

LEADER OVERVIEW

Family Faith Events are a way to help parents and their kids make memorable moments together as well as empower parents to openly discuss their faith and values with their kids. By infusing fun, worship, prayer, and intergenerational relationship-building activities into these events, parents will feel your support as they navigate passing down their Christian faith to their kids. Through this event, you will equip parents to take an active role in the spiritual development of their kids by giving them ideas, tips, and guided practice at having conversations with their kids that center around a spiritual truth.

This *Game On!* event creates a fun atmosphere for families as they build lifelong memories while learning about the importance of following God's instructions for life. Along the way, parents will be guided to share through Parent Prompts.

After creating board games and learning more about God's instructions for Christians, Family Discipleship Time will reveal a spiritual truth in a way that kids of all ages can understand. At this event, you'll talk about the gift of God's Word and its importance in the life of believers. Then the **Faith at Home Page** invites parents to continue having regular conversations with their kids about their faith and values at home.

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PREPARING FOR THE EVENT

Who's invited?

The goal of this event is to help parents and caregivers take an active role in the spiritual development of the kids in their lives. It's easily adaptable to grandparents and grandkids, or any adult who is in a discipleship role with a kid or youth. Ideally, adults who attend this event should understand the importance of God's role in their lives and recognize their need for a Savior.

Setting

This event is designed to take place in any meeting space large enough to accommodate participants sitting at tables as families to do the activities that are outlined in this *Event Guide*.

Event Host

Determine who will be the primary host. This individual will lead this event as outlined in this guide. The Welcome and opening prayer is a great way to include your lead pastor in the event.

Promotion

Use the provided media graphics to promote this event in your kids, youth, and adult services as well as through social media and email communication.

Media

Themed media graphics are provided to allow you to create a visual presentation for this event. Graphics include a 5-Minute Countdown, Title Slide, motion graphics, and more!

Volunteer Roles

This event is uniquely designed to require minimal volunteers. Consider recruiting volunteers from small groups and Sunday School classes, senior adult ministry, and/or youth group. Volunteers should be old enough to perform responsibilities with minimal supervision and should be background checked prior to the event to ensure safety for all who attend. Roles may include:

- ☐ purchasing and organizing the supplies
- ☐ event setup and teardown
- ☐ assistance with activities
- ☐ Prayer Team
- ☐ table mentors who can facilitate conversation between parents and kids as needed

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ORDER OF EVENT

- [ ] **Welcome – 10 Minutes**
  Welcome participants, pray together, and introduce the faith focus of the event.

- [ ] **Family Activity Time – 25 Minutes**
  Guide families step-by-step through the event's activity, guiding parents to engage with their kids.

