

***UNIT GOAL:***  
**CHILDREN**  
**UNDERSTAND**  
**LOYALTY AND**  
**THE VALUE OF**  
**LOYAL**

# Loyalty

***TRUTH:***  
**LOYALTY IS**  
**BEING THERE IN**  
**THE GOOD TIMES**  
**AND THE BAD**

***SLOGAN:***  
**A LOYAL PERSON**  
**IS HARD TO FIND**

***BIBLE VERSE:***

**LOTS OF PEOPLE CLAIM TO BE LOYAL**  
**AND LOVING, BUT WHERE ON EARTH**  
**CAN YOU FIND ONE?**  
**(THE MESSAGE)**

**PROVERBS 20:6**



# LESSON 1: LOYALTY

## BE LOYAL TO YOUR FRIENDS

### Lesson Objective

Learn what it means to be loyal to friends.

### Scripture References

#### 1 Samuel 20 (TLB-selected verses)

##### Proverbs 3:3-4

<sup>3</sup>Let love and faithfulness (loyalty) never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

##### Matthew 26:33-35, 47-56, 69-75

<sup>33</sup>Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

<sup>34</sup>"Truly I tell you (I tell you the truth)," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

<sup>35</sup>But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

<sup>55</sup> In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me.

<sup>56</sup> But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

<sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

<sup>71</sup> Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

<sup>72</sup> He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

<sup>73</sup> After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

<sup>74</sup> Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

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Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

### **Proverbs 17:17**

<sup>17</sup>A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

### **Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)**

<sup>24</sup>There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

### **Proverbs 27:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup>Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

### **John 15:13 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup>There is no greater love (act of loyalty) than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

### **Proverbs 20:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup>Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?

### **Psalms 12:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Help, Lord, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.

<sup>2</sup> Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts

## **Opening Activity**

Color Palette

Bring paint sample cards with different shades of blue. Cut off the names and write them on the back for reference. Write the color names on the board and have the kids try to match the color to the name. Older kids might like to come up with creative color names (you can bring other colors so they can see examples).

## **Large Group**

- There are so many colors of blue! Which one was your favorite blue? Which name was your favorite?
- If you were to make a color called “True Blue”, what would it look like?
- People use the phrase “True Blue” to describe a friend who is very loyal. How would you describe a very loyal, “True Blue” friend?
- The Bible tells us about a loyal, True Blue friend. His name was Jonathan. Let’s read about him in 1 Samuel 20. (Younger kids might like to see this story in flannel graph-ask the resource center for materials)

David was living in Ramah. King Saul wanted to get rid of David so when he found out where David was, he sent his soldiers to capture him. David escaped and went to find his friend Jonathan (King Saul’s son).

“What have I done?” he exclaimed. “Why is your father working so hard to kill me?”

“That’s not true!” Jonathan protested. “I’m sure he’s not planning any such thing, for he always tells me everything he’s going to do, even little things. He wouldn’t hide something like this from me. It

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just isn't so."

"Of course you don't know about it!" David fumed. "Your father knows perfectly well we are friends so I'm sure he doesn't want to hurt you by telling you this, but the truth is that I am only a step away from death! I swear!"

"Tell me what I can do," Jonathan begged.

David replied, "Tomorrow is the first day of New Moon festival. I've always celebrated all three days with your father but I have an idea. Instead of going, I'm going to hide in the nearby field. When your father asks where I am, tell him that I asked permission to go home to Bethlehem for an annual family reunion. If he says, 'Fine!' then I'll know everything is okay. But if he is angry, then I'll know that he is planning to kill me. You have sworn to be my brother so I ask you to do this for me. Just don't betray me. I would rather you kill me yourself if you don't believe me!"

"I could never do that!" Jonathan exclaimed. "Trust me, if I thought my father was planning to kill you I would tell you immediately."

Then David asked, "So how will I know whether or not your father is angry?"

"I'll figure it out, I promise," Jonathan replied. "Come with me, I have an idea." As they walked to the field Jonathan explained his plan. "I'm sure people will notice you are missing from the festival but they won't really be asking until the second day. So when I find out the truth I'll pretend that I want to do some target shooting. I want you to hide by that stone pile over there so no one can see you. Then I'll shoot three arrows like I am trying to hit the stones. I'll send my servant to bring the arrows back. If you hear me say, 'They're on this side,' then you will know that all is well and that there is no trouble. But if I tell him, 'Go farther—the arrows are still ahead of you,' then it will mean that you must leave immediately because your life is in danger as you have said."

So David hid himself in the field.

When the new moon celebration began, the king sat down to eat at his usual place against the wall. Jonathan sat opposite him but David's place was empty. Saul didn't say anything about it that day, but when his place was still empty the next day, Saul asked Jonathan, "Why hasn't David been here for dinner either yesterday or today?"

Jonathan replied, "David asked me if he could go to Bethlehem for a family reunion. His family wanted him there so I told him to go ahead."

Saul boiled with rage. "You fool!" he yelled at him. "Go get him so I can kill him!"

"But what has he done?" Jonathan demanded. "Why should he be put to death?"

Furiously King Saul responded, "Don't you know that as long as David is alive, you'll never be king? Are you protecting him because you want him to be king? How can you do this to your family?"

Saul was so mad that he hurled his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him. Jonathan realized that David was right. His father really meant it. He wanted to kill David! Jonathan left. He was so angry he couldn't eat. He couldn't believe the way his father was behaving.

The next morning, as agreed, Jonathan went out to the field. He brought a young boy to gather his arrows.

"Start running," he told the boy, "so that you can find the arrows as I shoot them." So the boy ran and Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him. When the boy had almost reached the arrow, Jonathan shouted, "The arrow is still ahead of you. Hurry, hurry, don't wait." So the boy quickly gathered up the arrows and ran back to Jonathan. He, of course, didn't understand what Jonathan meant; only Jonathan and David knew. Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to the boy and told him to take them back to the city.

As soon as he was gone, David came out from where he had been hiding. Jonathan had found out the truth about his father and now David could not stay here any longer. It made them both very sad.

- Who was Jonathan's true blue friend? (David)
- What was the problem? (v.1-Jonathan's father, King Saul, was trying to kill David)
- Did Jonathan know how his father felt about David? (v2, 9-No, he was surprised)
- David asked for Jonathan's help to find out the truth. What did David ask Jonathan to do? (v5-8-Find out if King Saul really wanted to kill him)
- How angry was King Saul? (angry enough to throw a spear at Jonathan! v. 30-33)
- Jonathan planned to use arrows to send a message to David. How was that going to work? (v.19-22- Jonathan would shoot three arrows. If everything was okay, he would tell his helper the arrows were close by. If there was danger for David, Jonathan would tell the helper that the arrows were much farther away.)
- This month we are talking about loyalty. What do you think it means to be loyal?
- **Loyalty is a commitment to someone or something. It is doing what you can to support and protect a person, animal, or thing.**
- What does God think about loyalty? Read Proverbs 3:3-4. (It is important to choose to be loyal- it pleases God and man)
- Who was Jonathan loyal to? (David). What did he do that showed his loyalty? What did he do that showed he wanted to support and protect David? (setting up the plan to find out if David's life was in danger)
- Jonathan showed his loyalty for his good friend by helping him even though his own father, King Saul, wanted to kill David. He put David's safety and needs before his own (v.33). This meant David would be the next king, not Jonathan (v.31)!
- What other words could we use to describe a loyal friend? (*write these on the board so you can refer to them in small group*: reliable, trustworthy, dependable, friends through thick and thin, you can count on me, faithful, true, committed, supportive, etc...)  
Optional: Play the song "You've Got a Friend in Me" from Toy Story. What words/phrases are used to describe a true friend?
- Let's go into our small groups and discover how we can be loyal to our friends.

## Small Group

- Is loyalty the same thing as friendship? Can you be a friend and not be loyal? Let's look at another story about some friends. Read Matthew 26:33-35.
  - Who are the friends in this story? (Peter and Jesus)
  - Peter was Jesus' disciple. He was a good friend too. Did he want to be a loyal friend? How do you know? (Yes. He tells Jesus that he will be loyal even if no one else is, he will always be a good friend even if he has to die for Jesus)
  - He does sound like a true/loyal friend. Let's see what happens. Read Matthew 26:47-56. What happened to Jesus? (He is arrested) What happens to his friends? (They all run away) Even Peter?

- Peter actually follows behind to see where Jesus is taken. And while he is in the courtyard waiting to find out what happens to Jesus someone recognizes him. Read Matthew 26:69-75.
- What do the people in the courtyard figure out? (that he is Jesus' friend)
- How does Peter show his loyalty? (He doesn't. He tells everyone that he doesn't know Jesus, that he isn't his friend)
- Is it always easy or convenient to be loyal?
  - Have you ever had a situation where you are captain of a team? You get to choose who is on your team. You really want to win but your friend isn't good at sports. What do you choose to do?

Older kids: Situations to discuss

- You live in Israel and your father, the king, says that he wants to kill your best friend.
- You live in Germany and the government is telling you that Jewish people are bad and they must be taken away. One of your good friends is Jewish.
- You have an awesome teacher (Jesus) who is making people mad because he is telling people he is the Son of God.
- You are on the bus with a couple of friends. One of them says some bad things about your best friend. What do you do?
- All: Let's look up some verses and see what the Bible says about loyalty:
  - Proverbs 17:17 (a loyal friend is there through good and bad times)
  - Proverbs 18:24 (a friend who wants to hurt you is not a loyal friend)
  - Proverbs 27:6 (a loyal friend will tell you the truth even if it is hard-that doesn't mean they will be cruel with the truth)
  - John 15:13 (ultimate loyalty is to die for your friend)
  - Proverbs 20:6 (saying you are loyal is easy, showing you are loyal is more important)
  - Psalm 12:1-2 (It is hard to find a loyal friend)
- Do any of these verses describe Peter or Jonathan?
- What are some other ways you can show loyalty? (reliable-always meeting to walk to school together, trustworthy-my friend knows I will not steal his money when I see it lying around, you do what you say you will do-I promised to go to the park with my friend and I did even though something better came up, telling the truth even if it is hard-giving my kind honest opinion about something my friend is wearing, friend in action not just words-someone made fun of my friend, but I still sat with them a lunch/on the bus, etc...)
- Is it always easy or convenient to be loyal?
  - How do you think Jonathan felt going against his father? How about knowing that he would be giving up becoming the next king?
  - Think about the Jewish people during World War 2. Have you ever heard of Corrie Ten Boom? During the war, the Nazi government wanted to arrest and kill Jewish people. Corrie and her sister helped many Jewish friends (and others being sought) by hiding them in her home or finding places for them to hide. Someone told the police and they were arrested and sent to prison camps. Both her father and sister died there. Do you think she would have done things differently if she knew this would happen?

- How did the disciples feel after they ran away when Jesus was being arrested, and later when Peter denied Jesus?
- If you stand up for a friend, when others are putting him/her down, how will you be treated?

## Application

- Think about the words we used to describe a loyal friend. Have you ever had a friend show they were loyal to you? How did you feel? How about a time when your friend wasn't loyal to you, how did you feel then?
- *Teacher, share a time when you had to make a choice to be loyal to a friend. What happened and why?*
- Are you a loyal friend to other people? Are you committed to protecting them, wanting what is best for them, and supporting them even if it is hard? Have you ever had to stick up for someone else or choose to be their friend when other people decided to leave/dump them? Would you be able to tell your friend the truth even if you knew they would get mad at you? What would you do if someone told you that you were making bad choices? Would you still be their friend?
- What makes it hard for you to be a loyal friend or to stay loyal?
- Optional: How do you choose who to be loyal to?

## Prayer

Leader pray, "Thank you for showing us how we can be a loyal friend like Jonathan was to David. We might not need to protect someone from a murderous king, but sometimes being loyal is a hard choice when it means telling someone the truth when they are doing wrong things or sticking up for a friend when it is not the popular choice. Thank you for friends who are loyal to us. In Jesus name, amen."

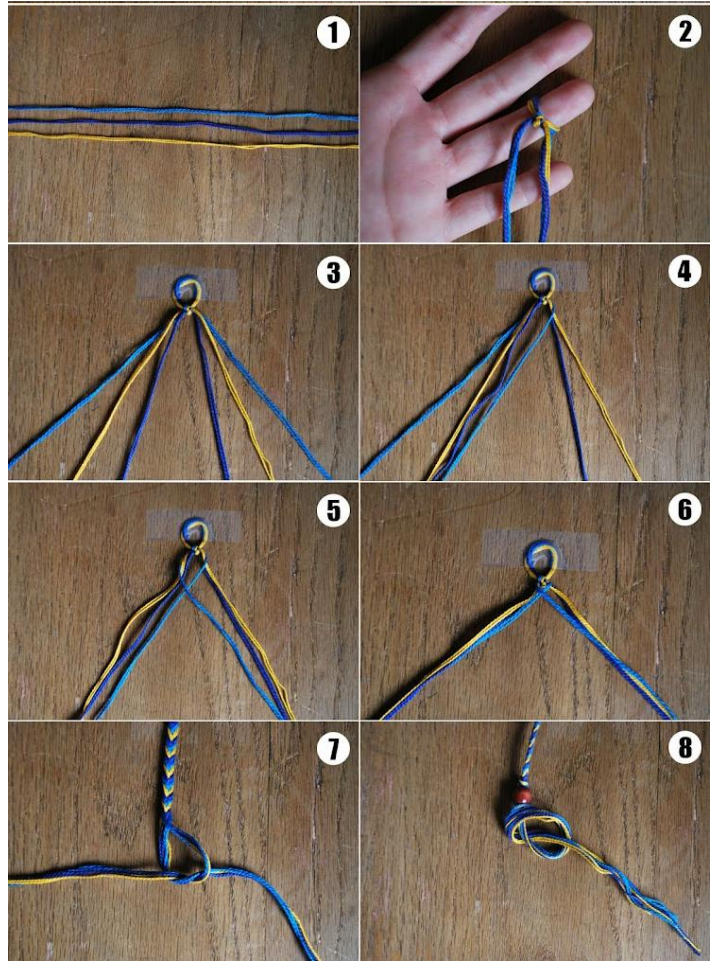
## Craft

### FRIENDSHIP BRACLET

1. Choose three colors of embroidery thread or yarn. Cut two pieces of each color at around 3 feet each (6 pieces of string total). Keep the same colors together.
2. Loop all of the string together around your ring finger and tie two knots.
3. Tape the loop to a sturdy surface. Separate the colors. On the left side you should have one group of each color and you should have one group of each color on the right as well. If you separate them like this in the beginning, it will be easier in the next steps.



4. Take the outside color from the right side (in this picture example it is blue) and cross it over to the left side (on the inside.)
5. Take the outside group/same color from the left and cross it over to the right side (on the inside.)
6. Grab the left group in one hand and the right group in the other and pull outward to tighten the design a little. You will only have to do this step in the beginning, eventually it won't need tightening.
7. Repeat steps 4, 5 and 6 over and over again until you get the bracelet as long as it needs to be to go around your wrist. It should go pretty fast.
8. When the bracelet is long enough, tie two or three knots at the end.
9. String a bead onto the end and then tie another knot to keep the bead in place. Then cut the extra string off and you are done!
10. Make two and give one to a friend. Wear it until it falls off!



## Role Play

- You have planned a surprise party for one of your friends. On the day of the party, three of the kids that you have invited call to say that they cannot come. They give you some lame excuse (I have to wash my hair that night, I forgot I was supposed to go to the library to work on a project, something came up). You have been planning this party for several weeks and you have just finished decorating. How do you feel?
- Later that week your friend invites you to a party that you want to go to. But the party is on the same night as a rehearsal for the play you are in. You were told from the start that rehearsals were mandatory and if you couldn't make one, you couldn't be a part of the play. What do you do?
- You and your good friend are in a spelling contest. The winner will go on to the city contest. You both do well but in the end, your friend is declared the winner. Your friend is nervous about the next level and asks you to help him/her study and to support him/her at the event. How would a disloyal friend react? How could you show your loyalty?
- You are on the bus with a couple of friends. One of them shares some bad things about your best friend and makes fun of the way your friend looks in the morning. Some of what they are saying about the way your friend looks is actually true but it isn't nice. Your best friend rides on a different bus. What they are saying is quite funny and everyone is laughing. Note: Your friend

doesn't comb his/her hair in the morning and that's what makes him/her look funny. Act out how you would respond on the bus and when you see your friend.

## Closing Activity

### Best Friends Word Game

Items Needed: Pencils, Paper

Have the children pair up. Place each member of the pair on opposite sides of the room so that they are unable to see/hear one another's answers. The teacher will read out 10 words in which each student will write down a word they think their friend will write in response. The team that gets the most matches wins. Repeat as often as desired. NOTE: For younger children one leader on each side may need to help the students write down their words.

Suggested first two sets of 10 words:

1. Pencil
2. Sun
3. Pillow
4. Sad
5. Dog
6. Mom
7. Tall
8. Easter
9. Bible
10. Crown

1. Table
2. Fix It
3. Girl
4. Dark
5. Pants
6. Left
7. Top
8. In
9. Pastor
10. Sit

## LESSON 2: LOYALTY

### BE LOYAL TO YOUR FAMILY

#### Lesson Objective

Learn the importance of family helping each other and sticking up for each other!

#### Scripture References

##### Matthew 12:25

<sup>25</sup>Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand."

##### Genesis 11:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup>As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup>Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." <sup>5</sup>But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." <sup>8</sup>So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

##### Ruth 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup>The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. <sup>3</sup>Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. <sup>6</sup>When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup>With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup>May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup>and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—<sup>13</sup>would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!"

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<sup>14</sup> At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

### **John 17:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me--so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

### **John 10:10**

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

## **Opening Activities:**

Paper Family Chain-you will need paper, pencils, scissors, markers/crayons

- Fold the paper in half short side to short side. Fold it in half again the same way.
- Draw the outline of a person so that the hands and the feet touch the folded sides of the paper.
- Cut out the person, but not cutting the folds.
- Unfold the paper and you should have a chain of people.
- Have the kids decorate each person like a member of their family. If they need more people, they can tape more on.



