



Sabbath Keeping Youth

Running To Win



On your mark, get set, go!!! The runner leaps off the ground, leaving only a trail of dust behind him. In his training, he has been striving for perfection, while practicing his stance and speed. He can almost taste the first place trophy. He's got to be the first one to cross the finish line.

Have you ever been in a race? You know how it feels. Excitement fills the air as the big day approaches. You've been practicing for days. You probably haven't run hundreds of sprints and miles of cross-country, but you have certainly made a few laps around the neighborhood in hopes of being the fastest when the gun fires and the race begins.

God tells us in Hebrews 12:1 about a different kind of race. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." We each have a finish line...God's Kingdom. It's not a race to see who can get there first, because everyone who gets there will be a first place winner.

The things we do today and tomorrow effect how well we run this race. Anytime we say a bad word, cheat on a test, or talk back to an adult, we add weight (sin) to our spiritual life. This slows us down and keeps us from doing our best for Jesus. That's why we should ask God to forgive us when we sin. Then God takes the heavy weight of sin off our shoulders so we can live in peace and joy. It's not always easy, we have to train ourselves to do the right things. We also must keep our eyes on Jesus, just like a runner keeps his eyes on the finish line!

Calling All Youth

Have you ever wanted to be a reporter, photographer or journalist? Well, now is your chance. We're looking for enthusiastic youth to write about this year's Feast of Tabernacles.

One youth will be selected for each Feast site. He/She will participate in all the youth activities and Sabbath School. Then, he/she will write an article about what happened, including funny experiences and special highlights. Photographs can even be included if the reporter would like. All articles and photographs will be submitted and then featured in the November 2002 SKY Newsletter as well as the website.

If you would like to be the reporter for the Feast site you are attending, write an email to sky@cgi.org or letter to SKY Reporter, PO Box 223675, Carmel, CA 93922. Write a paragraph stating why you want to be the reporter. Be sure to include your name, age, phone number and what Feast site you will be attending.

Then, we'll select one reporter for each Feast site. All entries must be submitted no later than **September 14th**. Any late entries will not be considered.



Be A Friend

True friendship means you have a deep and lasting affection for another. This affection is based on respect. The result is a desire to share both good and bad times.

Every parent knows a crucial part of growing up is choosing good friends. The friends your child chooses will tell you which way your child is inclined to go. Friends are important because they will either uplift or tear down. Friendships do matter and it is your job as a parent to be sure you teach your child how to develop good friendships and how to discern counterfeit ones. As a parent, you can help your child learn the skills needed to be a good friend.

Being a good friend is one step toward developing good friendships. This is the side of friendship that brings up and encourages another rather than tearing down. Friendship is not passive but rather active. Learning how to be kind, loving and helpful will make your child feel better about himself and it is a skill that will build strong ties with friends.

Children who have strong friendships care about how others feel. A child who has learned about kindness and how to be helpful will not stand by while another is teased. This same child will try to comfort the sad and hurting child. Your child can be taught how to help a lonely child by your example.

When your child is sad or lonely you show him love and kindness and he then experiences first hand the feeling that comes from being cared for. He will use the skills you use to comfort him. As an example, when your child is sad, maybe you tell him about a time you were sad. Or, you may get your child involved in another game or activity. Treating your child with kindness will teach your child how to be kind.

Teach your child to give encouragement and praise when a friend or sibling does well. Show them how to compliment others for their abilities and be happy for those who have something good happen or are the recipient of a lovely gift. The Bible Story included in this newsletter is about the sin of jealousy. Do not allow your child to compare himself with others or feel sorry for himself if he doesn't have what others have. Teach him to pray for his friends and to actively do what Philippians 2:3,4, says, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

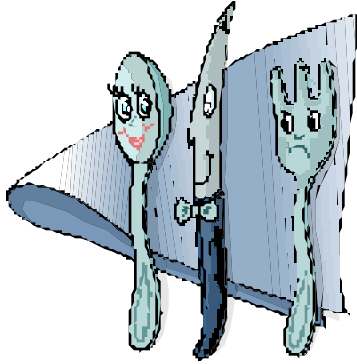
There are many scriptures in the Bible that define friendship,

- ✓ Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times..."
- ✓ John 15:13 Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."
- ✓ Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."

Before Jesus was crucified, a Pharisee asked Him, "What is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38). But Jesus did not end there. He continued with "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:39).

Jesus knew what it meant to be a friend. He taught us that true friendship comes from serving others and giving of oneself to help others. When you teach your child to help others, you are both teaching a good friendship skill and that the world does not revolve around him. Jesus came as a servant and has offered us his hand in friendship. What kind of friend are you and are you teaching your child to be a good friend?





Jealousy Is Rottenness To The Bones

After David killed Goliath, he became a soldier in King Saul's army. David was a hero now to all his people. But the one who loved him the most was King Saul's son, Jonathan. One day, Jonathan removed his robe and gave it to David as a sign of his friendship. He also gave David his sword and bow. From that day forward they were like brothers. King Saul loved David as well and he treated him like a son. King Saul gave him a prominent place in his army.

When Saul and David returned from David slaughtering Goliath, Saul heard a group of women celebrating David's victories with songs. The women sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (I Samuel 18:6,7). Saul became very angry and displeased. Since Saul was King, he believed he should receive the praise that was given to David.

