



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Backward Balloon Ball

[10 min]

Supplies

- inflated balloons (1 for every 6 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)

Keep the Ball in the Air

Say: **In our Bible story, we learned about a surprising thing God did to provide food for the Israelites: God made food fall from the sky. Talk about crazy weather! God had promised to take care of the Israelites, and he did because God is loyal. God didn't turn his back on the Israelites.**

Let's play a game in which you'll see the difference between turning your back on others and being loyal.

- Form teams of six or fewer.
- Give each team a balloon.
- Have each team sit in a circle facing out so kids' backs are to each other.
- Challenge teams to keep their balloons in the air by bump-passing them to each other *across* their circles—not simply passing them to a person sitting next to them.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play. Allow a few minutes for the first round so kids can see the difficulty of working as a team with their backs turned to each other.
- Have kids play a second round in which they turn to sit facing each other in their circles.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Describe the difference between the first and second rounds.**

Say: **In our lives, sometimes we feel like others have turned their backs on us. When we've been left out, when someone forgets something that's important to us, or when someone breaks a promise, it can feel that way.**

Ask: • **When has someone not been loyal to you?** Share a kid-friendly example from your own life, such as a time you found out someone you trusted said some unkind things about you behind your back. Encourage kids not to name names.

• **When have you not been loyal to a friend or family member?** Share an example of your own, such as not paying a friend back when you said you would.

Say: **It's never fun when friends turn their backs on us. But God is always turned toward us, never turning his back on us, because God is loyal. We can reflect his heart by staying true to our friends.**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

The Birthday

[10 min]

Supplies

- “The Birthday” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “The Birthday”

Say: **Today we’re learning that God is loyal, so we’re loyal.**

Ask: • **What are things loyal friends would do?**

- **What would a loyal friend do on your birthday?**

Say: **Let’s watch a video about a birthday boy and his friends.**

Watch “The Birthday.”

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone let you down, like Matt thought his friends had.** Share your own example first.

- **Tell about a time your friends surprised you with something great.**

Share your own example first.

Say: **In our Bible story, the Israelites doubted God’s loyalty. He promised to give them enough manna and quail every day, but they collected extra just in case he wasn’t loyal. In our video, Matt doubted his friends’ loyalty, too. But just as God came through for the Israelites, his friends came through in a big way!**



DEEPER BIBLE

Do I Have to Be Loyal Even if Someone Isn't Loyal to Me?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- foam cups (1 per child)
- wooden skewers (5 per child)
- pompoms

Lose Support

- Give each child a cup and five skewers.
- Have kids poke the skewers through the cups at various angles so the skewers cross each other to make a kind of hard net.



- Have kids put a few pompoms in their cups. The skewers should hold up the pompoms.
- Tell kids to imagine the pompoms are them and the skewers are their friends.
- Have kids name things friends do that support them or hold them up.
- Ask kids to name things friends might do that don't show loyalty.
- Each time someone names something that doesn't show loyalty, each child will remove a skewer from his or her cup.

Say: **The Oxford Dictionary defines *loyal* as “giving or showing firm and constant support to a person.” Our pompoms lost their support! Look how sad it is to see them let down!**

Ask: • **How does it feel when a friend lets you down?**

Say: **Some people are “fair-weather friends.” That means they're nice to you and treat you well when everything is happy, but as soon as**

something goes wrong, they'll stop being your friend. That's not loyalty. Think of a friend you've had who was a fair-weather friend. Don't say the person's name out loud.

Ask: • **How did that person make you feel?**

Say: **Today we're learning that God is loyal. And we can reflect his heart when we're loyal friends. But what if our friends aren't loyal to us? Do we have to be loyal even when people aren't loyal to us? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **Let's see what the Bible says about God's loyalty. Another word for *loyal* is *faithful*.**

Read 2 Timothy 2:13.

Ask: • **Why can't God be unfaithful to us?**

• **What does this show about God's heart?**

• **How has God been loyal to you?** If kids need help, have them consider things he has provided for them over and over.

Say: **God is loyal, even though we aren't always loyal to him. We don't obey him all the time. Sometimes we don't trust him. Sometimes we forget to spend time with him. Sometimes we completely ignore him. The Israelites complained and even forgot to turn to him for help. But even when we're not loyal, God can't be disloyal to us. He's the model for our relationships. When we're loyal to other people—even if they haven't been loyal to us—we reflect his heart.**

Let's see what the Bible says about how we can reflect God's loyalty.

Read Proverbs 3:3.

Ask: • **What would it mean to have loyalty and kindness "deep within your heart"?**

Say: **As you listen to the next verse, consider how well it describes you.** Read Proverbs 17:17.

