

Have fun learning and playing
with your preschooler!

First, watch
this week's
video!



Bible Story

The Lost Sheep
(Luke 15:3-7)

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

Where Is the Sheep?

What You Need

Cotton balls

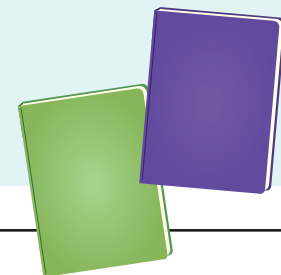
What You Do

Spread cotton balls all over the room. Then, encourage your child to stand near a cotton ball and say the memory verse with you. Have them bring that sheep to you, then encourage them to stand by another sheep and say the verse again.

Say, "I see a lot of sheep around the room. The cotton balls are our sheep. Go find a sheep and stand next to it. *(Pause.)* Yay! Now, let's say our memory verse together. 'The crowds *(arms out and around)* were amazed *(hands to eyes like binoculars then open and close)* at his teaching *(hands to mouth)*,' Matthew 7:28. *(Open hands like a book.)* Great job! Now, bring your sheep to me and find another sheep!"

Continue until all of the sheep are found and returned. Redistribute the sheep to play again if time allows.

When you are finished, say, "You did an awesome job of finding all the sheep. Jesus told us the story about the shepherd and his lost sheep because He wanted us to know that we're all important to God. So, when I ask 'Who teaches you important things?', you say, 'Jesus teaches me important things.' Ready? **Who teaches you important things? Jesus teaches me important things.**"



Prayer

"God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us so many important things and be our friend forever. All of our friends and family are very important to You, God. Thank You for loving us so, so much. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."



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

**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

Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

Bottom Line

When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

Activity

Wall All Fall Down

What You Need:

Plastic cups (such as Solo® cup)s, several pairs of balled-up socks, laundry basket

What You Do:

Place the laundry basket on one side of the room. In front of the laundry basket, create a wall using the cups. The wall should reach the same height as the top of the laundry basket.

Say, "I'm going to give you a ball of socks. Try to toss it into the laundry basket without knocking over the wall of cups. Ready?"

Start your child off at a close distance to the basket. They should be able to get the socks in without disturbing the cups. Then, have them step back before tossing in another ball of socks. Keep going until you're out of socks. If the cups fall down before your child has tossed in all the socks, rebuild the wall, then have them take a step forward and try again.

Then say, "The farther you got from the basket, the more difficult it was to control where the ball of socks landed. If we don't have wisdom from God to give us direction for our lives, we'd be like the socks tossed from far away, easily out of control—only MUCH worse. When people get out of control, we don't just topple over a few cups. We can end up hurting someone else or causing a big problem."



Talk About the Bible Story

What does it mean to have self-control?

What can happen when we don't have self-control? (*We can hurt people, make a big mess*)

When was the last time you lost your self-control? What happened?

Parent: Share about a time when you lost control and it caused trouble. Remind your child that even when we do lose control, we have the opportunity to "make it right" by asking for forgiveness—and asking the other person how we can help fix what went wrong.

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 the Holy Spirit so that we can choose self-control. Please help us always pay attention to the people around us so we don't hurt anyone or put ourselves in danger. Help us to be aware of the times when we lose control, and give us the power to stay in control the next time something similar happens. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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, Nlrv

Bible Story

Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

Key Question

When do you lose control?

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

Activity

Tissue Issue

What You Need:

Tissue, Bible or Bible app

What You Do:

Together, look up Ephesians 5:15-17. Ask your child to read the verses out loud a couple of times. Once they're familiar with it, hand them a tissue.

Say, "In a moment, you're going to put this tissue over your face. Then, I'm going to read the verse out loud, pausing along the way. When I pause, you have to blow the tissue up into the air and tell me the next word before it falls down. For every word you get right, you get a point. But if you lose control of the tissue and it falls to the ground, you get no points. How many points do you think you can get?"

Read the following phrases, pausing at the end of each one. Keep track of your child's score, based on the game rules described above.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (Nlrv)

- So be very careful how you . . . (live).
- Do not live like people who aren't . . . (wise).
- Live like people who are . . . (wise).
- Make the most of every . . . (opportunity).
- The days are . . . (evil).
- So don't be . . . (foolish).
- Instead, understand what the Lord . . . (wants).

When you're finished, tally up the score. Congratulate your child on their effort. Remind them that losing control of the tissue is a simple reminder that nothing good comes from losing control.

Talk About the Bible Story

What does it mean to have self-control?

How does self-control protect us, like an ancient city's walls protected the city?

When do you tend to lose control?

Are there any areas of your life where I or other adults have placed more "walls," boundaries, or rules than you'd like? If you grow in self-control, how could that show that you might be ready for some of those walls to open up?

Parent: Share about a time when you lost control and it caused trouble. Remind your child that even when we do lose control, we have the opportunity to "make it right" by asking for forgiveness—and asking the other person how we can help fix what went wrong.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, please be our strong wall and protect us from saying or doing things that will lead us into trouble. Give us Your power to live wisely and carefully as we follow You this week. In Jesus' name, amen."