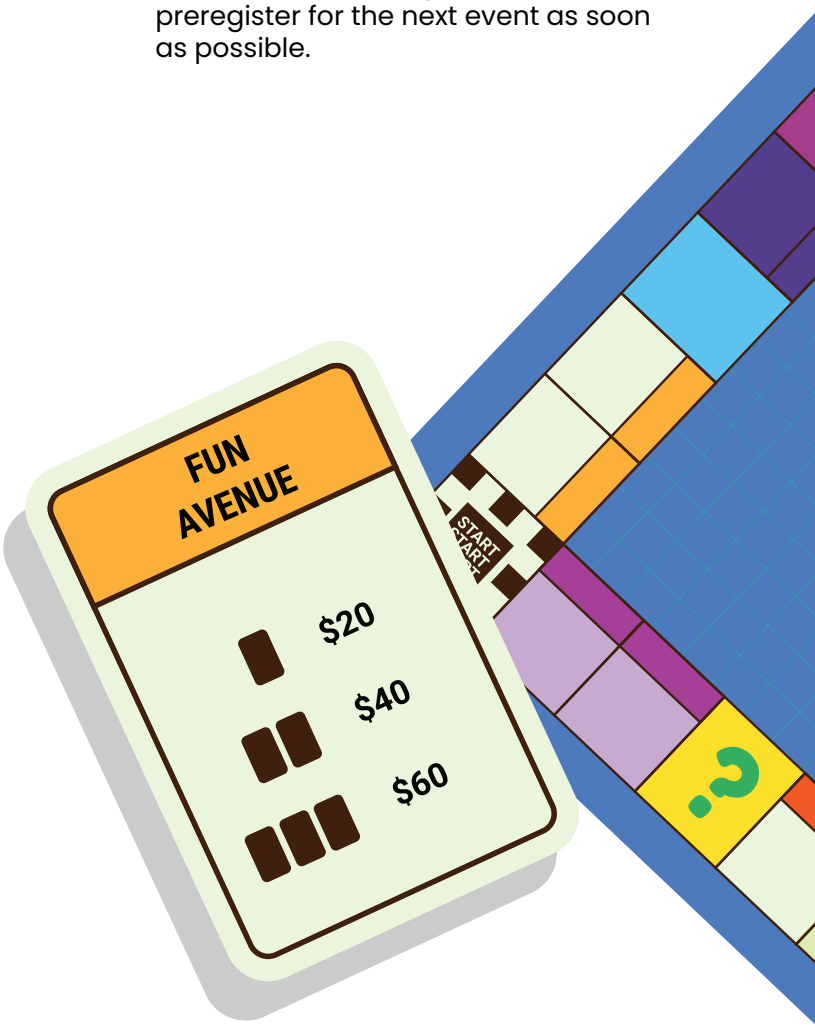
  - Distribute supplies to participants.
  - Play upbeat background music to bring energy to the event.
  - Instruct volunteers to walk around and assist as needed.
  - Encourage families to ask questions if they are confused.

- [ ] **Family Discipleship Time – 10 Minutes**
  Present a spiritual truth to encourage faith conversations.

  - Have families sit together and ask them to give you their attention for this time.
  - Encourage everyone to focus and try to refrain from conversation at the table and to avoid getting up during this time unless necessary.

- [ ] **Closing – 5 minutes**

  - Close in corporate prayer and then ask parents and kids to pray together as a family unit.
  - Encourage parents to review the **Parent and Caregiver Page** and at-home activities and Scripture.
  - If your next event has already been scheduled, encourage parents to preregister for the next event as soon as possible.



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You will need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ **Theme Slide**
- ☐ Table covers, 1 per table
- ☐ Dice, 1 per kid
- ☐ Poster board, 1/2 board per kid
- ☐ **Game On Rules,** 1 per kid
- ☐ **Game On Cards**, 1 per kid
- ☐ Scissors, 1 per kid
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Sample game board
- ☐ Decorative stickers
- ☐ Coins or small trinkets, 4–6 per kid
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Small basket or jar labeled "Token Basket," 1 per table
- ☐ Sandwich size zipper-style plastic bags, 1 per kid
- ☐ **Bible Verse Slides**
- ☐ **Parent and Caregiver Page**, 1 per family
- ☐ **Faith at Home Page**, 1 per family

Getting ready

Days Before the Event

- ☐ Read through this guide.
- ☐ Think about how you may need to adapt the event to best reach your group.
- ☐ Create a sample game board.
- ☐ Recruit volunteers.
- ☐ Promote the event.
- ☐ Pray for the families who will attend.

Day of the Event

- ☐ Set up the room.
- ☐ Cover tables to prevent mess.
- ☐ Lay out supplies on the tables.
- ☐ Print the **Game On Rules** and **Cards** pages, 1 set per kid.
- ☐ Print the **Parent and Caregiver Page**, 1 per family.
- ☐ Print the **Faith at Home Page**, 1 per family.



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WELCOME

10 MINUTES

Adapt this Event Guide as needed to best fit the participants who will be attending.

- *Optional: Show the **Theme Slide.***

Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you all could come today! We're going to have a great time and make some great memories together as we learn about God's instructions for life and why "playing by God's rules" is the best way to live. Before we begin, let's open in prayer.

