

OUR FAMILY PLAN	
This week we can serve others by	
This week we can pray for these following families	
This week we can have fun as a family by	
This week we can grow closer to God by	
This week the kids can help parents by	
This week parents can help the kids by	
Other suggestions	

THE GAMES WE PLAY



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." ~ Jesus (John 10:10)

PART 1

MONDAY

READ: John 10:10-15

A little while ago, I, my son Kyle, and one of his friends were all playing *Monopoly*. It was a fun time for Kyle's friend and I, but not so much fun for Kyle. By the end of our playing time, both this friend and I had all of my son's game money! He was dead broke and we were filthy rich!

A lot of board games are like that. To get rich, others have to get poor. And to win, others have to lose. But when it comes to the real game of life, thanks to Jesus we can all be winners. We can all experience everything God has for us without anyone missing out. Now, that is my kind of game!

1. What is your favorite game to play? Why is it your favorite?
2. What does Jesus say in verse 10?
3. "The thief" (that is, the devil) wants to make us all losers, but what did Jesus do for us so we could all be winners? (See verses 11 and 15.)
4. What can you do to help you stay close to the Shepherd and far away from the thief?

PRAYER

- ♦ Thank Jesus for laying down His life for you
- ♦ Ask God to help you get closer to the Shepherd

SATURDAY

READ: Romans 11:36

We started this week talking about a board game, so let's finish the week the same way. This time, let's look at "The Game of Life." (Sometimes, just called LIFE.) I used to play this game with my sister all the time growing up. Have you played it? If so, you know that this game simulates a how a person might spend their whole life—from college, to jobs, marriage, possible children, and retirement.

If we took this game seriously, we might be tempted to think that this is how life *should* be lived—try to get into college, get a good job, get married, have kids, and some day retire. While all of this is good, one BIG thing is totally missing!

1. Have you ever played LIFE? If so, what do you think of the game?
2. What is LIFE missing according to our Bible verse?
3. Many people's lives are just like "The Game of Life"—filled with living totally to get for themselves and not filled with giving God glory. What can help you be different from most people and live for God's glory?

PRAYER

- ♦ Thank God for His great plan for your life
- ♦ Ask God to remind you that life is not about what you want but what He wants

FRIDAY

READ: Matthew 11:28-30

You know you are having a bad day when: Your twin sister forgets your birthday. Your bike has not one, but two, flat tires. Your parents' say, "Don't bother leaving your room today." The bird singing outside your window is a buzzard. You wake up and your braces are locked together. You put both contact lenses in the same eye. The dog has chewed your favorite shoes. You find no TV's in the house and your dad says, "For the rest of the summer, no more TV for us!" Your mom says, "Good morning, Bill", and that is not your name.

Oh, there are so many ways to have a bad day. Fortunately, with Jesus, He can help make everyday a good day.

1. Can you think of a day that was just the worst? Why was it so bad?
2. What does Jesus say He will give us in exchange for all the bad things that burden us?
3. Why is this a good deal?
4. Are there any burdens in your life that you want to give Jesus now? If so, what are they?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank Jesus that He will exchange all your bad things for His good things
- ◆ Give Jesus anything that is burdening your life

TUESDAY

READ: Psalm 23

Life can be pretty scary for sheep. Think about it. Sheep are NOT fast; they have no sharp fangs or poisonous venom; they have no claws or even sharp toenails; and hey, they are not even smart! If a wolf, a bear, a lion, a coyote, or another predator attacked, they have absolutely no way to defend themselves. They are in big trouble.

The only way a sheep can experience a good and safe life is to stay close to the shepherd. The shepherd will protect the sheep from predators, watch over the sheep to keep them from hurting themselves, find pastures for the sheep to eat from, and locate streams to drink from.

This is why, yesterday, Jesus called Himself "the Good Shepherd." Because if we want to have a good and safe life, we need to stay close to Him.

1. Have you ever felt you were in danger? What made you feel safe?
2. What are some things that David says the Lord, his Shepherd, does for Him?
3. For David to experience all these good things, he had to follow the Shepherd's leading. What can help you better follow and do what God wants?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank the Lord for being a great Shepherd
- ◆ Ask God to help you follow Him closely and live your life the way He wants

WEDNESDAY

READ: Acts 13:38,39

Randy and Roger were brothers. Randy was in 5th grade and Roger was in 3rd. One day, at school, Roger was dared to steal his teacher's lesson book when she was not looking. Thinking it would be funny, he did.

His teacher saw everything and sent him immediately to the principal. It was much to Randy's pleasure when he saw his little brother going into the principal's office. On the way home from school, Randy told Roger that he would keep it all a secret IF Roger did all his chores.

For weeks, Roger did. Whenever he didn't want to, Randy would just whisper in Roger's ear, "Remember the principal's office. Do my chores, or I am telling."

1. When you do something bad and your brain keeps reminding you about it, that is called "guilt." Have you ever felt guilty for something?
2. Earlier this week, we talked about "the thief" (or Satan). He loves to remind us of all our mistakes and whisper in our ears that we are guilty. But what do our Bible verses say is true if we have accepted Jesus?
3. It was not a good few weeks for Roger walking around feeling guilty all the time. And it is not good for us either. If you have sins you feel guilty about, confess them to Jesus now. If you have never accepted Jesus, talk to your parents about what it means to do so.

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank Jesus that He can take away your guilt
- ◆ Ask Jesus to forgive any sins you have not confessed

THURSDAY

READ: Luke 15:1-7

Consider the true story of a boy named Shawn. At age 11, he was kidnapped while riding his bike to a friend's house. For over 4 years, he was held captive. For over 1500 days, he was lost to his family, but they never stopped looking. Each day they prayed, talked to the police, passed out flyers, and maintained a website dedicated to finding him. They never gave up.

Then, a miracle. At age 15, Shawn was found. It was the greatest day of his family's life. Shawn was safe. Shawn was home.

1. How do you think Shawn felt for most of those four years?
2. How are Shawn's parents like the Shepherd Jesus talks about in our Bible verses?
3. How is God like this?
4. How does it make you feel knowing that God never stops looking for people who need a new and better life?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God that He is always seeking to bring lost people back to Himself
- ◆ Ask God to use you to help find people who need to know about Jesus