



Faith@Home Resource Week 3: PLAY-Enjoying Life

*Worship *Serve ***Play** *Read *Love *Create *Pray *Talk *Sing *Eat

⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:44-47

The early church began as one people who did everything together. This summer Our Savior's Way and Open Arms are celebrating that core idea of "together" - how being together in Christ influences who we are as children of God, created for Christian community.

Start each week in worship together as a family - your family and friends. Our church family. **This 'At Home or On the Go' Resource packet** will give you some weekly theme ideas for you to continue the *TOGETHER* faith experience with family or friends. No matter where you are **this summer**. Use the **"Together Tracker"** to help you go for 3 weekly goals: **To do the "One Big Thing" Suggestion, to Take Jesus with you** and have fun with the Flat Jesus Challenge, and to do at least one more idea, activity or servant project on the theme. Use an idea from the packet or something of your own!

THE ONE BIG THING: *If you have time for only ONE way to follow up on the "PLAY-Enjoying Life" theme this week:*

✓ **PLAY A GAME**

Where will you take Jesus with you this week? *Take a picture of "Flat Jesus" and Tweet in to #flatjesusoswlc or post to our Facebook page @oswlc.org* Take Him down a slide or for a swing. Enjoy a cup of Coffee with Him. Take a stroll in the park. Anywhere you go will be fun with Jesus!

Home Scripture Reference for "PLAY": Matthew 18:1-5 Faith like a child.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.

Key Point/Summary: *Our faith in Jesus should be humble and trusting, like a child who is relies upon others for love and care, trusting their needs will be met, rather than putting our hope in our own works or greatness.*

In response to the disciples arguing about who should be the greatest, Jesus gives them an object lesson on humility with the example of a little child. Very young children, are not looking for power, trust others, rely on and are dependent on parents. They are teachable, and while they may note that people are different, it is a matter of learning. They are generally free from malice-sibling rivalry may be an exception! Jesus lets us know that we need to be renewed in our spirit and mind and become simple and humble, willing like a child, to be the least of all. The notes in the Lutheran Study Bible put it like this: "Humility means confessing our inability to do anything at all to become worthy before God and earn salvation. Humility depends entirely on God's mercy for forgiveness. It looks to Jesus Christ as the Savior who became one with sinners to redeem them." So, with that deeper perspective in mind, this week have fun together and enjoy life, knowing that we can trust and depend on Jesus - like a child depends on parents - to give us all we need-especially eternal life.

Conversation Together:

- What do you think makes someone great?
- Who would you say is the greatest in your family? Why?
- The disciples wanted Jesus to pick who He thought was greatest. Who did he choose?
- What surprised you about the choice Jesus made?
- What are some of the qualities of children that Jesus was saying adults should turn to?
- What about your childhood do you miss?
- What qualities about children do you think makes them great in the kingdom of heaven?
- What can you do to welcome those younger than you into the kingdom of heaven?

Prayer for PLAY Together: Dear Father God, as the disciples argued about who would be the greatest in heaven, your Son, Jesus, told them they should become like children in order to enter heaven. Help us, Lord, to be like children, humble and trusting in you for all we need. May your Holy Spirit grow in us a childlike faith that understands that no matter what we do or how great we might be in this world, that only Jesus who died for us and rose again, will bring us the joys of heaven. In His Name, we pray, Amen

Memory Verse: *Try memorizing Scripture as a family to help you keep God's Word in your hearts*

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16

Games to help you remember: Form a circle and toss a bean bag or other soft object around the circle, as each person says one word of the verse.

Other activities and Resources: How can you add a faith element to these everyday fun activities?

- Create your own Summer Bucket List or use the one in your packet and see how many you can do this summer!
- Do a puzzle together. Pick one that everyone can work on. Start two and have a team challenge
- Make your favorite Trail Mix snack, and go on a hike with family or friends.
- One way we play is through celebrating everyday life and special occasions! Find the Celebrations in our Life worksheet to help you focus on your own special moments and how they help you also celebrate God. (in packet or online)
- Go on a color hunt. Write down the colors you all agree to search for. Either make a check mark when you find something, or draw a picture of it. There is a Color Hunt sheet in this packet or get it online.
- Build a blanket and pillow fort
- Have a paper airplane contest
- **Dig out an old childhood game.** Write down some suggestions of some "house rules" and draw a couple out of a hat. Play your new game with your family or close friends.
- Take some time to play with a younger sibling. Say yes to whatever game or toy they want to play with.
- Invite some neighbors over to play an outdoor game of bean bags or horseshoes. Compete over the summer in a round robin tournament to see who is the ultimate player
- Take your grandchildren to the playground. Have a snack. Share a story about your childhood.
- Go to the movies with a friend, or plan a movie night at home. Make tickets! Set up a concession stand!
- Make a list of things from your childhood that kids today would not understand

Other Resources (Links): You can easily access these and other ideas online at www.oswlc.org . Click on the "Together" header

- Did you know that our Children's Bulletin Activity sheets often have a game code to play online Christian games? Take one home sometime and give it a try, with parental permission.
- Play simple Bible theme games at <http://bibleactivitieszone.com> or <http://np.superbook.cbn.com/games> (get parental permission, of course!)
- Bible Jeopardy <https://www.christianity.com/trivia/jeopardy/categories/> or <https://www.bible-jeopardy.com/>