

# Planning a Kids Friendly Children's Programme



 Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand



*This document is intended as a resource for the Church. The information it contains is not prescriptive. The Book of Order and its subordinate standards contain the Church's official rules and directions. Any perceived conflict between the information contained in this resource and the Church's Book of Order and subordinate standards is entirely unintentional.*



## INTRODUCTION:

Kids Friendly churches recognise the need to offer a quality children's Christian education programme. Mostly this happens on a Sunday, but it can take place any day of the week. This resource aims to offer practical ideas and encouragement to help you run a fun, creative and inspirational programme.

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# 1. ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL LESSON PLAN:

This section contains elements to help you plan a successful children's programme lesson.

Children today have moved away from learning "facts" they *may* need to know and are now learning "how" to learn, so they *know how to find out* what they need to know, when they need it.

Every child (and adult) has their own preferred style of learning. This is the way they like to receive information. For example:

**Visual** learners gain most from activities that involve seeing and reading

**Auditory** learners prefer to listen and speak

**Kinaesthetic** learners learn best when they are given the opportunity to touch and do.

As teachers we need to be aware of the different learning styles and preferences of the children we are working with so that we can offer a wide range of learning experiences for the children.

The following elements are based on a sample lesson plan. They are not meant to be a prescriptive list but rather a source of ideas and inspiration on how to include a variety of teaching styles and methods to reinforce the theme of your lesson, while encouraging positive interaction and relationship building within your group.



# Sample lesson plan for a Kids Friendly Sunday Children's Programme

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Leaders: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Objective: \_\_\_\_\_

Memory verse: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Welcome and getting to know you**

## **Kids Friendly Ritual**

## **Prayer Time**

## **Introduce theme/scripture of the day:**

**Reinforce the theme or scripture through activities:** (this may be when you want to break into smaller groups appropriate to the activities and discussion)

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Resources needed: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Closing**

**Remember have one clear theme or message and reinforce it in as many ways as possible, using as many senses as possible. This is the way children learn best.**



## A. Lesson Objective

Take time to figure out the simple objective of the lesson/theme you are preparing. It is important to identify one main idea you want to communicate, and then reinforce it in a variety of ways engaging as many senses as possible. Where possible, aim to link the children's talk in church with what you will be teaching in your children's programme.

## B. Set-Up

Make sure you arrive half an hour or so before church starts (or allow time the day before) to set up the programme space. The atmosphere should be warm and inviting.

- Turn on lights to create warm atmosphere and lay out room as you need it. If you are doing crafts set up the tables.
- Prepare the children's altar table (at front) with world globe, cloth, candle, prayer wheel etc. according to what you need.
- Check the room is tidy and notice boards are looking good.
- Check that the welcome table is set up (in the church foyer) with friendly greeters in place to welcome children (with rolls, stickers, prize box, welcome packs, enrolment forms).

## C. Welcome

When the children come out to your children's programme, invite all children and leaders to sit in a circle on the carpet. (It's much easier to manage behaviour this way and get away from the teacher/student culture.)

- Welcome the children and introduce yourself and any other leaders.
- Ask if any child is new, and if so, welcome them and buddy them with a regular attendee.
- Check if they received a welcome pack and if not give one to them.
- Ask if anyone has had birthday the week before, sing happy birthday and present a bookmark (or other small prize).
- Notices – announce forthcoming children's events, find out who would like to help with worship and how (to pass on to the minister).
- Play a getting to know you game (there are some examples below). This is important if you change your leaders often, but not if you have consistent leadership.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU GAMES:

### **God loves me, pass it on**

Kids sit in a circle. The leader starts by crossing arms over chest and saying: "I'm Jill and God loves me, pass it on" and taps person on left or right of her to pass it on,



until it has gone around the room. You can get them to repeat this faster and faster each time you go around the circle.

### Throwing Game

Sit in circle and throw a ball, cushion or soft toy to a person whose name you know. As you throw the object say "hi Jill" and so on until everyone knows each others' name.

*Variation:* Say your name and some food you like beginning with the same letter. "I'm Jill and I like jellybeans" See if you can go around the circle at the end and remember everyone's names and food! Kids LOVE memory games to show how clever they are.

### Letter Leap

Children stand in line across the end of the room. One is the leader and calls out a letter. If the letter is in a child's name he/she takes a leap forward and so on until he/she reaches the other end and touches the leader and shouts his name. The first one there gets to take over the letter calling and so on until the last one has reached the end line.

## D. Lighting the Christ Candle (Ritual)

Children love familiar rituals such as lighting the Christ candle. Rituals invoke a sense of belonging (*this is what we do at our place*) and help children to move into a readiness for learning about God. They also allow for participation and leadership by the children.

Invite a child to light Christ candle. Try to include someone who doesn't do it in church because they are too shy or new etc. Always ask (and if necessary explain) why we light the Christ candle, i.e. because Jesus shows us the way to live. He is like a light guiding us. (Sometimes you may like to give out a spot prize when a child responds to this question.)

When the child lights candle she/he says: **"We light the Christ candle"**.  
We respond: **"Christ is the light of the world."**

## E. Prayer

Prayer is a vital part of our spirituality and connection to God and sustains us for life. Hence prayer time needs to be an integral part of your children's programme. Teaching children to pray in a variety of fun and natural ways can easily overcome the shyness or reserve some people (even adults) feel with regards to prayer.

- Introduce prayer time explaining that we are going to pray and this means we are talking to God.
- Remind them how important it is to talk to our friends and Jesus is our "best" friend.
- Encourage kids to think about the many types of prayers we have.
- Pray in different ways each week.
- Never force children to pray out loud, but give them opportunities to pray.





For ideas on engaging and involving children in prayer see section 2 on "Praying with Children" below.

## **F. Introducing the Theme/Scripture of the Day**

There are many ways you can introduce the theme for the day. Choose one or some of these:

- Games (play hangman to let kids guess theme for the day, play games to reinforce theme or as a discussion starter)
- Bible reading (type out reading in sections and paste on cards or use bibles and get kids to offer to read sections)
- Bible Stories – tell the bible story (try not to read it as children lose interest) in different ways e.g. interactive stories, dress up as the character (see example interactive stories attached)
- Children's stories and real life stories. Sharing personal testimonies can introduce and illustrate the scripture.
- Drama based on bible story or illustrative story (can be performed by leaders or involve children)
- Puppets (a great way to get the message across in a fun way. Get kids to repeat the memory verse or teaching after the puppet or let the puppets teach them a song to sing reinforcing the theme. See sample puppet shows).

