

The Words of Eternal Life

Aim: To talk about sticking by your friends

Occasion: Ordinary Sunday 21

Scripture: John 6:60-69

Game: (for younger children) dice movement game

Preparation: you need a dice. On a large piece of paper number 1-6 down the left-hand side of the page. Next to each number, write an instruction. Eg 'wobble like a jelly', 'jump like a kangaroo', 'squeal like a pig'.

What to do: Get the children to sit in a circle. They each take turns to roll the dice. Whatever number they roll, everyone must do whatever is written next to that number on the list. The game ends when everyone has had a turn.

Game: (for older children) Instruction game

Preparation: You need to make 5-10 different 'instruction' cards. Write things like 'turn around 3 times really fast', 'shake hands with everyone in the room', 'sing the alphabet song in a silly voice' etc. Hide them around the room.

What to do: Explain to the children that hidden around the room are 5 (or whatever number you have) bits of paper hidden around the room. When you say 'go' they must find them as quickly as they can. When they find one, they must read it and immediately do what is written on the paper. This could get quite chaotic, but its good fun!!!!

Story: (John 6:60-69) The Words of Eternal Life

Many of Jesus' disciples heard him and said, "This is too hard for anyone to understand."

Jesus knew that his disciples were grumbling. So he asked, "Does this bother you? What if you should see the Son of Man go up to heaven where he came from? The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are from that life-giving Spirit. But some of you refuse to have faith in me."

Jesus said this because from the beginning he knew which one would betray him.

Then Jesus said, "You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you."

Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him.

Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. Simon Peter answered, "Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life. We have faith in you, and we are sure that you are God's Holy One."

Talk:

Do you and your friends like all the same things? Do you ever disagree? (pause for discussion) I have friends that have different interests to me. For example, one of my friends likes to swim but I don't. And I love to paint but my friend doesn't. Do you think its ok for friends to like different things? (pause)

In today's story, Jesus was talking to all his friends and was telling them things that they were finding hard to understand. Can anyone remember what some of



the followers did? That's right, they turned their backs on him and stopped following him.
 What about the twelve disciples, what did they do? (pause)
 That's right; they stuck by him because they believed what he said.

The disciples trusted Jesus because he was their friend and he had never done anything to them to break that trust. Wouldn't it be great if we all could have and be friends like Jesus?

Well, today we are going to make our own 'Words of Eternal Life' books so that we can write down/draw some of the things that Jesus said for us to remember. You may like to write/draw your favourite stories about Jesus. There will even be lots of room for your own pictures and prayers!

Questions:

- Do you and your friends like all the same things? Do you ever disagree?
- Do you think its ok for friends to like different things?
- In the story today, can anyone remember what some of the followers did?
- What about the twelve disciples, what did they do?
- What are some ways that we can be good friends like Jesus?

Activity: Words of Eternal Life Book

[Words of life book template](#)

note: I had trouble with the size of this week's template. It is smaller than it should be. Either copy and paste it to a word programme to resize it, or create your own. The size should be A5 (half an A4)

What you need: A copy of the cover template, cardboard, A4 paper cut in half to make pages with (A5 size), bibles, scissors, ribbon and a needle or stapler, things to decorate and write with.

What to do: Glue the cover template to the cardboard. Cut out. Fold along the centre line. Decide how many pages you want to put in the book. Fold them in half. Staple the book together. Or if you are using ribbon, make two holes with the needle along the centre fold line and then thread the ribbon through. Tie it into a bow.

Now you can decorate the pages with bible verses or prayers or pictures.

