

# 20 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP GAMES



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## LET THEM EAT CAKE: PART 1

- 🌿 Buy or make a small cake. Put it on the table in front of the kids. They will want that cake!
- 🌿 Now give them each a radish or lettuce leaf, something unappealing, as the cake is sitting in front of their face.
- 🌿 Tell them that they can eat the radish/lettuce. They will say “NO! We want cake!!” Make sure to “milk” this for awhile with questions like, “Are you sure that you don’t want anything else besides that cake?” Have some fun with this.

**Application:** When they only want the cake, tell them that is exactly how God wants us to feel about Him—that only He will do. He wants us to be hungry only for Him. Now let them dig in to that cake! Let them do this without utensils, because we need to be greedy for God! This isn’t the time to be worrying about getting messy!

## LET THEM EAT CAKE: PART 2

- 🌸 Make or buy a large cake—one that you know that given the chance, your kids will not be able to finish.
- 🌸 Set it up much like Let Them Eat Cake Part 1, but without the unappealing food. This time tell them to eat it all.
- 🌸 They will never be able to finish it. When this happens, you can say, “That is just like God. He is so good that we cannot even begin to understand how much of Him there is. We can search our whole lives and never know all of Him. He gives us even more than we can imagine! How cool is that?”

**Application:** See Ephesians 3:20.

# LET THEM EAT CAKE: PART 3

-  Make a large sheet cake at home.
-  You can frost it or let the kids do it (depending on the ages of your kids).
-  Give the kids their own writing devices and have them write as many names of God as they can think of on the cake. They could even use attributes (i.e., strong, mighty, gentle).
-  When you are finished, as a family look up these names in the Bible, as well as other names the kids didn't write on the cake. There are so many names; you could spend a long time looking them up!

**Application:** In Revelation 19:12, the Bible tells us that God has a name for Himself that no one knows except Him! Ask your kids "Why do you think that is?" (Perhaps so that no one could slander it? A good thinking point, to be sure!)

## PLAY BALL: PART 1

-  This one is especially fun to get Daddy involved in. You will need lightweight, colorful balls—big or small, it doesn't matter.
-  Have the parent (dads love this) stand on one side and the kids on the other.
-  Mom holds up a ball and asks the child to think of something that God made that is also this color/shape/design, etc. For example, a blue ball could elicit answers such as "the sky" or "the ocean!"
-  If they list off something appropriate, they get to "bean" Dad with the ball. What kid doesn't want to have this kind of a ball fight with Dad!

**Application:** Spend some time talking about creation. Verses to look up might be Genesis 1:1 as well as Romans 1:20.

## PLAY BALL: PART 2

-  Get a bunch of balls or balloons.
-  Write a variety of "problems" onto small pieces of paper (examples would be homework, friends, peer pressure, my brother, etc.) and tape these onto the balls—one "problem" per ball.
-  Start loading the balloons into the arms of the kids until they obviously cannot carry anymore. They will start to drop the balls left and right.
-  Ask them if they can hold or handle any more. Eventually, they will have to say "no." Even the proud ones will have to admit that they cannot carry any more.

**Application:** Use this opportunity to show the kids that God is right there, willing and able to help. All we have to do is ask. He is a gentleman, though. He will stand at the door and wait for us to ask Him in. He will never barge in without permission. Verses: Matthew 7:7, Revelation 3:20.

# GET OVER IT

-  Take about 15 water balloons and write the name of something scary on each one (something that scares your child, such as spiders, the dark, speaking in front of people, a bully, whatever it might be).
-  Moms and dads—add your own! “Job,” “provision,” or “health” might be written on your balloons.
-  Go outside. Tell the kids that as great as they think these monsters/fears are, God is greater. He can easily squash these fears.
-  The next step? You guessed it—launch the balloons. Launch them high and far and mightily to show God’s power over these scary things! He will squash them if you let Him.

**Application:** Review some familiar stories of God helping man deal with what seemed to be an insurmountable opponent/fear. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) or Daniel and a den of hungry lions (Daniel 6) are good choices.

## OBSTACLE COURSE: PART 1

(Kids LOVE this!)