## **G. Reinforcing the Theme through Activities**

Once you have introduced your theme, the rest of the lesson is spent reinforcing the theme through a variety of activities to meet children's preferred learning styles. When we hear the same message over again in different ways it really starts to sink in.

Here are some ideas for reinforcing your theme (choose activities you didn't use to introduce your theme).

### **STORY:**

Bible stories, personal testimonies, props, picture books, PowerPoints, dramas, puppets are just some ways to share stories that reinforce the theme. Let your creativity run riot. (See Section 3 below for more ideas on interactive story-telling.)



## GAME:

Kids, especially boys, love to play games and it is good to let off some steam after sitting in church for a while. You can do a large group game, or divide kids into teams, such as boys vs girls or mixed teams.

If you have teams always choose older kids as team "leaders" and remind them of the responsibilities of a leader e.g. share, encourage, look after your team members. Also write up scores on the scoreboard especially if you are running a theme over the term. Kids love to keep a tally of their team's points. And don't just give one point for a correct answer, give 100 points, so the scores end up in the thousands!

## QUIZ:

Kids love quizzes – as with games you can have teams and keep scores. Choose team leaders and co-leaders. This encourages kids to come back each week. Tally the scores each week and give the winning and second team claps.

It can work really well to have two teams of two up the front (and the rest of the children as the supporting team), with one person as the "buzzer" and one answering the questions. Each team can predetermine their unique "buzzer" sound before they begin. The person answering gently squeezes the buzzer's shoulders when he/she knows the answer.

## CRAFT, BAKING, WOODWORK, LEGO etc.:

Even boys love craft if it is not too fiddly and doesn't take too long. The internet has a wealth of craft ideas on many themes if you need some inspiration.

## SINGING:

If your group enjoys singing, try to find a song that reinforces the message ([www.dltk-bible.com](http://www.dltk-bible.com) has good theme songs to common tunes). For example:

### **10 Commandments Song**

(tune: "Jingle Bells.")

*No other Gods, no idols  
Don't misuse God's name  
Keep Sunday holy  
That's God's special day. HEY!  
Honour your mum and dad  
Don't murder lust or steal  
No false tales, don't envy  
This is God's great deal. HEY!*



## **SMALL GROUP TIME:**

If you want to get into good discussions, you may want to break the children in small groups preferably by age e.g. 5-7 years and 8-10 years.

## **H. Learning this Week's Memory Verse**

It is beneficial for children to learn bible verses by heart, even from quite a young age. Doing this as a child can form a pattern for the child's whole life: of learning and remembering scripture. Make sure the verses are not too long or complicated, but easy bite-sized chunks that the children can absorb and integrate into their lives.

You do not need to learn a different memory verse every week. You may find that you have a theme for the term (or a few weeks) with one key verse that you reinforce throughout the lessons on that theme. This is a good way to get the verse into the child's long term memory.

There are many ways of learning memory verses to make them fun rather than a painful rote learning exercise. You can decide for all these methods if you will give a prize (e.g. a stamp, sticker, spot prize) as a reward for groups or individuals who finish first, or if the completion of the activity reward enough.

## **MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES:**

### **Scripture Puzzle**

Chop up the words of the verse and get kids in small groups to arrange it back into the verse.

### **Missing Word**

Place all the words of the verse on separate pieces of card and put up on whiteboard in order. Get one child to go out of the room and another to take one word out of the verse and shuffle all cards together again. The child that was out the room needs to guess which word is missing.

### **Balloon Game**

Make two balloons as follows: Print out your memory verse on a strip of paper (including the reference) and cut it into chunks of 2-3 words. Roll each little strip of 2-3 words into a tight scroll, and pop then into an uninflated balloon.

Split the group into two teams (you can have more teams if you have a large group – just make more balloons) and get them to form a line all facing the person in front of them. (Make sure the teams are on opposite sides of the room.) Give the balloon to the first person in each line. On your go, the first person will blow up and tie the balloon, then pass the balloon over their head to the person behind, who will pass the



balloon under their legs to the person behind them. The balloon goes over and under down the line until it gets to the end. The end person needs to pop the balloon (by stamping hard!) and then the team needs to collect the scrolls of words and assemble their memory verse. The first team to assemble the verse wins!

For larger classes, have more teams.

*Variation:* Have a race in which one member of each team has to race to the other end of the room, blow up their balloon, tie it, burst it, retrieve the pieces of paper, and get the other members of the team to help to arrange the verse the correct way.

### **'Magic' Invisible Words**

Write the verse with a white crayon on white cardboard or paper. Get volunteers to gradually paint over the cardboard with red food colouring. The words will then 'magically' appear as the food colouring adheres to the crayon.

### **Flannel Board/Whiteboard Jigsaw**

Write your words on any interesting shape, back with winceyette, or other suitable adhering material, (can get magnetic tape that sticks to whiteboards) and cut into about 8 or 9 pieces. Get two or three children to come out and rearrange the jigsaw correctly on the flannel board.

### **Guess the letter**

This is another popular method, but it does take a little longer than most other ways. Write out your verse by putting "blanks" for letters e.g.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 19:10

The idea is for the children to guess the correct letters that make up this verse. As they do so, fill in the blanks.

*Variation:* You could do this in competing teams e.g. boys v. girls. One person from each team guesses a letter in turn. If team 1, for example, guesses 'n', and there are three n's, they get three points. If team 2 guesses 'e', and there are six e's, they get six points etc. The team with the most points when the verse is complete is the winner.

### **Hangman**

Play hangman with the memory verse.

### **Elimination methods**

Show the verse in full, and then gradually eliminate the words until they have all gone. Test the children after each step to see if they can still say the verse. There are a number of different ways you could do this.

### **Mirror image**

Write the verse backwards, so that you could only read it properly by looking at it through a mirror. (Ensure that the individual letters are written 'the wrong way round'). Most children have no trouble reading backwards!

### **Code method**

Write out the verse in code form, by either changing the letters to numbers (e.g. a=1,



b=2 etc.) or, for older children, to symbols. Don't forget to show the children the code. Alternatively, you could not show the code, but change only the vowels (e.g. a=1, e=2 etc.).

## **Extra letters**

Write out the verse, but add (say) two extra letters between the words. Leave no gaps. Here is an example:

ThegxsonkbofswmanqkcamerptoooseekzjandfrtouwsavexrthegglostaaLukejy19.hh10

Jumble up the letters of each word. For example:

het sno fo mna acme ot eeks dna ot aves het tlos. Lkeu 19.10.