> Dear God, thank You for everyone here today. I know that You love every one of us. Help us to learn more about You together. Amen.

Warm-Up Activity

- *Hand out a copy of the **Parent and Caregiver Page** to each parent.*

Today you're going to make a board game. Before we get started making a game, let's warm up and get us all talking to each other. Talking to one another is such an important part of being a family. To kick off our time together, parents, I'd like you to ask your kids the Sharing Together question from your **Parent and Caregiver Page**. Then, kids, I'd like you to ask your parents the same question. Here it is:

> **What is your favorite board game and why do you like it?**

- *Allow about five minutes for this activity. But, if conversation is still flowing, allow additional time.*

Introduce the Family Faith Topic

I hope you discovered something new about each other from that Sharing Together question. Today, we're also going to discover something new about God. Together, we are going to learn about God's rules and why living by His rules is the best way to live. Kids, raise your hand if you know what a rule is. *(Group response)*

A *rule* is an instruction for how to do something or how to act. For example, when you're driving a car, the rule for red lights is that you should *(Pause for response "Stop.")* Or, when you're playing Freeze Tag, what is the rule if you get tagged? What do you do? *(Pause for response "You freeze.")* Those are some examples of rules. Rules are important in almost everything we do and in the way we act wherever we go. If no one stopped at red lights, there would be a lot of car accidents. If no one froze when they were tagged during Freeze Tag, the game wouldn't be much fun. Rules actually keep us safe and help us have more fun.

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Here's another example. It might not seem fun if your parents say that you can't eat all your Christmas or Easter candy at one time. But if you did, you would probably be really sick. And that would be no fun.

Just like we have rules in life, God has rules that He wants us to live by. And those rules are written in the Bible for us to read.

Today we're going to explore why obeying God's rules is the best way to live. We obey because we love Him and because He wants the best for us. His rules are designed for our good. To learn more about God's rules, we're going to look at two examples in the Bible when people obeyed or didn't obey God's rules and what happened after they made their choice.

First, let's look at two people who chose not to follow God's rules: Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were the first two people ever created by God. They got to live in the Garden of Eden, the most perfect place to live that has ever existed. The Garden of Eden had beautiful rivers that flowed through it and fruit trees that grew the most juicy, delicious fruit you've ever tasted. Plus, they got to spend time with all the animals that God had created. It was perfect!

God only had one rule for Adam and Eve. That rule was that they could eat fruit from any tree except for one. They weren't allowed to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



But one day, while Eve was walking through the Garden, she made a choice not to follow God's rule. Let's read what Eve did. If you want to look up the story, it's in Genesis 3.

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. Genesis 3:6

Even though Adam and Eve had everything they could have ever wanted, they chose not to follow God's rule. And breaking this rule had sad consequences.

Genesis 3:23 says, "So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made."

Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden and weren't allowed to go back in. You see, even though the fruit on the tree they weren't allowed to eat looked delicious, because they chose to disobey God's rule, they had to leave the Garden.

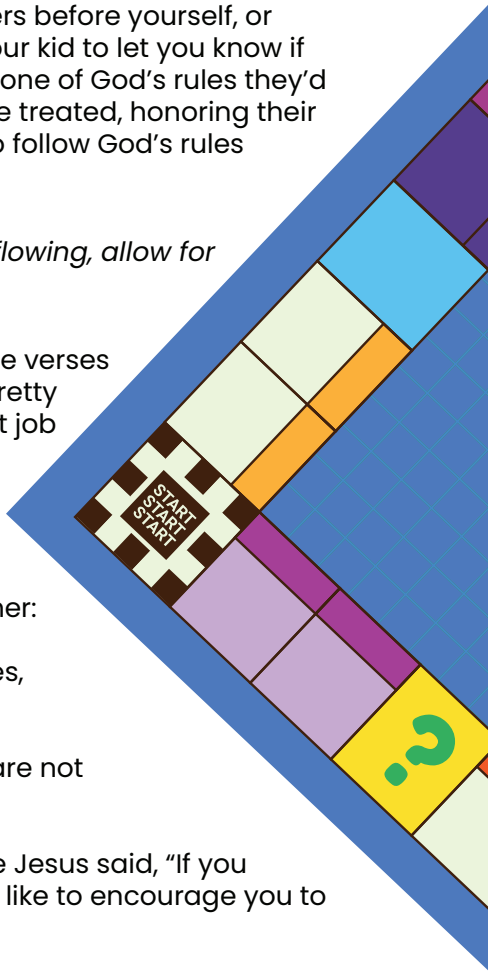
Parents, the world is constantly trying to invalidate or misinterpret God's rules for our lives. Too often the world tells our kids that God's rules are outdated or that they don't matter. People even claim that His rules don't really mean what the Bible clearly states God means. Our kids need to see us studying God's Word and living life the way He wants us to live, even when it's hard or we don't understand. We need to show our kids that Christians are called to live God's way, so we follow the rules God has given us in our speech, in our actions, and even in our fun.

