Date: 11/19/2016

Title: Play Life God’s Way

Theme: If you want to enjoy a game, play by the rules. If you want to enjoy life, live by the rules.

Objects: Arthur Goes to the Library game. Table of Ten Commandments. Heart with Love God on one side and Love Others on the other.

Text: Mark 12:30-31 (NKJV) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Playing games with your family or friends can be a lot of fun.

I brought with me today a game that Bella and I have had fun playing. It’s called Arthur goes to the library.

It’s a matching game that has a lot of different parts to it. Let’s open it up and look inside.

Here right on top is one of the most important parts of the game: it’s the instructions.

It tells you how to set up the game, how to take turns, how to collect the matches that you make, and how to determine who wins the game.

The instructions give you the rules of how to play the game.

The people that invented the game made the rules for how to play, and everybody has to follow them.

Can you imagine trying to play this game without knowing and obeying the rules?

Everybody would be doing whatever they wanted to try to win. It would be terrible. It wouldn’t be any fun at all.

Have you ever played with someone who didn’t want to follow the rules?

You can’t even really play unless everybody plays by the rules.

Rules are good to have; they make it fair and they help everybody enjoy the game.

The one who invented life also gave us a set of rules to go along with it.

Who do you think created life and created us? (God)

Way back in the book of Exodus, God gave us a set of 10 rules that would help us live a happier life.

What do we call the 10 rules that God gave us? (10 Commandments)

[Review each of the 10 commandments shown on the plaque]

Now in the verses we read from the Bible today, Jesus summarized the 10 commandments into two commandments of love.

The first four commandments are rules about how to love God, and the last 6 commandments are rules about how to love others.

So Jesus summarized the 10 commandments by saying we should love God with all our heart, and we should love others as our self. [Show heart with Love God and Love Others]

Some people don’t want to live by God’s rules.

They would rather make up their own rules for life.

But God’s rules are best because He invented life and knows how it should be lived.

The people who disobey God’s rules will end up very sad. They might even end up in jail.

Don’t let that happen to you!

If you obey God’s 10 commandments and love God with all your heart and love others as yourself, you will live a good life and a happy life.

God knows best!

Do you want to live by God’s rules? Let’s ask Jesus to help us!