## **Team Challenge**

Get each team to sit in a circle. Give each member of the team a word in the bible verse to say (in order). Have them practise saying their verse one word at a time. Start with them being able to read it – then get them to do it by remembering their word. How fast can they say it? Once they know the verse, get them to come back and “perform” it to the whole group.

# **I. Closing**

Have a definite end to your children's programme, even if you let some children stay on afterwards to finish working on their craft etc. before going out for morning tea.

- Pray with the children on the theme and ask Jesus to help us remember the rules God gives us for living.
- Give children a weekly challenge.
- Invite children to lead the group in the grace for morning tea, or teach the children how to bless each other. (For “Graces and Blessings” see Section 2 below “Praying with Children”.)
- Release the children for morning tea.

Make sure you leave the packing up and join the children and their families for morning tea. This is vital time for building relationships and finding out what is going on in the lives of the children and their families. Once morning tea is finished, then you can return and tidy up the children's programme space.

# **J. Resources needed for this week**

When you are planning be sure to make a list of resources you will need for your lesson, and who is responsible for bringing each item. Try to share the load within your team.



## 2. PRAYING WITH CHILDREN:

Prayer is crucial to spiritual growth and faith and sustains us all our lives. It is a way we engage and talk to our spirit. There are many different ways to pray. This resource aims to assist you by giving you practical ideas for praying with children and encouraging you to include prayer as an integral part of your ministry to children.

Here are some key points to keep in mind:

- Include prayer in every session of your Sunday children's programme (you will be inspired by what comes out!)
- Be creative. Pray in different ways every time you teach.
- Teach and encourage your children how to pray.
- Create opportunities for children to share their prayers out loud, but also give them opportunities to pass if they are shy.
- Remind them Jesus is our friend and we need to talk to our friends often.
- Allow them to pass on praying out loud if they are shy. Soon they will want to do it after seeing how others do it.

### A. Prayer Time

Make prayer integral to your Sunday children's programme.

#### EXPLAIN

When we pray we talk to God.

- This can be done in our minds or out loud.
- This can happen at home, at church, at school, anywhere.
- Prayer is for saying thanks, asking for help, thinking of others, saying we're sorry.
- Jesus (God) is our friend who never leaves us.

#### ROLE MODEL

- Share your own prayers.
- Pray for children when they are feeling scared or vulnerable and teach them to do this for themselves.



## ENCOURAGE

- Pray together.
- Pray before morning tea by singing a grace
- Teach them the Lord's Prayer (see action Lord's Prayer and also Lord's prayer and peace prayer for saying together)

## B. Well Known Prayers

As well as learning to talk to God with their own prayers, it can be helpful for children to learn some well-known prayers. The Lord's Prayer is an essential place to start.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER



*Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be your name  
(holy is your name)  
Your Kingdom come  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For yours is the kingdom  
The power and the glory  
Forever and ever  
**Amen.***

### Acting out the Lord's Prayer

(adapted from the Messy Church version)

This version of the Lord's Prayer enables children especially to connect it with their everyday lives. These simple set of actions could become a regular feature with saying this prayer. The actions help the words to stick as well as open up clues as to what the prayer means.

No particular preparation is needed except to learn the actions.  
It works well with children teaching adults.

Ask the congregation or children to stand in a circle and hold hands.



## Actions:

Our Father **hands joined**

In heaven **hands joined and raised high**

Hallowed be your name **heads bowed**

Your kingdom come **release hands and make a gesture of invitation**

Your will be done **a salute**

On earth as it is in heaven **all stamp feet for 'earth' and then clap high above heads for 'heaven'**

Give us today our daily bread **hands out ready to receive**

Forgive us our sins, **hands clasped together in front of the body**  
as we forgive those who sin against us; **turn and shake hands with the people either side**

Save us from the time of trial; **Arms crossed over chest**  
and deliver us from evil **then both hands pushing out in a stop sign**

For the kingdom, **one hand pointing up high**  
the power **the other hand raised in a clenched fist;**  
and the glory are yours; **finally both hands raised above the head high, with fingers spread**

Now **point downwards**

And forever **draw a complete large circle in front of yourself with one hand**

Amen - '**wind-up**' Amen... **with a long drawn-out 'A', accompanied by the imaginary cranking of a handle, getting louder and followed by the word 'men' being shouted loud along with a big clap of the hands above the head**

## THE PEACE PRAYER

Dear God

As I live every day,  
Help me to be a channel for peace.  
May I bring love where there is hatred  
and healing where there is hurt;  
joy where there is sadness  
and hope where there is fear.  
I pray that I may always try  
to understand and comfort other people as well as seeking comfort and  
understanding from them.  
Wherever possible  
may I choose to be  
a light in the darkness  
a help in times of need  
and a caring, honest friend.  
And may justice, kindness, and peace  
flow through my heart forever. **Amen.**





## C. Interactive Prayer Ideas

In this section are a number of fun praying techniques to keep your prayer times with the children fresh and interesting. Using these methods encourages children that they can pray in any way at any time.

### THE 5 FINGER PRAYER

(Author unknown)

Put your hands together like this:



*You can help others when you pray for them.*

*Keep your eyes open and use your fingers to help you know who to pray for.*

- **Thumb:** Those closest to you (family)
- **Index finger:** Those that POINT you in the right direction (your teachers at school and church)
- **Tallest finger:** Leaders (of our town, city and country)
- **Ring finger:** is the weakest finger. Pray for sick and sad people who need help.
- **Smallest finger:** Yourself last, after you have prayed for others

### PRAYER WHEEL

Another popular prayer activity, that involves children spinning the arrow and offering a prayer according to where the arrow lands. Again if they are nervous, tell them you will help them come up with a prayer idea. Once they see how easy it is for others, they lose their shyness.

#### How to make a Prayer Wheel

Buy a round plastic tray from the \$2 shop, one metal or wooden ruler and a 20mm x 5mm bolt with wing nut and 4 washers. Mark the centre of the tray and drill a hole slightly bigger than the bolt size. Cut the ruler to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the diameter of the tray. Drill a hole in the ruler (about  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> along). Cut a point on the  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> side. Fix the ruler to the tray with two washers between the ruler and the tray and two washers between the ruler and the top of the bolt. Add ideas for prayers on the outer rim of the tray.



