

Rules for Life: Play well. Finish strong.



First, watch
this week's
video!

Responsibility:
Showing you
can be trusted
with what
is expected
of you

Memory Verse

Suppose you can
be trusted with
something very
little. Then you can
also be trusted
with something
very large.
Luke 16:10a, NIV

Bible Story

Greatest
Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40

Bottom Line

Love God.
Love others.

Use this guide to help your family learn how
God can help us be more responsible.



Activity

Spin to Love

WHAT YOU NEED:

Two paper plates, pencil, scissors (plus another set of supplies if you're making an extra spinner for yourself)

WHAT YOU DO:

On the inside of one of the paper plates (the side you eat off of), use the pencil to divide the plate into six equal pie-shaped sections. On the other paper plate, use the scissors to cut out a shape equal to the size of one "slice of the pie."

On the uncut paper plate, ask your child to write down the names of six people they could show love to this week—one name for each of the six sections. Then, instruct them to write "God" on the lip of the plate in all six sections.

Next, stack the cut plate on top of the uncut plate. Use the pencil to poke a hole through the bottom of the plates at the center, holding them together. When you spin the top plate while keeping the bottom plate still, it will reveal one name at a time, as well as God (on the lip of the bottom plate).

Say, "Every morning this week, spin your Love Spinner. Whichever name it lands on, your challenge that day is to find a way to show that person some extra love. Oh—and don't forget to show love to God every day, too!"

If you have time, create a Love Spinner for yourself as well. That way you can take on the challenge and share the experience with your child.



Talk About the Bible Story

Describe someone who loves God and loves others.

What are some ways we can love God every day?

What are some ways we can love others every day?

Can you love someone who gets on your nerves? How?

Parent: Share a story about a time you chose to show love to someone, even when it was hard.



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, You are the perfect example of love. You loved us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, for us. Help us to follow You this week by growing in our love for You and choosing to love the people You've placed in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

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Bible Story

Bigger Barns
Luke 12:16-21

Bottom Line

Share what
you have.

Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us be more responsible.



Activity

Acting Out

WHAT YOU NEED:

Scrap paper, pencil, jar or bowl

WHAT YOU DO:

Write the following scenarios on small scraps of paper (one scenario per paper scrap).

- Sharing your snack with someone
- Giving someone money
- Mowing the lawn
- Opening a door for someone
- Giving someone a hug
- Giving away toys

When you're finished, fold the scrap papers and place them in a jar or bowl.

Say, "We're going to play a game where one person acts something out without making a sound. If you see something laying around that you can use as a prop, grab it and use it, but no talking! The other person has to guess what the actor is doing. Ready? Let's play!"

Take turns with your child(ren), each of you drawing a paper out of the jar or bowl and then acting out the scenario. If someone gets stumped, give them a word or two as a hint (or let them skip one and leave it for you to act out).

When you're finished, say, "Do you know what all of those actions had in common? They were ways we can share what we have with others."

Talk About the Bible Story

In Jesus' story, what "problem" did the rich man have? (*His land produced so much grain that he didn't have room in his barns to store it all.*)

What did the man decide to do to solve his problem? (*Build bigger barns*)

Why do you think God was upset with the rich man in the story? (*The rich man was selfish; he could have shared his extra grain with a lot of people.*)

Have you ever had a hard time sharing something you loved?

This week, what's one way you can share what you have with someone else?

Parent: Tell a story about a time when you struggled to share something. Then, tell a story about a time you shared what you had. Talk about how you felt after each experience, and how those feelings were different in each situation.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, it's so easy for us to hold on too tightly to the things we have. When we see others in need, help us to be willing to share what we have. You've given us so much! You even gave Your own Son to die in our place. Help us to look for opportunities to share what we have with others. Amen."

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Bible Story

Ant and Sluggard
Proverbs 6:6-8

Bottom Line

Work hard.

Activity

Word Work

WHAT YOU NEED:

Note cards and pencil

(If you don't have note cards, take sheets of paper, divide them into quarters, and tear/cut them to create note cards.)

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask your child to sit down with you. Ask, "What words would you use to describe a lazy person?"

Write down their responses on the note cards—one for each card.

Then ask, "What words would you use to describe a person who works hard?"

Write down their responses on the note cards—one for each card.

Next, tell them to choose three cards that have words on them that they would want to be known for. Ask them why they chose those words.

Talk About the Bible Story

Who was the young ruler of Israel who later wrote the wise saying we learned today? (*Solomon*)

Out of everything Solomon could have had, what did he ask God for? (*wisdom*)

What did Solomon become known for? (*He became known as one of the wisest people to ever live.*)

What did Solomon say about ants? (*Ants have no ruler, but they still store up food on their own; they are hard workers.*)

Describe what it feels like to be lazy.

