

WEEK EIGHT

RULE 7: BE FAITHFUL IN MARRIAGE

BIG IDEA

Husbands and wives must keep their special

LOVE JUST FOR EACH OTHER

A LESSON FROM DAVID

PREP: *(Kids can help!)*

- Prepare treats (heart-shaped lollies, heart shaped fairy bread or slices of watermelon cut into hearts with a heart shaped cutter).
- Find some lego or blocks (enough to build a small house).
- Make a note/card for each child with 'faithful' written on one side and 'unfaithful' on the other.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- The first seven commandment cards.
- The lego blocks.
- Heart shaped treats.
- 1 blindfold for every 2 people (e.g. scarf, tea towel).
- The card/note for each child.



OUT OF THE BOX

- Bring out the pile of lego or other blocks and get the children to build a tower or a house.
- Bring out the 7th commandment card and read it – “Be Faithful in Marriage.”

What is a faithful person?

A faithful person is someone who can be trusted.

You can count on them to keep their word; and to stay loyal and loving.

The 7th commandment is especially written for people who are married. Someday if you get married, God wants you to keep your special love just for your wife or husband. But long before we ever get married God wants us to practice being faithful and true to our word so others can trust us.

GAME

Faithful Friends

- Each child takes a turn to stand with their back to Mum or Dad with their arms over their chest and standing stiff and straight.

When the parent says “I will be faithful” the child closes their eyes and falls backwards into the parent’s arms.

Question:

- Did you feel safe when you fell back and Dad or Mum caught you?

You see learning to be faithful doesn't start on our wedding day. It begins with learning faithfulness now while we are young. When we practise being a faithful friend now, we are learning to be faithful when we are adults too.

GAME

Shoe Scramble

In this game we are going to work together to succeed - we will need to rely on our partner to help us.

- Have everyone get into pairs.
- One partner is blindfolded, and the others throw their shoes into the middle, so all the shoes together make a pile. When you say "ready steady go" or blow a whistle, each of the blindfolded people must find their partner's shoes in the pile.
- The partners can call out "That is not my shoe" or "That is my shoe" until their partner gets the correct pair, and then puts them on their feet while still blindfolded.
- The first person to get the correct pair on their partner can pass around the treats.

God made a very special plan in marriage to give us a best friend who will always stick by us, and love us, and help us to build a strong family together. He knows the very best way to live, and has promised to fill us with His love and strength.

OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out the heart-shaped treats and eat as you tell the story.



READ

The story of David and Bathsheba

David was a powerful king and had everything he could possibly want. God loved him and David loved God but there came a day when David made a really bad choice to be unfaithful. It was springtime and David's army was away fighting a war. As a faithful leader, he should have been out at the battle, fighting with his troops. But instead, David stayed at home. That's when he made a terrible decision. While enjoying a cool evening on his roof top he saw a beautiful married woman called Bathsheba on the next roof. He thought she was so lovely that he invited her to come to the palace secretly even though he was already married.

This new relationship was not what God wanted for either of them, as they both should have stayed faithful to their own families. To make matters worse, a little while later David discovered that Bathsheba was going to have his baby and he still didn't say sorry and make things right. Instead, he made it even worse by trying to cover up what he had done and scheming so he wouldn't be found out. Finally the worst plan of all was to send her husband Uriah to the frontline of the battle where he was killed.

So David ended up getting what he wanted; he married Bathsheba and brought her into his big extended family.

David thought he had got away with this unfaithfulness. But God wasn't fooled. He was very unhappy with David and sent his prophet Nathan to speak to him. To help David see

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the horrible thing he had done, Nathan told a story. It was about two people: a rich man who had a lot of sheep, and a poor man who had only one little lamb, that he really treasured. When the rich man needed a lamb for a feast, instead of taking one of his own sheep he took the one lamb of the poor man.