### PRAYER HUDDLE

Form a circle and have kids "huddle" by putting their arms over the shoulders of the people next to them. Lead this cheer: Two, four, six, eight. God, we do appreciate



\_\_\_\_\_. Then have each person in the circle shout out one thing he or she is thankful for. End with the group cheering: Yea, God!

## SPIN THE BOTTLE

Place an empty bottle in the middle of a circle. One person spins it and shouts a prayer e.g. "thank you God for \_\_\_\_\_" or "We pray for peace" etc. (You can suggest or get them to suggest what kind of prayers your group are going to do and then change them after a few people have had a turn.) The person the bottle points to gets to pray next and then spins the bottle again.

## PRAYER BALL IDEAS

The Prayer ball (available from Manna for about \$15) is a blow up "beach ball" with various prayer topics on it. Children toss or roll it to one another, and where their right thumb lands is the topic that they pray for. You can do it several times. (Sometimes there is something different to share.)

The kids love to use this. Remind them if they catch the ball they will be leading us in prayer. If that scares them, encourage them by saying they only have to read what is under their right thumb. Encourage all the other children to say "Amen" which means "We agree". Ask them what "Amen" means – many of them know.

Some of the questions and ideas are:

- What scares you? Ask God to help you when you feel afraid
- Thank God for someone who is older than you.
- Thank God for your favourite teacher
- Some children don't have clean water. Ask God to help them.
- Pray for someone who lives where there are palm trees
- Thank God for the new friends you have made
- Pray for your favourite singer or band
- Ask God to provide food for a hungry child
- Tell about a fun day you've had Thank God for that day
- Pray for someone who is having a birthday
- What makes you angry – tell God about it
- Tell about a fun day you've had Thank God for that day
- Make a sound like an elephant Pray for a child who lives in a place where you might find an elephant
- Who can you help this week ask God to show you how
- Pray for kids who don't have any shoes
- With a friend what is your favourite thing about God tell him
- Pray for kids who can't go to school
- Fly around the room and sing your favourite praise song
- Pop up and say one thing to praise God for.
- Pretend to swim like a dolphin – pray for people who live near water





- What is your favourite song to praise God – sing it if you want
- If you could email God what would you say?
- Announce it out loud – what is your favourite time to pray

## PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Use a globe. Invite a child to spin the globe and then point to a country. Talk about what it could be like for children in this country and then pray for them. Or you can buy a blow up globe from the \$2 shop and throw it to the children and get them to pray for the country under their left thumb. Use this as an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the situation of the children in that country and include their particular challenges in your prayers.

## MUSICAL PRAYERS

Have cards/coloured paper with types of prayers on them (e.g. Thanks, Please, Safety, World, People, Sorry, Help) and place them all over the floor. Play music and get kids to march around the room singing with the CD. When the music stops, kids jump onto nearest card, close eyes for 5 seconds and say a silent prayer as per the card.

## CANDLELIGHT PRAYER

You'll need matches, a big candle, and small individual candles (can use tea lights @ 8 for \$2).

- Place the big candle on a table in the centre of a preferably darkened room. As you light the candle, invite kids to gather in a circle around the table.
- Invite a child to light the candle saying: "We light the Christ candle" Get all other kids to respond: "Christ is the light of the world"
- Stand by the candle and say: Today we're going to offer prayers of praise (or thanks).
- Pick up a small candle, light it from the big candle, and complete this sentence prayer: God, I praise (thank) you for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Invite kids to take candles and follow your example.
- Have everyone carefully extinguish the candles, close their eyes and sit in silence for half a minute.
- You may want to allow kids to take their candles home to use during personal quiet times with God. If you do, encourage children to get their parents' permission to light it.

**A variation:** Light a small candle from the big candle and then give it to a child saying: "May God's light shine through you \_\_\_\_\_" Invite that child to light a small tea light from the main "Christ" candle and present to another child saying the same words and so on.



## D. Prayer Acronyms

Quite often children don't know what to pray about and may think prayer is just telling God about the things they need or want. Children may hear lots of prayers if they go to church (or very few if they don't). They may not realize that there are different kinds of prayer:

- God delights in our **praise (adoration)**.
- He wants us to be honest and humble before Him, admitting our wrongdoing and asking for His forgiveness. (**Confession**)
- He calls us to care for others and pray for our world (**Intercession**)
- He wants us to **thank** Him for specific things He has done and in faith thank Him for the things He will do (**supplication**).

Some of these different prayers can be taught and remembered by using acronyms.

### ACTS

A= Adoration  
C= Confession  
T= Thanksgiving  
S= Supplication



### JOY



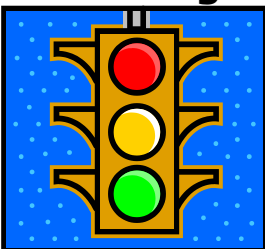
When you pray, you will have **JOY** if you remember:  
**J**esus **O**thers **Y**ourself

### STOP

What about **STOP** and pray = **S**orry, **T**hank you, **O**thers, **P**lease. Use a stop sign symbol as a reminder.



### Traffic Light Answers



Continuing the traffic signs theme, a traffic light can help children understand **how God answers prayer**.

Sometimes when we pray we ask for things that may not be best for us, or we can't see the bigger picture. God loves us and in wisdom may answer:

RED= stop, NO; ORANGE= wait, not yet; GREEN= go, YES.



## A TSP

**a tsp** can be a short prayer with a little of everything or used to teach 4 kinds of prayer heard most Sundays in our churches. Cheryl did this recently over 4 Sundays, introducing one each week, and using a teaspoon as a prop. (In cookbooks teaspoon gets abbreviated to 'tsp') Everyone could be given a teaspoon on the last week to remind them to pray. Write the 4 words on the spoon. (one on each side of handle and one on each side of dish part.)



**a = adore:** God we praise you for who you ARE and what you DO (these words are found in 'adore'.)

**t = thanks:** the offering prayer is when we bring our gifts and our lives to God in thanks.

**s = sorry:** this is usually the second part of the opening prayer (adoration and confession).

**p = please:** this is when we make our requests to God for others and ourselves, also called intercessions.



## TSP

Just **tsp** (with the same meanings) is also used in visual and craft prayers- e.g. the 3 sides of a pyramid, the 3 leaves of a shamrock or trefoil. Different prayers can be added to each side or leaf.



## PUSH

Or **PUSH = Pray Until Something Happens!**

## FROG

And **FROG = Fully Reliant On God.**

There are many resources around this theme. Examples of Bible people who prayed and demonstrated their reliance on God.