## **Large Group**

- Have you ever heard the words “family feud”? What does that describe/mean?
- Usually a family feud is when two families are fighting against each other but sometimes a family can feud/fight with itself. Is that a good thing? Read Matthew 12:25.
- What does Jesus mean when he says a household is “divided”? (cannot agree with each other, doesn’t work together, doesn’t support each other)
- When people are not committed to working together in their families, problems will happen.
- What is it like when everyone works together like a family? Let’s read about the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-8.
  1. What were the people trying to do?
  2. Were they very successful?
  3. What happened when God made it so they could not understand each other?

- God “divided” this family because they were trying to do something that was not pleasing to God, but when they worked together, God said “nothing would be impossible” (v6)
- Today we are going to talk about why it is important for our families to be loyal to one another.
- Younger kids-Find the story of Ruth on CD for the kids to listen to: “Wild and Wacky Totally True Bible Stories-All About Trust” or Adventures in Odyssey.

Older kids-Give kids a list of jumbled words and have them decipher the words as you tell the story. Allow them to use the Bible and refer to Ruth 1:1-18:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. E Eel Milk (Elimelek)               | 11. Be Goody (Good-bye)       |
| 2. Helmet Heb (Bethlehem)              | 12. Pro Ha (Orpah)            |
| 3. O Bam (Moab)                        | 13. Hurt (Ruth)               |
| 4. In Fame (Famine)                    | 14. If Sled (Fields)          |
| 5. Noss (Sons)                         | 15. In Rag (Grain)            |
| 6. On a Mi (Naomi)                     | 16. Great nigh (Gathering)    |
| 7. Dine Cosi (Decision)                | 17. A Zob (Boaz)              |
| 8. Water-Laugh-In D (Daughter-in-laws) | 18. Row Dek (Worked)          |
| 9. Send Kins (Kindness)                | 19. Pot Nor Cite (Protection) |
| 10. Lo Peep (People)                   | 20. Krow Res(Workers)         |
|  | 21. Race (Care)               |

There once was a man named (1) who moved his family from (2) to (3) because of a (4). Unfortunately Elimelek and his two (5) died. His widow (6) and daughter-in-laws made the (7) to move back to Bethlehem. Before leaving town, Naomi told her (8), “Thank you for the (9) you have shown to my family, but go back to your (10) and your life.” They protested but Naomi insisted. One sadly said (11) and left. Her name was (12). The other daughter-in-law’s name was (13). She refused to leave. “Don’t make me go back. Where ever you live, I am going to live. Your family is my family and your God is my God.”

Ruth and Naomi reached Bethlehem and set up their home. But how would they get food? It was decided that Ruth would see if anyone would allow her to go to their (14) and pick up leftover (15). She found a place and set about (16) what she could find. The owner of the field, (17) heard about Ruth’s story and noticed how hard she (18). He invited her to continue, offered her (19), and even told his (20) to purposely leave more grain for her to find.

So Ruth was able to take (21) of Naomi.

- There is more to the story but this month we are talking about loyalty. What does it mean to be loyal? (**Loyalty is a commitment to someone or something. It is doing what you can to support and protect**)
  - Who showed loyalty? (Ruth)
  - Who was she loyal to? (Naomi) We can be loyal to our families. When we are loyal to our families we want what is best for them, we want to support and protect them, to take care of them.

- How did Ruth show loyalty and take care of Naomi? (She told Naomi that she would not leave her even though it meant leaving the town she grew up in, she worked hard in the fields to provide food, and she put Naomi's needs ahead of her own). Why did Naomi need support and protection? (her husband and sons had died, she was alone, she had no one to provide food)
- Did Ruth have to give up anything to be loyal? (her family, where she grew up, her friends, her sister-in-law, someone to provide for her)
- Ruth didn't choose Naomi as her family, but she did choose to be loyal to her.
- In our small groups we are going to talk about our own families and how we demonstrate loyalty.

## Small Group

- How many people do you have in your family? (You can have the kids share their paper family chains)
- Did you have any choice about who was going to be a part of your family?
- Last week we started talking about loyalty by discussing how to be loyal to your friends. Did you know that God wants you to be loyal to your families too? Sometimes that is hard because friends are people you choose to be around and you don't get to choose your family.
- Do any of you sometimes find it hard to like the people in your family? Maybe you have a bratty younger brother, an older sister who always has to "be in charge", or you aren't happy because your parents make you do chores or practice piano when your friends don't have to do those things. Are these people you would choose to be around?
- Did you know that families are people that God puts us together with? Just like your family chains, you are linked to the people in your family and God wants you to be loyal to all the members of your family.
- Read Matthew 12:25 again. Think about your family. When you decide not to be loyal to your family and don't try to get along with each other does it help your family or hurt your family? Can you think of some examples?
- Read John 17:22-23. Why else does God want you to be loyal to your families? (when we work together/are unified, others will see and know that you have God in your family, God will be glorified, you will show God's love)
- Read John 10:10. Who is the thief that is working against family loyalty? (the Devil)
- Why is he working against family loyalty? (He is trying to destroy/ruin families)
- What are ways you can show loyalty to your families?

## Application

- Can you control if your other family members are loyal to your family?
- Can you control if you are loyal to your family? You don't have a choice about who is in your family, but you do have a choice whether to be loyal to them or not. What should you choose?
- When is it most difficult for you to be loyal to your parents? How about to your siblings?

- Does being loyal mean you always agree with the other person? Do you defend them even if they aren't doing the right thing? (no, loyalty means wanting what is best for your family and supporting them which means loving them enough to tell them the truth and helping them make good decisions).
- Yogi Berra, a famous coach, once said "When you're a part of a team, you stand up for your teammates. Your loyalty is to them. You protect them through good and bad, because they'd do the same for you."
- Share with the person next to you: What member of your family do you need God to help you learn to be loyal to so that your family will show others how following Jesus makes a difference?
- Make it your goal this week to find ways to be loyal to your family.

## Prayer

Each child prays this for their friend. "Father, please help \_\_\_child's name\_\_\_ get along with \_\_\_family member's name\_\_\_ so their family will increase in loyalty to one another and be a good example to others. I pray in Jesus name, amen."

## Craft

Tasty Jello Stickers-to remind us to "stick up" for our family

You will need paper, markers, flavored Jello, Q-tips, and small containers of water.

- Draw your design on "2x2" sheets of paper
- Dissolve some gelatin in a cup of water. Use the Q-tips to "paint" the gelatin water solution to the back of the images.
- Let dry
- When ready to use, just lick the back and adhere to a surface.

## Role Play

Divide the children into small groups and assign these scenes to different groups.

### Scene 1

You are playing at the park with some friends and your little sister has no one to play with. She asks nicely if she can play with you but the game you're playing would be too hard for her to keep up. If she would play the rest of your friends would not have to try very hard. You can see that some of your friends don't like the idea. Act out how you could respond with loyalty to your sister. What would it be like if you didn't show loyalty?

### Scene 2

Your little brother is going to have his first Little League baseball game on Thursday night. While growing up your parents brought your brother to all of your activities. You have a lot of homework and a test on Friday but it is Monday right now. Act out how you would respond with loyalty to your brother. How would it be different if you didn't show loyalty?

### Scene 3

Your mom has been constantly telling you and your sibling to clean your rooms, not play so much

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video, and do your chores without being told. It seems that she's mad at you before you even get home from school. You and your sibling are both tired of being bossed around and not getting to do what you want to do when you want to do it. You and your sibling are outside and you start talking about how your friend's parents let them do things you don't get to do and how they never get bossed around. You remember what your Sunday school teacher said about a family being divided. Act out how you would respond with your sibling and your mom to become loyal to your family. Would it be different if you didn't show loyalty to either your mom or your sibling?

## **Closing Activity**

### **Family Feud Game**

There is a list of questions at the end of the lesson (if you want more questions Google "Family Feud questions"). The object of the game is to guess the most popular answers that people gave when surveyed. Remember, you are guessing what other people have said.

Divide kids into two groups as they arrive. Have one person from each team come up by the leader. The leader will read the first question and the first student to raise their hand gets to answer the question. Then the other student gets to answer. Match their answers against the answers listed. Answers are listed in order of popularity. The one who gets the more popular answer is the one who wins. That player and his/her team gets to decide if they want to try and guess the rest of the answers or pass it to the other team. When answering, if you guess an answer that is not on the list, you get a strike. The team continues to guess until they get all the answers or they get three strikes. If they can guess the remaining answers they win the round. If they get three strikes the other team gets to try and guess any of the remaining answers. If they can, they win the round. If they don't the opposite team wins. Option: Each question tells how many people chose that answer. These can be the points that they win.

