



PLAY TO WIN

Live A Life
With No Regrets!

LEADER GUIDE

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GUIDE OVERVIEW

PLAY TO WIN is the children's study of the One Month to Live Challenge. This guide provides tools that will help teach the no-regrets lifestyle concepts in a simple and creative way to children. It is written as a leader's guide. Each week explores a new concept and includes a Bible reading, questions, activity, memory verse and prayer.

As a children's pastor or leader, you are a very important part of their spiritual walk with Christ. It will be important to read through the material and prepare for a meaningful and fun time in God's word with the next generation.

- **Big Idea** - PLAY TO WIN learning concept.

This is the concept that will be introduced. It will be taught through scripture and interactive study.

- **Guided Story Time** - Bible reading & questions review.

As you read or portray the Bible story, in a way that works for your ministry, interact with the children and keep them interested. Keeping the children engaged is key. Asking questions while you read and adding any comments may help the students understand the message better.

- **Big Idea Application** - Personal application questions.

These questions will help kids understand how they can apply the week's Big Idea to their lives.

- **Game/Activity** - Fun learning techniques.

This provides an additional way to emphasize the Big Idea. The purpose is to get kids moving and create a fun way to learn. It includes how to play the game/activity and description of how it ties into the Big Idea concept.

- **Memory Verse** - Scripture to memorize.

Review the verse with the children each week and discuss the meaning. The repetition of the same verse each week should help them put it to memory. Explain to your group that learning God's word is the way we keep it in our hearts. God uses scripture to guide us. If we can memorize His word, we will know what to do in any situation.

- **Prayer** - God's supernatural help.

The prayers provided should be said aloud at the end of the study time. They will ask for God's help to reinforce the message of the week.

PLAY TO WIN

Big Idea: Live Big

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 20:24

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.”

Live Big is all about being in the moment! Because Peter chose to listen to Jesus and live big in the moment, he experienced something amazing and then chose to follow Jesus.

Guided Story Time - Jesus Calls Peter (Luke 5:1-11)

- What did Andrew and Peter do for a living?

They were fishermen

- What did Jesus ask Peter to do when he was finished speaking?

To take him to deep waters so they could catch fish

- Peter and his brother had been fishing all night. What was Peter's response to Jesus' command?

Peter didn't think they would catch any fish, but he decided to be obedient and listen to Jesus anyway.

- How many boats did they fill with the fish they caught?

Two

- Jesus told Peter he would teach him how to fish for what?

People

- Peter became one of Jesus' 12 what?

Disciples

Big Idea Application - Big Idea: Live Big

- Is doing what God asks us to do always going to be easy? Why or why not?
- How does a small step of obedience help us live big for God?
- What can you do this week to live big for God?

Game/Activity - 20 Questions

As the leader, pick an object or person that is very well known and can be guessed easily. Then instruct the kids that they can only ask yes or no questions one at a time. There will be no limit on the questions that they can ask, just keep going until they're able to guess it. Be ready to help kids recap what you already know about the object or person.

- The more questions you asked, the easier it was to figure out what the object was. I bet the more involved you were, the more exciting it was as well. Even if it takes a while to get there, it's important to follow the instructions God gives us and live in the moment so we can reach our goal which is to live big for Him.

Memory Verse

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.” Acts 20:24

- Our memory verse this month means that our goal and purpose in life is to live for God. Everything we do should point back to God and we should strive for all of our actions to point others back to Him and to glorify Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for bringing us here today so we could learn something new about you. I pray that this week you will help us use the small things to live big for you. Amen.

PLAY TO WIN

Big Idea: Live With Purpose

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 20:24

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.”

Live With Purpose is all about focusing on the purpose God has for your life. Jonah initially ran from the purpose God gave him, but later realized how important it was to follow God.

Guided Story Time - Jonah (Jonah 1-3)

- Where did God tell Jonah to go?

Nineveh

- Why did Jonah try to go to Tarshish instead?

He wanted to run away from God

- What did the crew do when they found out Jonah was the reason for the storm?

Threw him into the sea

- How long was Jonah inside the great fish?

3 days and nights

- Did the people of Nineveh listen to what Jonah told them?

Yes! They trusted God and stopped doing bad things.

Big Idea Application - Big Idea: Live With Purpose

- Why do you think it's bad to run from our purpose like Jonah did?
- Will we always want to do what God asks us to do? Why or why not?
- How can you live with purpose this week?

Game/Activity - Who Started It?

Sit the kids in a circle and explain the activity. One person will be selected as a “Detective” and sit in the middle of the circle with eyes closed until the game starts. Another student will be selected as a “Leader” and do simple arm and body movements that everyone will follow (touching nose, clapping, patting floor, waving, snapping, etc.). Start the game by telling the “Detective” to open his/her eyes. The “Detective” will then observe from the center of the circle and guess at who the “Leader” is - once the “Leader” is revealed that person will be the “Detective” and the game can start again.

- Wow that was kind of hard wasn't it? Sometimes listening to God is easy and clear and sometimes we have to really focus on what God is trying to tell us so we can fulfill our purpose and learn to be more like Him.