And don't forget....

**WWJD = What Would Jesus Do?**

How did He pray? What did He teach about prayer?

"The Lord's Prayer"- the best model



## E. Introducing Prayer

### THE PRAYING MANTIS

*"This little bug looks a little like a grasshopper, but do you know what it is? That's right a praying mantis. The name comes from their front legs. Their front legs are folded like praying hands. But the bug isn't praying. God made this bug with the front legs folded to look the way it does. Sometimes boys and girls fold their hands in church. They look like the praying mantis, but like the praying mantis, they aren't really praying. They just look like they are. Prayer is more than folding your hands or positioning yourself on your knees. Prayer is talking to God. You can talk to God when you're riding your bike. You can talk to him as you walk to the store. Prayer isn't about a location. You don't have to be in church or on your knees. It isn't about folded hands, it's about conversation. God wants you to talk to Him, just like you would your best friend. You are so precious to Him and He wants you to know Him. He wants you to talk to Him every single day."*



### PRAYER STARTER

Do you know what the children in your group think about prayer?  
This idea, along with 100 others, is from:

***"New ideas for Creative Prayer – 101 ideas for praying with 3-11 year olds"*** by Judith Merrell, Scripture Union.

Borrow it from the Kids Friendly library or buy your own copy. You will never be stuck for an idea to involve children or adults in prayer again!

### Preparation

Type out the following 10 statements on individual pieces of card (or photocopy the table below) and fix them around the room. (You can also change the statements or have less statements)

- *Prayers are so boring because they go on and on*
- *Most people pray using too many big words*
- *I never know what to pray about*
- *Talking to God is like talking to a friend*
- *Sometimes I forget to pray*
- *It's good to pray every day*
- *I talk to God about everything*
- *I always pray when I am scared or worried about something*
- *At church is the best place to pray*
- *I only talk to God about the really important big things*



## On the day

Give each child 3 paper clips and ask them to walk around reading the cards then fix their paper clips on the 3 statements that they agree with most strongly. Bring the children back together and 'count the votes.' Use this as a starter for talking about and teaching about prayer.

*Explain: Even the disciples found it hard to pray. Jesus wants us to talk to Him regularly like we talk to our friends. We don't have to use special language and our prayers don't have to be long or even spoken out loud. Prayer is amazing. It is our special way of keeping in touch with Jesus. He loves us and wants to be part of all of our life, not just Sunday or hard times. Remember... Anyone can pray about Anything. Anytime. Anywhere!*

Finish with a prayer asking God to help each child to make a time to pray each day in the coming week. Even better, use a prayer idea from the book that encourages children to say their own simple prayers - aloud or silent, spoken or drawn, asking God to help them to pray.



<b>Prayers are so boring because they go on and on</b>	<b>Most people pray using too many big words</b>
<b>I never know what to pray about</b>	<b>Talking to God is like talking to a friend</b>
<b>Sometimes I forget to pray</b>	<b>It's good to pray every day</b>
<b>I talk to God about everything</b>	<b>I always pray when I am scared or worried about something</b>
<b>At church is the best place to pray</b>	<b>I only talk to God about the really important big things</b>





## PRAYER SPEECH BUBBLE IDEAS:

### Preparation

You can photocopy these onto 4 different coloured papers (green=thanks, red=please, blue=sorry and yellow=prayer "any"s). These colours say something (without needing to even be explained) about the kind of statement on the card:

green= growth and importance of giving thanks

red= through Jesus we come with our requests

blue= sad and "blue" also when we say sorry God forgives us, washes us clean

yellow= bright and sunny, positive and true

### Introducing the speech bubbles

Start with the "any" statements – explaining that there is no special position, place or time to pray. God loves us to talk and listen to Him anywhere, anytime about anything.

"Thanks" prayers next and lots of practice with this before introducing please and sorry prayers.

CEC, CEP and other curriculums have a clear progression of teaching on prayer for different ages –especially in the school classroom- and will have other ideas that these visuals can be used with.

### Ideas

- Put the posters up on the wall (in a Sunday school or church school classroom)
- Display on prayer mat or table.
- Pass around the circle at prayer time to give children the words to start their prayer with (the hardest part).
- Put on the white board or large paper and brainstorm things to say "Thank you" ("please" or "sorry") about.
- Children could draw their prayers, model in clay, shape with pipe-cleaners, collage of newspaper pictures or headlines
- Bring to table or mat or display on wall to "gather" prayers together.
- Remind children often about different ways and hows of prayer using these visual starters.

What a privilege to help teach children that they can pray DIRECTLY to God anywhere, anytime about anything. Here is a comment from a seven year old girl:

*"In the holidays, I was at the top of the hydro-slide and I was really scared of going down by myself. But I prayed and asked God to help me. Then it was like Jesus was right there with me and I wasn't scared anymore! It was fun!" (7 year old girl after a prayer activity introducing "Please prayers" July 2011)*



**Thank you  
God for....**

**Please God.....**

**Sorry God for.....**

**We can talk  
to God Anytime  
Anywhere, about  
Anything!**



## F. Graces and Blessings

It is good to teach the children a variety of graces and blessings that they can use. Encourage the children to say grace as part of their daily family life as well as at church.

### GRACES

#### **Superman Grace**

Thank you Lord for giving us food (one arm up)  
Thank you Lord for giving us food (other arm up)  
Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord (wave arms)  
For giving us food (circle arms around and take off)

#### **The Adams Family**

Diddle dee dum (click, click), Diddle dee dum (click, click)  
Diddle dee dum, Diddle dee dum, Diddle dee dum (click, click)  
We're hungry and we're thirsty,  
We're rumbling in our tummy  
We know the food is yummy  
And so we thank you Lord (Repeat chorus)

#### **Thank you for the world so sweet**

Thank you for the world so sweet (hum hum)  
Thank you for the food we eat (yum yum)  
Thank you for the birds that singalingaling  
Thank you God for everything.

#### **Row Row Row the Boat**

We thank you Lord for happy hearts  
For rain and sunny weather  
We thank you Lord for this our food  
And that we are together.

#### **Oh the Lord's been good to me**

Oh the Lord's been good to me  
And so I thank you Lord  
For giving me the things I need  
The sun and the rain and the apple seed  
Thank you thank you Lord.

