

J E S U S W O N S O W E C A N ' T L O S E

WE NEED JESUS

HEART OF CHAMPIONS

EVENT PLAN

Introducing the theme

Have a few leaders or volunteers do some fun races to try and earn their way onto God's team, each time being unsuccessful because it is not earned.

(Leader 1) Have you ever been part of a team? A soccer team or netball team or even when playing any game which had teams?

Well, God wants you to be part of His team. His team is the best because His team is a family, or we call it the church. There is only one way to be on God's team. You need to ...

(Leader 2 interrupts) Okay, wait. (Calls up volunteers) I know what these guys need to get on God's team ... you need to be fast. Run and get a cup of water, run back as fast as you can and pour it over your head. Are you ready, get set... go!

(After the race ask Leader 1) Is that what you need to be on God's team?

(Leader 1) No, definitely not. As I was saying there is only one way to be on God's team. You need to ...

(Leader 2) You need to have great aim! Here are three toilet rolls. Let's see if you can hit Leader 1 on the head. Is that what you need to get on God's team?

*(Leader 1) No. That's **not** what you need. I am trying to tell you that you need ...*

(Leader 2) You need collect things! Race and see who can collect a hat, shoe and something blue the first. Is that what you need to get on God's team?

(Leader 1) Not even close. Please can I just tell you what you need.

(Leader 2) Okay go on. What do we need to get onto God's team?

(Leader 1) We need Jesus!

(Leader 2) We need Jesus?

(Leader 1) Yes, when we believe that Jesus is God's Son, who died for our sins and came alive again, we become children of God. We are on His team!

(Leader 2) Hey, I believe Jesus is God's Son. I believe He died for my sins. And I believe Jesus is alive in Heaven. I love Jesus! Am I on God's team?

(Leader 1) Yes! Believing in Jesus is the only way to be on God's team.

(Leader 2) We all need Jesus! Let's practice saying that together. When I say "Champions, what do we need?" you all reply "We need Jesus!"

A silly skit to show that there is only one way to be part of God's team... by believing in Jesus!

Adapt the activities to suit your venue and children.

See another version of this skit at <https://youtu.be/Y-v8xWFgOuE?si=dfYfSpllgbze p50y>

How to be a part of God's team - Quick Truth

Message: A heart that needs Jesus

Watch this in action at https://youtu.be/eEmT4U7VyIY?si=etJFtuKKnPjK-_tO
(I just need You - Quick Truth)

The Bible is very clear that you and I need God and we need Jesus. Today, I want to tell a story from the Bible about King Saul, but I'd like your help.

Practice with the children that each time you ask: "What did he have in his heart?" they reply: **"I have a heart that just needs You"**. They can add actions such as beating their chest and pointing upwards.

(Take the crown out of the Bible Box and put it on). King Saul was chosen by God, and he was a good king. Why? What did he have in his heart? **"I have a heart that just needs You"**

But soon Saul's heart changed, and he turned away from God. So, God chose another king. (Take the crown off). But God didn't just choose anyone, He chose David. Why? What did he have in his heart? **"I have a heart that just needs You"**

David had beaten the giant Goliath, and he fought and won many battles. Why? What did he have in his heart? **"I have a heart that just needs You"**

The people of Israel started singing songs of how amazing David was and that he was much greater than King Saul. This made King Saul angry, and he tried to kill David.

He took his spear (Take the spear out of the box) and he threw it at David (Throw the spear). Thankfully he missed. Then King Saul plotted to kill David, but it didn't work. A second time he plotted to kill David, but that also didn't work. Three times Saul tried to kill David.

David had an army of 400 men and so he could have fought against King Saul but he didn't. Why? What did he have in his heart? **"I have a heart that just needs You"**

There were times when David was so close to the king that he could have killed him. Instead, David chose to cut a piece of Saul's cloak (Take out the strip of material) and another time he only took Saul's jug and sword (Take out the water jug and sword) to show he chose not to harm him. Why? What did he have in his heart? **"I have a heart that just needs You"**

David's life and the choices he made showed that he loved God and that he relied on God to guide his actions.

We can learn some important lessons from David's life, especially what it looks like to have a heart that needs and relies on God and Jesus.

An interactive Bible story about David to encourage us to have hearts that need Jesus.

What's needed:

A Bible Box (A box decorated to look like a Bible which you will take the items out of)

Crown

Spear

Strip of material

Jug

Sword



Watch this message in action at https://youtu.be/eEmT4U7VyIY?si=etJFtuKKnPjK-_tO

I just need You - Quick Truth

Message continued: A heart that needs Jesus

David had the opportunity to take revenge, to kill King Saul. We may want to take revenge and hurt people because they have hurt us. But what did David have in his heart? ***"I have a heart that just needs You"***. I want that heart too.