-  Create an obstacle course. It doesn’t have to be fancy, just things to weave around, jump over or off of, crawl between or under. Make sure it is relatively safe.
-  Before you start, ask your kids who thinks this is going to be a breeze. Most kids will heartily reply they will have no problem. Tell them life is a lot like an obstacle course and through it Satan will try to trip you with lies. He may tell you to take a short cut or go a different way than you know God would have you go. You need to stay on course.
-  Occasionally approach them as they are going through the course and tell them to go a different way, or stand directly in their path so that they can visualize the world’s obstacles.
-  At the end of the course, have them do a leap in the air and say something like “Thank you God for helping me through life’s obstacles!” Once they scream that, you can stop the timer if you were indeed timing them! (Timing them can be extra fun. Many kids are competitive at their very heart).

**Application:** See Proverbs 3:5-6, John 16:33, Proverbs 24:10 (This verse would be great to introduce perseverance.)

## OBSTACLE COURSE: PART 2

-  Inflate a balloon and give the kids a broom.
-  Set up a simple course through which they have to guide the balloon with a broom. It is difficult to get it through the course. Maybe the balloon moves in a way that wasn’t the intention of the mover, but in the end, the child will be able to get the balloon to its goal.

**Application:** The balloon is like us. Sometimes we try to do things our own way and our life is harder than what God had planned. The good news is that even if we make a wrong turn, if our eyes continue to focus on Him, He will bring us onto the right path again.

# A LAMP TO MY FEET

-  Set up a small obstacle course for the kids to go through—something that is pretty simple. This is most effective if they have to weave through things that make noise if they are hit (i.e., empty coffee/soda cans with coins in them).
-  The goal here is not to touch any of the objects that are in the way. Ask the kids if they think they can make it through without touching anything. Of course they will say “yes.”
-  Now turn out all the lights. Make sure it is really dark.
-  Ask them to go through the course. They will inevitably hit something.
-  After they have all had a turn, give them a flashlight and tell them to try again. They will do much better this time.

**Application:** Explain that Jesus is the light for our path so that we don't stumble into anything that might harm us. See Psalm 119:105.

# BLIND MAN'S BLUFF

-  Hide an object. (Candy works well for this; it's cheap and kids love it.)
-  Tell the kids that they will have to follow your directions to find it.
-  Blindfold them and lead them to the candy with only your voice. You could also pair up siblings to do this together.

**Application:** Once they find the object, point out that it was the good directions that led them to the reward. It is the same with God's commandments. His good directions (commandments), when followed, will lead us to the rewards. When we commit to knowing His voice, the Word, then we will have joy that is much sweeter than the candy. See Psalm 119:35, Psalm 119:133.

# MAKE A COLLAGE

-  Bring out several (appropriate) magazines.
-  Give each of the kids a piece of construction paper or other heavy paper.
-  Give each child a scissors, unless they are too young, then you can hold the scissors and cut for them.
-  Have them look for things in the magazine that they are thankful for.
-  Cut them out and make a collage.

**Application:** See Psalm 9:1.

# WATCH WHAT YOU SAY: PART 1

-  Give each child a cup filled with water and a few drops of dishwashing liquid, and a straw. (You could substitute milk/chocolate milk for the water, too.) Put the cup in a cake pan to keep the mess contained if you'd like.
-  Have the kids blow into the straws, and the bubbles will go all over.

**Application 1:** Tell them their words do not just affect them. They spill out and affect all who hear them. They are powerful. Their words show what is in their heart. Those words can build people up or tear them down. See Ephesians 4:29.

**Application 2:** Anger is like this. It boils up inside so when it comes out it may be a volcanic eruption. Everyone around us sees this, and we cannot hide the mess we made. If we are to be "the light" for others, we need to make sure that our anger is in check. If you are angry with someone, you need to go to them to make amends before doing anything else. You also must make sure that you do not sin in your anger. Being angry isn't wrong in itself, but what we do when we are angry might be. See James 1:19, Matthew 5:22-24, Ephesians 4:26.

# WATCH WHAT YOU SAY: PART 2

-  Draw a target on a sheet of paper.
-  On the back, write the word "GOD," but make sure the kids don't see you doing it and that they don't know it's there.
-  Put the paper on the carpet and give each child a fork. Tell them that they are allowed to say something mean to the target and when they do, they can punch their fork into it. After they are finished, flip the target over.

**Application:** Show them what mean words do, not only to those to whom the mean words are directed, but also to God. When we talk badly about someone, we are speaking poorly of God Himself (because everyone was made in His image) and hurting Him with our words as well.

# THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY

-  Ask the kids to think about their last Christmas or birthday.
-  Ask them to list their favorite toys/presents they received.
-  Have them think about the last thing that they just couldn't live without.

**Application:** After you have a list, point out that if those things were truly all they needed to make themselves happy, then they would never be asking for other things. (Most likely, they may have just requested another new/latest toy, book or game). Some of these things have been lying around, not being played with, for quite a while. Some are lost or broken. Some they still play with, but will tire of after a few minutes or hours. Explain that only God can fill us up to a place where we find true happiness. Joy is found only in that one place, and once they get that gift, the search is over! See Hebrews 13:5, Luke 12:15.

# LOST SHEEP

-  Take a box of Q-tips and draw a red mark on just one.
-  Tell the kids that they are to search for that one Q-tip, and when they find it they will be rewarded with a prize.
-  They will search and search, and eventually someone will find it.

**Application 1:** Talk about the parable of the lost sheep, Matthew 18:10-14. One lost sheep was enough for the shepherd to leave the herd and search for it. How hard did he search for that one sheep? How much does God long for that one sheep to choose Him?

**Application 2:** Ask "How hard did you search for a Q-tip to get a treat/reward? Are you searching that hard for God?" See Matthew 7:7.

# STAND FIRM!

-  Collect a chair and a large dodge ball.
-  Have kids try to stand on one and then on the other.

**Application:** Point out how hard it is to stand on the dodge ball, but how firm and easy it is to stand on the chair. This is the same with God's Word. It is much easier to stand on God's Word. It's always the same, never changing and always right. The chair promises to hold you up just as God's Word does. The dodge ball is like the world; it is never sturdy and you can never trust it!

# TEMPTATION

-  Place a treat in front of the kids.
-  Tell them they cannot have it.
-  When they ask for it and look longingly at it, explain to them that the feeling they have is called temptation.

**Application:** Tempting comes from the devil, never from God (James 1:13). Explain to them that God will always provide a way out of a situation in which you are feeling tempted to sin. (1 Corinthians 10:13 is an excellent verse for this!). Put the candy/treat across the room and have Dad (or Mom, but dads usually like this part!) act as "God's promise to avoid temptation" as explained in 1 Corinthians. As they try to get the treat, Dad has to block them and help them to resist temptation. This usually ends in a tickle fest or uncontrolled laughter. In the end, you can give them a treat as an example of grace.

# PRAYER

-  Spread cotton balls all around the room to represent prayers.
-  Give each child a bowl (gold or yellow colored, if possible).
-  Designate a king, whose job it is to stop the music. Have the king play the music, and then stop it suddenly.
-  When the music stops, have the kids gather as many cotton balls as they can and deliver them to the king before the music starts again.

**Application:** What happens when a prayer enters heaven? All attention is on it. In Revelation 5:8 the Bible tells us that the saints gather the prayers in golden bowls and bring them to the feet of the King.

## TOOT YOUR OWN HORN

-  Each of the kids is allowed to brag on themselves for a minute.
-  Ask them what they are really good at, and they will assuredly open up. It may be that they are a fast runner or an excellent artist or really good at math.
-  Ask them how they would prove it. They'll probably say they would run fast, draw a great picture or solve a hard problem, right?
-  Well, how do you prove you're a Christian? You say you are a Christian, so how do we know that it's true? How does your life look if you are REALLY allowing God to be the leader of your life?

**Application:** If you have friends that aren't Christians and they aren't noticing anything different about you (specifically Fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23), then are you really living out what you say you are? If you say you are a black belt in karate, you'd better be able to break a board. If you say you are a Christian, then the Fruit of the Spirit should also be evident.

## SING TO THE LORD

(Kids love the stage)

-  For younger kids, have them take turns making up songs of praise. Let them stand on the couch as a stage. They can be silly or serious, doesn't matter. The point is to let them think of the words and the tune.
-  As they get older, ask them to put on a concert for the parents or extended family. You could even give them a budget for costumes or collect a trunk full of potential costume pieces from around the house and let them be creative.

**Application:** If they say they can't sing, remind them that God gave them their voice, and He makes no mistakes. He finds it joyful if it is used in a joyful way. See Psalm 100:2.