

Unit 22

Rules to Live By

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Mark 12:30

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch **Rules to Live By** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in June.

In the video, a girl has to make a choice—should she go to church camp or the second soccer camp of the summer? She thinks and prays about the situation, finally deciding to trust God with her choice.

- How did putting God first affect what the girl decided?

What does it really mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? What does it really mean to put God first? Jesus explained this more when He talked to a rich young man in Matthew 19:16-30. It seemed like the young man had kept all of God’s commandments. But when Jesus asked him to get rid of his “stuff,” the young man couldn’t do it. His “stuff” was more important to him than God. Anything that is more important than God puts Him in second or third place in our lives, not first. Putting God first is our response to Jesus dying for our sins and coming back to life so we can be with Him forever.

- Think of where you put God in your life. How are your words, thoughts, and actions different when you put God first?
- Memorize Mark 12:30. When we put God first, we are loving Him as our Creator and Savior. Why would we want to do this?
- As a family create a GIF or poster about putting God first in your life.

End with a short prayer: Dear God, thank You for loving us enough to send Jesus as our Savior. Help us to show our love to You by putting You first in all that we think, say, and do. Amen.

Unit 23

Who God Is

“The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion.”

Numbers 14:18

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch **Who God Is** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well around or after July 19.

The boy in the video was upset that his sister was getting a treat that he wasn’t. But the video wasn’t about the boy. It was really about the parents and how they had to do different things to help the boy and his sister learn and grow. The mom explained that the sister wasn’t getting special treatment. The parents were showing love to both children.

- How does the mom’s explanation help the boy deal with his jealousy?

The video is a modern-day account of Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son found in Luke 15. Usually we think about this story from how the younger son feels and acts. But the story tells a lot about the father. The father gives the younger son what he asks for even though it isn’t what the father wants. And even though the son messes up, the father shows love and forgiveness when his boy returns home. The older son lived with the father’s love the entire time. The father didn’t love the older son any more or any less; he simply treated the two children differently. The father in this story helps us understand who God is and how He loves each of us.

- How would you describe who God is?
- Memorize Numbers 14:18. Just as the father in Jesus’ story forgave the younger son’s sins when he confessed them, God forgives our sins when we confess them. Give each person a piece of paper and something with which to write or draw. Allow time for family members to write or draw a confession of sins on their papers. Then tear up the papers while saying Numbers 14:18 as a reminder that God forgives those sins.
- Have a family snack to celebrate God’s forgiveness and love.

End with a short prayer: Dear God, thank You for loving us and forgiving us. Amen.

Unit 24

Living Out Our Faith

“Whoever wants to become great among you must first be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”

Mark 10:43-44

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch **Living Out Our Faith** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well around or after August 16.

The girl in the video was concerned about kids who didn’t have enough food to eat after a natural disaster. Her family found a local group that was helping to supply food. The family had a family packing party to pack food kits for families in the disaster area. It was how the girl’s family could send God’s love to other families.

- Sending God’s love is another way of saying “living out your faith.” What are some ways your family lives out its faith?

When people believe that Jesus rose from the dead so they can have eternal life, they don’t just keep exciting news like that to themselves. They share their faith with other people through their words and actions. How we talk to others, solve problems without fighting, and give to with others are ways to share God’s love and live out our faith.

- How can your family send God’s love to others? Write all your ideas on a piece of paper.
- Learn Mark 10:43-44. A definition of *servant* is “one who is of use to others.” What does that have to do with living out our faith?
- Choose one of the ideas you wrote on the piece of paper earlier in this devotion. Work as a family to share and send God’s love to others in this way.

End with a short prayer: Dear God, help us to know how You want us to live out our faith. Give us the courage to carry others’ burdens. Amen.