# FAMILY FEUD QUESTIONS

Name the top 5 jobs that kids/teens do to make money:

1. Mowing lawns/ yard work (20)
2. Newspaper route (19)
3. Working in a restaurant (18)
4. Babysitting (17)
5. Lemonade stand (9)

Name a day that all kids look forward to:

1. Christmas (35)
2. Saturday (18)
3. Birthday (16)
4. End of school/summer vacation (12)
5. Friday (10)

Name a food that kids love:

1. Pizza (21)
2. Mac and Cheese (20)
3. Chicken Nuggets (15)
4. Candy (9)
5. Ice Cream (6)

Name one of the Seven Dwarfs:

1. Sleepy (32)
2. Dopey (26)
3. Grumpy (17)
4. Doc (9)
5. Happy (6)

Name something you put on when it gets cold:

1. Jacket/Coat (32)
2. Sweater/Sweatshirt (27)
3. Scarf (19)
4. Hat (8)
5. Gloves/Mittens (7)

Name a vegetable that grows underground:

1. Carrot (48)
2. Potato (40)
3. Onion (3)
4. Radish (2)

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5. Beets (1)

Name something you eat with your hands:

1. Pizza (19)
2. Hamburger (15)
3. Sandwich (13)
4. French Fries (10)
5. Tacos (6)

Name something you can pop

1. Balloons (26)
2. Pimples (22)
3. Bubble Wrap (15)
4. Popcorn (7)
5. Cherry (5)

Name something a baby might use:

1. Pacifier (32)
2. Diaper (21)
3. Rattle (15)
4. Bottle (14)
5. Bib (3)

Name something parents tell their kids not to waste:

1. Food (53)
2. Money (17)
3. Water (14)
4. Electricity (4)
5. Time (3)
6. Life (3)

Name a fruit that is delicious to eat but hard to break into:

1. Coconut (27)
2. Pineapple (26)
3. Watermelon (22)
4. Cantaloupe (11)
5. Pomegranate (9)

Name a lollipop flavor:

1. Cherry (36)
2. Strawberry (24)
3. Grape (15)

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4. Orange (9)
5. Lemon (5)
6. Chocolate (2)

Name something everyone knows about Cinderella:

1. Glass slipper (66)
2. Stepmother/sister (9)
3. Ball/ midnight (7)
4. Poor (5)

Name an animal that starts with the letter "R":

1. Rabbit (35)
2. Rhino (35)
3. Raccoon (18)
4. Rat (9)
5. Roadrunner (2)

Name something that shines:

1. Sun (31)
2. Diamond (21)
3. Shoes (8)
4. Star (8)
5. Silver (6)
6. Moon (5)

What are Pastor Mick's top 6 family board games?

1. Chutes and Ladders
2. Candy Land
3. Trouble
4. Sorry
5. Life
6. Monopoly

Name something that might be lying on a teenager's floor:

1. Clothes (39)
2. Shoes (18)
3. Books (18)
4. Food (12)
5. Magazines (4)
6. CDs (4)
7. Trash (4)

## LESSON 3: LOYALTY

### LOYALTY TO OUR COUNTRY/RULERS

#### Lesson Objective

Understand that loyalty to our country means that we commit to being a Christian example where God has placed us.

#### Scripture References

##### 2 Samuel 15:13-21

<sup>13</sup> A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom."

<sup>14</sup> Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us and put the city to the sword."

<sup>15</sup> The king's officials answered him, "Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses."

<sup>16</sup> The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace. <sup>17</sup> So the king set out, with all the people following him, and they halted at the edge of the city. <sup>18</sup> All his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king.

<sup>19</sup> The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland. <sup>20</sup> You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your people with you. May the Lord show you kindness and faithfulness."

<sup>21</sup> But Ittai replied to the king, "As surely as the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be."

##### Romans 13:1

<sup>1</sup> Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

##### 1 Peter 2:13-14

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

##### Daniel 6:1-11, 19-26

<sup>1</sup> Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. <sup>2</sup> The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests. <sup>3</sup> Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire. <sup>4</sup> Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or

condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. <sup>5</sup>So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion." <sup>6</sup>So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! <sup>7</sup>We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. <sup>8</sup>And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." <sup>9</sup>So King Darius signed the law. <sup>10</sup>But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. <sup>11</sup>Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help.

<sup>19</sup>Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup>When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

<sup>21</sup>Daniel answered, "Long live the king! <sup>22</sup>My God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in His sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

<sup>23</sup>The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup>Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.

<sup>25</sup>Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you! <sup>26</sup>"I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and He will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His rule will never end.

### **Matthew 5:16**

<sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

### **Numbers 30:2**

<sup>2</sup>When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said

### **Ecclesiastes 8:2**

<sup>2</sup>Obey the king's command, I say, because you took an oath before God..

### **Titus 3:1**

<sup>1</sup>Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,

### **1 Timothy 2:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—  
<sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Savior,

### **Matthew 22:21b**

<sup>21</sup>...Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

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### **Ecclesiastes 8:2-6 (NLT)**

<sup>2</sup> Obey the king since you vowed to God that you would. <sup>3</sup> Don't try to avoid doing your duty, and don't stand with those who plot evil, for the king can do whatever he wants. <sup>4</sup> His command is backed by great power. No one can resist or question it. <sup>5</sup> Those who obey him will not be punished. Those who are wise will find a time and a way to do what is right, <sup>6</sup> for there is a time and a way for everything, even when a person is in trouble.

## **Opening Activity**

The Flag and Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America

Items Needed: Crayons or construction paper strips, 11"x 17" pieces of paper.

As the children arrive have them make an American flag. On the back, have them write out the Pledge of Allegiance. For the younger children you may need to write it on the board for them to copy.

*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

## **Large Group**

- Let's start with a story. Look up 2 Samuel 15:13-21.
  - King David has a problem, what is it? (Absalom after his father, King David. He is trying to take over, destroy the city, and become its king.)
  - What does King David decide to do/ what's the plan? (Escape, leaving only a few people to take care of the palace. Extra: Why doesn't he stay and fight? Does he want to fight his own son?)
  - How many people are with King David? (we don't know exactly but at least 600 men from Gath are counted plus Keterthites, Pelethites, David's household-servants, advisors, and guards)
  - Why are they choosing to go with David? (They are loyal to him)
- What does it mean to be loyal? (**Loyalty is a commitment to someone or something. It is doing what you can to support and protect**)
- All these people showed their loyalty to King David by being committed to staying with him instead of choosing to join Absalom. They went to support and protect him.
- King David speaks to Ittai the Gittite. What does he tell him to do? (stay behind) Why doesn't he want Ittai to come with him? (he has only come recently, he is not part of David's household, he doesn't owe David any loyalty, David doesn't want to put him in harm's way)
- What is Ittai's response to David? (he says he is going to stay and be loyal to King David)
- What does God say about being loyal to those in charge?
  - Romans 13:1 (We need to obey God and be loyal to our leaders because God is the one who put them in those positions of authority)
  - 1 Peter 2:13-14 (God has placed leaders over us to keep our country safe-commend those who are good and punish those who are wrong)
- God wants us to be loyal to our country and the leaders of our country because He has put us where He wants us to be and He has put the leaders where He wants them to be. But what if the leader isn't making good choices? What should you do then?
- Let's look at another story about loyalty. Look up Daniel 6:1-11. (An option would be to show a video of the story)

- Daniel and some of his friends had been taken to Babylon from their homes. The Babylon king chose them to be trained to serve in his government.
- Even though he didn't choose to live here did Daniel take his job seriously? Do you think he showed himself to be loyal to his new leaders in Babylon? How do you know? (V.3-yes, he was a very good leader, so much so that the king promoted him. V.4-he was faithful, responsible and trustworthy.)
- Something happened and Daniel wasn't loyal to the king and one of the king's laws. Which law did Daniel break? (The law said you could not pray to anyone except to the king for the next 30 days.)
- Why wasn't Daniel loyal to this law? (This law was breaking God's law. Daniel knew that we are only to pray to God, not to any person.)
- Did he know what would happen if he got "caught"?
- If you know the story, what happened to Daniel because of this? (he was arrested and thrown him into a den of hungry lions)
- How do you think that made Daniel feel?
- Let's read on, verses 19-26.
  - The king checked on Daniel the next day. Was Daniel still loyal to the king? How did he respond to the king? (V. 22-he still answered with respect- "long live the king". He did not give up being loyal to the king even though he could truthfully say he had not wronged the king.)
  - How could Daniel still respect the king after all that happened?
- Daniel chose to obey God in everything. Not only to God (prayer), but in his actions to the king- showing his loyalty and respect. Why is that important? Read Matthew 5:16.
- What "good works" did people see Daniel doing? What happened because of it? (verse 25-26 the king declares to everyone that God is the one true god! That is glorifying God, making him known to other people, showing that he is the only one.)
- Let's go into our small groups and talk about how we can show loyalty to our country and glorify God.

