



Help Your Child Understand That Rules Are Good



Play a game that your kids already know how to play (kickball, basketball, cards, board game, etc.). Tell them that today's game will have NO rules. As you start playing, change the rules (run to third base first; start at the end of the board and go backwards, etc.). Let them change the rules, also. Continue changing the rules throughout the game.

After much arguing, stop the game and ask: **Why is it important to have someone in charge that makes the rules?** (It helps everyone know what to do, it makes things more fun, things run more smoothly, etc.) **Who is in charge of the world and who made the rules?** (God) **Where can we find His rules?** (In the Bible) **How do God's rules help us?** (They help us know the right way to live, to know how to get to Heaven, to know how to treat God and others, etc.)

Play the game again using only one set of rules, and hopefully things will go better.

As you are driving your kids to school or waiting for the bus, ask: **What rules would you make if you were the principal (teacher, coach, etc.) of the school?** Discuss each rule and what might happen if it were enforced for good or for bad. Discuss how important it is for the person in charge to make good rules that are good for ALL the students and teachers.

Take it a step farther and talk about the Ten Commandments and how they are good for us. For example: **How is the rule "Do not steal" good for all people?** (It protects each person's property, it keeps one from the guilt that comes from doing wrong, it helps people get along, etc.)

Use an umbrella to illustrate God's authority over us. Just as an umbrella protects us from the rain, God's rules protect us from bad consequences (results). When we keep God's commands, we can count on God to protect us from the bad things that could happen as a result of going against His rules. When we break God's commands, we step out from under His protection.

Pick one of the commandments and ask: **How does keeping this commandment protect us?** For example: **How does honoring your father and mother protect you?** (If do what they tell you





to do, you will be safer; if you obey, you won't be punished; if you speak good about and honor them, others will respect you; you will be protected from guilt and a bad reputation; etc.)

God gives us rules (and people to help enforce those rules) for our good. People don't always use their authority in the right way, but mostly they make rules for our good.