Memory Verse

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.” Acts 20:24

- Our memory verse this month means that our goal and purpose in life is to live for God. Everything we do should point back to God and we should strive for all of our actions to point others back to Him and to glorify Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for bringing us here today so we could learn something new about you. I pray that this week you will help us listen to you and get to know you more so we can live for our purpose. Amen.

PLAY TO WIN

Big Idea: Love Always

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 20:24

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.”

Love Always is all about loving others no matter how hard it is.

Guided Story Time - The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

- The younger son wanted what from his dad?

His inheritance

- What did the younger son do with all of his money?

He wasted it

- When a great famine came over the land, what happened to the younger son?

He began to starve

- He was so hungry that he even wanted to eat what?

The pigs food

- What was his plan?

He was going to go apologize to his dad and ask to be a servant

- What did his dad do when he returned?

He celebrated and threw a party because his son returned home

Big Idea Application - Big Idea: Love Always

- Why do you think it's hard to love someone when they're mean or do the wrong thing?
- Who is hard to love in your life? How can you be better at loving them?

Game/Activity - Love Notes

Give kids a piece of paper, some markers or crayons, and two lollipops. Instruct kids to make a card for someone in their life that they love and guide them to write something nice or encouraging to them. When they're done, help them tape one of the lollipops to their note and challenge kids to give their note to that person the next time they see them. The second lollipop is for them to eat.

- It's always nice to let those we love know how much they mean to us.

Memory Verse

"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus." Acts 20:24

- Our memory verse this month means that our goal and purpose in life is to live for God. Everything we do should point back to God and we should strive for all of our actions to point others back to Him and to glorify Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for bringing us here today so we could learn something new about you. I pray that this week you will help us show love to everyone that we encounter. Amen.

PLAY TO WIN

Big Idea: Learn From Your Mistakes

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 20:24

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.”

Learn From Your Mistakes is all about realizing that we all mess up and have an opportunity to make it right with others.

Guided Story Time - Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

- What was Zacchaeus' job?

He was a tax collector

- Did the people like tax collectors?

No, they thought they were liars and cheaters

- What did Zacchaeus do since he was too small to see Jesus through the crowd?

He climbed a sycamore tree

- What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus when he was in the tree?

Hurry and come down, I want to stay at your house

- What did Zacchaeus decide to do with his money?

Give half of it to the poor and pay back anyone he wronged four times as much

Big Idea Application - Big Idea: Learn From Your Mistakes

- How do you feel when you make mistakes? Why?
- Do you think it's ok to make mistakes? Why or why not?
- What can you do to learn from your mistakes so you don't make them again?

Game/Activity - Can You Keep Up?

Have all the kids stand up and make sure they have room to move around. Start off with a series of simple instructions (touch your head, stick out your tongue, jump up and down...). After they complete a few actions, move to two part instructions, (jump and shake your head, hop on one foot and spin around, pat your head and rub your tummy...). After that, move to the final round and quickly list off a series of directions that will be difficult to follow (spin around, touch your head, do a push up, wiggle your nose, touch your ears, jump up and down...). When you're done, ask everyone if that last part was hard.

- Sometimes when things get hard, we're going to make mistakes. But even when it gets hard and we feel like we just can't get it right, it's important to keep trying. It's ok to make mistakes because we know that God loves us and will help us learn from them.

Memory Verse

"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus." Acts 20:24

- Our memory verse this month means that our goal and purpose in life is to live for God. Everything we do should point back to God and we should strive for all of our actions to point others back to Him and to glorify Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for bringing us here today so we could learn something new about you. I pray that this week when we make mistakes that you would help us learn from them instead of being sad about it. Amen.

PLAY TO WIN

Big Idea: Leave Your Mark

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 20:24

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.”

Leave Your Mark is all about being bold and sharing God’s love with others every single day!

Guided Story Time - Peter and the Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 36-40) NLT

- Jesus told the disciples that he was going to send them a gift. What was the gift?

The Holy Spirit

- What did the disciples do when the Holy Spirit came?

They started speaking different languages that they didn’t even know

- Peter reminded the crowd about who?

Jesus and who he was

- He told them that anyone who believes in Jesus has what?

The Holy Spirit

Big Idea Application - Big Idea: Leave Your Mark

- Why do you think God wants to use us to accomplish his plans?
- How can you use your gifts for God this week?

Game/Activity - One Word Story

Sit the kids down in a circle and get suggestions from the kids of a person, a place, and a thing for a story to be about. Once you have those, start making up a story one word at a time. Starting the story with the first word (or sentence if you have younger kids), and having the next person contribute the next word. Keep going until your story hits a stopping point.

- Our story wouldn't have been complete without everyone contributing to it. Sometimes, God chooses to use us to complete his miracles. God used Peter and the disciples to share his love with others. God wants us to be bold, and leave our mark by sharing his love with others, too.

Memory Verse

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus.” Acts 20:24

- During this time, go over the memory verse with the kids and explain to them that we have a memory verse so we can learn God's word and keep it in our hearts. Knowing scripture helps us when we're not sure what to do.

- Our memory verse this month means that our goal and purpose in life is to live for God. Everything we do should point back to God and we should strive for all of our actions to point others back to Him and to glorify Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for bringing us here today so we could learn something new about you. I pray that this week you will give us the courage to be bold and tell others about you and how much you love them. Amen.

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