

6 Rewards for Being Faithful

Bible Verse:

Hebrews 10:36

Extra Bible Verse:

Hebrews 10:39

Provide:

- Clues for the game
- Bible
- Dictionary
- Pieces of candy
- Candy dish
- Honey, butter, bread, milk
- A piece of poster board and a marker

To Do:

- Hide the clues before the first child arrives.
- Arrange with coaches to be in different areas where clues are hidden.
- Assign a coach to discuss persevering through the game clues.
- Write the meeting title on a piece of poster board.

Purpose:

Children can learn that when they are faithful and obedient to God, they can expect the reward of seeing God's promises to them fulfilled. Children can learn that the relationship between action and consequences also works in the area of faith. The person who chooses to disobey God has to live with the consequence of a broken relationship with God—a guilty conscience, feeling distant from God, and fear of God's punishment. But if he obeys God, he can enjoy the positive consequences—he will have a clean conscience, he will be close to God, and he will not have to fear God's punishment.

Bible Material:

Joshua Enters the Promised Land (Numbers 14:1-30; Joshua 3)

Warm-up

Get-involved Activity
(10 minutes)

As the children arrive, play a game in which they follow a series of hidden clues. On a small sign near the door write: "To play today's WARM-UP game, follow these clues. Look first at the Word of God and read the note on the Bible bookmark located at Hebrews 10:36."

On the bookmark, type today's Bible verse. Underline the word *endurance or patience*; then type this clue: "Look at the bookmark in the dictionary, where you find the word *endurance or patience defined*."

On the bookmark in the dictionary, write a clue such as: "Find a candy dish and take a piece of candy from it. Then read the clue you will find under the dish."

The clue on the dish should read, "To find out what Cool Down refreshments you will have today, look on the cabinet in the church kitchen" (or whatever place you can keep today's snack at the correct temperature). Place the COOL DOWN items there.

Next to the snack, write a clue similar to the following: "You can find the title of today's meeting on a poster near the back door of the church." (or another appropriate place).

Beside the poster with the meeting title, print the last clue: “Go sit on the floor in the **WORKOUT** area.”

Workout

Group Study
(30 minutes)

1. Introduce the Bible story. Say: “When you read the Bible you find many people who did not give up. And the Bible also tells you that God wants you to keep on doing what is good.”

2. Use a chant as you tell the Bible story. Guide the children to learn this line: “The Lord will lead us and give us the land.” Use the green flag, scarf, or piece of construction paper you provided to wave when you cue the children to chant. Let the children practice the chant on cue before starting the story.

Ask the children if they remember the Bible verse they found during WARM-UP. Tell them that today’s Bible story is about Joshua, who persevered for 40 years before receiving God’s promise that he would live in the Promised Land. Open your Bible to Numbers 14 and tell the story.

Joshua Enters the Promised Land

Moses had sent 12 spies across the Jordan River to check out the Promised Land. When they returned, they said the land was a wonderful place to live. All 12 spies reported that it was a land “flowing with milk and honey.” That meant that the land was full of really good food to eat.

Ten of the 12 spies then gave bad news: “But the land is full of giants and strong armies, so we can’t move in. They would just kill us.” However, the other 2 spies said (*wave the green flag as a cue for the children to chant*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*”

The 2 spies who said (*wave the green flag*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land*” were Caleb and Joshua. Caleb and Joshua said, “Our God is stronger than any giant or any army.” Their recommendation was (*wave the green flag*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*”

The people let the 10 spies who did not trust God scare them so much that they were ready to stone Joshua and Caleb for wanting to take them into a dangerous place. Moses tried to calm the people and remind them that (*wave the green flag*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*” But the people would not trust God and follow Moses and Joshua into the Promised Land because they were scared.

God told Moses: “Since these people do not trust me, they will not get to enter the Promised Land. Of the adults alive now, only

Provide:

- Green flag, scarf, or sheet of construction paper
- Bible

To Do:

- Clear a place for the children to march and chant when they pretend to cross the dry Jordan River bed.

Joshua and Caleb will live long enough to live in the Promised Land.”

When the people realized how upset God was with them, they wished they had listened to Joshua and Moses when they said (*wave the green flag*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*” For 40 years the people who didn’t trust God wandered in the desert. Joshua persevered in his faith in God throughout all 40 years. Joshua still believed (*wave the green flag*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*”

Because Joshua persevered, after all of the adults died who had refused to go in, he became leader of Israel. As their new leader, Joshua reminded the people again (*wave the green flag*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*”

Joshua prayed and discovered God’s plan for the Israelites to cross the flooded Jordan River. Normally, no one could safely cross the Jordan River when it was flooding. But Joshua knew (*wave the green flag*): “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*” God’s plan was simply to stop the water and let it pile up on the riverbanks while the people walked across the riverbed on dry ground.

(*Let the children walk across the room as though they are walking across the dry riverbed during a flood. As they walk across, wave the green flag and let them chant several times: “The Lord will lead us and give us the land.”*)

Joshua persevered for 40 years, and God did give him the land, just as God had promised.

—Based on Numbers 14:1-30; Joshua 3

Provide:

- Bibles
- Poster board
- Masking tape
- Dictionary from WARM-UP

To Do:

- Write today’s Bible verse on poster board (*Hebrews 10:36*). Attach the poster board to the wall.

Provide:

- Tear sheets
- Markers
- Masking tape

To Do:

- Tape the tear sheets to a wall.

