

 **LIVING ON THE EDGE™**

How to Build Christian Character in Kids

5 KEY DISCIPLESHIP QUALITIES TO INSTILL

Develop Perseverance When Things Get Tough



BIG IDEA

Life is hard, but God is good and in control. He doesn't want bad things to happen, but He can use them for good.



FAMILY TIME

1. ENDURANCE GAME: Give everyone in your family two cans of food to hold over their head while balancing on one foot. Set a timer and record each person's time. Have your kids give it a second try to see if they can beat their first time. Chances are, this isn't something you'd normally do as a family, but don't let that stop you from doing something new!



SAY

Truth is, it would be impossible to hold up the cans and stand on one foot forever. Sometimes, life is hard, and it can be more than we can handle on our own. We need help from God when things get tough.

2. Make a list of your top concerns and fears. Some can be silly, but be sure to include serious fears. Be honest! Once everyone is done, have each person share their list and explain why each item made the list.



ASK

1. On your list, which one is the worst? What would you do if it actually happened?
2. Whom would you trust to discuss it with?
3. What would it look like to trust God if it happened?



WRAP UP

When we give our battles to God, they become His battles and He fights for us. Life will never be perfect, but we can always count on God to be there for us. Our job isn't to solve all of our own problems, but to stand up under them by trusting God.



GOD'S WORD

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.”
Romans 8:28, NIV

Find Significance Every Day



BIG IDEA

God has an amazing and awesome plan for your life. Your job is to discover it.



FAMILY TIME

PUZZLE SCAVENGER HUNT: Select a puzzle that your family could finish in a single night. Before starting, take several pieces and hide them around your home—without your kids knowing what you are up to. Begin working on the puzzle. Once you have “finished” (placed all the pieces you have in the puzzle), send your kids on a hunt around your house to find the missing pieces and complete the puzzle. (If you are feeling especially creative, write clues for each hidden puzzle piece.)



SAY

God has an amazing plan for your life. It's bigger than anything you could dream up on your own. His plan is unique to you—just as every puzzle piece is different, so is each person different. In God's family we all fit together. It's our responsibility to grow closer to God so we can discover His plan for our lives.



WRAP UP

Think about a professional athletic event: There are a few people playing the game, while many others are sitting in the stands watching. When it comes to sports, there are two classes of people—the athletes, who have a special role, and everyone else, who simply watches the game.

Everyone is significant in God's family. He doesn't want anyone to be only a spectator! He created everyone with a purpose: Everyone is supposed to be on the field, in the game, playing their position.

God has great plans for each of us, for every day of our lives. We don't need to wait; we can get started today. Our job is to grow closer to God so we can discover His plan for our life.



GOD'S WORD

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

Choose Generosity Over Selfishness



BIG IDEA

Everything we have belongs to God. Just as He is generous, so should we be generous to others.

NINE WAYS TO TEACH GENEROSITY TO YOUR KIDS

- 1. Be thankful:** As a family, take an extended amount of time to make a list of all the things you are thankful for. End your time in prayer, thanking God for His blessings. Embracing gratitude positions us to be more generous toward others.
- 2. Model it:** Demonstrate generosity to your kids by sharing and serving others. Talk about it with your kids. This isn't bragging: it's modeling and good parenting. You can be an example of generosity even if you are still learning how to engage in it yourself!
- 3. Pay it forward:** Give your children twenty bucks and challenge them to help three people. The catch is that those people can't know who is helping them. After a couple days, ask your children to share their stories of generosity.
- 4. Clip it:** Purchase a few magazines or newspapers to clip pictures and headlines that demonstrate generosity—or a lack of it. If you are technically inclined, make a board together on Pinterest!
- 5. Earn it:** Challenge your kids to earn some money (by working around your home or neighborhood) and to give that income to a local charity or family in need.
- 6. Raise it:** Connect with a local charity or cause and find out what they need. Organize a drive at school, online, or at church to gather donations.
- 7. Give it away:** Set aside some toys, clothes, used sports equipment, or other goods and donate them to a local charity or cause. Take this up a notch by donating one thing you still want but don't need.
- 8. Change a life:** Support a child through an organization like World Vision or Compassion International.
- 9. Party with a purpose:** On your next birthday, throw a party, but instead of getting gifts, ask for donations (food, clothing, money) for a local charity or cause.



GOD'S WORD

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25, NIV

How to Make Good Choices



BIG IDEA

God knows everything and always makes the best decisions. He wants to help us with our choices.



FAMILY TIME

WOULD YOU RATHER? Answer the following questions as a family. Where appropriate, ask each other why.

- Would you rather never use social media again or never watch another movie or TV show?
- Would you rather live your entire life in a virtual reality where all your wishes are granted or in the real world?
- Would you rather be alone for the rest of your life or always surrounded by annoying people?
- Would you rather be completely invisible for one day or be able to fly for one day?
- Would you rather be transported permanently 500 years into the future or 500 years into the past?
- Would you rather live the rest of your life without ice cream or without tacos?
- Would you rather donate your body to science or donate your organs to people who need them?
- Would you rather live in a house on the beach or a house in the woods?



WRAP UP

Life is filled with questions. Some are trivial, and some are titanic. Here are a few of the big ones:

- What is your purpose in life?
- What are your values?
- Who will you spend your time with?

Our answers to these questions are important, but we also need to look a little deeper. Where do you turn for advice? How do you make decisions? How do you know what is right and what is wrong?

The truth is that God knows everything about us and the world we live in. He is never surprised and He always makes the best decisions. God also wants to help us with all the choices we face every day.



GOD'S WORD

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5–6, NIV

Experience Grace Instead of Guilt



BIG IDEA

We don't have to live with our guilt.



FAMILY TIME

Choose a few of the questions below and have everyone give their answer and WHY they chose it.

- If you could make a law that limited technology, which of the following would you choose and why?
 - (a) "No Tech Day" once a month
 - (b) No phones in restaurants
 - (c) No more than five selfies a day
 - (d) No more than five social media checks a day
- If you could star in a reality TV show, which one and why?
 - (a) Duck Dynasty
 - (b) Survivor
 - (c) The Real House Husbands of Orange County
 - (d) The Voice
 - (e) Dancing with the Stars
- If you could be famous for one achievement, what would it be and why?
 - (a) Scientific discovery
 - (b) Solving a crime
 - (c) Breaking an Olympic record
 - (d) Inventing a fantastic new food
 - (e) Writing a best-selling novel
- In your opinion, what is the most powerful emotion and why?
 - (a) Fear
 - (b) Hate
 - (c) Love
 - (d) Anger
 - (e) Compassion
- How would you like to spend your next birthday and why?
 - (a) Quiet night at home with the family
 - (b) Huge party with as many people as possible
 - (c) Camping in the middle of nowhere
 - (d) Nothing—I don't want to celebrate
 - (e) Go to a theme park
- If you could stay one age forever, which would it be and why?
- If you could have one wish, what would it be and why?
 - (a) A new car
 - (b) A lifetime of free flights
 - (c) Eat whatever you want and stay healthy
 - (d) To be liked by everyone
 - (e) To win every argument
- If you had to give up one thing for a month, what would be the most difficult to live without and why?
 - (a) Social media
 - (b) Chocolate
 - (c) Watching TV
 - (d) Working
 - (e) Talking



SAY

Say this to transition:

The answers we just gave reveal a little bit about who we are and what we think is important. Now we are going to read about an event from Jesus's life to get to know His heart.

Just as we spent a little bit of time sharing our answers, let's spend time getting to know the heart of Jesus. First we are going to read from the Bible and then answer a few questions.



READ

Read John 8:3–11.

- What motivated the leaders to bring the woman to Jesus and why?
 - (a) They were looking for answers about a confusing situation
 - (b) They wanted to trap Jesus with a difficult question
 - (c) They wanted the woman to be punished
 - (d) They wanted the woman to be forgiven
- When she was standing in front of the crowd, what do you think the woman was feeling and why?
 - (a) Angry
 - (b) Sad
 - (c) Guilty
 - (d) Embarrassed
 - (e) Proud
- After Jesus asked the crowd a question, why did the people leave? Why did you choose this answer?
 - (a) They were frustrated with Jesus
 - (b) They had something better to do... like eat lunch
 - (c) They no longer blamed the woman
 - (d) They didn't like Jesus's answer
 - (e) They liked Jesus's answer
- How did Jesus feel about the woman and why?
 - (a) Compassionate
 - (b) Caring
 - (c) Sad
 - (d) Satisfied
 - (e) Loving
- After this event, how do you think the woman felt and why?
 - (a) Joyful
 - (b) Surprised
 - (c) Hopeful
 - (d) Thankful
 - (e) Confident



Guilt is the feeling we have when we do something we know is wrong. Truth is, we weren't meant to carry our own guilt! The heart of Jesus is such that He wants to take away our guilt. Jesus died on the cross for us and forgives our sins and mistakes.

We ought to respond to Jesus in two ways. First, we should accept His free gift through our faith. Imagine receiving a gift but not opening it—that doesn't make any sense! Our second job is to confess to God our sins and mistakes. This means being honest with ourselves and God and asking Him for His forgiveness.

When you feel guilty, don't try to carry it on your own: Give it to God.



GOD'S WORD

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us."

Ephesians 1:7–8, NIV