Ask: • **How well does this verse describe you as a friend? as a sibling?**

Say: **The Bible tells us to be loyal friends. Loyalty might look different depending on how our friends treat us. For example, if a friend gets a bad grade on a test, has an embarrassing moment, or becomes unpopular, we can loyally continue to be that person's friend. Those aren't good reasons to stop being someone's friend.**

But what if a friend is actually hurting us or constantly trying to get us to do bad things?

Ask: • **What would loyalty look like in that situation?**

Say: **If people are mean to us all the time or try to get us to disobey God, loyalty might not mean continuing to spend time with them. But it *could* mean that we keep praying for them, that we're not mean in response to them, and that we don't talk badly about them. God is loyal, and we can be loyal, too. Let's think of how we can do that.**

Have kids put the skewers back into their cups as they name ways they can show loyalty to others.

Pray: **God, help us reflect your loyal heart by supporting our friends and families. In Jesus' name, amen.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Stick With Me

[5 min]

Supplies

- duct tape
- permanent markers

Stick Tape Together

- Give each child two strips of duct tape, roughly 6 inches in length.
- Have kids stick the pieces of tape together, with the sticky sides against each other.
- On one side of the resulting strip, kids will write “God.”
- On the other side, kids will write their own names.

Say: **Loyalty means sticking with someone. It’s kind of like these two pieces of duct tape. It would be *really* hard to pull them apart! God is loyal, and he’ll always stick with us. Nothing can pull us apart! Hold your tape as I read a couple of Bible verses about that.**

Read Romans 8:38-39.

Have kids hold their tape with the word *God* facing up and silently thank God for his loyalty.

Have kids hold their tape with their names facing up and ask God to help them be loyal.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that you’re loyal. Thank you that you’ll *always* stick with us and that nothing can pull you away from us. Help us show your loyal heart in the way we treat others. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week. Also let them know they can use their duct-tape strips as bookmarks to remind them of God’s loyalty.

**ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT**
Manna Madness**[10 min]****Supplies**

- “God Sends Manna and Quail” Activity Page
- pencils
- crayons
- yellow dot stickers

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **God is loyal.** He stuck with the Israelites and gave them food to eat when they were hungry. And God didn't just provide food one time. He was loyal to keep providing food every day so they could take just enough for that day.

But some people tried to collect extra! Let's see how much manna you can collect in this maze.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will find the way through the maze that passes the most manna and quail. Kids can count how many pieces they got and compare with others.

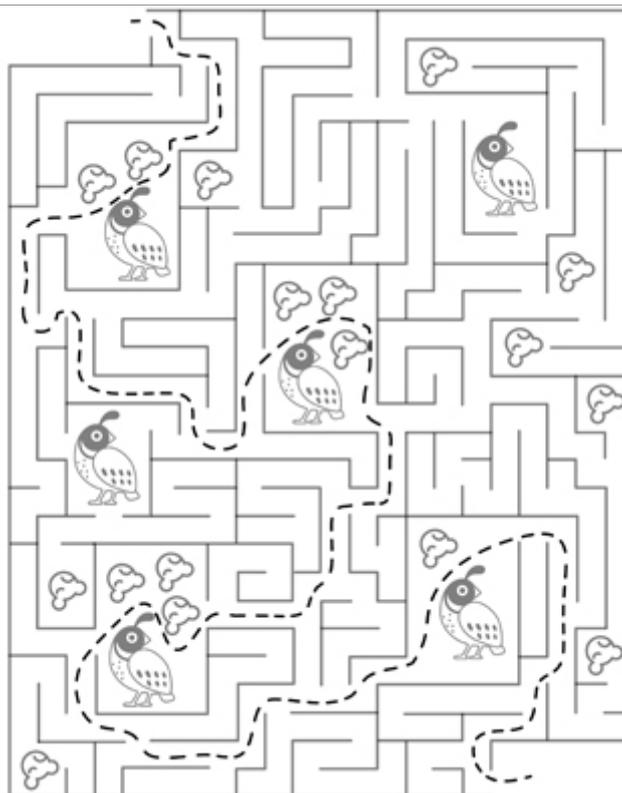
Ask: • **How did you try to make sure you got the most manna and quail in the maze?**

• **If you were an Israelite, do you think you'd try collecting extra food just in case? Why or why not?**

• **What's one way you can trust God to be loyal to you?**

Say: **God is loyal.** He didn't want people collecting extra food; he wanted them to trust him to keep providing. And we can trust God's loyalty, too!

ANSWER KEY:



Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **God sent food called manna! Let's add manna to our picture to show how God is loyal. He stuck with the Israelites and gave them food every day.**

Allow time for kids to color the picture and add dot stickers to the ground as manna.