3. Now study and learn today’s Bible verse. Lead the children to find today’s Bible verse in their Bibles. Help as needed. If several translations are used, discuss the fact that the meaning of the verse is the same in every translation, even if the words are different.

As you talk about the verse, the word *endurance or patience* deserves some special attention. Use the dictionary to read its definition.

Point out to the children: “Joshua had to endure or have patience for 40 years in the Bible story.”

4. Pray. Let the children list on a tear sheet names of people they know who have faith. Tell the children, “We are going to thank God for these people and their faith.” As you talk about people of faith, see what names the children list if you ask, “Who do you think is trying to do God’s will?”

During the prayer time, read aloud the names from the list and thank God for these people. Also, pray that God will help these children develop and grow in their faith in Him.

5. Prepare for stretching. Dismiss the children by grades. Encourage the children and coaches to begin work immediately when they get to their tables.

Stretching

Activity Page Time
(20 minutes)

Answers for activity pages are found on the last page of this meeting. You may choose to provide photocopies of this page to the STRETCHING coaches.

The Tournament

Games and Activities
(20 minutes)

Blow the whistle to begin THE TOURNAMENT time. Choose from the following games and activities.

Streets and Alleys

This is a chase game that can only happen in one of two directions, which the leader chooses. Players make four or five lines of equal length. Players hold out their arms and move apart so their fingertips touch. The lines formed when the players have their arms out, facing forward, are called “streets.” When *Alleys* is called, the group turns $\frac{1}{4}$ turn to the right with their arms out, forming “alleys.”

Choose a leader, an *It*, and a person to be chased. *It* chases the other person up and down the streets, trying to catch him. The leader determines the direction of travel by calling out *Streets or Alleys*. When the leader calls out *Streets*, the chase runs side to side. When *Alleys* is called, the lines turn $\frac{1}{4}$ turn to the right with arms out, and the direction of the chase changes.

It cannot go through hands to tag the person. If the person is tagged, she becomes *It*. Choose three others to resume the game.

Debrief this game by saying: “As you were playing the game the chaser had to endure or show patience before the streets or alleys made it possible for him to tag the person he was chasing. Some of you had to show patience as you were the streets and alleys and not getting to run. In your Christian life it is important to be faithful and wait on God.

Stand Up

This game teaches that you must all do your part. Seat the group facing a coach with an open area in front of them. Ask for two volunteers. Try to choose volunteers who are about the same size.

Provide:

- A whistle

Caution: Do not let the group get too rowdy and fall on someone.

Instruct them to sit on the floor back to back and to hook elbows. On signal, tell them to attempt to stand up. Encourage the group to cheer for them. After this is accomplished, add a third person, then a fourth, and so on until you involve the entire group.

You may form smaller groups so all can participate.

You have learned during the past few meetings that as a Christian you have a place in your church. Just as you had to do your part to get your group to be able to stand up, you have to do your part in your church also.

Provide:

- Inflated balloons

The Moving Balloon

Give each child a balloon and direct him to do the following activities with the balloon:

1. How many times can you hit the balloon in the air with your right hand? left hand? right foot? left foot?
2. Can you keep the balloon in the air without using your hands or feet?
3. Can you and a partner pass your balloon to each other without having it hit the ground? Count the number of times you can do this.
4. How many different body parts can you use to keep the balloon in the air?

Be creative about other ways the balloon can be moved and used.

Close the activity by saying: “Many of you had to use patience with this activity, but you were faithful to continue trying. Find a partner and pray for each other as you are faithful to do what God has for you to do this week.”

Cool Down

Refreshments and Conclusion

(10 minutes)

Provide:

- Honey
- Butter
- Bread
- Milk
- Toaster
- Cups
- Napkins
- Plates
- Green flag

To Do:

- Allow the children to make choices about how they eat the honey.

Ask the children why they think milk and honey are the refreshments for today. (*they were mentioned in today’s Bible story.*) Help them understand that the land “flowing with milk and honey” was a description of a fertile, abundant land, which God had promised the people of Israel. Remind the children that this does not mean a land with rivers of milk or honey.

You will probably be serving cows’ milk from a store, but ask how the children of Israel got their milk. (*They probably had more goats to milk than cows.*)

Consider waving the green flag so the children can chant again: “*The Lord will lead us and give us the land.*” Ask the children if they think the coaches had any trouble finding milk and honey today. Ask and discuss: “If you can find milk and honey easily in our nation, has God given us a land flowing with milk and honey to live in?” Dismiss with a prayer of thanks to God.

Meeting 6: Answers to Activity Books

Grades 2–3

Promises for the Faithful

Joshua was *faithful*.

Rewards for Being Faithful to God

clean conscience

closeness to God

no fear of God's punishment

no guilt over doing wrong

faith that grows

Grades 4–6

Being Faithful or Unfaithful

F Reece reads his Bible each morning before he goes to school.

F Joe says a blessing before he eats his lunch at school even though others make fun of him.

U Mike left his neighbor's trash can open and laying on the ground after he knocked it over by accident.

U Kelsey said a curse word at her sister because she had messed up her room.

F Edie listened during the church service even though her friends were whispering to each other.

F Nancy stopped to help an opposing team member who had fallen as she was leaving the field for halftime.

The Journey to the Promised Land

The Israelites were unfaithful to God. Of the adults who left Egypt, only Joshua and Caleb entered the promised land.