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So, parents, I'd like you to share this with each of your kids. Tell your kid one of God's rules that you're going to try harder to follow (such as speaking kindly to others, putting others before yourself, or putting God first by spending time in prayer and Bible reading). Then ask your kid to let you know if they see you starting to disobey or break that rule. Then, ask your kid which one of God's rules they'd like to start following better (such as treating others the way they want to be treated, honoring their parents, or not lying). Tell them that you'll be their partner in learning how to follow God's rules more closely.

- *Allow a few minutes for this activity. However, if conversation is still flowing, allow for additional time.*



Great job! Before we begin our activity, let's take a minute to read a few Bible verses that give us an example of the importance of following God's rules. That's pretty important. I want Jesus to know that I love Him, but I don't always do a great job of following His rules. *(Read the verses listed below from the slides.)*

- *Show the **Bible Verse Slides** and read the verses.*

The Bible tells us God's rules are so important. Let's read two of these together:

"You must love the LORD your God and always obey his requirements, decrees, regulations, and commands." Deuteronomy 11:1

Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3

There's one more verse that I want to end with. It is found in John 14:15. There Jesus said, "If you love me, obey my commandments." This is an awesome Bible verse that I'd like to encourage you to memorize together as a family. We're going to practice it together later.

This verse is simple and easy to understand, but it's much harder to do. The world is full of things that seem harmless and even fun, but they go against what God tells us in the Bible. In the end, making those choices will leave us having to face the consequences for our disobedience just like Adam and Eve did. When you're faced with a choice or tempted to break one of God's rules, say this verse out loud and remember that you're choosing to love God when you are obedient.

Parents, one of the most important things we can teach our kids is to memorize Scripture. Having verses rooted deeply in their hearts will eventually become the weapons they use to defend themselves from the lies of the enemy. Without the knowledge of Scripture, their minds are vulnerable to Satan's mental attacks. By memorizing Bible verses together, you have the unique opportunity to coach your kid through life's difficulties using God's Word as a weapon as you model how to defeat the enemy with Scripture.

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FAMILY ACTIVITY TIME

20 MINUTES

Ready . . .

Today we are going to make board games. Parents, to get started, please read Parent Prompt 1 from the **Parent and Caregiver Page.**

- *Pause while parents read the prompt.*

Parent Prompt 1: I'm so glad we get to hang out today and make this cool game! While we learn about the rules God tells us to live by, we're also going to learn why following His instructions is the best way to live. Did you know that God gave us rules to protect us? Just like we have rules, such as wearing seatbelts in the car and *(insert your own family rule here)*, God has rules designed to keep us safe. If you don't wear a seatbelt in the car, you can get hurt in an accident. If we ignore God's rules, we'll wind up making decisions that hurt us or those we love. God loves us and wants what is best for us, just like I love you and want to keep you safe. I'm excited to learn more about following God's rules with you today.

Set . . .

