

Rules for Life: Play well. Finish strong.

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



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

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

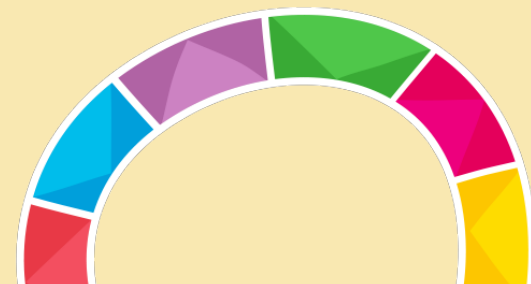
In the story Jesus told, two servants doubled their money while their boss was away. But what did the third servant do with his bag of gold? (*He buried it in the ground.*)

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."

Responsibility means showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.



DAY 1

Read Galatians 6:7

When you buy a package of tomato seeds and plant them in the ground, what plant will grow? A tomato plant. Okay, that was a pretty easy question. Everyone knows that the seed determines what eventually sprouts and grows.

The same idea applies to responsibility. What you put in, determines the outcome. And guess what? The work you put in, the time you spend, the care you take, all of that is seen by God. But not in a “Oh I’m going to catch you doing the wrong thing” kind of way. God sees and knows all because He is God. And He’s trusted you to take care of what He’s given you.

Do you have any seeds at home? If so, ask your parent to let you plant a seed or two in a cup with some potting soil. Make sure to keep the soil moist and place it near a window so it can get the sunshine it needs to grow. As you take care of your little seed responsibly this week, remember to make the most of what you’ve been given.



DAY 2

Read Luke 16:10a

Think about one responsibility you have. Write or draw a picture of it below:



That responsibility, like making your bed, or putting your bike away, or setting the table, might seem like a small thing. But all those small responsibilities that you take seriously now lead to bigger and more important responsibilities later on. Taking care of your room might lead to owning your own home someday. Taking care of your bike might lead to driving a car when you’re old enough. Every responsibility that you take seriously right now, no matter how small, builds trust.

Take a look at the responsibility above. How are you doing with that? Are you slacking off or taking it seriously? If not, what can you do right now to act more responsibly? **Ask God to help you do what’s asked of you right now to prove you can be trusted with bigger things later on.**



DAY 3



Read Ephesians 5:15-16

All wisdom comes from one source. Not the internet. Not Siri or Alexa. Wisdom comes from God. Today's verse reminds us to live as people who are wise. Wise people follow God.

Part of our responsibility as followers of God is to actually follow what God tells us to do. Take a look at the list of scenarios below. Look up each verse listed and then write the "wise" response to that scenario.

Your mom asks you to finish your homework before you go outside. (Read Ephesians 6:1)

Your older brother is taking forever on the video game. You're about to grab the controller out of his hands so you can have a turn. (Read Proverbs 15:18)

You've figured out a way to cheat so that your team wins and you're pretty sure you can pull it off with no one finding out. (Read 2 Thessalonians 3:13)

Every time you make a wise choice, no matter how big or small, you make a responsible choice. You show you can be trusted. That's making the most of every opportunity.

Ask God to give you the wisdom you need as you follow Him and make responsible choice this week.

DAY 4



Read Proverbs 16:3

Have you ever thought about all the things you do in a day? If you were to make a list of all those decisions and actions, it would probably take a long time. No matter how big or small our decisions or actions may be, God asks us to commit everything to Him.

So here's a little responsibility challenge. Grab a wide rubber band and write the word "EVERYTHING" on it with a ball point pen. If you have trouble writing that small, ask an adult for help. If you don't have any rubber bands, cut out a strip of paper, wrap that around your wrist and tape to secure.

For 24 hours, wear that bracelet as a reminder to commit everything you do, every word, every action, every thought and decision, to God. Stop and pray and ask God to help you and He will! Take the responsibility to follow God and commit everything to Him.



Make the most of what you've been given.