There were many times when David's friends told him to do bad things. They told him to hurt King Saul and to kill him. Our friends may tell us to do bad things too. But what did David have in his heart? ***"I have a heart that just needs You"***. And so David obeyed God and we should obey God too.

Many years later King Saul died in battle. We might expect David to celebrate but instead he cried and wrote a poem about how great King Saul was. Remember, what did David have in his heart? ***"I have a heart that just needs You"***. David had love and forgiveness and so should we.

David also made many mistakes but what did David have in his heart? ***"I have a heart that just needs You"***. We won't always get things right, but thankfully God loves us and forgives us and we need to love and forgive others too.

What do you think God wants you to have in your heart? ***"I have a heart that just needs You"***

What's needed:
A bow and arrow
A target

Object Lesson: Get on Target

Main Idea: The closer our relationship with Jesus, the more chance we have of getting on target.

I have a bow and arrow. (*Touch the tip of the arrow*) Wow, this arrow is really sharp. I think I'll just aim and shoot this arrow anywhere. Will that be okay? (*Safely wave it to where they are sitting*)

I am just kidding. I just wanted to help you understand that we need a target to aim at. Our greatest aim should be to live a life that loves and pleases Jesus.

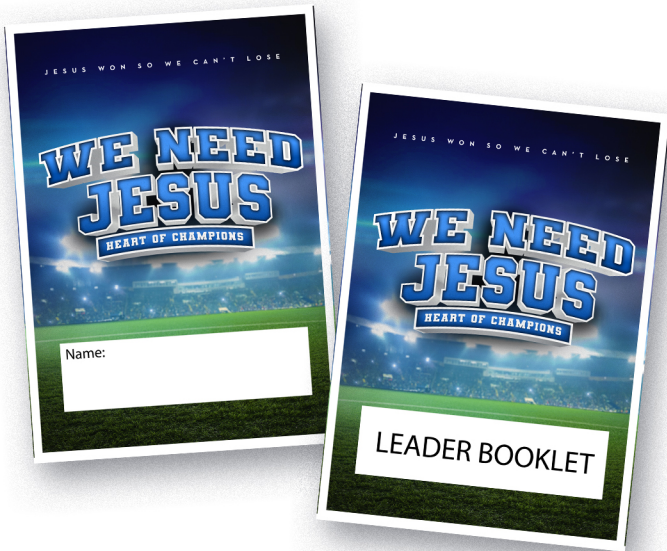
Do you see the target way over there? (*Point to the target far away*). Hmm, what do I need to do to have a 100% chance of hitting it? Ah, I need to move closer. It is the same with making sure I live a life like Jesus wants me to.

(*Step closer and closer as you mention ways to draw closer to Jesus*) Before we can even think of doing all the things Jesus asks us to do we have to know who He is and believe in Him. Jesus wants us to follow Him. He wants us to accept Him as our Saviour, our King. He wants us to spend time with Him. He wants us to be His child who speaks to Him and sings praises to Him. He wants us to love Him. Having a relationship with Jesus and knowing more and more about Him helps bring us closer to the target of living a life for Him. And when we are this close do you think we have a better chance of hitting the target? (*Hit the bullseye*) Yes.

Devotional Booklet: Heart of a Champion

Download the booklets to work through with the children as they use their Bibles.

To have a heart of a champion we need Jesus. Give Jesus all of your heart and allow Him to change it and grow it. His Word teaches us how to guard our hearts and encourages us to show others our hearts so that they will love and follow Jesus too.



There are two object lessons included in this booklet. Watch them in action at

<https://youtu.be/BGgmgwlyQM8?si=Yiu-9ZWk0v-VBCJJ>

(Guard your heart - Quick Truth)

<https://youtu.be/6xa5ETIqViQ?si=cOxDwCPovzFOJ1WB>

(Give all your heart - Quick Truth)

Game: River Bank

The Bible teaches that the greatest commandment we need to follow is to love God and the second is to love others. *Read Matthew 22:36-40 to the children. Show them the posters and let them repeat it a few times.*

God makes it easy to love Him as He is so great and powerful. He is also so loving and kind and just look at how amazing He has made everything. He even made you and me! (*Get them to feel their skin*). God even gave us His son, Jesus. Do you think it is good to love and follow God? Yes! Jesus loved God by praying and by doing what God asked Him to do. Jesus is the perfect example on how to make God the most important person in your life.

God also wants us to love others. Jesus forgave people, He taught them about God and He was so generous that He even gave His life for others. We can even learn how to love others by the way Jesus loves us.

What's needed

Two ropes to make the banks of the river
Posters (Love, God, Love Others, Matthew 22:36-40)

Lay the ropes down parallel to each other to form the banks of the river. Children line up with their toes along the bank.