## Small Groups

- We have been talking about loyalty. How do you show loyalty to a friend? What can you do to show you are loyal to your family?
- God also wants you to show loyalty to your country and those in charge of your country. Let's reread the example of Ittai in 2 Samuel 15:21.
- How do we know Ittai wanted to show loyalty to King David?
- Ittai made a pledge to the king. What is a pledge? (a promise) Ittai promised to go wherever King David went, to serve him no matter the cost, whether he lived or died.
- What does God say about promises?
  - Psalm 89:34 (You should not break your promises or go back on your word)
  - Numbers 30:2 (when you make a pledge, you must keep it)
  - Ecclesiastes 8:2 (when you make an oath/promise before God, you must keep it)
- Making promises, oaths, pledges, and giving your word are serious stuff. We started our lesson today writing the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States. Let's say it together.
- Did you know that when you say the Pledge, you are making an oath/promise?
- What are you promising?
- *Go through the Pledge of Allegiance and discuss what each line means.*
  - I Pledge-you are making a promise
  - Allegiance- to be an "ally", to be loyal to

- To the flag-are you loyal to a flag? No, you are loyal to the country that the flag stands for (“for which it stands”)
- United States of America- our country is a group of states that are united, working together to be one country
- To the republic-a country where the people who live there get to choose the people who will make the laws for them.
- One nation, under God-our country was founded by people who believed in God as our ultimate king. Pilgrims came to America because they wanted the right to worship the one true God.
- Indivisible-we cannot be separated
- With liberty-freedom
- And justice for all-everyone deserves to be treated fairly
- When you say the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States, you are saying that you will be loyal to this country, that you are committed to the United States and will do what you can to support and protect it.
- What kinds of things can you do to show your loyalty to your country? (do things that help your country, be a good citizen, keep the laws, etc...)
- What things does God want you to do to show your loyalty?
  - Ecclesiastes 8:2 (Obey whoever is in charge)
  - Romans 13:1 (you need to follow the laws of those in charge because they are put there by God)
  - Titus 3:1 (God asks you to be loyal and obey rulers and authorities, to do what is good/right-like following laws)
  - 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (God wants you to support your rulers/those in authority with your prayers, pray for your leaders-president, mayor, governor, judges)
  - Matthew 5:16 (Be a Christian witness to a country that is ‘under God’ so that God will be glorified)
  - Matthew 22:21b (give to the government what belongs to the government, pay your taxes, don’t steal from the government)
- Can anyone force you to be loyal to someone or something? (No) It is your choice who to be loyal to but when you pledge your loyalty you should be sure that you will keep your promise/commitment.
- What are some things people do that show they are not loyal to the United States?
  - Not standing when the Pledge of Allegiance is spoken, talking during the Pledge or our National Anthem, not saying the Pledge (why should you be quiet during these times?)
  - Disrespecting the flag-what are some of the rules about our flag? Why do we have rules about how to treat the flag?
  - Some people say bad things about our country and try to hurt it.
  - Instead of working together (like it says in the pledge) they try to get people divided. What happens when a country is divided? (Matthew 12:25, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.”)
  - They try to pass laws and rules that disrespect God and how He wants you to live.
  - Optional-are these people “lights” to others too? Do we notice what they are doing? What is wrong with this kind of “light”?
- Do you only have to be loyal to your country when you agree with our leaders? What happens when they do things that you know isn’t right? What can you learn from Ecclesiastes 8:2-6?
  - Obey because your pledge to your country is also a pledge to God (Daniel knew that he was obeying not only the king but also God)

- Don't avoid your duty (Daniel didn't stop doing his job just because he didn't agree with the king. He still did his job to the best of his ability)
- Don't make the mistake of joining those who are evil even if it sounds like they are on your side, this will never be the right choice (sometimes people use this opportunity to hurt others )
- There will be a time to do what is right and God will be with you (For Daniel this meant continue praying to God, obeying what he knew what was right, while still being loyal to the king. God promises to be with you-it doesn't always mean you will be saved physically, but you will be saved. Remember Shadrach, Meschach, and Abdenego? They willingly went to the fiery furnace saying they knew God could save them, but even if He didn't, they would still serve Him.)
- Optional-history of the Pledge
  - Written in 1892 by a Baptist minister, Francis Bellamy. He wanted to write something for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus discovering America.
  - He wanted it to show that we were united as a country
  - Words like "flag of the United States of America" and "under God" were added later because some people felt that the pledge sounded like it could be for any country and they wanted it to be truly about America.

## Application

- Read Matthew 5:16. Why is it important to be loyal? (Others will see what you do and give God glory)
- What was the result of Daniel being loyal to God and the king? (the king realized from all of this that Daniel served the one true God and made a new law that everyone in the kingdom should know about Daniel's God, v. 26)
- Read Matthew 5:16 again quietly to yourself. Why does God want you to be loyal to your country? (so others will see your good works and give Him glory)
- By showing your loyalty to this country and God you can be a godly "light" to others. But think of the other places God puts you-your city, your school, your sport team, a club, a dance studio. These are all places where you can show God to others, where you can do good things that will give God the glory.
- What are some places that you show your loyalty to your country?
- Share your answer with a friend and then talk about how you are doing.

## Prayer

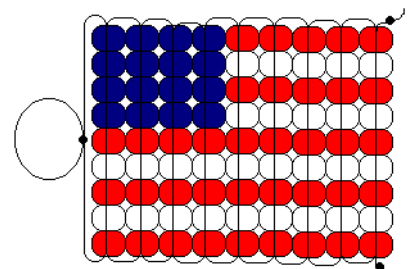
Have each child say this prayer for the other person. "Father please help \_\_\_child's name\_\_\_ show loyalty to \_\_\_name area\_\_\_ by acting like Jesus. I ask in Jesus name, amen."

## Craft

Beaded Flag key ring

You will need: Red, white and blue pony beads, satin cording, key ring, and scissors

Instructions:



Loyalty

1. Cut a 36-inch section of satin cording and tie a double knot on one end. You can use any kind of thick cording that you like; just make sure that it fits through the pony beads twice.
2. Thread four blue pony beads, one white bead, one red bead, one white bead and one red bead onto the cording. This is the first row for your flag. Add another row of one red bead, one white bead, one red bead, one white bead and four blue beads to the strand.
3. Thread the end of the cording back through all of the first row of beads and pull tightly so that the second set of red, white and blue beads are resting against the first to create your second row. Thread the cording back through the second row of pony beads.
4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 two more times to create rows three, four, five and six.
5. Thread one red pony bead, one white, one red, one white, one red, one white, one red, one white, and one red onto the cording to make the seventh row in your flag. Repeat this and thread the cording back through the seventh row of pony beads, pulling tightly to create the eighth row. Thread the cording back through the eighth row.
6. Repeat Step 8 three more times and tie a double knot at the end and cut off any excess cording. Your flag will have a total of 14 rows.
7. Slip a key ring on the loop and you are done.

## Role Play

Divide the kids into small groups to act out the following scenes.

### School Loyalty

Your class is going to a nearby city park to rake leaves on a Saturday morning. The teacher has been planning this for months and in return the city has agreed to sponsor a carnival at the end of the school year. Saturday morning your parents remind you that it's time to go. Act out your response if you were not loyal to your class.

Using the same scenario as above, act out how you would respond in a loyal way.

### Team Loyalty

You and your team have been practicing hard all year and your coach has encouraged and helped your team do their best. Despite your efforts your team hasn't won a game yet this year. A friend of yours who has made fun of your team all year tells you of an opening on his team. He also throws in several comments about how lame your team mates and coach are. Act out how you would respond to your friend and how you would tell your coach/team mates about your decision if you chose to quit and join this other team.

Using the same scenario as above act out how you would respond to your friend's comments and offer if you chose to remain loyal to your team.

## Closing Activity

Changing Loyalties (similar to Four Corners)

Items Needed: Music CD, CD player, treats for winners

Ask the children to name the four corners of the room. Write down the names on pieces of paper and place them in a container. Begin playing the music CD. When the music is playing the children will move about the room to from corner to corner-they do not have to move in order. When the music stops the children will need to declare their loyalty, to choose, a particular corner. Select one name out of the Loyalty

container and call it out. Whoever is in that corner will need to go sit down in their seats. Place the name back into the container and start the music again. The remaining children will move around again. When the music stops, allow the children to remain loyal to the corner they selected before or move to another corner. Draw another name from the container. Repeat until there is only one person left (towards the end, everyone has to choose a different corner.)

Optional: 1 Samuel 24:6-10

Even though King Saul wants to kill David, David is not willing to harm the king because he knows that Saul is God's appointed ruler.

## LESSON 4: LOYALTY BEING LOYAL TO GOD

### Lesson Objective

Increase our desire to be loyal to Jesus.

### Scripture References

#### **Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50**

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

#### **2 Corinthians 11:23-33**

<sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup> I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. <sup>27</sup> I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. <sup>28</sup> Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. <sup>33</sup> But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

#### **John 10:2-5**

<sup>2</sup> The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. <sup>3</sup> The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his

voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.

### **John 1:12**

<sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

### **1 Corinthians 3:9**

<sup>9</sup>For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

### **Ephesians 2:19**

<sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,

### **Philippians 3:20**

<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

### **Matthew 22:36-37**

<sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

### **Exodus 34:14**

<sup>14</sup>Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

### **Mark 8:34-35**

<sup>34</sup>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

### **Acts 8:35-38 (TLB)**

<sup>35</sup>So Philip began with this same Scripture and then used many others to tell him about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>As they rode along, they came to a small body of water, and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! Why can't I be baptized?”

<sup>37</sup>“You can,” Philip answered, “if you believe with all your heart.”

And the eunuch replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

<sup>38</sup>He stopped the chariot, and they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

### **Romans 1:16**

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes; first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

### **1 Kings 8:61**

<sup>61</sup>And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God (in loyalty), to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time.

