

Musical balloons!

Lesson Idea:

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel."

This fun and simple game can be used to teach children about obeying God, being still before God, and even self-control. Telling the story of Ananias before playing always works well.

Have a person dressed up as Ananias.

Every time you talk about him going – they will walk to other side of the room. When you talk about him praying, sitting, or reading the word, they will come back and sit on the chair.

The faster you go and the more changes you make the more Ananias is sitting, going, thinking he's going but still sitting – which the children just love.

I'm going to tell you about a man from the Bible called Ananias.
Meet Ananias. (Hello)

(Sit) Ananias loved God. Sometimes he would spend time reading the Bible so he could find out more about God.

(Walk) And other times Ananias would go and tell others about what the Bible said.

(Sit) Ananias often spent time sitting praying to God.

(Walk) But other times he would go to people's houses and pray for them.

(Sit) Ananias knew how important it was to spend time with God so he would sometimes just be still and listen to God.

(Walk) But he also followed and obeyed the things Jesus told him to do.

(Sit) Ananias knew it pleased God to sometimes be still and listen to God.

(Walk) And other times to rise up and do what God asked him to do.

(Sit) One day when Ananias was being still and listening to what God said, Jesus spoke to him in a vision. Ananias answered him by saying "Here I am Lord"

Jesus told Ananias to go to a man named Saul and to pray for him and tell him about Jesus.

(Leader keeps sitting)

Jesus told Ananias to go to the man Saul....**(Leader keeps sitting)**

Uhm JESUS TOLD ANANIAS TO GO to the man Saul.

Uh? Ananias why are you still sitting?

Ananias says, "I have heard about that man Saul. He has been killing anyone that loves Jesus and if I go there he is going to arrest me and maybe even have me killed!"

And that's exactly what Ananias said to Jesus and Jesus answered him saying, Go. I have chosen Saul for important work. I want Saul to tell people, rulers and lots of different nations about me.

And so Ananias went. **(Walk)** And just like Jesus said, Saul didn't arrest Ananias or have him killed. Instead Saul chose to love and follow Jesus and do the important work that Jesus had chosen for him to do. In fact, Saul is the very same man, Paul, that taught us so much about Jesus and who started so many churches all over the world.

We can learn a lot from Ananias.

We can learn that sometimes it is good for us to be still **(Sit)** and spend time with Jesus, praying to Him, listening to Him and waiting for us hear what to do next.

And other times we need to GO **(Walk)** and do what Jesus has asked us to do. If we do these things, then we will be setting a good example in life.

Items needed:

- Balloons (1 per child and extras in case some pop)
- Music
- Black dustbin bags

Game instructions:

1. In this game there is time when we have to walk around and time when we have to be still.
2. For the first few rounds play a usual game of musical bumps, when the music plays they walk and when it stops they have to quickly sit still on the floor.

3. Then give each child a balloon which they have to keep up in the air when the music plays, but when the music stops vary what they have to do:
 - Catch it and sit down with it.
 - Let their balloon go and find another balloon before they sit down.
 - Immediately sit down without being distracted by their balloon (We need to not get distracted when God gives us an instruction)

4. A good clean up method is to pretend that your dustbin bags are very hungry. Holding each side of the opening, open and close it pretending that it is munching. Sometimes catching their hands as the balloons goes in makes it all the more exciting.