

Jesus: God's Greatest Servant
(Jesus means 'the Lord saves us')

Theme: To be the best servant of God you need unquestionable faith.

Opening Prayer: *Dear God, Help us to be like the Son of Man, who did not come to be served, but to serve. Amen. (taken from Matthew 20 v 28)*

Games:

King Making: You will need a pack of large coloured sticky labels. Divide the room into three areas with the large 'kingdom' in the middle. The King stands in the middle with the sticky labels and the others stand at either end within a home base section. The king wants to invite people to join him in the kingdom but only those with the king's mark can join him. Everyone runs across the kingdom, from one home base to the other, while the king attempts to stick a label on any runners he sees. Once marked, children can join the king and help to label others crossing the kingdom.

Praise Balloons: This is a simple praising God game. Make a list of words people use when they are excited or happy. What words do people in church use when they shout praise to God? Give everyone a pen and a balloon and encourage them to write one of the words from the list on their balloon. Then, with some music playing, pat your balloons in the air and shout the word you have chosen. There is no winner, just attempt to keep your balloon up the longest and shout your praise word the loudest!

Memory verse: "Father...not my will,...but your will be done." Luke 22 v 42
Have a 'Living Verse'. Using safety pins, pin pieces of the verse on the backs of some volunteers; don't tell them what their piece says. Encourage the rest of the group to call instructions to get the verse in the correct order. Then tell the volunteers what their piece says and ask them all to shout their bit as part of the sequence. You can turn individuals round to hide bits of the verse as the group learns it.

Introduction: Talk about times when you have wanted to do one thing but have bowed to the will of someone else with another idea. (eg. as part of a team, leaders who are married couples (!))

Story: Luke 22 v 39-46. The best portrayal of this scene is in 'The Miracle Maker' DVD. Or you could simply read it direct from the Bible – try to convey Jesus' anguish, yet obvious obedience to God's will.

Application: Jesus was clearly the most scared he had been in his life. What would you have given up to escape from this situation? Jesus had the opportunity but after asking God if he could finish things another way he immediately, obediently stated, (*repeat today's memory verse together*). It's very hard for us to have that same servant faith but it is what we should always work towards. Jesus is the example we follow.

Prayer: Gather your balloons from the earlier game. Take turns to shout your praise-word and then say a thank you prayer.

Resources: Funsheet

Song: 'Jesus is greater than the greatest heroes' – The Best of Spring Harvest Kids Praise & Little Kids Praise, 2000