

Sunday Morning Kids Talk on Encouragement

Start by calling up two volunteers (kids) and a leader to do an egg and spoon race. Get half of the group to cheer for one of the kids and the other half for the second kid.

Do the race up and down the hall and give a chocolate bar to the winner.

Ask about how they felt being encouraged and how the leader felt not being encouraged.

Intro:

We all need encouragement to help us get through stuff. Some of the time it's sporting events where our family is there on the sidelines to cheer us along and other times it's when we're feeling down and need a friend to talk with us and bring a smile to our face.

The story:

There was once a guy named John, who when he was half way through grade six, his dad got a job down in New South Wales and the whole family had to make the move with him. **John wasn't happy** about the move as he had heaps of friends and family in Queensland that he loved spending time with and also knew that when State of Origin came around, he'd be outnumbered!

When John's family moved it was the **worst few months of his life**. New house, new school, new church, new everything! At school, **John was teased** because he didn't know all the school work they were doing and he didn't get asked to play games at lunch time with everyone else. Because he was a Christian, he had decided **not to swear** and the kids at school teased him about that too. They would also **tell rude jokes** and say mean things about people **behind their backs** and John didn't want to get involved in that kind of talk either. So no one would ever take the time to talk with him. Every day after school, John would **come home in tears**, he hated this new place and just wanted to come back up to Queensland where he grew up.

A few weeks past and things weren't getting any better. John had made up his mind that he couldn't take it any more and needed to **leave and go back** to his home up in Queensland. He had it all planned out, the bus left from near his school at one o'clock in on Friday afternoon, so he would go to school in the morning, then leave at lunch time and by the time he was expected back at home he would ring his parents and tell them what he was doing and it would be too late for them to stop him.

When Friday came around, he **packed his bag** making sure he put in all the things he would need for his big trip; a change of clothes, money, a book to read along the way, his toothbrush and of course a spare change of undies! And when he was packed, he headed off to school. The hours ticked away slowly as the morning crawled along and John was starting to feel a little bit nervous about the long trip ahead and worried for how his parents might react. Just before lunch, the **school weekly news letter** was handed out and pinned to John's copy was **a note** from the school office. When John saw this his heart started beating fast, **what could this be about?** He hadn't told anyone of his plans. He opened the letter and it said;

Dear John,

I know how hard it is to start somewhere new and have no friends. I've been seeing you struggling through these past few weeks and wanted to tell you how great I think you're doing. The other kids in your class don't know Jesus like you and I do, but you're showing them a great example of what He would be like if he was in your place.

Lots of love

Mrs Robertson

Well, **John was shocked**, Mrs Robertson was his **sisters Sunday School teacher** and he didn't even know that she worked at his school. He was amazed that someone thought that he was doing something good, especially as **he didn't think anything was changing**, but one thing was sure, he now would have to stay down in New South Wales and keep on being a Christian in his school so all the people in his class might see how much of a difference being a Christian can make to their lives.

You know, **encouragement** is one of those things that we can so **easily forget**. We can just keep on travelling on through life only thinking of ourselves and not worrying about how other people are going, but one small word of encouragement can **make someone's day** and even stop them from making a bad decision that could **effect their whole life**.

When I think of what **Jesus and the angels** are doing up there in heaven, I think of them standing there looking down at us and saying "**Come on** Toby, talk to your friend about me". "Come on Tara, hold back from gossiping about your best friend". "You can do it Jeff, just pick up your bible and read it, you'll learn heaps of stuff about me". Jesus is up there spurring us on and wanting the best for us so that when we see him **one day he can say**, "**well done**, you did great, now come in and enjoy heaven with me".

So **next time** you see someone **trying really hard** why don't you cheer them on and if someone's **feeling down**, maybe you are just the right person to help them out by saying something nice to them. I think **if we spend time encouraging** others, then we might just hear the **roar of angels applauding** our good works and someone else can know God a little better as we share our lives with them.

Heb 1:14 What are the angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to receive salvation.

In the same way, I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents."