

| OUR FAMILY PLAN | |
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| | |
| 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



"For God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow..." ~ 2 Corinthians 7:10a

PART 2

MONDAY

READ: 2 Corinthians 7:8-10

9 year-old Johnny was getting *really* annoyed with his little 4 year-old sister Lisa. Johnny just wanted to build a spaceship from his Legos. But every time he finished a part, little Lisa pulled pieces off it. Totally frustrated, Johnny shoved his little sister out his room causing her to fall hard against the hallway wall. Screaming and crying, Lisa ran down the hallway to mom.

Mom quickly stomped back to Johnny's room and told him to apologize to his sister. Johnny didn't want to because he didn't think it was his fault, but mom said he could not play with his Legos again until he apologized. So Johnny did.

1. Do you think Johnny was really sorry for what he did?
2. Have you ever said sorry when you were not really sorry?
3. According to our Bible verses, what are the benefits of really being sorry?
4. Why is it important that you really be sorry when you have done something wrong?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for the good things that come from really being sorry
- ◆ Ask God to help you really be sorry when you do wrong

SATURDAY

READ: Luke 6:37-42

Imagine you are walking down the street and someone with a big ole' wooden beam in their eye comes over to you says, "Um, excuse me, did you know that you have a speck a dirt on your shirt just below your collar?"

If that happened, you would probably be thinking, *Did you know that you have a giant plank in your eye? You should worry more about that than the teeny speck on my shirt.*

Of course, such a thing would be ridiculous, but sometimes we are like that anyway. Sometimes, instead of focusing on our own issues and faults, we go around pointing out every little thing about others.

1. Do you like it when people come around and point out all your faults?
2. Do you think others would like it if you kept pointing out all their faults?
3. What does Jesus say about this in our Bible verses for today?
4. Sometimes, we do need to talk to people about how they are acting, but when doing this what should we keep in mind?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for His love and care and goodness
- ◆ Ask God to help you not be a fault-finder

FRIDAY

READ: Matthew 18:21-35

14 year-old Richie was really worried. He had borrowed \$500 from his parents to buy an incredible looking Fender Stratocaster electric guitar. His parents agreed to let him borrow the money, if he promised to pay them back within one year. Tomorrow, the year was up, and he had hardly paid back any of it! That night, he went to his parents and told them that he could not pay them back. They were very sad about that, but said since he had been such a good student this past year, they would make it so he did NOT have to pay them back.

Just a few minutes later, he saw his little brother who owed him five bucks. He grabbed his brother and forced him to pay right then. Needless to say, mom and dad were not too happy about this.

1. How is the story about Richie similar to the story in our Bible verses for today?
2. Do you think someone who has been forgiven A WHOLE LOT should be willing to forgive someone for a little thing?
3. We know that God has forgiven us of MANY sins, yet we sometimes don't forgive others who did just one sin against us. Why is that not good?
4. Are you ready to forgive people like God forgives you?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for His great forgiveness of your many sins
- ◆ Ask God to help you to forgive others

TUESDAY

READ: Deuteronomy 3:23-27

The desert was hot and dry. Burning rays of sun baked the two-million Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness. Their lips were dried and cracked and their throats were sore from lack of water. Their leader, Moses, heard the complaints about this day after day from person after person.

Finally, Moses went to God and asked for help. In response, God gave Moses clear instructions. "Strike a rock ONE TIME with your rod, and enough water will pour out for everyone to drink." Seems easy enough, right? Only, Moses was angry at the people complaining, so he disobeyed God and struck the rock TWICE. This disobedience did not please God, and he told Moses that he would not enter the Promised Land.

1. In our Bible verses for today, Moses was sorry for what he did and wanted God to take away the consequences. Did God do that?
2. Have you ever been caught doing something wrong, said you were sorry, and still had consequences?
3. Joshua, who took over for Moses, actually obeyed God better than Moses did. Do you think seeing Moses get consequences from God helped Joshua?
4. Most people HATE getting consequences, but why is getting consequences a good thing?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for His consequences which teach you lessons
- ◆ Ask God to help you learn from your consequences

WEDNESDAY

READ: Acts 17:30

12 year-old Sarah went to bed one night and had one incredible dream. In her dream, she stood before rows and rows of file cabinets. As she moved closer to these black metal cabinets, she noticed that each one was labeled with her name on it! One cabinet said, "Sarah's Bad Thoughts." Another, in big red letters, had, "Sarah's Angry Words." With each cabinet, Sarah was more and more shocked. Every bad thing she ever said, did, or thought was written down in these cabinets.

Tears started rolling down her cheeks as she thought about how many bad things she had done. Suddenly, she felt a hand on our shoulder. She turned. It was Jesus! She felt more ashamed than ever, but Jesus softly said these words, "If you repent, if you say you are sorry and mean it, all these cabinets will disappear." With that, Sarah woke up and started praying!

1. Do you make sure to tell God you are sorry for each bad thing you say, think, and do?
2. What does our Bible verse say about this?
3. Without saying you are sorry, and meaning it, you cannot have forgiveness. And without forgiveness, God cannot work in your life. So, if you need to tell God you are sorry for something, but sure to do it today.

PRAYER

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

THURSDAY

READ: Ecclesiastes 7:3

In South America, between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, lies a narrow strip of land where the sun shines every day! Every morning, the sun can be seen rising over the tall mountains to the east. And every evening, the sun can be seen setting beautifully behind those tall peaks. Now, you might think that such a place would be an amazing paradise, but it is far from that! There is hardly a living thing there. Without rain, nothing can grow. It is a dead place.

Similarly, a lot of times we wish life would be "all sunshine and rainbows." We wish we would never get in trouble when we do wrong and never have to get consequences or be punished. But, just like every place on earth needs rain for things to grow, so we need tough consequences to learn lessons that will help us grow.

1. What lessons have consequences taught you?
2. What does our Bible verse say about this?
3. What do you think your life would be like if you were always allowed to get away with bad behavior?
4. How glad are you for a God, and for parents, who discipline you when necessary?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for His, and your parents', discipline
- ◆ Ask God to help you learn important lessons from the consequences you receive