### **Joshua 24:15**

<sup>15</sup>But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will

serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

### **Matthew 6:24**

<sup>24</sup>No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

### **2 Timothy 2:13**

<sup>13</sup>If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

## **Opening Activity**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Savior and to the Bible

Items Needed: Crayons, 11"x 17" pieces of paper.

As the children arrive have them make the Christian flag. On the back, have them write out the Christian Pledge of Allegiance. For the younger children you may need to write it on the board for them to copy. Note: the Christian Flag is at the end of the lesson.

*I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.*

If time allows, have the children also write the pledge to the Bible on the back of their flag.

*I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.*

## **Large Group**

- Who are your favorite sport teams?
- Which team has the most fans? (Name the teams mentioned and have the kids raise their hands to vote for their favorite team.)
- How many of you think you are a loyal fan? How do you show your loyalty? (go to games, wear team jerseys, watch games on tv, etc....)
- Do you always watch their games or does it depend on whether you have something better to do? Do you cheer for your team even if they are not having a good season or are you only loyal to the team that is winning?
- **Loyalty is a commitment to someone or something.** It is doing what you can to support or protect them and wanting what is best for them. We have talked about being loyal to your friends, to your family, and to your country (or wherever God has placed you). Today we want to talk about being loyalty to God.
- One of the ways we show our loyalty to our country and its leaders is by saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. How many of you knew that there is also a pledge for the Christian flag? Let's repeat it together.

- When we say a pledge we say we are making a commitment, a promise, to be loyal. Are we promising to be loyal to a flag, a piece of cloth? What are we pledging/promising to be loyal to? (What the flag stands for-in this case, Jesus).
- When you pledge to be loyal to Jesus, should it be like being loyal to the (name of sport team mentioned earlier) or the (name of other team)?
- Let's look at a couple of guys in the Bible. Both of these guys thought they were going to be loyal to Jesus.
- Read Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50.
  - What was the name of the main person in this story? (Judas)
  - It says he was one of the "twelve". What does that mean? (He was one of the original disciples Jesus called.)
  - What kinds of things did the disciples do? (Spent time with Jesus listening and learning from him. Went out as a missionary to tell others about Jesus and to heal the sick, Matthew 10:5-8)
  - Sounds like he knew Jesus well and was loyal. What did he do that showed he wasn't a loyal friend? (betrayed Jesus to people who wanted to kill Him)
  - What do you think happened to cause him to change the way he treated Jesus?
- Judas followed Jesus for 3 years. He expected Jesus to become the new king and Judas thought he would be wealthy and important in Jesus' kingdom. As long as he thought Jesus was "winning" he wanted to be a part of Jesus' team. But when things didn't turn out as he expected, he switched his loyalties to a different "team". He was only loyal to his selfish desires to be rich and powerful.
- Now let's look at another friend of Jesus. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-33.
  - Do you know the name of this guy? (Paul)
  - What was happening to him? (beatings, prison, shipwrecks, etc...)
  - Why were all these bad things happening to him? (because he was teaching people about Jesus)
  - If, as Judas found out, Jesus wasn't part of the "winning team", why did Paul want to stick around?
- Judas thought that Jesus was going to set up a kingdom on earth and when it didn't seem to happen he thought he wasn't part of the winning team. Paul knew that Jesus was on the winning team. He knew Jesus had something better-an eternal kingdom.
- What was the difference between what Paul wanted and what Judas wanted? (Paul wanted what Jesus/God wanted-for other people to know Jesus, Judas wanted things for himself)
- True loyalty puts the other person before themselves. Paul showed loyalty because he cared more about Jesus than he did about his own life.
- In our small groups we are going to talk about how we can show loyalty to Jesus.

## Small Group

- There is a famous story of a dog in Japan. His name was Hachiko (Hat-chi-ko) and his master was a professor at a university. Every morning the professor would take the train to work and every evening he would return the same way. Every morning Hachiko would be at the door to see his master off and every afternoon at 4pm he would be at the train station waiting for his master to return. One day, the professor had a stroke at work and died. Hachiko did not know and there was no way to explain it to the dog. So at 4pm he went to the train station to wait for

his master. Every day for 10 years, until he died, he went to the train station at 4pm looking for his master. Many people saw this and were moved. When the dog died, they made a statue of Hachiko and put it at the train station to remind people of his loyalty to his master. (When the original statue was destroyed during WWII, the artist's son made a new statue so that the story would not be forgotten).

- Dogs are very loyal animals. (Print out the picture at the end of the lesson or Google and show it on the monitors: "His Master's Voice")
- Here is another famous dog. Have you ever seen this picture? What do you think this picture is about?
- This used to be the logo, like an advertisement, for a record company. Records were like a CD but bigger. The company wanted to tell people that their recordings were so good/life like that the dog couldn't tell the difference between a recording and his real master's voice. It didn't matter that the dog couldn't see his master, as long as he heard the voice, he would sit and listen.
- Read John 10:2-5.
  - Who do the sheep follow? (the shepherd).
  - How do they know it is him? (by his voice)
- This verse talks about sheep being able to recognize the voice of their shepherd. Does God think we need to know about sheep and shepherds?
- This verse really is about how Jesus is like a shepherd. Who do you think are the sheep? (Christians)
- How do Christians, people who are part of Jesus' family, hear His voice? (from the Bible)
- Jesus/God has given you His voice to listen to in His word, the Bible. Just like you recognize your mother or father's voice, if you are a part of God's family, when you read the words there, you should recognize Him speaking to you.
- What do you think you need to do when you hear what God has to say to you? (listen and obey)
- Who should be loyal to God?
  - John 1:12 (when you choose to believe in God, you become part of His family. God wants us to be loyal to our families)
  - Ephesians 2:19 (you are a member of God's household-be loyal to fellow members)
  - 1 Corinthians 3:9 (as co-workers for God you need to be loyal to His mission)
  - Philippians 3:20 (when you become part of God's family you are a citizen of heaven-and your loyalty should be to God's country)
- What does the Bible say about how you can show your loyalty to God?
  - Matthew 22:36-37 (The most important command to follow is to love God totally)
  - Exodus 34:14 (Worship only God)
  - Mark 8:34-35 (if you choose to be loyal to God you have to deny yourself-that means to put God first. If you only care about saving yourself, you will end up losing. But if you choose to be loyal to God no matter what, you will end up winning.)
  - Acts 8:35-38 (pledge your life to God by baptism, showing your loyalty and obedience to Christ and His Word)

- Romans 1:16 (don't be ashamed of God because you are speaking with God's power, not your own)
- 1 Kings 8:61 (obey His commands)
- Where else can you hear God's voice? Hint: It's what you do when you talk to Jesus. (Prayer)
- The Bible tells us that we should pray, or talk to God all the time. The Holy Spirit's job is to help us to know in our hearts what Jesus is saying.
- What were some of the things that Paul went thru because of his loyalty to Jesus? Do you think that you will have to go through all the things Paul did to show your loyalty to Jesus?
- Do you only want to be loyal to God when it is convenient for you or when you like what He is telling you? Are there things that you read in the Bible that you would rather not follow or be loyal to?
- Optional: Is it possible to be loyal to God and a secret Christian (meaning no one really knows you are a Christian) at the same time? What does it say about you if people cannot tell you are loyal to God?

## Application

- What things in the Bible do you find it hard to follow or be loyal to?
- What situations make it hard for you to be loyal to God? (choosing to read the Bible instead of playing computer/video games, praying in front of friends, going to church instead of a team event)
- Read Joshua 24:15. Can you only be loyal to God when it is convenient for you or when you like what you read?
- Why is it important to choose who you will be loyal to? Read Matthew 6:24. (you cannot be loyal to more than one "master")
- Loyalty is a choice, no one can make you be loyal to Jesus/God, but you are either loyal to God or not. If you are not going to be loyal to God who are you going to choose to be loyal to?
- How do you show your loyalty to God?
- Are there things you do that make people think you are not loyal to God? Share one thing that tempts you not to be loyal to God.
- Read 2 Timothy 2:13. What does this say about God's loyalty to us? (God will always be loyal/faithful to us no matter what because that is the way he is, it is his nature)

## Prayer

Leader pray this prayer. "Father you promise us that your Holy Spirit is with us even when we mess up. Help us to listen to the Holy Spirit so that we can be loyal to you even when we are tempted not to be. I ask this for all the kids in Jesus name, amen."

## Craft

As for Me and My House I Will Chose to Serve the Lord

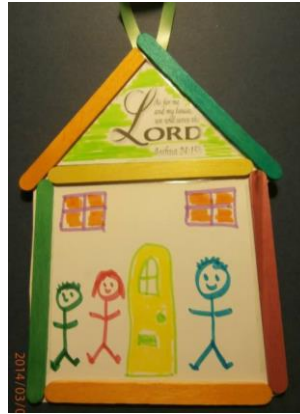
Decorate paper houses using Popsicle sticks, small milk cartons, or paper bags. Add Joshua 24:15b, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

### Paper Bag Houses

Materials needed: brown paper bag, construction paper, old newspapers, decorating materials, stapler, glue.

Directions:

1. Fold a piece of construction paper (or other decorative paper) in half. From the fold, draw a roof shape that is wider at the bottom than the top. Cut out.
2. Decorate the paper bag with details to look like a house with shutters, door, plants, people in the windows, etc.... Make sure the details will not be covered up with the roof.
3. Fill the bag with scrunched up newspapers to give it shape.
4. Close the top of the bag and staple shut.
5. Put the roof on top and staple in place.



