



TREASURE CHEST

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e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

Produced by Children's Ministry Network in W.A.

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Olympic Games

London 2012
27 July - 12 August



The Olympic Flag has been part of the Olympic Games since 1920. It is a plain white background with 5 interlocking coloured rings.

At the closing ceremony of the Olympics, the mayor of that city presents the Olympic flag to the mayor of the next city where the games are to be held in 4 years time.

The 5 interlocked rings represents the five original continents and the fact that athletes from these continents meet together in the true spirit of sportsmanship.

However, when I look at the colours of that flag, it reminds me of God's good news message.

Firstly, **blue** reminds me of the sky and the sea. The sky surrounds the world and the sea joins the continents together. God has made a beautiful world for us all to enjoy.

The **yellow** colour reminds me of gold which is very valuable and precious. However, people are worth **more than gold**. We are loved by God and are valuable and precious to Him.

The **dark** colour reminds me of 'the dark side' of people's lives. There are things that we sometimes do that we are ashamed of. The Bible calls that SIN and it causes us to do wrong, like lying, stealing, bad attitudes, disobeying, etc. It also cuts us off from being friends with God.

Green reminds me of life - green grass and leaves. God wants me to live a good life, but sometimes I fail. There is only one person who lived a perfect life and that was Jesus.

Red reminds me of Jesus who was nailed to a cross on that first Easter and the blood that came from his body. He died to take the punishment for our sins.

The **white** (*background colour of the flag*) reminds me of something that is pure and clean. When we pray and ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, he does forgive us and we have a clean new beginning and become part of God's family.

Filler Games

You've finished all your teaching and lesson material and find you've still got 10-15 minutes to fill in. Here are a few quick fillers. There are hundreds, so why not start building a resource file of filler games that require very few (or no) props. It'll be a life-saver! Just use an exercise book to record them. It will also be helpful to make a note as to when you used this game so that a few months down the track (when your memory fades!!!!) you won't be repeating the same old game.

Going on a Trip

The first child says, "I am going on a trip and I am taking an (*child inserts an item that begins with the letter A*)." The next child says, "I am going on a trip and I am taking an (*inserts the A item*) and a (*child inserts a different item that begins with the letter B*)." The third child says, "I am going on a trip and I am taking an (*inserts the name of the A item*), a (*inserts the name of the B item*), and a (*child inserts a new item that begins with the letter C*)." This pattern continues around the room until the group of children has exhausted the entire alphabet. If you have a large group (e.g. more than 15) then have several groups playing at the same time in different parts of the room. Make sure you have one leader with each group.



Telephone

(Chinese Whispers)

The children make a line across the room. You can use one line or the children can form several lines, which could make for a more entertaining game. The teacher thinks of a phrase and whispers it in the ear of the first child in line. That child then turns and whispers the phrase to the next child. This chain of whispers continues down the line until it reaches the last child. The last child says the phrase out loud to hear how much the phrase changed as it travelled down the telephone line. The last child in line then moves to the front of the line and the next round begins.

Silly Races

In small groups invent some silly races that kids can see who is fastest at. e.g. crawling, rolling on the floor, blowing ping pong balls across the table, walking with baby steps, walking on tip toes, etc. Be creative - ask the group for ideas if you get stuck.

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

Resources:

– double click on the links below to go to their website when online –

Throw and Tell Balls: Simply inflate a sturdy ball and let kids toss the ball around and answer whatever question lands under their left thumb. It's quick, it's easy, it's fun...and it involves everyone all of the time. Get kids talking, sharing, bonding, laughing, and exploring—as you prepare to launch a lesson. Balls are crafted of extra-thick plastic, 3-colour, and designed for years of use. www.mediacom.org.au (Select 'Christian Education' on the left of the screen and enter the 'Mediacom educational resources' section. Page through to around page 10)



Gospels in Play dough: Check out this great little concept that you may be able to use for your younger children's ministry - www.gospelsinplaydough.com



Fit4Gold: Download this program to fit in with this years Olympic Games. www.soulspace1014.com

Run to Win!: A 4 session curriculum by David Goodwin (KidsReach) based on the Olympic Games. Also he has for sale wrist bands (bracelets) that use the Olympic Flag/ rings to explain the gospel. (see front page of this newsletter for a similar concept),

CEBS (Anglican Boys Society in WA) has resource books for sale to help you run a boy's club in your church. Contact: Chris Oliver email: cebsbma@bigpond.com for a list.

Other KidsMin resources: www.nurturebright.com.au

Encouragement - we all need it.

In our local church we need to encourage the pastor, the office lady, the cleaners, those doing the flowers, your fellow kids ministry workers, those working in the crèche, the musicians ... and the list goes on and on and on. But also the children need to be encouraged. If they have a positive experience at church, then there is a greater 'chance' of them being long term attenders and even followers of Jesus.

Words to Give Positive Reinforcement to our kids.

1. You've got the right idea.
2. You've done a really good job.
3. That's great - well done.
4. You make it look easy.
5. That's a good point.
6. Terrific. Excellent work.
7. Nice going.
8. Keep up the good work.
9. Very interesting. I wish I'd said that.
10. Cool/ Awesome (or whatever is the current 'in' word!).



TRY IT and see whether it helps create a better atmosphere in your church.

p.s. There are stacks more. Use the ones that suit your personality. And be **genuine** - because that's the 'message' that the kids will really take note of.

LEADERS CHECK LIST

(submitted by Chris Oliver CEBS—Anglican Boys)

Check your leadership skills on the following list.

Give yourself a tick if you believe its true and a cross if you feel it isn't true.

- I work as a team member with other leaders.
- I encourage younger inexperienced leaders.
- I expect the kids to be well behaved at all times.
- I take an interest in each member of my group.
- I have a planned program for each week when required to do so.
- I try to do everything myself.
- I always give plenty of warning if I am unable to be there.
- I always seek help or advice if I am not sure of something.
- I am always enthusiastic about what I am doing.
- I attend leader training courses/seminars when offered.
- I realise my own physical strength when playing games & other activities with children involved.
- I try to spend most time with problem children.

Suggestion: Discuss these issues with other kids ministry workers. Some of them are good practices; others are poor practices.

I Just Look After The Little Kids

Did you know that God is in the church nursery? "And Jesus took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37)



When you welcome a child in the name of Jesus you welcome Jesus himself. God is with us, even in the church nursery. Wow! **What a vital ministry you have! You are God's representative.**