#### **We will we will thank you** (tune: We will rock you – Queen)

God you are a good God  
Please accept this grace  
As we sit and feed our face  
We've got food on our plates  
We think that's great



And pretty soon we'll be putting on weight  
Singing we will we will thank you (clap clap)  
We will we will thank you (clap clap)

## **BLESSING EACH OTHER**

Get the children to choose a partner

- Face your partner: make a cross on their forehead saying:  
**"God bless you and keep you"**
- Make a semi-circle with your arms from the top of their head to their waist saying:  
**"God make His light to shine around you..."**
- lift their arms high saying:  
**"and through you"**
- Place hands on their shoulders saying:  
**"And grant you His peace".**



### 3. INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING:

Story telling is a vital part of each lesson. Children love a good story. And they need to have the stories of the Bible woven into the fabric of their faith. Make storytelling a central part of your time together.

The most effective way to ensure a message engages children is to involve and stimulate them. There are lots of interactive stories on the web (and in the Kids Friendly office).

The best way to learn about interactive storytelling is by doing it! This section contains examples of different ways you can tell stories. Be creative (remember we are all made in the image of the greatest creator).

- Use the Bible- a rich source of all kinds of stories
- Anchor the Bible story in real history. Pictures for a 'rope and peg timeline available.
- Use a modern child friendly version- The Beginners' Bible, The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Lion Storyteller Bible

Let your stories SOAR... use:

**S = Sounds**

**O = Objects**

**A = Actions**

**R = Repetition**

#### 10 Top Tips on Sharing Bible Stories

*(from the Scripture Union booklet "10 Top Tips on Sharing Bible Stories" by Gill Marchant, Sue Brown and Andy Gray )*

1. Be true to the Bible. Read the Bible story carefully and make sure your retelling is true to both this story and 'God's big story' of the whole Bible.
2. Prepare thoroughly considering your audience and their needs. Plan beginnings and endings well. Decide on the main idea of the story you are going to focus on and how you are going to tell it.
3. Make sure the children know the story comes from the Bible. Hold or show a Bible at some point.
4. Tell the story rather than read it. Don't be afraid to be creative or tell it slightly differently with each telling.
5. Practise telling the story with any visual aids you choose to use
6. Check your equipment works before you begin and that it can be seen and heard by audience.
7. Use your body, eyes and voice to help create the mood and relationship with the audience
8. If you want to be good at telling stories...tell stories! Aim to keep on improving.
9. Pray that the storytelling session will be an opportunity for God to speak to those present.
10. Relax and enjoy it!



## A. Dramatisation - by Children

Most children love to act and perform in front of an audience (even if the audience is only the other actors and the teacher!). Find (or write) a script based on your story or theme, and get the children involved in acting it out. If there are not enough parts for everyone, try to find some way the other children can join in (such as being the sea, or the crowd).

You can make the dramatisation impromptu or allow the children some time to prepare. Children love props, so bring along anything that would be appropriate to help them get "in character".

Following is an example of a suitable child-dramatisation play of the story of Bartimaeus, written by Maurice Sweetsur, [www.mauricesweetsur.blogspot.com](http://www.mauricesweetsur.blogspot.com)

### EXAMPLE: "BARTIMAEUS PLAY" by Maurice Sweetsur

*Characters: Bartimaeus (Bart), Jesus, Crowd (of about three, following Jesus), Crowd (of about three, standing behind Bart).*

**Narrator:** Bart was sitting outside the gates of Jericho, begging as usual. He heard the noise of a large crowd coming his way. He was told that they were all following Jesus, so he called out - - -

**Bart:** Jesus, have mercy on me.

**Narrator:** But the crowd said - - -

**Crowd (Standing behind Bart):** Be quiet. Don't bother the Master.

**Narrator:** But Bart cried out even louder - - -

**Bart:** Jesus, have mercy on me.

**Narrator:** The crowd responded - - -

**Crowd:** Be quiet. Jesus is too busy to be bothered by blind beggars like you.

**Narrator:** Now Jesus had passed by. He was leaving the city, but Bart called out at the top of his voice:-

**Bart:** Jesus, have mercy on me.

**Narrator:** Suddenly Jesus stopped, and said - - -

**Jesus:** Bring that man to me.

**Narrator:** Now the crowd changed their attitude, and said - - -



**Crowd:** Cheer up. Jesus is calling for you.

**Narrator:** Bart stood up, threw off his Beggar's coat, and was led to Jesus. Jesus asked:

**Jesus:** What do you want me to do for you?

**Narrator:** Bart knew exactly what he wanted, and said - - -

**Bart:** I want to see.

**Narrator:** Jesus replied - - -

**Jesus:** Then see. Your **faith** has made you well.

**Narrator:** Immediately Bart's eyes were opened, and he followed Jesus down the road, praising God.

## B. Dramatisation - by Leader

Dressing up as the character really captures the children's attention. Be brave, be radical, be a fool for Jesus. Imagine the delight of the children in your programme as you disappear for a moment, then reappear dressed up and assuming a whole new identity as the principal character in a story. Don't introduce yourself, just begin!

Following is an excellent example of this method of storytelling by Andrew Ramsbottom from Scripture Union, NZ.

### EXAMPLE: "THE GOOD SHEPHERD" by Andrew Ramsbottom

*(Dress up in shepherd garb as you are introducing the story with the questions below. Talk about how shepherds in Jesus' day wore different clothes to our Kiwi sheep farmers e.g. Tunic (gown), head dress, cloak, sandals, staff (crook).)*

"Who knows how many sheep there are in New Zealand?  
And who looks after them?  
And what do these NZ shepherds wear?  
And how do they get about the farm?  
And who helps them?"

Well I'm going to tell you about a shepherd in Jesus day.

We are going to go back 2000 years and a shepherd who lived then is going to tell us his story because shepherds then were very different to shepherds now.



Hi, my name is Simeon. I'm a shepherd and I take very good care of my sheep. I know each one's name. I talk to them often so they know my voice and to tell them about the dangers of wandering off, lions and wild animals, deep water, thick bush which I can protect them from if they stay close to me and follow me.

I look after a hundred sheep and I have a name for each one. There's Shaggy, I'm sure you can guess why he is called shaggy. And Benjamin, the smallest and youngest. One day I counted the sheep and found that Benjamin was missing. So I called and called but he never appeared. Benjamin being young must have wandered off somewhere. So I called all the other sheep together and told them I was going off to look for Ben.