When the leader calls out "Love God" they will jump into the middle of the river.

When the leader calls out "Love others" they will jump out of the river.

When the leader calls out "Love like Jesus" they will jump with one foot in and one foot out of the river.



Game: Get rid of your sin

Main Idea: Only Jesus takes away our sins.

Bible Verse: 1 John 1: 9 (NLT) But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Aim of the Game: Each child will carry a heavy "sin bag" and will try to get rid of it at each station game but will not be able to.

God tells us to love Him and to love others. Sin is acting in a way that goes against God and His ways. We may try but we cannot love God perfectly like He deserves.

The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned (*Romans 3:23*) and that punishment for sin is separation from God and eternal life without God (*Romans 6:23*). We can see that sin is a really big problem.

Pretend this heavy backpack is sin. As long as we have this "sin" we cannot be with God. Let's play some games to see if you can get rid of your "sin". Remember, you cannot just put your sin down. You have to find someone who will take it from you.

Station 1: Your own strength

Long Jump: Lay the ropes on the floor, one is the start and the other is the finish line. Children take turns to jump from the start over the finish line.

Begin with it easy enough for them to jump across and explain that we can do some things well for God.

Then set it as impossible to jump over, placing the "God" sign at the finish line. Explain that we can never meet God's glorious standard in our own strength.

Tug of war: Tie one end of the tug of war rope to a tree or pole that cannot be moved. Children all stand on the untied side of the rope and use all their strength to try and win the game, which is impossible. Conclude that we cannot get rid of our sin through our own strength.

Station 2: Following the rules

Ten Commandment Tower: Hang the Ten Commandments poster on one side of the venue and place the boxes on the other side. Children follow the rules as they run to look at the poster and come back and build a Ten Commandment Tower in the correct order.

 Put God first	1	 Harm no one	6
 Worship only Him	2	 Don't cheat	7
 Don't say bad words	3	 If it's not yours don't take it	8
 Obey your parents	4	 Tell the truth	9
 Work 6, Rest 1	5	 Don't be jealous	10

Conclude that it is important to follow rules, especially God's laws, but they do not take away our sin.

Make each child a "sin bag" by simply filling a drawstring bag with a packet of sand.

See this in action
https://youtu.be/039tDGqpfwk?si=z_pBk9eoZfnsSenj

Sin Bags - (Games)

- Leader Resources

What's needed:

Two ropes
 Sign saying "God"
 Tug of war rope



What's needed:

Boxes (Labelled with the Ten Commandments)
 Boxes (Numbered)
 Poster

Game continued: Get rid of your sin

Station 3: Through suffering

Back to back squats: Children stand back to back with a partner. They bend their knees to a haunch position and see how long they can stand in that position for.

Arms out: Children hold their sin bag out in front of them without bending their arms for as long as they can.

Ice bucket challenge: Fill a bucket with ice and water. Children see how long they can keep their hands in the freezing water for. Keep adding in challenges such as burpees, planking or push-ups as needed.

Station 4: Good works

Tape out a rectangular play area with a dividing line in the middle. Split the children into two groups. Each group will have a bucket of balls and be allocated a side of the play area. They will do good works by being generous and giving the other team their balls.

Round 1: Children must take a ball from their bucket and run and place it in the other team's bucket. The other team will be doing the same thing at the same time. They may only carry one ball at a time.

Round 2: Children stay in their play area and must throw the balls one at a time into the other team's play area. They keep throwing until the leader ends play.

Conclude that God wants us to do good things for others. The Bible even says that God has good works planned for us personally to do (Ephesians 2:10) Yet doing these good things are not the way we get rid of our sin.

Final Summary: The cross

No matter how hard we try we cannot get rid of our sin on our own. That is because WE NEED JESUS! Jesus offers us the free gift of forgiveness. Come and lay your sin at the cross. (Children take off their sin bags and place it at the cross)

When Jesus died on the cross, He took all of our sin, put it on Himself and took the punishment. We know how heavy our sin bag was, imagine carrying the whole world's sin. It must have been very hard for Jesus but He did it because He loves us and He did it because He knew it is the only way we can have eternal life with God.

Three days later Jesus came alive and He is still alive right now in Heaven preparing a place for us. And what do we have to do to earn forgiveness? Nothing! We simply accept this free gift of forgiveness that Jesus offers us.

Let the children spend time thinking about what Jesus has done for them and thanking Him for the free gift of forgiveness.

We may feel it is good for us to suffer for our sins but this does not take them away.

What's needed:
Bucket of ice in water

What's needed
Tape to mark out play area
Buckets of balls

What's needed:
A cross with a sign "Lay your sin at the cross"