How does it feel to work hard?

How can you tell if you're a hard worker or if you're lazy?

What's one thing that you tend to be lazy about? How can you work on being more responsible with that this week?

Parent: Share a story about a time you decided to stop being lazy in an area of your life—and how it paid off.



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us an opportunity, each day, to work hard. We know that everything we do can show Your love to others. Please help us see ways we can work hard this week. Please work through us so we can make a difference in each other's lives. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."



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Bible Story

Parable of the Bags of Gold
Matthew 25:14-30

Bottom Line

Make the most of what you've been given.

Activity

Surprise Sandwich

WHAT YOU NEED:

Two pieces of bread, and random items from your fridge

WHAT YOU DO:

Tell your child that you're going to make a Surprise Sandwich. Show them all the ingredients you've gathered, and tell them they have to choose at least three of them to make the most delicious sandwich possible.

Say, "I know that normally we wouldn't use some of these ingredients on a sandwich. But today, we're making the most of what we have!"

Help your child assemble a sandwich. It can be as weird, sickeningly sweet, or gross as you want it to be. The sillier you get, the more likely your child will be engaged in the activity.

When you're finished, say, "You did a great job using what you had to make that sandwich! You get to take the first bite!"



Talk About the Bible Story

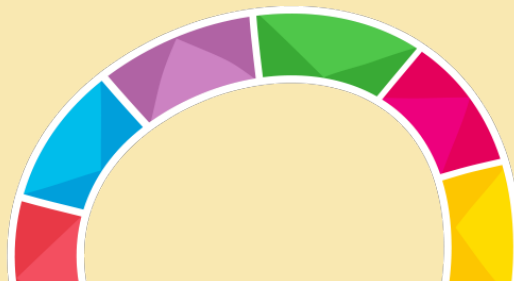
In the story Jesus told, two servants doubled their money while their boss was away. But what did the third servant do with his bag of gold? (*He buried it in the ground.*)

What happens if we don't find a good use for the things we have? (*We waste them.*)

What are two things that you're good at?

How can you make the most of those things?

Parent: Share a story about a time you used what you had to help someone else. Talk about how, as people who love Jesus, we have a responsibility to share His love with others.



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us everything we need to live out Your plan for our lives. Help us remember that You always provide for us, and You take care of all of our needs. Please show us how to be responsible and make the most of what You've given us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."



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Bible Story

Use Words Wisely
Ephesians 4:29

Bottom Line

Use your
words wisely.

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Activity

Build, Destroy, Repair

WHAT YOU NEED:

No supplies needed.



WHAT YOU DO:

Invite your child to play a game of “Build, Destroy, Repair.” Explain that you’re going to read them a scenario, and they need to decide if the words in the scenario would build, destroy, or repair a relationship.

For younger kids, first you may want to talk about what the words “Build, Destroy, Repair” mean. For example:

- “Some words can build us up. What’s something someone might say to you that would make you feel really good?” (“I love you,” “You’re a good friend,” “You’re funny,” “Thank you,” etc.)
- “Some words can destroy. They can really hurt—like if we say something mean, or talk back to an adult, or use words that we know aren’t appropriate.”
- “Some words can repair. They can help fix a broken relationship when we’ve hurt someone. Those are words like “I’m sorry,” “How can I help?” or “Will you forgive me?”

When you’re ready, read the following scenarios:

- Trinity thanked her grandma for making dinner.
- Asia apologized to her sister for borrowing her sweater without asking first . . . and Asia’s sister forgave her.
- Jayden and his brother were making s’mores. Jayden’s brother accidentally burned his marshmallow to a crisp, but Jayden told him it was a good first try.
- Mariah and Logan stuck encouraging sticky notes to their teacher’s door during lunch.
- Jared called Riley a baby for still sleeping with a night-light on.
- Alena and Jamal gave a speech at their grandmother’s 70th birthday party. They told everyone their favorite story about her.



Talk About the Bible Story

Why do words matter so much?

How does it feel when you know
you used your words the wrong
way?

How does it feel when you’ve used
words to build someone up?

*Parent: Share a personal story
about a time someone’s words
hurt you. Then, tell a story about
a time your words hurt someone
else. Talk about ways you and your
child can use your words wisely.*

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either
after talking about the Bible story
or sometime before bed tonight:

“Dear God, we know how powerful
words can be. We know what it
feels like to be hurt by words, and
we know how it feels when people
say things that build us up. Please
give us the courage and wisdom
to watch what we say—especially
when we’re upset or angry, or we
feel like getting even. Please help
us to choose words that will help
others instead of hurting them. Amen.”