## Closing Activity

### Do You Know Me?

God gives us the Bible so that we get to know Him and increase our loyalty to Him. In this game we will get to know one another by learning things about each other.

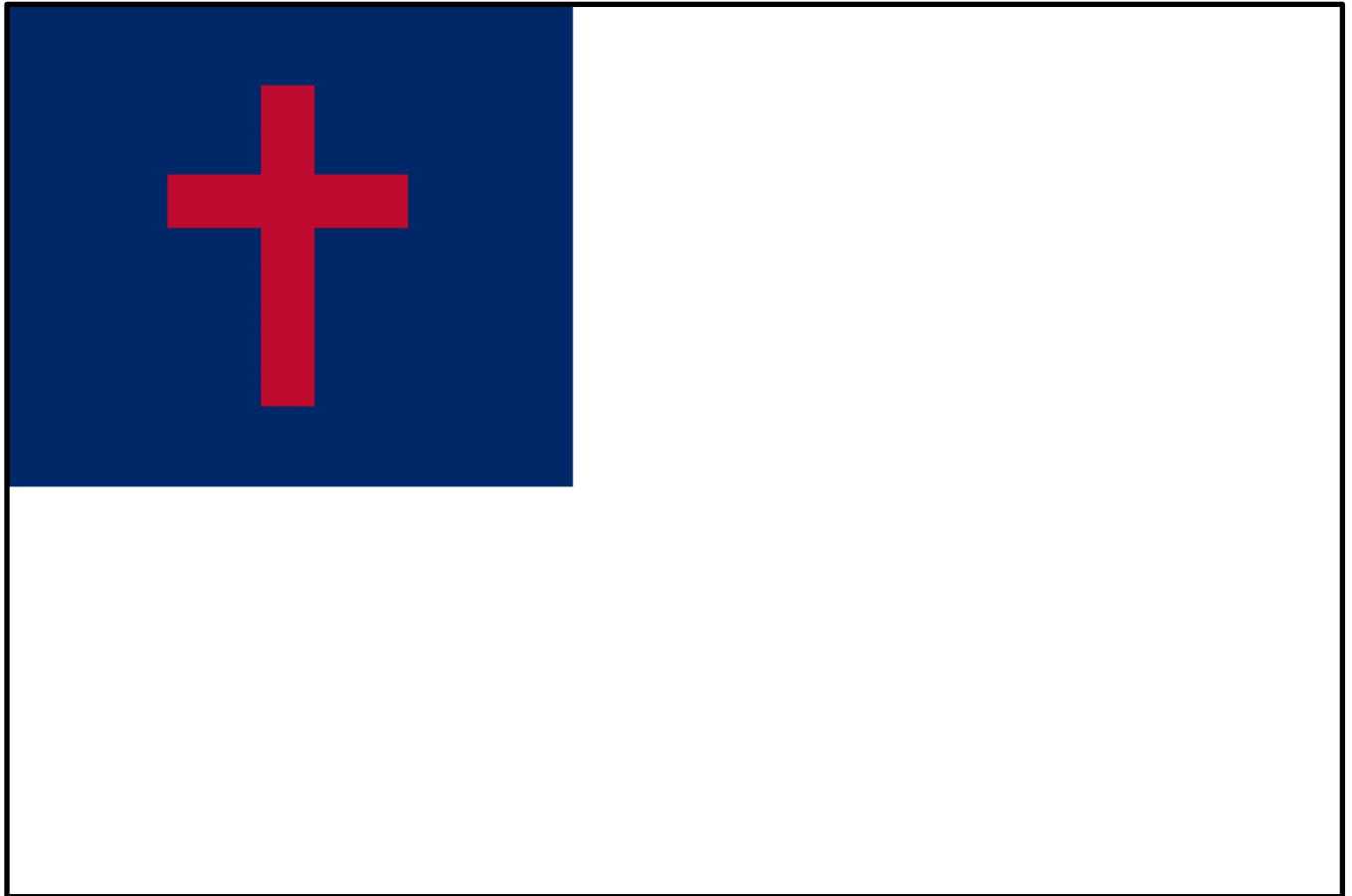
Have everyone sit in a circle and place a bowl in the center. Pass out a piece of paper and pencil to each person and have them write down one thing that they think no one knows about them. When they finish, have them fold it in half and place it in the bowl.

After everyone is done, pass the bowl around and have everyone pull out someone else's paper. If they pick up their own, they should put it back in and pull out another one. Go around the circle and have each person take a turn reading the paper they picked out loud and try to guess who the paper belongs to. You get three tries to get it correct. Take turns until everyone guesses the person that goes with their paper.

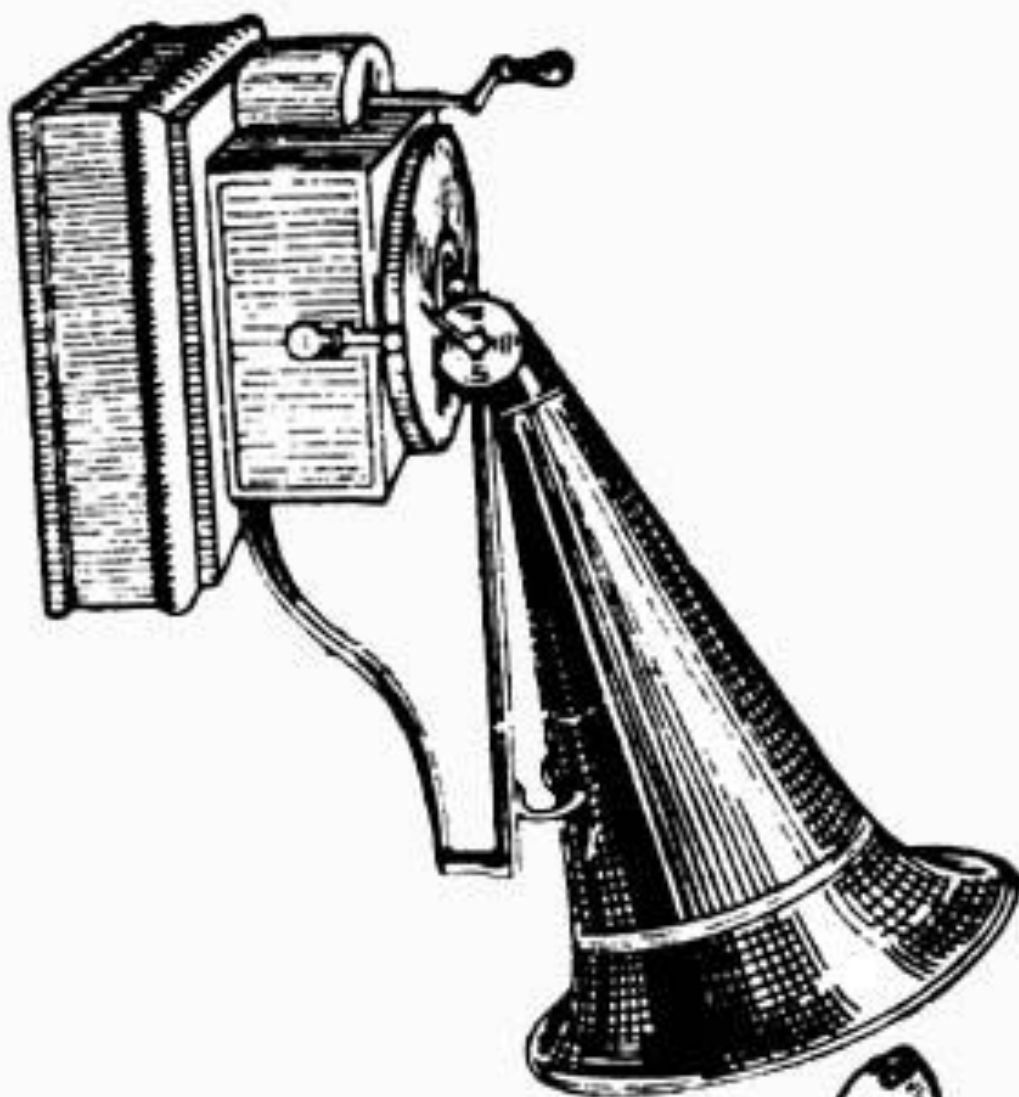
Optional: Add some things about God.

Loyalty

YOUNGER CHILDREN-For younger children have each one come to the teacher one at a time and tell the teacher the one thing about them. The teacher writes that one thing down then places them in the bowl. Pull them out one at a time and read them and have the children guess one at a time which child goes with which statement.



Christian Flag



Loyalty

# Lesson 5: LOYALTY

## God is Always Loyal

### Lesson Objective

God is loyal to us because of who He is.

### Scripture References

#### Matthew 26:33-35

<sup>33</sup> Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

<sup>34</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

<sup>35</sup> But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

#### John 21:15-19 (GNT)

<sup>15</sup> After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> A second time Jesus said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> A third time Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter became sad because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” and so he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.

