

**Theme:** It is best to obey the rules!

**Games:**

**Wink Murder.** Sit in a circle. Choose one child to leave the room and another as the murderer. The murderer must wink at people without being seen by the 'detective'. When winked at, the child can make a dying sound and lie back on the floor! The 'detective' has three chances to guess who the murderer is.

**Dodge Ball.** An old time favourite! Line up the group at one end of the room. One or two leaders standing at the edge with soft balls which are rolled across as the children run to the other end. If touched by the ball below the knee, the child must join one side and can roll the ball.

**Capture the Secret Plans.** One child is blindfolded and sits on a chair as the guardian. Under the chair place a cardboard roll marked "TOP SECRET". The other children sit round in a circle and one is chosen to try to capture the plans. That child must creep round the circle, back to their place before grabbing the plans. The blindfolded child gets three goes to point to the 'creeper' at any time. If he/she points directly at the 'creeper', he stays as the guardian. If not the 'creeper' becomes the guardian.

**Introduction:** Show the children a yellow card, red card and a whistle. Ask them what sport they associate with these things. Ask what these are used for. Explain that they are used to let players know when they have broken the rules of the game and committed a foul. It can mean letting the team down as players are sent off.

**Story:** Acts 5 v 1 – 11. There is a script in the resources section. This could be used to act out the story. Choose children to be Peter, Ananias, Sapphira and the other Christians. Alternatively you could tell the story and get the children to mime the actions. It would be a good idea to reassure them that they won't drop dead if they do something wrong!

**Memory verse:** *"God is going to judge everything we do, whether good or bad, even things done in secret"* Ecclesiastes 12 v 14. Write out each word as an anagram, stick them up round the room. Give each child or pair a piece of paper and pencil and see who can work out the verse.

**Application:** God has given us rules for the game of life. There is always a choice of doing right or wrong and we all know which is which! When we break the rules there will always be a consequence! The good news is that if we do get it wrong, we can say sorry and God will forgive us! So just like in a game of football, disobey and run the risk of being penalised, play according to the rules and be blessed!

**Song:** "Whoopah Wahey" ( Doug Horley)

**Question Box:** Keep this going, it can lead to discussion in the group.

**Prayer:** In your prayer circle, think about how much God loves us and how when we follow His rules it is best for us and for others. Pass round the prayer bear or whatever you use and encourage the children to say a prayer along those lines.

**Resources:** Story, funsheet.

**Ananias and Sapphira Story Script.**

**Week 4**

Cast: Narrator, Ananias, Sapphira, Peter, Four young men, The rest of the Christians.

**Narrator:** The early Christians shared everything they had so that nobody went without.  
There was once a man named Ananias ( *Step forward Ananias* )  
He had a wife called Sapphira ( *Step forward Sapphira* )  
Together they decided to sell some of their property and give the money to the apostles.

**Ananias:** Hey Sapphira, let's not give all the money to the church, let's keep some of it for ourselves.

**Sapphira:** That's a good idea, nobody will know!

**Narrator:** So Ananias took the money to Peter.

**Peter:** Why did you lie to us and to God? What made you keep part of the money?

**Narrator:** With that Ananias fell down dead! ( *Ananias fall down dead!*) and all the people were terrified. ( *People look terrified!*)  
The four young men came in and carried the body outside and buried him. ( *Four young men act this out*)  
About three hours later Sapphira, not knowing what has happened comes in.....

**Peter:** Tell me was this the full amount you and your husband received for your property?

**Sapphira:** Yes, the full amount.

**Peter:** Why did you and your husband decide to put the Lord to the test? The men who buried your husband are now at the door and they will carry you out too!

**Narrator:** At once she fell down at his feet and died! The four young men came in and saw that she was dead so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ( *Four young men act this out*)  
The whole church and all the others who heard about this were terrified! ( *Everyone look terrified!*)