How many of you like playing board games with your family? Which board game is your favorite? *(Allow responses.)*

Games are so much fun, and they're a great way to spend time together as a family. Did you know that thousands of new board games are created each year?[1] With so many options and new games coming out each year, it would be really hard to try to play them all! Board games usually share some things that make all board games alike. First of all, you need a board to play on. You also need pieces, sometimes called tokens or pawns, to move across the board. Plus you need dice, a spinner, or something that tells you how many spaces to move on the board.

You're going to put together all of these parts and create your very own board game today! Let's get started.

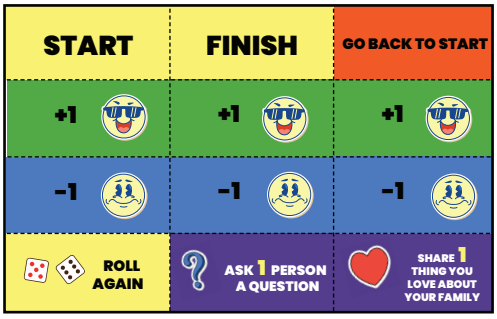
- *Hand out the supplies for the game boards (poster board,* ***Game On Rules*** *and* ***Cards,*** *scissors, decorative stickers, markers, and pencils.)*

Each kid needs a poster board to turn into a game board. First, cut out the game board boxes from the **Game On Cards.**

1. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/12/24/board-game-popularity/

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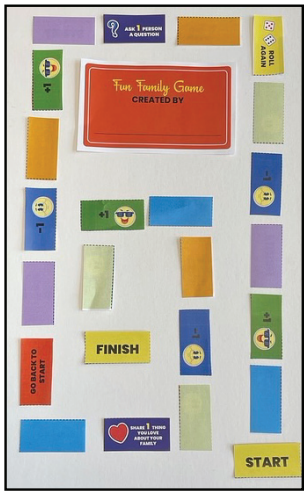
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Now, it's time to get creative! Think about the path for the game pieces to follow during the game. You can make your path straight, you can make it wavy, or you can make it totally unique. *(Hold up the sample game board.)* If you decide to change something, just move the boxes.

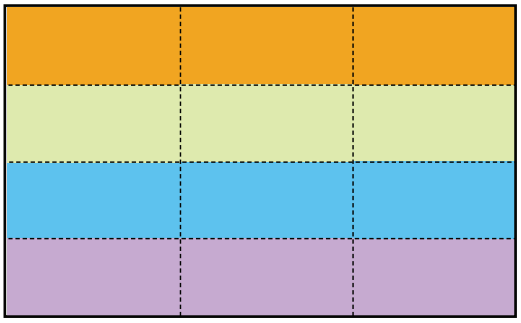
Start by making the first box the "Start" space and the last box the "Finish" space. Then, place the three boxes on your board that allow a player to move forward one space, and place the three boxes on your board where players have to move backward one space. Next place the one box that tells a player to roll again, and the one box that tells a player to go back to the beginning. Then fill in all the spaces with the extra boxes. Make sure each box touches or connects to the one before and after it.





If you have extra time, feel free to write or draw other instructions or silly challenges in any of the other boxes. For example, maybe one box would show that the player has to sing the ABCs while jumping on one leg. Parents, you may need to help kids write these indicators in their chosen spaces.

- *Assist kids as needed.*
- *Remind kids to be creative when choosing their paths.*
- *Walk around to look at what families are creating and make sure families are wrapping up before proceeding.*



Parents, read Parent Prompt 2.

- *Pause while parents read the prompt.*

> **Parent Prompt 2:** You did a great job making your game board! You're so creative, and I love the ideas that you came up with. I can't wait to see how this turns out. Now we're going to choose how we want to decorate the rest of our board. Let's look at the options we have. Should we do a theme or just fun colors and shapes? Where would you like to start decorating our board?

- *Pause while everyone follows the instructions.*
- *Allow parents and kids to choose markers, stickers, or any other decorations they want to use to decorate their game boards.*
- *Kids can add the orange Fun Family Game label to their game boards.*

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Wow! Everyone is doing such a great job! Next, I want you to choose "tokens" from the tokens basket on your table. Each game board needs at least four tokens for players to move on the board. If your family is larger than four members, select as many tokens as there are people.