<sup>18</sup> I am telling you the truth: when you were young, you used to get ready and go anywhere you wanted to; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you up and take you where you don’t want to go.” <sup>19</sup> (In saying this, Jesus was indicating the way in which Peter would die and bring glory to God.) Then Jesus said to him, “Follow me!”

#### 2 Timothy 2:13

<sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself (deny who he is).

#### 1 John 1:9

<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

#### Isaiah 54:10

<sup>10</sup>Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

### **1 John 4:19**

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us.

### **2 Thessalonians 3:3**

<sup>3</sup>But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

### **Deuteronomy 31:6**

<sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

### **Isaiah 41:10**

<sup>10</sup>So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

### **Psalms 46:1**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

### **Jeremiah 31:3**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

### **1 John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

### **Matthew 28:20**

<sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

### **Romans 8:38-39**

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Opening Activity**

Sing a round like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat", "Three Blind Mice", "Kookaburra", or "Fish and Chips and Vinegar". How many rounds can you complete before it falls apart?

Hoola Hoop Challenge-Time each participant. Who can keep the hoop up the longest?

## **Large Group**

- How long were you able to keep up the opening activity? What caused you to stop?
- How many of you have ever heard of the Energizer Bunny? What is he known for? (the toy bunny that keeps on going)

- Where does he get his energy? (from a battery) Does he really keep going on and on forever? Why? (No, batteries have a limited amount of energy and when the energy is gone, the bunny quits moving)
- We have been talking about loyalty this month. What does it mean to be loyal? (**Loyalty is a commitment to someone or something. It is doing what you can to support or protect someone/thing and wanting what is best for them.**)
- What are ways you can show loyalty? (pledge yourself to a person or country/cause, continue to be someone's friend no matter what, supporting and protecting the people in your family, other responses...)
- Is it easy to remain loyal to someone or something? Can you think of a time when it would be hard to continue to be loyal? (friend who moved away, joined a different team, etc.)
- Read Matthew 26:33-35.
  - Who said he would be loyal? (Peter)
  - Who was he going to be loyal to? (Jesus)
  - Peter said he would be loyal no matter what. What kinds of things did Peter think he could withstand? (even having to die for Jesus)
  - Sounds like he has a lot of loyalty. But what did Jesus tell Peter? (Peter would disown/deny that he knew Jesus 3 times)
  - When we read on (verses 69-75) we see that this is exactly what happened. Did Peter not really mean it when he told Jesus he would be loyal? (yes) Why did his loyalty fail? (responses-perhaps he was scared)
  - How do you think Jesus felt when Peter denied knowing Him?
  - How would you feel if your friend wasn't loyal to you?
- Sometimes it really is hard to be loyal. Let's read what happened later in John 21:15-19.
  - After He rose from the grave, Jesus met with many people including Peter. What did Jesus ask Peter? (Do you love me?)
  - What was Peter's answer? (Yes)
  - How many times did Jesus ask Peter? (3 times)
  - Did Jesus know the answer? (yes, because he is God) Why did He ask Peter the same thing three times?
  - Jesus not only asked Peter if he loved Jesus, but He asked Peter to do something. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? (take care of his lambs/sheep)
  - Did Jesus have real lambs and sheep that he wanted Peter to take care of? (no) Who are Jesus' sheep and lambs? (people) What did he want Peter to do? (tell and teach other people about Jesus)
- Jesus didn't dump Peter as a friend and disciple just because Peter messed up. Jesus still loved Peter. He forgave Peter and trusted him with an important job, taking care of others that Jesus loved. He was still loyal to Peter no matter what.
- Read 2 Timothy 2:13.
- Jesus was faithful/loyal to Peter because of His love for His people. God is loyal to all of us because that is the kind of god He is.
- Let's do one thing and then we will talk about that in our small groups.

- *Place tape down the middle of the room. On one side place a card with the word “Yes” and on the other side of the tape place a card with the word “No”.*
- I am going to read you some statements. Choose which side of the room answers how you would respond.
  - My sister took my favorite toy and broke it, but I will help her with her homework anyway.
  - Mom knows I love her, so I don’t need to do my chores.
  - Grandma sure was grouchy today, but I should mow her lawn anyway.
  - My best friend ignored me today so I’m going to ignore him tomorrow.
  - I pledged allegiance to the United States of America but I don’t care what happens to this country.
  - Whatever bad things happen to other people, they deserve it.
  - I hurt God with my actions but He still loves me.
  - I did something wrong but will ask God to forgive me and He will.
  - I broke my promise to God but he still keeps His promises to me.
  - God loves me even when I don’t love Him.
  - Jesus died for me because I deserved it.
  - I need to be careful because God could kick me out of His family.
- In our small groups we are going to talk about how God remains loyal to us even when we aren’t loyal to Him.

## Small Group

- Lamentations 3:22-24 (NCV) says:  
The Lord’s love never ends; his mercies never stop. They are new every morning; Lord, your loyalty is great. I say to myself, “The Lord is mine, so I hope in him.”
- You can show loyalty in many ways but sometimes you will mess up. It happens. But God’s love never ends. His unending loyalty is why you can hope and trust in Him always.
- Let’s look at some verses and see what else they say about God’s loyalty to you:
  - 1 John 1:9 (He shows loyalty by always forgiving you if you ask to be forgiven-He doesn’t hold a grudge)
  - Isaiah 54:10 (He shows loyalty in his love and compassion/care for you)
  - 1 John 4:19 (He was loyalty you first even before you knew you needed Him)
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (He shows loyalty by protecting you)
  - Deuteronomy 31:6 (He is loyal, He will never leave you or forsake/give up on you)
  - Isaiah 41:10 (He pledges to always be your God)
  - Psalm 46:1 (He is there for you, a place of refuge-safety and protection)
  - Jeremiah 31:3 (His loyalty and love for you is everlasting)
  - 1 John 3:16 (His loyalty was shown when He laid down His life for us/died for us on the cross)
  - Matthew 28:20 (His loyalty lasts to the end of time)
  - Romans 8:38-39 (No one can take you away from Him)
- The Bible is God’s pledge to be loyal to you. When you read His word you see that no matter what you say or do it doesn’t change the way God feels about you. Jesus didn’t say He would

only die on the cross if people were “good enough”. He said He did it because He loved you so much.

## Application

- When do you feel like God is not on your side?
- What makes you feel that way? Who wants you to think that God isn't loyal to you? (devil) Why would he want you to feel that way? (to separate you from God)
- God can never stop being loyal to you because that is who He is.
- With a partner, pick a verse from the ones we looked at today that helps remind you how much God is loyal to you and spend a few minutes trying to learn it. Write it down, highlight it in your Bible, mark it with a special bookmark, write the reference in the front cover of your Bible so you will know where to find the verse.
- Share with the group what verse you and your partner selected.

## Prayer

Pray this prayer for the children. “Father, thank you for being a God who is always there, never changes, and will never stop loving me. Help me to be loyal to you the way you are loyal to me. I ask this in Jesus name, amen.”

## Craft

### Morning glories

Lamentations 3:23 (NCV) says, “They are new every morning; Lord, your loyalty is great.” A morning glory is a flower that opens up every morning and closes every afternoon. We want to make a morning glory to remind us that God's love is unending, it feels fresh and new each day.

You can make morning glories out of construction paper and affix it to another paper with the verse written, make morning glories out of pipe cleaners, or coffee filters.



Loyalty

Pipe cleaner instructions (for blue flowers): You will need 5 pieces each of 6" light blue pipe cleaner, 6" dark blue pipe cleaner, and 12" light blue pipe cleaner. You will also need a 12" green pipe cleaner.

1. Take one 6" light blue pipe cleaner and one dark blue pipe cleaner.
2. Find the center of the light blue one and twist it around the center of the dark blue one and bend the light blue one in a "V" shape.
3. Ignoring the dark blue "leg" that is between the "V" start attaching a 12" light blue pipe cleaner to the other three "legs", twisting it around the legs to secure it so that you are weaving in a triangle shape.
4. Just before reaching the end of the 12" piece, bring the extra blue leg up and fold it over the top of the triangle. Then finish off the 12" piece around the dark blue to secure it.
5. Cut off the excess light blue ends and wrap them down to secure them. This is your first petal.
6. Do this 4 more times.
7. Gather the 5 petals and use the green pipe cleaner to wrap around all the dark blue "stems". Bend the petals into a flower shape.
8. See this link [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SHmfm\\_aY7M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SHmfm_aY7M)



## Closing Activity

### The Categories Game

1. Sit in a circle
2. Choose a category
3. Go around the circle naming items that fit the category until someone cannot come up with an answer. You may not repeat an answer.
4. The round ends and someone chooses a new category
5. Option-the person who cannot name an item steps out of the circle and play continues until there is only one person left.

Here's an example: If the category is reptiles, player 1 names "snake", the player 2 says, "crocodile" and player 3 says, "chameleon". Player one names another and the process keeps going until no one can think of another reptile.

### Category Ideas

Things with wheels

Things you see in the sky

Things with a zipper

Things that have a string or strings

Loyalty

Vegetables  
Games that use a ball  
Countries  
Musical Instruments  
Candy Bars  
Dogs  
Insects  
Things to do on vacation  
Favorite books