I searched in the mountains, in caves, near the river and mud, and on the plains. Then while I was searching in the thick bush I heard a "Baa!" behind me. It was Ben. He had caught himself in a thorn bush. I got him loose and checked to see if he was injured. He wasn't, but he was pretty tired from struggling to get out of the bush. So I picked him up onto my shoulders and carried him back to the flock. They were happy to see him and I was happy that I had found him.

When my son arrived to look after the sheep for the night I quickly hurried back into the village. When I got home I invited all my friends over to come and celebrate with me. I wanted to celebrate the fact that I had found the lost sheep.

The bible tells us that Jesus is sometimes known as the Good Shepherd. He looks after us. He's always on the lookout for lost people (called his sheep) and when we get lost (when we behave in bad ways or forget about Jesus) he keeps looking for us. And when we are found (return to him), it's like he is so happy that he throws a party in heaven."

## C. Using Actions and Sound Effects

The more senses you use (or the children use) the more likely they are to retain the message. Add movements and sound effects to your stories to make them come alive!

Try the following examples, "God is on David's Side" and "Jesus Calms the Sea", to see how this method of storytelling works. You can make an illustrated power point or print-out with the words of the story (and actions) written on with the pictures.

### EXAMPLE: "GOD IS ON DAVID'S SIDE"

(Contact Kids Friendly for a PowerPoint version of this story)

David was a shepherd boy who looked after sheep. (**Make sheep sounds.**)

He protected them from lions and bears! (**Make the sounds of lions and bears.**)

His brothers were preparing for a battle, so his father sent David to bring them some food. (**March in place.**)





When David got there, some men told him about a giant man named Goliath who challenged them to a fight. **(Give a big roar, and stand ready to fight.)**

Everyone was too afraid to fight the giant Goliath. **(Chatter teeth and look scared.)**

David said, "I will fight him! I know how to fight lions and bears, and God will be by my side!" **(Make the sounds of lions and bears, then show praying hands.)**

So David took his slingshot and several stones, and went up to face the mean old giant, Goliath. **(Make a loud roar.)**

David swung a stone around his head and it swished through the air and struck the giant Goliath dead! **(Twirl slingshot above head, then make a loud "swish!" sound, then make a loud clap to show that Goliath died.)**

The people shouted, "Hooray for David!" **(Shout "Hooray!")**

David said, "I couldn't lose because God was on my side!" **(Shout, "God was on my side!")**

## EXAMPLE: "JESUS CALMS THE SEA"

**"Today we're going to listen to a really scary story about what happened to Jesus' disciples. And you're going to help me tell it."**

*Practice each of these cues and responses with the class:*

- Whenever I say "**boat**", everyone say "**creeeak**" and **pretend you're pulling hard on the oars**.
- Whenever I say "**disciples**", all the boys (and men) **count to 12 really fast**.
- Whenever I say "**wind**", the girls (and women) **cup their hands around their mouths and blow**.
- Whenever I say "**waves**", put your **hands side by side and make waves in front of you**.
- Whenever I say "**Jesus**", point to upward and say, "**Christ, the Lord**".

As you tell the "Jesus Calms the Sea" story, be sure to put an emphasis on each of the bold words; then pause for the children to respond.

## The Story

Say: **"Here we go! Everybody stick together so you don't get too scared.**

The **disciples** were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following **Jesus**, listening as he taught and watching as he healed the sick.



Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. Seeing how tired his **disciples** were, **Jesus** said, "Let's get in a **boat** and go over to the other side of the lake." It would be good for all of them to get away from the crowds for a while.

The **disciples** rowed away from the shore while **Jesus** went to the front of the **boat** and lay down on a cushion. The **waves** lapped gently against the side of the **boat**, lulling **Jesus** into a peaceful sleep.

But suddenly a **wind** began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The **waves** weren't so gentle anymore. The little **boat** began to pitch and rock. The **disciples** began to get a little worried. But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**.

Then the **wind** grew stronger still. The spray from the waves got the **disciples** all wet. This was getting to be a bad storm! But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**.

By the time the fishing **boat** reached the centre of the lake, the **wind** had turned into an angry gale that whipped the **waves** so high they washed right over the **boat**. The **disciples** were terrified. They thought they might drown. But **Jesus** still lay sleeping in the front of the **boat**.

Finally, someone went and shook **Jesus**. "Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?"

**Jesus** looked around. He listened to the howling **wind**. He felt the cold, stinging spray as **waves** crashed over the little **boat**. He saw the fear in the faces of his **disciples**. Then **Jesus** stood, stretched out his arms to the **wind** and the **waves**, and commanded: "Peace! Be still!"

And all at once the **wind** died down and the **waves** became completely calm. Then he asked the **disciples**: "Why are you so afraid? Where is your faith?"

**Jesus** showed his power over the **wind** and the **waves** that day on the Sea of Galilee. Just as he cared for his **disciples** in that little storm-tossed **boat**, he will care for you."

## Debrief

After you finish, have kids give themselves a round of applause for helping you tell the story.

Then ask:

- **What happened that made the disciples feel unsafe?** (Their boat got in a bad storm; they were afraid of drowning.)
- **What did they do to get help?** (They woke Jesus up.)
- **What did Jesus do to make things okay again?** (He told the wind and the waves to be still.)
- **How could he do that?** (He's God's son—he can do anything.)
- **Can Jesus help us the way he helped the disciples in the storm? Why or why not?** (Yes, Jesus can still do anything; no, he doesn't work that way now.)
- **Can Jesus help us even though we can't see him or touch him? Why or why not?** (Yes, he's always with us; no, sometimes we don't ask him.)



## D. Using Artwork and Picture Books

There are beautiful Bible story illustrations available on the internet, that are free to use. A good site is [www.sermons4kids.com/hmartin.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/hmartin.htm) which features the wonderful artwork of Henry Martin.

You can put your artwork or scanned picture book on a PowerPoint (if you have a projector) or print them out on A4 paper. If printing out the story, put the words (that match the illustration) on the back for each picture. Then you can give the children a piece of the story each which they can hold up to show everyone while they read the words on the back.

A good website for colourfully illustrated bible stories that can be downloaded as PowerPoint slide shows or printed out as A4 pictures is [www.bibleforchildren.org](http://www.bibleforchildren.org).

## E. Puppet Shows

Kids love puppet shows. Make your scripts short and include a bit of humour and one clear message. Get the kids to join the puppets in a song to reinforce the message. Puppets are great motivators.

