGALA, Kids Club or Junior Soldiers will also help with their ongoing spiritual development.