King Saul allowed jealousy to creep into his life and control him. What is jealousy? To be jealous means you want something someone else has. Perhaps you become sad or even angry. For example, how do you react when a friend or a sibling receives a compliment and you don't? Do you become jealous? Maybe a friend always seems to receive a better grade than you on the work he turns in. Or, are you jealous of a new baby in the family or a younger sibling that you think receives more attention than you? The Bible says, "Envy [jealousy] is rottenness to the bones" (Proverbs 14:30). God wants you to be careful about allowing yourself to become jealous like King Saul. You just need to talk to God in prayer and ask Him to forgive you of the sin of jealousy and ask Him to help you stop. I John 1:5 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." You need to believe in God's bigness. He can help you be content and happy with what you have. "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

The day after returning home from battle, a distressing spirit from God came upon Saul. As David had done in the past, he played music for Saul to help ease his pain. In the next moment, Saul lashed out at David, attempting to kill him with a spear (18:10-12). David escaped Saul's jealous anger twice and now Saul was afraid of David because Saul could see the Lord was with David. Saul demoted David from counselor to captain over a small army unit. When Saul realized he could not personally destroy David, he decided to place David where he would be killed by the Philistines (fil-IS-teens). When this didn't work, Saul asked his servants and his son Jonathan to kill David. Jonathan pleaded with his father to repent and not kill David (I Samuel 19:1, 4, 5). Jonathan went to David and said, "My father Saul is trying to kill you, so I beg of you to go and hide yourself. Tomorrow morning I shall go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will talk to him about you, and whatever I learn I shall tell you"(I Samuel 19:2,3). The next day Jonathan spoke to his father, and told him what a great and good man David was. He urged his father not to stain his hands with innocent blood. Saul listened to Jonathan's words and promised that David should not be slain. Unfortunately, Saul's jealous anger was so great it wasn't long before Saul was once again determined to take David's life. Saul refused to seek God and he allowed his jealousy to control him. So David was on the run. He constantly fled escape from jealous Saul (I Samuel 19:9, 10; 21; 23; 24).

Jonathan has left a noble story in scripture. He was a great friend to David, valiant and true. Even though Jonathan knew David might become King in his place, he was never jealous. Jonathan's behavior was a great contrast to the way King Saul behaved. Do not allow the sin of jealousy to enter your heart; it will only hurt you and those you love.

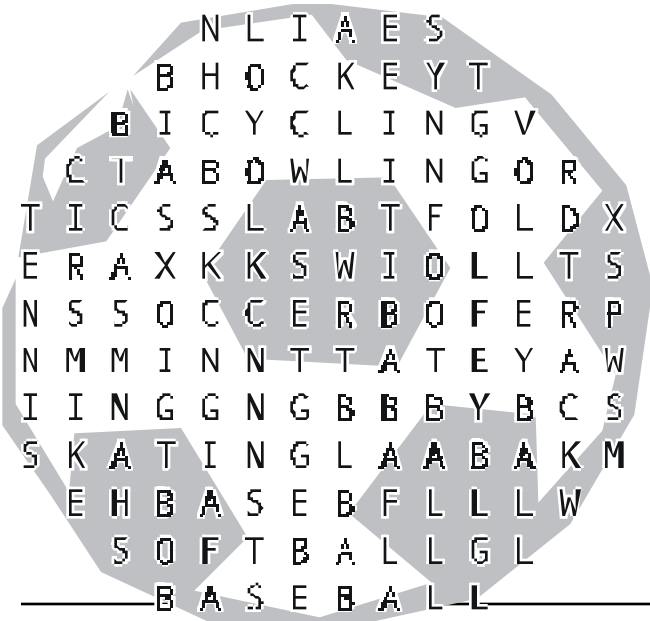
Spectacular Sporting



Word Search

Playing ball is a whole lot of fun. We should give God thanks for giving us the ability to run, throw, climb and all that great stuff. No matter if you're a pro at some of these sports, or amateur, you can have fun finding them in the soccer ball below. Get out your pencil, get set, and go find all the sports. They're listed across, diagonal, and down.

baseball; basketball; bicycling; bowling; football; volleyball; hockey; skating; soccer; softball; tennis; track; golf



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Awesome Athletics



Blind Man Volleyball

You need a beach-ball, blanket, and volleyball net or a fence that can take the place of the net. Use the rules of regular volleyball, except play with a beach ball, and place the blanket over the net so you can't see the other side. You never know where the ball is coming from.

Flying Golf

You need a frisbee and nine paper plates numbered 1-9. Scatter the paper plates around your yard and decide where the starting point will be. See how many throws it takes you to land your frisbee on all nine plates, starting with number 1 and ending with number 9.

Freeze Football

You need a football and 2 hula-hoops or another round object. Place the hula-hoops at opposite ends of the yard. They may be lying on the ground or hanging on the fence. This game is a cross between basketball and football. The object is to advance the ball across the yard and throw it into the hula-hoop. Once you catch the ball, you can't move your feet. You must freeze until you have thrown the ball to another player. Like basketball, there are no fouls and no walking. You must intercept the pass or the missed shot to get the ball.