



## NO ORDINARY FAMILY TIME WITH GOD - WEEK 4

### FOR PARENTS:

In this family time with God, we'll be focusing on "Boundaries." Depending on the age/maturity level of your kids this devotional can land in many different destinations. Take a few moments and ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, guidance, and direction as you decide how to use this family time with God to instruct your children.

### WEEK 4 TRUTH FOR LIFE

God has placed boundaries in my life for my good.

### THINGS YOU NEED:

- **A Bible** (preferably a Bible for every member of the family, or you can share)
- **Hula Hoops and/or Painter's Tape**

## FAMILY TIME WITH GOD

*Begin with prayer:* Father God, we are so excited to spend time with you tonight. We invite your presence to fill this room and our hearts. Help us to hear and apply your truth. Help us to be more than an ordinary family; we want to be a family who experiences and shows your love to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** *Create a boundary for each family member by placing hula hoops on the floor, making squares with painter's tape, or use chairs or a spot on the couch. The rule is to stay inside their designated boundaries during the devotional. To make it even more fun, say that leaving your boundary means you are out. The last one left wins something (ice cream, a cookie, an ice cream cookie, etc.).*

Have you ever heard the word "boundaries"? What is a boundary? A boundary is a "dividing line." Examples are out-of-bounds lines on a soccer field, lines on the road, or even fences. They keep you where you are supposed to be. They keep you safe. Can you think of any other boundaries?

Are boundaries always visible? *This is a great opportunity to talk through boundaries you expect your kids to know and follow in your home, in relationships with friends, or in dating relationships for older kids.*

Sometimes, we look at boundaries as limiting, but God says **BOUNDARIES** actually give us more **FREEDOM!**

Let's read **Romans 6:17-23** together. *Parents, read the Message version. Use [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) if necessary. Read the passage slowly. If you have little ones, focus on verse 18.*

God wants us to live freely inside the boundaries. Think about a sport you like to play or watch. Every sport has boundaries, out-of-bounds lines or dividing lines. When you stay inside the boundaries, sports are a blast! Imagine if there were no boundaries in sports. You might think that would be fun, but if you really think about it, it wouldn't be fun at all—it would be pretty chaotic.

**For older kids:** *Talk through what their favorite sport would be like without boundaries.*

**For little ones:** *Great time to remind them that the boundaries you made for them are for their good and protection—boundaries about food, screen time or outside boundaries.*

God gives us “commands” or boundaries in our lives that actually set us free. And God gave parents the job to help their children know and obey his commands. What happens when we obey our parents and follow God's commands (read vs 22)? What happens when we disobey his commands (read verse 19)?

**For older kids:** *Look up **Galatians 5:13–23** in the Message version and read. Last thought! Every boundary God gives us is to help us love him more or love others more. Go through the boundaries you talked about earlier. Every one of them has to do with loving God and loving others.*

**Pray:** Father God, thank you for your Word the boundaries you give us. You are a good Father who knows what's best for us. We admit that sometimes we don't always obey the boundaries you have asked us to keep. We receive your forgiveness and are so grateful for your endless love for us. Amen.

*Don't forget to reward the one(s) who stayed inside their boundaries during the family time with God. If you feel led to give an example of God's forgiveness, reward everyone!*