



Use this guide to help your family learn how God wants us to live with self-control.

Self-control:
Choosing to do what you should 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

Bible Story

Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

Bottom Line

When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

Activity

Wall All Fall Down

What You Need:

Plastic cups (such as Solo® cup)s, several pairs of balled-up socks, laundry basket

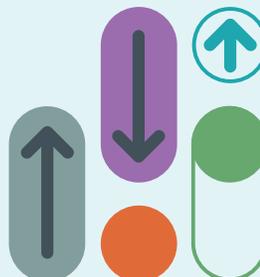
What You Do:

Place the laundry basket on one side of the room. In front of the laundry basket, create a wall using the cups. The wall should reach the same height as the top of the laundry basket.

Say, "I'm going to give you a ball of socks. Try to toss it into the laundry basket without knocking over the wall of cups. Ready?"

Start your child off at a close distance to the basket. They should be able to get the socks in without disturbing the cups. Then, have them step back before tossing in another ball of socks. Keep going until you're out of socks. If the cups fall down before your child has tossed in all the socks, rebuild the wall, then have them take a step forward and try again.

Then say, "The farther you got from the basket, the more difficult it was to control where the ball of socks landed. If we don't have wisdom from God to give us direction for our lives, we'd be like the socks tossed from far away, easily out of control—only MUCH worse. When people get out of control, we don't just topple over a few cups. We can end up hurting someone else or causing a big problem."



Talk About the Bible Story

What does it mean to have self-control?

What can happen when we don't have self-control? (*We can hurt people, make a big mess*)

When was the last time you lost your self-control? What happened?

Parent: Share about a time when you lost control and it caused trouble. Remind your child that even when we do lose control, we have the opportunity to "make it right" by asking for forgiveness—and asking the other person how we can help fix what went wrong.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit so that we can choose self-control. Please help us always pay attention to the people around us so we don't hurt anyone or put ourselves in danger. Help us to be aware of the times when we lose control, and give us the power to stay in control the next time something similar happens. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."