Now when David heard this story he was outraged. He couldn't believe that someone would do such a thing. But Nathan explained to David that the story was actually about him. He was like the rich man, because he had taken someone else's treasured wife. David was horrified and at last fully understood what he had done. He wept for a long time and said he was sorry for the terrible way he had hurt God, and so many people. He even wrote a beautiful song (Psalm 51) to tell God how very sorry he was, and how he wanted to change. Nathan told David that God forgave him. However, there were awful consequences to all the bad choices that David had made.))

Adapted from 2 Samuel 11-12

FAMILY TALK TIME

• **What mistake did David make?**

When we think our selfish wants and feelings are more important than the people we love we are disobeying God's 7th command.

God wants the best for us and this command is to make sure we do not hurt other people and ourselves as David did.

OUT OF THE BOX

- Give each child a faithful/unfaithful card
 - Listen to these stories and hold up the side of the card you think is right for each story.
1. Tim and James always played soccer together at lunchtime. One day a new boy called Harry came to

school. He was the best kid at soccer in the whole town. Tim started playing soccer with Harry but he didn't want James to play with them. Tim kept playing with Harry even though his friend James wasn't allowed to join in. (Unfaithful to his friend)

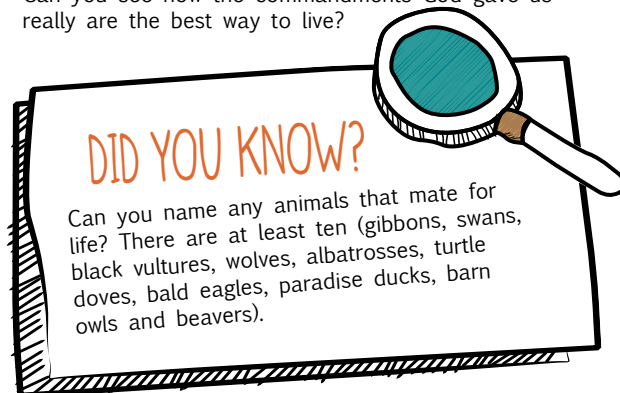
2. Jill heard some children teasing her little brother at school. She was embarrassed and ran away. (Unfaithful to her brother.)
 3. John was on the bus with his classmates when one of the boys said some things that weren't true about his best friend, Sam. John said he disagreed and told a story about what a great friend Sam was. (Faithful to James.)
- Have the children admire the lego house/tower that they built, and then each take a turn knocking part of it down.

When people in families are unfaithful to each other they break strong bonds of love and loyalty.

• **What might happen if husbands and wives are not faithful in their marriage?**

Divorce is something that makes God very sad. His heart breaks when He sees families breaking up. His plan is that husbands and wives save their special love just for one another and that families always stick together.

Can you see how the commandments God gave us really are the best way to live?



“FAITHFULNESS IS NOT DOING SOMETHING RIGHT ONCE BUT DOING SOMETHING RIGHT OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER.”

- JOYCE MEYER -

Sadly people don't always follow God's commands; sometimes they break them. When they do there is often a lot of unhappiness.

God made us, He loves us so much and He really knows the best way for us to live.

God wants us to build families where we love each other and are loyal to each other.

If we practise being faithful now, we will be good at it if we do get married one day.

- Rebuild the house together and gather round it in your prayer time.

Even if families have been broken, God wants all his children to be safe in his love. He helps us rebuild our families even when something goes wrong.

PRAY

- Please God, help us build a family that is strong and loving and faithful to one another. Jesus we ask you to stay in the middle of our family even when we are away from each other. Help us to always follow your special commands for the best way to live.

LIVE

This week look for ways you can show loyalty and kindness to your friends and family. Perhaps you could send a card to one of them (e.g. a grandparent,) telling them that you will always love them.



OTHER IDEAS

- Take time to tell stories of faithful marriages in your own family history, and celebrate them. You may have your own wedding photos, video or DVD that you can show the children. Share what it means to make vows to each other.
- Watch VeggieTales *King George and the Ducky*
- Pets can help teach children about faithfulness too. If you have a pet dog, talk about the way no matter what the owner might do, the dog will remain faithful. If a child pulls the dog's tail, the dog will quickly forgive him/her.

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

