

## **Small Group Activity: What are you following?**

### **Intro**

This activity will teach kids that they always follow/worship something and that they should follow/worship God.

### **Materials**

Cards with the following images on them:

- video game controller
- TV
- friends
- MP3 player
- sports equipment
- computer
- cross and Bible

Bible

### **Activity**

The cards are placed face-up in front of the kids. The kids are then asked to think back over the past week (or at least the past few days). As each card is pointed out, the kids are asked to raise their hand if they spent time with each item. If they are able, the kids are also asked approximately how much time they spent with each item. Perhaps you as a leader can also participate in this part of the lesson. That way, the kids will learn that even as adults we struggle with making God a priority.

### **Application**

Ask the kids: "Who remembers our Bible verse from today? If not, let me help you out." Open your Bible to Psalm 86:12. Read the verse to them. "I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your Name forever."

Say: This verse tells us that we are to love God with ALL our heart. And, in order to love God with all our heart, we need to spend time with God. That means that we go to church regularly, read the Bible often, and pray every day. Video games, sports, and TV shouldn't take the place of time with God. Now, those other things aren't bad. They only become a problem when they take our time away from God. If they do take away from God, then they become something that we worship. Remember, God is the only One who deserves our worship.

Offer suggestions to the kids how they can make God a priority: setting aside time each day to read the Bible, attend church often, etc.

### **Summary**

God wants us to worship Him and only Him. We all have many things in our lives, and these things aren't bad (some are even good) unless they take time away from God. God comes first!

## **Small Group Activity: Let's Worship**

### **Intro**

The kids will learn that they can learn to worship God on their own.

### **Materials**

None

### **Activity**

God is many things. Go around in a circle and have each kid think of a word that describes God (wonderful, provider, caring, loving, strong, amazing, etc.). The SGL will then say a simple prayer. After they are done, each kid (still in an attitude of prayer) will tell God the word they came up with. After all have gone, the SGL will then finish the prayer time.

### **Application**

Tell the kids that they don't have to use big fancy words to talk to God. They don't even have to try to ask God for something. Just telling God how wonderful He is can be a great way to worship Him...and begin to learn how to pray. Encourage the kids to try this on their own throughout the upcoming week.

### **Summary**

Sometimes kids don't think they can worship or pray to God. They can! Thinking of ways to describe God can be a powerful form of worship.

# **Small Group Activity: Stay Focused!**

## **Intro**

This activity will teach the kids to stay focused and try to avoid the temptation to be distracted and not finish a task.

## **Materials**

Bible

Paper

Pencils or crayons

## **Activity**

Introduce the activity: Today we learned that as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowds worshipped Him. They very easily could have been distracted with all around them: watching other people, preparing for the Passover, watching out for their families, visiting friends, etc.

Each kid, one at a time, will be given a task to complete. Examples are: reciting the alphabet (backwards for older kids), reading a passage of Scripture, drawing a picture, etc. The other kids in the group will try to distract them from completing their task. They could, wave their hands in front of his/her face, repeatedly ask questions, sing, talk constantly, offering them candy, etc., anything but touching him/her.

Once the child either completes the task or becomes distracted, the next child takes a turn.

## **Application**

We have lots of neat things in the world to enjoy. We can play sports, take dance lessons, listen to music, or paint. These things aren't bad. If they distract us from God, they can be a problem. Encourage each child to set aside time each day to spend time with God by praying, reading the Bible, or having a family Bible study. Remind the kids that when we do spend time with God, we need to find a place without distractions. That may mean we need to turn off the TV, put away sports equipment, or set aside the MP3 player. It may mean that we need to find a place by ourselves.

## **Summary**

God deserves our praise, our worship, and our focus. When we spend time with God, we need to make sure other things aren't going to cause us to lose focus on Him.