



OBEDIENCE

EPHESIANS 6:1-3

PLAY!

'Opposites' game. The children have to do the opposite of what you ask. For example if you say 'sit down' they must stand up. Other examples could be to: 'Open your eyes, whisper hello, stand still, keep your tongue in, hold out your right hand, cross your arms etc'.

SAY

Sometimes children do the opposite of what their mum and dad ask don't they? They might be asked to be quiet and what happens? Or to go to sleep and they stay awake. What other things do children do that is the opposite of what they are asked? God says that children should obey their parents because it pleases him. Do you know why? Because he has given you to your mum and dad as a gift for them to take care of and to teach. So for parents to do this well they need you to try and be obedient and do what is asked—even when sometimes you don't want to.



"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right". Ephesians 6:1

PRAY

Father in heaven, thank you for everybody who cares for us. Help us to listen to them and love them, in the way that you want us to. Amen.

BEING THANKFUL

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

PLAY!

Ask if they can think of ten things to be thankful for today and allow around sixty seconds thinking before asking each person to try and name them. Make the point that this can be hard to do. Then tell a story of a child in a poor country, perhaps having the same sort of day. They might have no comfortable bed, no electricity, breakfast, no sink or inside toilet, TV, toys, shower.

SAY

How would you feel if we did not have some of those things that we use every day? What would you miss the most? We are very fortunate to have them aren't we? This is why it is important not just to say 'thank you' every time we are given something (like a present or sweets) but to be thankful for all the things that God has already blessed us with.



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances."

1 Thessalonians 5:16

PRAY

Thank you, God, for everything you give us. We're sorry we sometimes forget to say thank you. Amen.

DOING YOUR BEST

HEBREWS 12:1-3

PLAY!

Place a prize for a child somewhere in the room that they can get to. Then have a competition for each child separately to try and get the prize—but that they have to get past you. Gently prevent them from doing this but just before they start to get frustrated pretend to be distracted so that they can get it. Congratulate them and repeat this appropriately for other children.

SAY

You did very well because even though you could not get the prize at the start you did not give up and did get it in the end. Did you feel like giving up? God says in the Bible that the most important races are not the quickest ones but the longest ones—where you have to keep going even when you feel like giving up. Some things need us to keep on going and doing our best—like learning in school and at home, looking after others and following God. God says that if we run the race to do these things then we will win a great prize.



"...and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith"

Heb 12:1-2

PRAY

Thank you God for the prize you promise us. Be with us as we run your race, trying every step to come closer to you. Amen.

BEING TRUSTWORTHY

LUKE 16: 9-11

PLAY!

'Faith falls'. Ask the child to cross their arms, keep their legs straight and slowly fall back into your arms. Start with very small falls by catching them just as they overbalance and perhaps build up to something more exciting by falling back off a chair—be reassuring and safe!

SAY

Was it hard to do this? Why or why not? Would you like anyone to catch you? Why or why not? To let someone catch you they have to be trustworthy. Trust is doing what you say you will do and not cheating or lying. People that can be trusted are very good people and God says that if you can be trusted with small things to do then he will give you much better things to do.

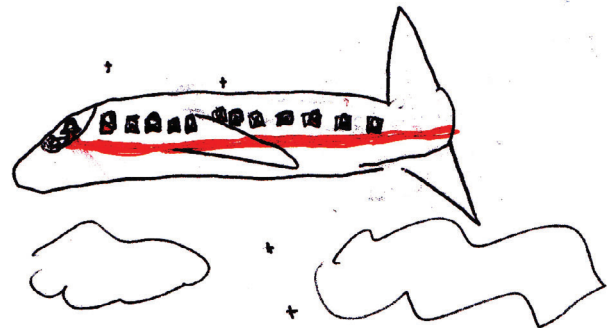


"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much"

Luke 16:10

PRAY

Dear God, we can trust you for everything we need. Make us more like you, so that others will know they can trust us. Amen.





BEING SCARED

JOSHUA 1:9

PLAY!

Blindfold each child and ask them to make their way from one part of the house to the other—one at a time. Be with them to help keep them safe but help them as little as possible—they need to feel that they are on their own. Once they are done or have given up try it again but this time walk beside them and give them instructions.

SAY

What was the easiest way to get there and why? Was it a little bit scarier by yourself? What are some of the things that we are scared of (the dark, spiders, large dogs, etc)? It is OK to be scared of things—especially if they are dangerous. And the best thing to do when you are scared is to get someone to be beside you (like the second walk) but also to ask God to be beside you because he will never leave us.



“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” **Joshua 1:9**



PRAY

Loving God, thank you that you are with us wherever we go. Remind us of this, especially when we feel like we are lost and don't know where to go. Amen.



WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

PSALM 103: 8-12

PLAY!

Get a couple of blank pages and draw a rough picture of something people do that is wrong (a fight, angry face, dropping litter, making a mess etc). Get a child to get rid of the wrong by scribbling it out. Give them around 10-15 seconds to do this.

SAY

Does scribbling out the wrong make it look better? Is the wrong picture still underneath? It hasn't gone away has it? When we do something wrong it doesn't go away either and can't be covered by other things. The only way to get rid of our wrongs is to say sorry and ask to be forgiven. When we do this God takes the wrong things (hold up scribbled picture) and throws it away (put it in the bin) and lets us start again. This means we are like a brand new page again to start anew (give out clean blank page).



“as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions (sins) from us.” **Psalm 103:12**

PRAY

Brilliant God, no matter how many bad things we do we know you will forgive us. Help us to change, so that we live our lives the way you want— so that everyone will know you have forgiven us. Amen.