



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



## Family Activities: Sunday September 6th

### Play Fair

*Introduction: Children’s Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do ‘Children’s Church at Home’ and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 1045am to go through some of the activities together!*

*We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their ‘Weekly@’ resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week’s activities.*

*Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at [carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk) to be added to the Children’s Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @1045am Zoom Children’s Church Meeting.*

#### Theme:

This morning we are thinking about rules. There are rules that we have to keep in school or work, and rules that we have to keep which are the laws of our land. Can anyone think of any rules that we have to keep? There are some unusual rules in different countries around the world. Here are a few – see if you can guess which ones are true rules, and which ones are false. (from [www.redbookmag.com](http://www.redbookmag.com))

1. In Western Australia, you may not own more than 50kg of potatoes at one time. (TRUE)
2. In Switzerland, you’re not allowed to flush the toilet after 10pm, as it’s considered too noisy. (TRUE)
3. In Florida, a married woman must not go skydiving on a Sunday. (TRUE)
4. In children’s playgrounds in Poland, you are not allowed to have any hats, lunchboxes or clothing that features Mickey Mouse. (FALSE – it’s Winnie-the-Pooh who is banned!)
5. In Singapore, you can be arrested for walking across the road without using a proper crossing. (TRUE)
6. In Samoa, it is a crime to forget your husband’s birthday. (FALSE...but it is a crime to forget your wife’s birthday!)

#### Setting the Scene:

**Song:** Sing and dance along to

Love One Another

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LylkcoAflU4>

or

Big Family of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rawq3usrzsE>





St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



**Bible Passage:** Matthew 18 v15-20



## Play Fair

If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love.

**18-20** “Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.”

Or you could watch the clip below on God’s rules – the ten commandments

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aX28nAB4S7A>

### Explaining the Passage:

It is important that we have some rules. Why do we need them? Most rules are important to keep us safe. Show a few road signs (e.g. No Entry, Give Way, One Way, U-Turn) and see if children can identify them. God gives us some rules in the Bible to keep us safe and help our lives together to run smoothly.

There are some things he tells us not to do (hold up No Entry sign) – can you think of any? (e.g. lying, stealing). Why does God ask us not to do these things? (They hurt and upset other people). Hold up Give Way sign – There are times when God asks us to Give Way to other people – can you think of times when we need to do this? (e.g. putting other people’s needs first). How does the other person feel when we do that? How do we feel? Hold up One Way sign – The Bible tells us that there is one way to know God the father, and that is through Jesus. Sometimes people think that the way to know God is by keeping all his rules and being ‘good’. But God knows that none of us can be good all the time, and he loves us even when we make a mess of things. Because Jesus died for us and came back to life, we can be God’s friends, and when we realise how amazing his love is, we find that we want to start keeping his rules. Jesus knew that his people would sometimes break the rules God had given them for their good. He also knew that when that happens, we might get angry and try to send someone away. But he showed us that it is better to speak with someone quietly and give them opportunities to change. How patient are we with someone else does



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



something wrong? How would we like to be treated when we slip up? Hold up U Turn sign (see attached sheet as we only have No U-turn signs on British roads!) – God allows us to start again on the right path, and we should help each other in this.

### **Prayer:**

*Make a list of new family 'rules' such as 'Be patient when...' 'Be kind when....' 'Forgive when....' (add in some specific things that happen in your household for example 'Be patient when Dad asks you the same thing three times'; 'Forgive when your brother knocks over your Lego tower'). Say the following prayer together:*

**Father God, thank you that are fair and kind to us all. Help us to be the same. Amen**

### **Game: Musical Chairs**

Prepare the room for a game of Musical Chairs, making sure to explain the rules clearly. Play it first with everyone sticking to the rules, then give a couple of players secret instructions to do something different, e.g. lie down across three chairs instead of sitting on one. Discuss: How much did you enjoy the game when everyone played by the rules? How did it feel when some people broke the rules? What did you want to do about it? Has their response changed after hearing today's message?

### **Activity: Protection**

Having sensible rules about how we live helps to protect everyone. At home, try to make protection around an egg, so that it can be dropped without breaking. Test out your creations by dropping the protected eggs from the same height either into a container or onto a plastic tablecloth to minimize mess! Which eggs survive intact? If any of them do break, how do we respond?

### **Activity: I spy....Road Signs**

Challenge the children to look out for the road signs on the sheet whilst they are out and about and tick them off when they see them. Encourage them to remember each time they see a road sign, that God gives us ways to live that keeps everyone safe and well.



### I Spy... Road Signs


**Instructions:** Look out for each road sign. When you've spotted it, put a tick (✓) in the box next to it.