

THEME: Harvest Thanksgiving

At this time of year many Churches celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving and the Squirrels may be involved with older Scouting Sections in a special celebration Service. This Programme explores some ideas which could be used as part of a display in the Church or meeting place.

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive at the meeting place – colouring or simple puzzles can keep children occupied until all the Drey arrives or use a ‘joining-in’ style game, such as ‘The farmer wants a wife’ or a circle format ball game.

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	<p>GAME: Apples And Pears</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Draw and cut out a large simple apple shape – one from green paper and the other from red and two pear shapes – one from green and the other from yellow</i> ○ <i>Attach these four pictures at random on the walls</i> ○ <i>When the Leader calls out, ‘run to the red apple’ or ‘skip to the yellow pear’ and so on, the children do the appropriate action to the corresponding picture!</i> 	Paper apples & pears Blutack
10	<p>ACTIVITY: Harvest Apples</p> <p>Large apple shapes can be coloured as the Squirrels please. Leaders can then help the children write, on the inner white shape, something they would like to thank God for – Mummy & Daddy, family, friends, autumn, food, and so. These can then be glued on to the apple and displayed!</p>	Large apple shapes Art materials White inner shape & glue
10	<p>ACTIVITY: Apple Tasting</p> <p>Let the Squirrels enjoy tasting some of the many juicy varieties of apples available in supermarkets or produced locally! Cut the apples into small slices and provide an array with different coloured skins – Golden Delicious and Granny Smith have green skins while Royal Gala and Pink Lady tend to be red. Russet apples with golden skins are also available at this time of year. This activity provides an opportunity to talk about the pips, how apple trees grow and that God sends the sun and the rain to nourish them, the bees to pollinate them and the skills of the apple grower!</p>	Variety of apples Sharp knife Chopping board Paper plates Wipes
10	<p>GAME: Pick An Apple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Divide the Drey into two equal teams, each team sits on the floor in a line</i> ○ <i>Position the lines about 2 metres apart and facing each other</i> ○ <i>Number the Squirrels from opposite ends in each team</i> ○ <i>Place the apple on the floor in the middle of the space between the two teams</i> ○ <i>A Leader calls out a number and the children from each team with that number run into the centre to pick up the apple and return to their place!</i> 	Card or plastic apple



10	<p>ACTIVITY: Thanksgiving Tree This tree makes a lovely display for either the meeting place or Church and the children's thoughts and prayers could be incorporated into a Thanksgiving Service. On a large sheet of paper or card draw a simple tree trunk and branches leaving plenty of room at the top for the Squirrels to add hand shapes for leaves. Colour the trunk and the branches brown. Help the Squirrels to draw round their open hand on autumn coloured paper and cut out the shape. They can add a simple 'thank you for.....' or adults can help them write a few words of a prayer. Don't forget to add their name on their hand. These hands can then be glued onto the branches to represent autumn leaves. Small red apple shapes could be added to continue the apple theme!</p>	<p>Large sheet of paper or card Coloured paper in autumn shades Red paper (optional) Art materials & glue Scissors</p>
5	Closing, Home	

Harvest Apples

