

Game Show: The choice is yours

Self-control is choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to.



MEMORY VERSE

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

Talk About the Bible Story

Open the Bible together and read 1 Samuel 24 or watch the video together on the Parent Cue app.

Engagement Questions

- When have you had self-control?
- What would you do if you had the chance to get even with someone?
- Do you find it harder to show self-control when it's friends tempting you? Why or why not?

Faith and Character Activity

Scan the QR code below for activities to guide kids at every phase to trust Jesus in a way that changes how they see God, themselves, and the rest of the world.



Prayer

"God, You are so good to us. Thank You for never growing tired of us coming to You for help. Please help us to stop and take a minute to think when we are tempted to act first. Help us to be patient and kind like You. Thank You for loving us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Weekly Parent Cues



Preteen

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



Morning Time

As your kid starts their day, tell them about a time when they made a wise decision and exercised self-control before acting.



Meal Time

At a meal this week, have everyone at the table answer this question: "When have you had self-control?"



Drive Time

While on the go, ask your kid: "What is the craziest thing you've seen someone do lately—either in person or online?"



Bed Time

Pray for each other: "Jesus, help us to think about our actions and how they may affect us and others—both in good ways and in bad ways."

More Ways to Engage with Your Kid



Faith & Character Activities

Worship Song of the Month



Download the Parent Cue app

AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



Journal

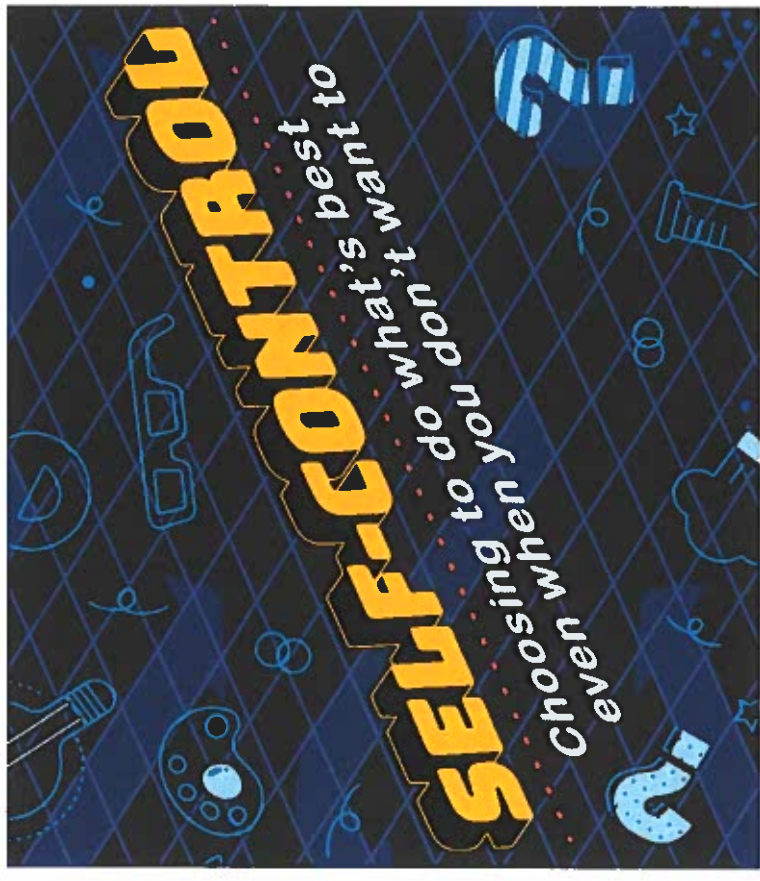
October
2024

Week Three
Preteen

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



Lined area for journaling with horizontal dashed lines.



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

Visit the Parent Cue app (available for iOS and Android) to watch this week's Bible story.

2. You learned:

Download it for free at parentcue.org/app.

3. You'd like to know:

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

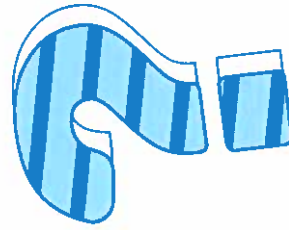
Day 2

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-10

Which of these are reasons that David could have acted quickly to kill Saul?

- A. He believed God intended for him to be king
- B. Saul was so close—right there in the cave, unprotected
- C. David's men were Team Attack—they were pressuring him to kill Saul
- D. Saul was trying to kill David

It's actually a trick question—they're all pretty good reasons David could have used as an excuse to attack the king in that moment. So why didn't he? David believed that Saul had been chosen by God to be king in that season. He didn't believe it was his duty to rush God's plan, but instead, he should wait for God's timing. There in that dark cave, David took time to think before he acted, and as a result, no one was hurt that day.



