

Things to take:

- Question box with pens & paper.
- Door welcome sign, register & rules.
- Memory Verse Sign and cut out pictures.
- Paper, pencils and CD print outs for game.
- Either 'God's Love is big' or 'Deeper' song.
- Russian doll for talk.
- Coin for end game.
- Pens and paper for response.
- Balloons for memory verse.

Session Aim:

To show them that there is a big difference between knowing about God and knowing Him as your friend, Lord and Saviour.

"Lord you know me, you see my heart."

Psalm 139

Game as they arrive and register: Identify the object

Print out the zoomed in pictures from the CD and stick them around the room. Give the children a piece of paper and pencil as they arrive and tell them that have to identify the pictures.

Game: Find the truth

Leaders give 3 'facts' about themselves, 2 of which are untrue. The children have to spot the true one. Could get couple of children to do it too? Depending on the children!

Rules & Question Box – can anyone remember any of last terms memory verses?**Memory verse:**

"Lord you know me, you see my heart." Psalm 139

Write down the memory verse on some balloons - one word on each balloon. Get some people up to the front to try putting them in the write order, get everyone else to help. Now they have to try memorise it - before all the balloons are popped (by you!)

Game: Wink Murder

One child leaves the room, they become the detective. The rest sit in a circle and one child is nominated the 'murderer'. The detective then comes back in and stands in the centre of the circle. If the 'murderer' winks at a child, they have to fall over, 'dead' (quietly!!). The detective's task is to identify the 'murderer' before too many deaths occur.

Talk:

If possible borrow a Russian doll set to talk about how we know people at different levels. The biggest outside doll is what everyone sees, even if you don't know them. The next one in is what others in your class see; they know your name, what subjects you're good at, but not much else. The next one is what your best friends know; they know what you enjoy and when you're in a good or bad mood. The smallest one in the centre no-one knows except God, maybe not even us.

Use this to lead into knowing God. He longs for us to really know Him, to know the secrets of His heart. Are you going to settle for just knowing a bit about Him or do you want more? Next few weeks we shall look at how we can get to know Him.

Pray

Lord please help us to want more of you and not to settle for just knowing about you. Amen

Bible bit: Psalm 139 (children's version)

Get the children into groups. Read the version of Psalm 139 out to them and get them do actions while you are reading it. Link Psalm back to the talk. (You could add the challenge of seeing if the kids can remember the whole verse for next week with the actions)

Psalm 139

LORD JESUS YOU KNOW ME,
YOU SEE MY HEART,
YOU KNOW WHEN I SIT DOWN & WHEN I STAND UP,
YOU KNOW MY THOUGHTS EVEN BEFORE I THINK THEM,
BEFORE I ARRIVE YOU KNOW WHERE I AM GOING,
THIS IS VERY HARD FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND,
IF I JOURNEY INTO SPACE YOU ARE THERE,
IF I JOURNEY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.... EVEN THERE YOU WILL FIND ME,
NOT EVEN THE DARKNESS CAN HIDE ME,
YOUR HAND WILL PROTECT ME,
BECAUSE IN YOUR EYES DAY AND NIGHT ARE THE SAME,
YOU SAW ME GROW IN MY MUMMYS TUMMY,
AND I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I AM MADE IN AN AMAZING & WONDERFUL WAY,
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE ARE WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOK.

Testimony:

Get a leader to share about how they became a Christian and how it changed their life.

Response:

Get the kids to draw a big circle filled with more circles that get smaller on a piece of paper. These are like the Russian doll, but it's for their lives. They can do the circles different colours. They can take them home and have it to remember that God knows us better than anyone.

Song & Actions:

This term you could either do 'God's Love is Big' from 'Kids Wanna Praise Rock' CD or 'Deeper' by 'Delirious?' which you can download from Amazon for 69p. Words for both of the songs are on the resources section of the CD.

Game: Heads and tails

All children stand up and have to choose heads or tails. They put their hands on their heads for heads, and hands on their bottom for tails. When everyone has decided the leader flips a coin and the children who are right stay standing. This continues until you have a winner.

Pray: Kids Rock prayer before they leave.