We're almost done! We need to do one more thing for our game. Does anyone know what that might be? *(Allow responses.)* We need to make our game rules! A game without rules would be confusing and no fun at all.

How many of you know how to play Uno? *(Group response)* What if no one took turns, or no one matched the color or number of the card that was on the table? There really wouldn't be a point to playing the game, would there? It would just be a bunch of people sitting around and holding some cards in their hands. Rules make the game fun. They help everyone know the best way to play the game so that everyone enjoys playing.

So, now it's your turn! Use the **Game On Rules** page. Underneath those words at the top, make up three more rules for your game. Your rules might include, "Cheer for each other," or "Youngest player goes first." Think of some rules that will make your game special and fun!

- *Pause while families write the rules for their game.*

Parents, thanks for helping your kid write out the rules for your family's game. Now, please read Parent Prompt 3.

- *Pause while parents ready the prompt.*

> **Parent Prompt 3:** Do you know one of the most famous sets of rules in the Bible? I'll give you a hint: God gave the rules to Moses on a mountain and wrote them down on pieces of stone. Do you know what they are? *(Allow responses.)* They're the Ten Commandments! The Ten Commandments were given to Moses to help the people of Israel know right from wrong. Many people didn't know how God wanted them to live, so He gave them these rules to follow so they would know what God expected from them.

You've done amazing work today! Let's make sure you have your entire game ready to play as soon as you get home! Parents, help your kids go through this checklist with me.

- ☐ Does everyone have a game board made?
- ☐ Does everyone have a die?
- ☐ Does everyone have their tokens?
- ☐ Does everyone have their **Game On Rules** page?

Great! Here's a zipper bag for you to put all of those things in for you to take home.

- *Hand out a zipper-style plastic bag to each kid to collect game items for taking home.*



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Go . . . Deeper!

I'm so proud of all the hard work you put in today! I hope you learned a lot about the best way to live! Making the right choice isn't always easy. And making the right choice isn't always the most fun. But when we live the way God wants us to live, when we follow His rules for life, it's always the best choice. Some of God's rules keep our bodies safe and healthy, some of His rules keep our minds safe and healthy, and some of His rules are for our emotions. But all His rules keep our spirits obedient to what He wants us to do.

If we want to follow God's rules, we have to know what His rules are, right? So, after talking with your parents, what are some of the rules you learned about? *(Allow responses.)*

To truly get familiar with the way God wants us to live, we have to read His Rule Book, the Bible. If we don't spend time reading and studying what He says to us in the Bible regularly, we won't know the best way to live.

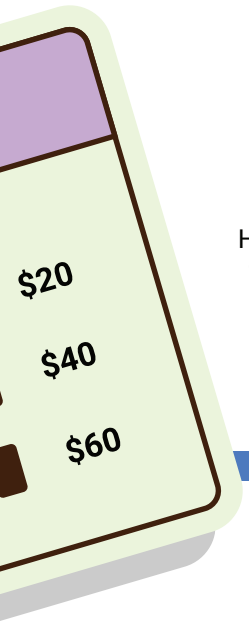
Joshua 1:8 says, "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do."

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP TIME

10 MINUTES

The Ten Commandments are some of the most well-known rules God has given us. Does anyone else know any rules that God has told us to follow? *(Allow responses.)* Here are a few you may have heard:

- *Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'" Matthew 22:37*
- *" 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Mark 12:30–31*
- *"Do to others as you would like them to do to you." Luke 6:31*
- *"Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly." John 7:24*
- *Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18*



Has anyone noticed a theme with the rules God tells us to live by? Do you notice something that most of God's instructions have in common? *(Allow responses.)* Most of God's rules for living fall into two categories: how we love God and how we love others.

As a family, choose one of the verses we just looked at and discuss it together.