Day 3

Self-control is a tricky word because those of us who follow Jesus know that it's not REALLY "self" control.

While it is possible to control yourself, it's way easier and more successful to rely on God to help you with **choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to.**

In fact, when you put your trust in Jesus, you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is your helper—leading you to make wise choices and follow closely after God. How awesome is it that God doesn't expect us to do it on our own but gives us what we need to have self-control?! Pray the prayer below, thanking God for help in having self-control.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior, and for leaving us with the Holy Spirit to be our Helper! I'm so thankful I don't have to control myself on my own, but I have Your strength, power, and Spirit to help me. I want to practice self-control so that I can make wise choices and treat others the way I want to be treated, so thank You for being a God I can trust no matter what. I trust You to help me choose to do what's best even when I don't want to. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

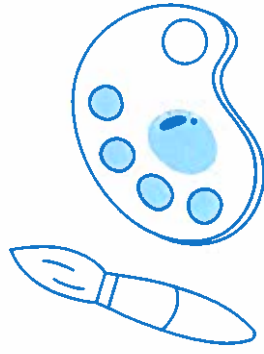
Day 4

Find a friend who also follows God.

Take a few minutes to talk through the following scenarios. How can you **think before you act** in each of these cases so that you're sure to choose what's best?

- You overhear a couple of people talking bad about you.
- Your little brother spills juice all over your homework.
- Your sister is being so annoying, making fun of you.
- Your parent wrongly assumes you were the one who did something bad.

What are some intentional ways you can stop and think before you act in each case? Take some time to share with each other your answer to this question: **When have you had self-control?**



Day 5

Recruit everyone in your household to play a game of Simon Says.

You can also ask some neighbors or friends to join you—the more, the merrier.

Need a refresher on how to play? Have someone stand at the front of the group and call out commands for everyone else to follow. But everyone should **ONLY** follow the commands when the leader begins the sentence with "Simon says..." The leader can make things really tricky by giving out commands faster and faster, and then suddenly providing a command without saying "Simon says..."

Take turns so everyone who wants to play the leader gets a chance.

When you've played as long as everyone wants, take a breather and process how the game went for everyone. Share with them what you've learned this week about thinking before you act and discuss how this game is a good example of self-control. Then ask everyone to share one area in which they can practice thinking before they act this week.

WHO WANTS TO BE KING?

1) Who was the king of Israel in our story today?

- A. **King Saul**
- B. King Solomon
- C. King Tut
- D. Burger King

2) When King Saul didn't follow God, who did the prophet Samuel anoint to be the next king?

- A. Daniel
- B. Donatello
- C. **David**
- D. Deborah

3) What did King Saul do when he became jealous of David for everyone celebrating him and being popular?

- A. send David to the North Pole
- B. make David king
- C. **tried to kill David**
- D. give David a better position in his army

4) Where did King Saul chase David with 3,000 of his best soldiers after David escaped with a group of men?

- A. the ocean
- B. **the desert (or wilderness)**
- C. the jungle
- D. the wetlands

5) Where did King Saul go when he needed a place for privacy?

- A. a meadow
- B. a tent
- C. a palace
- D. **a cave**

6) Which item of King Saul's did David cut a corner from when he realized they were in the same place?

- A. his sock
- B. **his robe**
- C. his hat
- D. his shirt

7) What did David say after he felt sorry? Finish the phrase: "King Saul! . . . Why do you listen when men say, 'David is trying to harm you'? . . . Look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe. But I _____. " —1 Samuel 24:8-11, NIV

- A. **didn't kill you**
- B. didn't take your crown
- C. didn't steal your shoes
- D. didn't eat your food

8) When King Saul realized that David treated him well, who did he ask David not to harm once David was king?

- A. the soldiers
- B. his dog
- C. his subjects
- D. **his family**



What to Do:
Print on cardstock, one for each kid.

"Memory Verse" Activity Page, NIRV
October 2024, Week 3, Small Group K-1
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Your sister takes the toy you were playing with after school.

- A. You take a second to ask God for help with your anger before kindly asking for it back.
- B. Full of frustration, you go take some of her toys to play with.

Your parent says you can't play with your friends outside until your homework is done.

- A. While doing your homework, you take some time to talk about your feelings with God.
- B. You rush through your homework for a few minutes, then run outside before it's really done.

Your teacher gives you a bad grade on your science project when you think you deserved better.

