



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Loyal Friend

[10 min]

Supplies

- inflated balloons (1 for every 8 kids)

Tips

- To make the balloons less likely to pop, don't overfill them. Be sure to prepare a few extra, just in case!
- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Carry the Balloon Around the Circle

Say: **God is loyal to his friends, no matter what. When you're loyal to someone, you stick with that person, even when it's hard. Let's play a game where you'll stick with a friend as you move a balloon around a circle.**

Form groups of about eight, and have each group sit on the floor in a circle. In each group, have an adult or teen helper choose two kids who are sitting beside each other to start. Together, those kids will carry a balloon around the outside of their circle in the way specified below. Once they've gone around the circle, the partners will give the balloon to the next two kids. Continue until all the kids have gone around the circle with the balloon and a partner. Have all the kids cheer and encourage friends as they wait their turn.

Have kids play these three rounds:

- Round 1: Have partners hold the balloon with their hands as they walk around the circle. Both partners must have both hands on the balloon at all times.
- Round 2: Have partners stand back to back with the balloon between them. Partners will walk around the circle with the balloon between them.
- Round 3: Have partners face forward, link arms, and kick the balloon around the circle. Kids must stay linked as they move to kick and chase the balloon.

Talk About It

Say: **Great job! Those challenges weren't easy. But we had a loyal friend by our side to help us. Sometimes sticking with someone can be hard. It's easy to just carry or kick a balloon by ourselves. But God is loyal. Even when it's hard, he'll always be with us. And when we're God's friend, he'll help us stick with others, too.**



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
- Styrofoam 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

Sticky Friend

[5 min]

Supplies

- heart stickers (1 per child)
- large sheet of paper

Easy Prep

- Draw or cut out a person shape that all the kids' stickers will fit inside when they place them during the activity.

Receive a Sticker

Say: **We heard today how God was a loyal friend to the Israelites, and we found out that God is loyal to us, too. We found out God loves us so much and always sticks with us.** Give each child a heart sticker.

Say: **God is loyal because he's always good to us. We can always be sure he's with us. And we can always know he'll give us exactly what we need, like he did for the Israelites in our Bible story today.**

Stick It and Pray

Say: **Let's stick our heart stickers on this person to remind us that God always sticks with us because God is loyal.**

Give each child a turn to place his or her sticker on the person shape. Encourage kids to say "God is loyal" as they place the stickers.

Close in prayer, thanking God for being a loyal friend and asking him to help us be loyal friends, too.

Say: **We're all friends here at church—that's why we're so glad you came to church this week, and we hope you'll come back next week.**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Manna Madness

[10 min]

Supplies

- “God Sends Manna and Quail” Coloring Page
- crayons
- pencils
- 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.

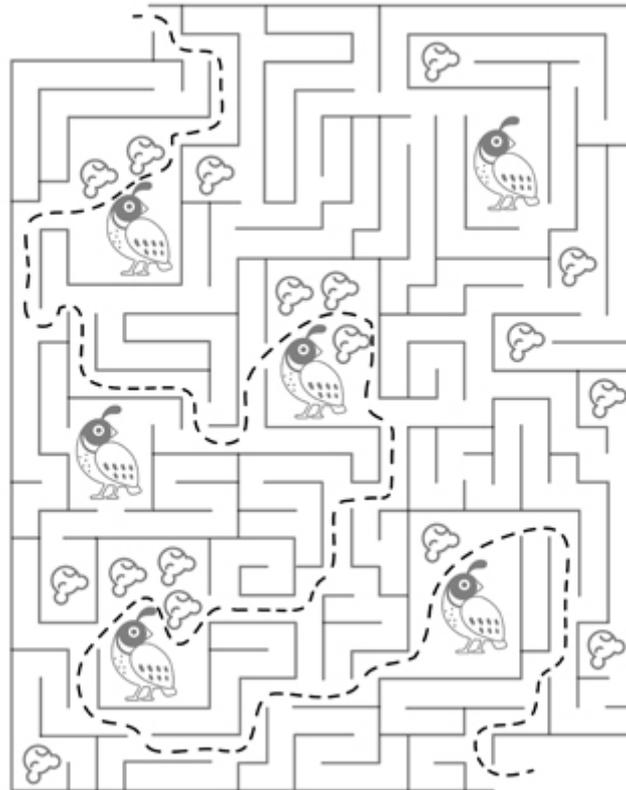
Ask: • **How did you try to make sure you got the most manna and quail in the maze?**

• **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. .