

## **TITLE OF GAME: GOODNESS**

**Bible:** Psalm 23:6 (NLT)

### **SUPPLIES**

- None

### **GAME PREP**

Provide a large space for kids to move freely throughout the game.

Designate a place for kids to sit when they are out of the game.

Use the list of “Opposite Words” provided with this lesson.

Feel free to use the words more than once if you want the game to last longer.

The first word listed is the one you will say to the kids.

The second word is the action they will do in order to stay in the game.

### **OPPOSITE WORDS**

- **Walk** - RUN
- **Wave your right arm** – WAVE YOUR LEFT ARM
- **Stand** – SIT
- **Nod your head up and down** – TURN YOUR HEAD FROM SIDE TO SIDE
- **Talk very loudly** – TALK VERY QUIETLY
- **Stand on your left foot** – STAND ON YOUR RIGHT FOOT
- **Make a very serious face** – MAKE A VERY FUNNY FACE
- **Look up** – LOOK DOWN
- **Act like you are freezing** – ACT LIKE YOU ARE SWEATING
- **Wave your left arm** – WAVE YOUR RIGHT ARM
- **Open your eyes** – CLOSE YOUR EYES
- **Put your hand on your left hip** – PUT YOUR HAND ON YOUR RIGHT HIP
- **Sit** – STAND
- **Shake a friend’s right hand** – SHAKE YOUR FRIEND’S LEFT HAND
- **Stand on your right foot** – STAND ON YOUR LEFT FOOT
- **Wave your hands down low** – WAVE YOUR HANDS HIGH IN THE AIR
- **Stomp your feet** – WALK ON YOUR TIP TOES

### **HOW TO PLAY THE GAME**

**Say:** Raise your hand if you have ever played the game, “Simon Says.”

That's just about everyone.

Well, we're going to play a game that is very similar, but has a fun twist!

First, I would like for everyone to spread out really far from each other.

You will need plenty of room for this game.

Now, just like in Simon Says, I will read a command for you to follow.

I won't say "Simon Says."

I will just say the command.

BUT, you're not going to do what I say.

Instead, you will do the OPPOSITE of what I say.

If I say, "Shake your head side to side," you will shake your head up and down.

If I say, "Talk really quiet," then you will talk really loudly.

If you forget to do the opposite of what I say, then you're out of the game.

If there are still people in the game after I have gone through the list, then I will start the list over again and read the commands much faster this time.

We will keep playing until only one person is left in the game.

## **TEACH**

**Say:** Raise your hand if your family has a dog.

Tell me some things that you say to your dog when he is behaving or acting right.

*Allow a few responses from students.*

Many times, we will say, "Good dog!"

And then your dog will get all excited and happy because he knows you're proud of what they have done.

**Ask:** I want to ask you a question. Do you know God is proud of you?

How do you know He's proud of you?

*Allow a few responses from students.*

Maybe we don't hear God tell us, "Good job!" when we do something that makes Him proud, but whether you realize it or not, God is *always* proud of you.

**Read Psalm 23:6.**

*Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.*

When we talked about telling our dog, "Good dog," it was because it did something that was the right thing to do—sit, shake, bark, fetch—some action that was obedient to what we said.

But in the Bible verse we just read, I want you to notice something.

It says, "Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life."

I don't know about you, but I'm not always good.

I don't always do the right things.

This verse tells us that no matter what we do, God's goodness and unfailing love will pursue us all of our lives.

It doesn't say, "If you are good, and obey everything God says, and never make mistakes, He will love you."

Or, "If you want God to be part of your life, He will be part of your life."

You have to remember that God gave you life!

He's the reason you're here!

So, He really cares about what happens in your life.

God is never going to leave you or quit loving you, because His love never fails—it doesn't give up on you.

And His *goodness* or kindness to you isn't based on how good or kind you are.

God is like no one else in our lives because He is God.

But we should ask Him to help us love others and show them the same goodness and kindness that He shows us.

The next time you sin, or make a mistake, realize that God still loves you.

He will actually pursue, or follow you with His love, for your entire life.

When you go to sleep tonight, take a few minutes to thank God for His goodness and love for you and remember that He will never give up on you!