- A. Without taking time to think about your words, you march up to your teacher and tell why you deserved better.
- B. You take the time to talk to a trusted adult about how you could form some good words to politely ask your teacher about the grade.

Your parent blamed you for something your brother did.

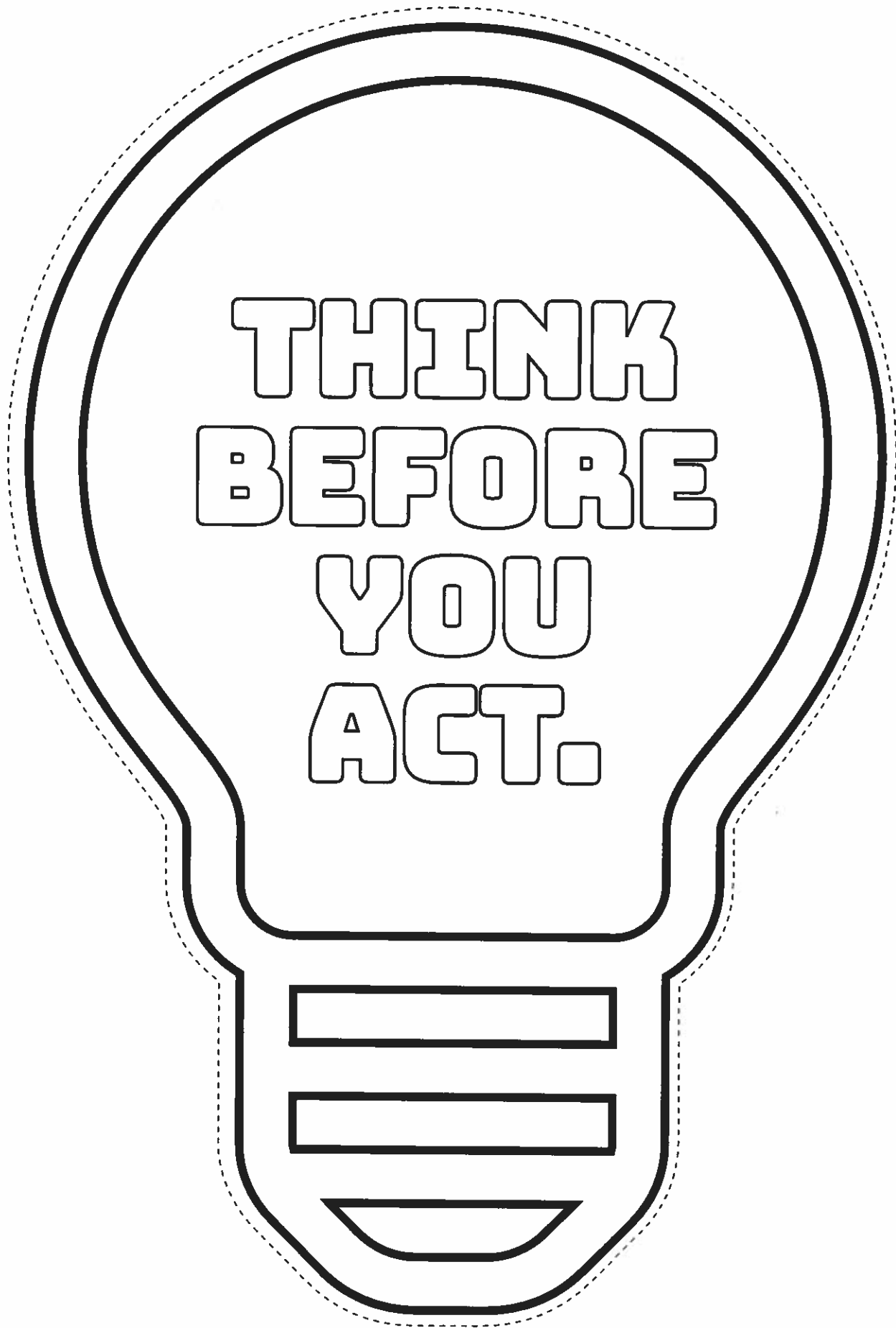
- A. You yell that it was your brother's fault.
- B. You take a deep breath, then tell the truth about what happened.

Someone who you thought was a good friend didn't invite you to their birthday party.

- A. You march right up to them and tell them you didn't want to go to their party anyway.
- B. You talk about your hurt feelings with your parents and God before asking your friend about the party.

Your friend is getting picked on and you see they need help.

- A. You get a grown-up to help with the situation.
- B. You say mean things to upset the other kid who is picking on your friend.



THINK
BEFORE
YOU
ACT.

What to Do:
Print on paper, one for each kid.