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Take some time to talk about what the verse tells us about how God wants us to live. Talk through some real-life examples of how you and your family can do a better job of following this rule from God. What reminders can you create to remember the rule as you go about your day?

- *Allow several minutes for discussion.*

Would anyone like to share what they discussed?

- *Allow time for responses but don't force participation.*
- *Consider inviting parents and kids to ask Jesus into their life and then pray together.*

Optional: Salvation Prayer

Maybe you realize that you've never asked Jesus to give you new life. Today you have an opportunity to do that right now! If you'd like to invite Jesus to forgive you for the wrong things you've done and be your Lord and Savior, let's pray together.

- *Invite kids to come forward to pray with you or have everyone repeat the prayer after you.*

> Dear Jesus, I believe You came and died on the Cross so that I can be forgiven. Please forgive me for the wrong things I've done, my sins, and make me a new person. I want to live for You now. Thank You for coming into my life. Amen.

CLOSING

5 MINUTES

Before we finish, let's take time for you parents to pray for your kids and ask God to bless the truth that has been planted in their hearts and minds today. So, parents, get close and place your hands on your kid's head or shoulder and pray a blessing over them. A prayer of blessing is provided on your **Parent and Caregiver Page,** or just use your own words.

- *Allow time for parents to pray for their kids.*

I'm so glad that you came today. I hope you enjoyed our *Game On!* event and talking about your faith together. I'll be praying that God will help this time grow into something that you will carry with you for years to come.

- *Ask everyone to help clean up their space before they go home.*
- *Tell everyone that there is a **Faith at Home Page** with activities to help families continue to grow in their faith at home.*

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PARENT & CAREGIVER PAGE

The leader will tell you when to share the following.

Sharing Together

What is your favorite board game and why do you like it?

Parent Prompt 1: Affirmation

I'm so glad we get to hang out today and make this cool game! While we learn about the rules God tells us to live by, we're also going to learn why following His instructions is the best way to live. Did you know that God gave us rules to protect us? Just like we have rules, such as wearing seatbelts in the car and *(insert your own family rule here)*, God has rules to keep us safe. If you don't wear a seatbelt in the car, you can get really hurt in an accident. If we ignore God's rules, we'll wind up making decisions that hurt us or those we love. God loves us and wants what is best for us, just like I love you and want to keep you safe. I'm excited to learn more about following God's rules with you today.

Parent Prompt 2: Instruction

You did a great job making your game board! You're so creative, and I love the ideas that you came up with. I can't wait to see how this turns out. Now we're going to choose how we want to decorate the rest of our board. Let's look at the options we have. Should we do a theme or just fun colors and shapes? Where would you like to start decorating our board?

Parent Prompt 3: Interaction

Do you know one of the most famous sets of rules in the Bible? I'll give you a hint: God gave the rules to Moses on a mountain and wrote them down on pieces of stone. Do you know what they are? *(Allow responses.)* They're the Ten Commandments! The Ten Commandments were given to Moses to help the people of Israel know right from wrong. Many people didn't know how God wanted them to live, so He gave them these rules to follow so they would know what God expected from them.

Parent Prayer of Blessing

Pray over your kids. Say your own prayer or read the following.

[Jesus said,] "If you love me, keep my commandments."

(Name of kid), it's so wonderful to know how much God loves and wants what's best for us. He hurts when we hurt and He smiles when we smile. He's preparing a place for us in heaven. It's a place that's totally perfect, where one day we can live with Him forever. He loves you so much that He sent His son to die on the Cross for your sins. He knows that we could never follow His rules perfectly, so He sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. When we sin, when we mess up, when we aren't perfect, we have a way to be forgiven because Jesus died and rose again. May you always remember God loves you, wants the absolute best for you, and has a purpose for your life that will amaze you if you continue to seek and obey Him! Amen.

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FAITH AT HOME: GAME ON!

Use this family activity to continue to share your faith with your kids at home.

Play the game you created together.

Sharing Together

If you could mix any two flavors to create a new kind of ice cream, what would they be? What would you call the new flavor?

