

# G A M E R

## DAY 1

**READ** Philippians 3:12-15a. *How do you "get good" at a game? It's very rare to find people who can play a game, figure it all out and win at every level the very first time they try. Games require practice and experience to master them. How readily do you allow yourself (and others) to train and practice? Do you place expectations on yourself or others to perform every task at a high mastery level, even if you're trying something new?*

**THINK** about a time you attempted to do something difficult for the first time -- learning to water ski, ride a bike, or mowing the lawn, etc.

**DESCRIBE** how it felt to try. *Were people watching? Did their presence help or hinder you? Why? Did you ever figure it out/learn to do that thing? If not, what kept you from doing so?* **TRY** something new this week. **FIND** a way to enjoy the process of trying, failing, and trying again.

## DAY 2

**READ** Ephesians 6:3-5 and Proverbs 14:29. *How difficult is it to allow people to attempt something and watch them fail? What's your instinctive response? Do you rescue and do it for them? Do you criticize and condemn their poor performance? Do you look to blame their failure on someone/something out of their control? We're wired for struggle. As parents, we're called to teach and equip our kids to encounter struggles. Do you speak words of encouragement and hope to them? When asked what the attraction is to video games, students responded that there weren't any limits to what they could do. "You just have to work at it, figure it out and you can break through to the next level." "If I make a mistake I can just reset and start over." With you as their parent, do your kids feel the freedom to reset or start over? Do you allow for mistakes and encourage learning from them? Do you parent in such a way that your child can confidently try new and difficult things?*

**FOCUS** on what you're saying to your kids whenever they're learning a new skill, trying something different, or simply doing something over again. *Do your words encourage or discourage? Do they build them up or tear them down?*

## DAY 3 train YOUR child

**READ** Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and Proverbs 22:6

**WHAT IT'S NOT SAYING:**

**Drop kids off so others can educate them and hope it works out**  
**Train children in the way you think they should go**

**Train children in the way you were trained**

**Let kids work it out for themselves and go their own way**

*So, how do you train a child? It's an active and involved relationship. Training is a call to equip, teach, mentor and engage your children.*

It's an ongoing and growing relationship and process which requires patient molding rather than cold instruction. **THINK** back to the Day 1 question about trying something difficult for the first time.

*Have you ever shared that memory with your kids?* **CONSIDER** doing so and **TELL** them what it felt like to try. *Were you embarrassed? Nervous?* **ASK** them to think about a time when they tried something new.

**ALLOW** them to talk about that experience, even if it's a play-by-play account of a new video game you know nothing about!

**PRAY** that God would open your mind and heart to engage in an ongoing process and relationship with your children. **THANK** Him for the grace with which you are allowed to parent. **ASK** him to help you give that kind of grace as you parent.

## DAY 4 in the way THEY should go

**READ** Jeremiah 29:11 and Proverbs 22:6. **NOT...**

**The way the world would have them go**

**The way we want them to go**

**The way they want to go**

*So how should they go? In the way GOD wants them to go.*

God has a calling for each of us. *How amazing is that?* In regard to your children, **THINK** about the freedom in that statement. You're not in control of their plans. God has already taken care of that. Your job is to focus on **TRAINING** them in a way which guides them to the path God has prepared for them. It's an intentional call for you to help them find their path, but remember... it's **THEIR** path. You have the privilege of watching them set out on the adventure God's planned for them. *What more could you ask for?*

**PRAY:** God, thank You for having the best plan for my child's life. Help me to raise him/her in such a way which constantly points him/her to You and your calling on his/her life. **LEAD** me as I support and help guide as he/she travels the path You've created. **HELP** me remember it's his/her path and You are in control.

## DAY 5 when he is old

**RE-READ** Proverbs 4:1-5 and 22:6.

The true test of your parenting will come when you're not there. *How will they handle life on their own? When they're old, and you're gone, will they know who they are? Will they have the confidence, skills, and health to walk the path God has chosen for them? Will they know who you were, who they are, who God is, and what God desires for their life? Will their identity be based on the goals you made for them, or on who Jesus says they are?*

**PRAY:** God, help me raise my children in such a way so they become confident in who You are and who they are in You. I surrender my parenting to You and rely on You to give the wisdom and discernment they need to discover and follow the path You've prepared for them.

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