For puppet scripts contact [admin@kidsfriendly.org.nz](mailto:admin@kidsfriendly.org.nz) or look at [www.puppetsforjesus.com](http://www.puppetsforjesus.com), [www.puppetresources.com](http://www.puppetresources.com).

## F. Helpful Websites

[www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com) – for stories including wonderful power point stories by Henry Martin

[www.homiliesbyemail.com](http://www.homiliesbyemail.com) – for free activity sheets on lectionary themes

[www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk) – look under ideas for lots of lessons and themes and games etc.

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resources-activities> - for downloads of curriculum

[www.dltk-bible.com/genesis/index.htm](http://www.dltk-bible.com/genesis/index.htm) - good for preschool teaching

[www.max7.org](http://www.max7.org) – for free curriculum

[www.bibleforchildren.org/languages/english/stories.php](http://www.bibleforchildren.org/languages/english/stories.php) - colourful bible stories

[www.lostsheep.com.au](http://www.lostsheep.com.au) – bright cartoon pictures, stories with humour, lots of downloadable individual stories for \$10 includes ppt and presenter booklets, try the free sample of Cecil the Sheep (The lost sheep)



## **4. GAMES:**

Games are really fun for children, and boys especially will enjoy some physical activity after sitting for a while. Try to mix up the games and activities so that you have some active parts of your session and some calmer parts.

Choose games that relate to the story or theme you are looking at for the week. This section contains some basic games that you can adapt to your theme – make sure you think laterally!

Remember that the internet is a wonderful resource for creative activities and games ideas (see section C below for some helpful sites). Scripture Union has a great book called "Themed Games" that match scripture.

### **A. Team Games**

Kids love to be a part of a team. Make sure you mix up the age groups so that the teams are evenly spread. You can have boys vs girls, or mixed teams. It is important to encourage the older ones to be good leaders, looking out for the younger or more vulnerable members on their team.

#### **CAPTURE THE FLAG**

Divide your group into two teams, and split your space so each team has half of the playing area. Give each team a "flag" (or mascot/treasure) and allow them time to hide their "flag" in their half.

The aim of the game is to find and capture the other team's "flag". When you are in the opposing team's half they can tag you and take you straight to "jail" (mark off a pre-designated spot for this for each team). When another player from your team tags you, you are freed from jail. Play ends when the opposing "flag" is captured.

#### **CRAZY OUTFITS RELAY**

Split into two or more mixed-age teams. Before you start, prepare a bucket of clothing items relating to your theme for each team. (Make sure each bucket is essentially the same.) Be sure to have some whacky items in each bucket to make it really fun.

On their turn, each player chooses an item out of the box, pulls it on and runs to the end and back before tagging the next person in the line.



## “NO-HANDS” RACE

Use a ball, balloon, or fruit (such as an orange or banana) to complete a no-hands relay. The children split into teams, with each team standing in a line. The idea is that the children have to pass the item from one team member to another down the line without using their hands and without dropping the item. If they drop the item they have to start again. (Be ready to adjust the rules if necessary to allow children to start from where the item dropped if they are having real difficulty.)

## PING-PONG BLOW

Make a race track out of blocks for each team (teams should be limited to a maximum of about 5 players). Give every child a drinking straw and a ping-pong ball (you could use marbles or jaffas – be careful with jaffas as the colour can run after they are blown). On their turn they have to blow through their straw to move the ball around the course without bursting through the walls. The first team with all of their balls home wins.

*(This game can represent themes such as: God's spirit leading and guiding us, staying on the narrow path, Jesus is the Way.)*

## B. All Together Games

Sometimes it is nice to play games where the whole group comes together. Here are some examples to adapt to your theme.

### CAPTAIN'S COMING

This is a traditional game in which a leader calls out commands and the children have to follow the instructions with set actions:

“Starboard”	Run to right side of room
“Port”	Run to left side of room
“Bow”	Run to the front
“Stern”	Run to the back
“Scrub the decks”	Crouch down on the floor and pretend to scrub (where you are)
“Climb the rigging”	Make climbing action (where you are)
“Captain's coming”	Stand to attention and lift up your hand in salute (where you are)



A good plan is to start with a limited number of basic commands (say 3 or 4) and then add in the action commands as the children get the hang of the game. You can give a new command when the children are only halfway through executing a command to make things really fun (e.g. starboard followed by port).

This is simple to adapt to your theme. You can put down hula-hoops or label four corners with names/pictures appropriate to your theme, and then include some actions as well.

For example, if you were looking at the story of Zacchaeus you could use the following commands (to represent the early part of the story):

<b>Command:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Label:</b>
"Collect the Tax"	Run to back right side of room	"Tax station"
"To the Crowd"	Run to back left side of room	"Crowd"
"Run Ahead"	Run to the front	"Up the Road"
"Count the Money"	Crouch down on the floor and pretend to count money	
"Climb the Tree"	Make climbing action	
"Jesus' Coming"	Stand on tiptoes and lift up your hand over your eyes as if you are looking for Jesus	

## TANGLED

Get everyone to stand in a circle and take the hand of two other people in the circle (it will not work if you hold two hands of the same person). Now you need to un-tangle yourselves without letting go of the chain of hands.

## SHIPWRECK

This is a game of trust. One person is a "ship" and needs to make their way blindfolded from one end of the room to the other. All the other children are "rocks" in the sea, and crouch/sit/kneel down on the floor. The "ship" sets off but when it comes near the rocks they make a "shhhh...shhhh..." noise as if there are waves breaking over the rocks. The "ship" must listen for the "rocks" and avoid them so it doesn't get "shipwrecked"! (*Idea from: "win-win games" compiled by Chris Bairstow, Uniting Church of Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania*)

*Variation:* You could have a "pilot" for the ship (as well as the sound of the "rocks") who calls commands (left/right/forward/back etc.) from the far end to guide the ship through the rocks.



## CALMING DOWN TIME

Have the children lie on the ground and be very still. Get them to listen to what they can hear that they would ordinarily miss if they were up and about. See if they can hear each other breathing. (*Idea from: "win-win games" compiled by Chris Bairstow, Uniting Church of Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania*)

## C. Helpful Websites

[www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) – Lots of free game ideas on this website.

[www.childrensministry.com/bible-activities/games](http://www.childrensministry.com/bible-activities/games) - More fun games ideas.

[www.sundayschoolnetwork.com](http://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com)

### CONTACT:

To contact a **Kids Friendly Coach or Advisor** check our website:

<http://www.kidsfriendly.org.nz/about/contact-us/>

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