Parent Prompt 1: Affirmation

I'm so glad we get to hang out today and play this cool game! While we learn about the rules God asks us to live by, we're also going to learn why following His instructions is the best way to live. Did you know that God gave us rules to protect us? Just like we have rules, such as wearing seatbelts in the car and (insert your own family rule here), God has rules that are designed to keep us safe. If you don't wear a seatbelt in the car, you can get really hurt. If we choose to ignore God's rules, we will wind up making decisions that hurt us or those we love. God loves us and wants what is best for us, just like I love you and want to keep you safe. I'm excited to learn more about following God's rules with you today.

Parent Prompt 2: Instruction

That reminds me of the Bible verse we're learning. Let's say it together.

[Jesus said,] "If you love me, obey my commandments." John 14:15 (NLT)

Parent Prompt 3: Interaction

If you were the boss for one day, what rule would you make that everyone had to follow?

Why do you think it's important to read the Bible?

Why do you think God gave us rules that He wants us to follow?

What's your favorite board game?

Is there anything you'd like me to pray about with you?

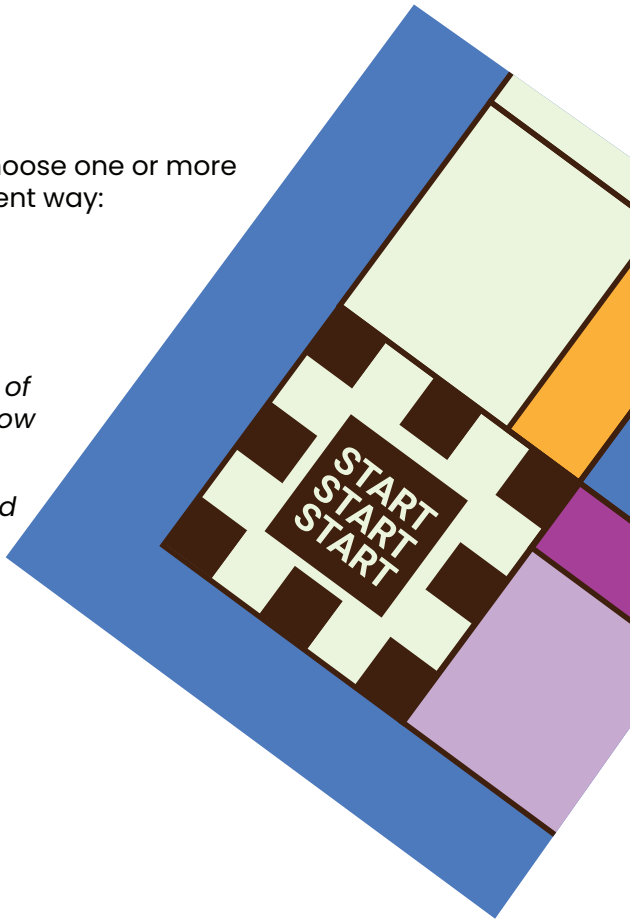
Parent Prayer of Blessing

Pray for any requests that your kids shared. Then close with a prayer of blessing for your kids:

Dear God, thank You for giving me the gift of (name of kid). They are so special and their gifts and talents amaze me every day. Help them to continue to use their special talents to bless those around them and to honor You. Thank You for Your love for us and for showing us the best way to live. May we always try our best to live in a way that pleases You. Amen.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

Have more time or need an alternative activity to do as a family? Choose one or more of the activities listed below to teach the same faith value in a different way:



Bonus Activities

- *Learn to play a new game together.*
- *Try cooking a new recipe together, being careful to follow all of the instructions. Discuss what would happen if you didn't follow the instructions.*
- *Play Simon Says or Follow the Leader to practice listening and careful obedience.*
- *Go on a scavenger hunt together, looking for things that relate to a certain season, that start with a certain letter, or that are a certain color.*
- *Find a song to help everyone memorize the Ten Commandments together as a family.*

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