

Have fun learning and playing  
with your preschooler!



**First, watch  
this week's  
video!**

**Bible Story**  
Prodigal Son  
(Luke 15:11-24)

---

**Remember This**  
"The crowds were  
amazed at his teaching."  
Matthew 7:28, NIV

---

**Say This**  
Who teaches you  
important things?  
Jesus teaches me  
important things.

## Activity

### School

#### What You Need

Washable markers; blank sheets of paper; tape; any other school supplies you may have (an easel, number line, ruler, tape, etc.); and plush friends to be "students"

#### What You Do

Create a "classroom" somewhere in your home. Set up the plush friends to be part of the "classroom."

On a sheet of paper, write the numbers 1-10. Then, tape it to the wall at the front of your classroom. Invite your child to be "teacher" for the day. They are going to help everyone learn how to count to ten. (If your child cannot yet count to ten, have them teach you how to count to three or another skill they know.)

Say, "Learning how to count to ten is important. Let's pretend to play school. You are the teacher, and we are your students. Help my 'friends' and I by teaching us how to count."

Offer assistance to the teacher as necessary, but try to let them "teach" on their own. Repeat the activity with other skills and knowledge as time allows.

When you are finished with the activity, say, "Wow! You are an awesome teacher! In our story today, we heard about the best teacher of all, Jesus! I'm so glad we have a friend like Jesus to teach us important things. Jesus teaches us that God loves us, no matter what, just like the father loved his son in our story. **Who teaches you important things?** (Pause.) That's right! **Jesus teaches me important things!**"



## Prayer

"God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. We know that Jesus teaches us important things. Thank You for loving us, no matter what. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

# Remote Control: The choice is yours



First, watch  
this week's  
video!

Self-control:  
Choosing to  
do what you  
should even  
when you  
don't want to

#### Memory Verse

"God's power has  
given us everything  
we need to lead a  
godly life."  
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

#### Bible Story

Jesus Is Tempted  
in the Desert  
Luke 4:1-13  
(Supporting:  
Matthew 4:1-11)

#### Bottom Line

Be ready to do  
the right thing.

Use this guide to help your family learn how  
God wants us to live with self-control.

## Activity

### Sit-and-Stand

#### What You Need:

No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

Tell your child that you're going to play a game. Read from the "Would You Rather" options below, and ask your child which option they would choose.

Say, "If you'd want the first option, sit down. If you'd want the second option, stand up." Feel free to participate by standing and sitting yourself!

After each round, ask your child why they chose the option they did.

#### Would You Rather:

1. a) have to give up fruity candy (Skittles®, Starburst®, Twizzlers®, etc.) for the rest of your life, or b) give up anything chocolate for the rest of your life?
2. a) walk through a desert in a ski suit, or b) walk through a snowstorm in summer clothes?
3. a) have the ability to fly, or b) have the power to read people's minds?
4. a) be a world-class athlete, or b) be an award-winning actor?
5. a) be able to talk to animals, or b) speak five languages?
6. a) have 100 spiders in your room, or b) eat five spiders?
7. a) live on the moon, or b) live underwater?
8. a) have hands for feet, or b) have feet for hands?

## Talk About the Bible Story

Our story today was about making choices. Who was making the choices in the story? (*Jesus*)

No matter how Jesus was tempted, He always made the right choice. What did Jesus rely on to help Him make the best decision? (*Scripture*)

If Jesus relied on the words of Scripture to show self-control, whose words can you rely on to help you? [Hint: There's more than one right answer!] (*the Bible, our parents' words, our Small Group Leaders words', our coaches' words, our teachers' words*)

Have you ever been tempted to do what isn't right? What happened? [Don't worry, you won't get in trouble!]

What are some ways you can be sure that you're ready to do the right thing? (*Read the Bible, rely on the Holy Spirit, listen during church, participate during Small Group, pray*)

*Parent: Make it personal by sharing a time in your life when you were tempted to lose control, but you kept it together. How were you prepared to do the right thing?*

## Prayer

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

"God, thank You for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Your Holy Spirit helps us to do the right thing when we're tempted. When it's hard for us to show self-control, remind us to pause and think about how Jesus faced temptation—just like we do. Help us to be like Jesus and to do the right thing. In Your name we pray, amen."

# Remote Control: The choice is yours



First, watch  
this week's  
video!

Self-control:  
Choosing to  
do what you  
should even  
when you  
don't want to

#### Memory Verse

"God's power has  
given us everything  
we need to lead a  
godly life."  
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

#### Bible Story

Jesus Is Tempted  
in the Desert  
Luke 4:1-13  
(Supporting:  
Matthew 4:1-11)

#### Key Question

When is it hard to  
do the right thing?

Use this guide to help your family learn how  
God wants us to live with self-control.

## Activity

### Remote Self-Control

#### What You Need:

Scissors, printer OR paper and pencil,  
bowl or jar, timer

#### What You Do:

Six index cards, pen or pencil (bonus if  
you have an actual old-school remote  
control!).

Card 1: **Press play.** Make the right choice  
when I see something I can help with.

Card 2: **Press pause.** Think about my  
actions before doing them.

Card 3: **Think fast-forward.** Prepare  
myself by reading the Bible and  
spending some time with God.

Card 4: **Rewind to the Bible.** Play back all  
the times God has shown love for people.

Card 5: **Power up.** Remind myself that  
God's Holy Spirit is working within me.

Card 6: **Turn the volume down** on what  
others tempt me to do. Turn the volume  
up on what God says is the right choice.

Say, "We're going to use the symbols  
on a remote control to help us with our  
self-control."

Ask your child to read the phrase on the  
first card, while you read the rest of the  
text above to help explain it. Then have  
your child flip the card over and draw the  
corresponding remote-control symbol.  
(Feel free to consult an actual remote or  
Google!) Go through the rest of the cards  
in the same way. While your child is  
drawing each symbol, ask, "When would  
you use this self-control technique?"

## Talk About the Bible Story

In our story, how was Jesus ready to do the right  
thing? (*Jesus knew Scripture. He was familiar with  
God's character and knew what God would want  
him to do.*)

Do you think it was easier or harder for Jesus to  
resist temptation than it is for us? Explain.

When is it hard to do the right thing? Explain.

How do you know when you're being tempted?

How can you tell when you've made a wise choice?

*Parent: Make it personal by sharing a time in your  
life when you were tempted to lose control and do  
the wrong thing. How were you prepared to do the  
right thing?*

## 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 all we need to  
live in a way that pleases You. Your power comes  
as we know and follow You. Remind us to hit PAUSE  
and call on You for help to do what's right this week.  
When it's hard for us to have self-control, remind  
us that Jesus faced temptations just like us. Your  
power that helped Him will help us, too. Amen."