





LET'S START!

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## Dear Parents,

Welcome to **Level Up**! Just like any exciting video game, life with God is full of challenges, power-ups, and amazing victories. We are excited to invite your child to embark on a 21-day devotional journey designed to help them "level up" in their faith, discover their God-given talents, and trust in the ultimate victory that Jesus has already won for them.

Throughout the next three weeks, your child will learn how God has equipped them with special "abilities" and "gear" to face life's challenges, just like their favorite video game heroes. They will explore key themes such as:

- WEEk 1: "God Made You Special" Your child will discover that they are uniquely created by God, with talents and abilities as awesome as any video game character's special powers.
- WEEk 2: "God Helps Us Win Our Battles" They'll learn how to rely on God for strength.
- WEEk 3: "God's Big Adventure for Us" As they journey through life, your child will see how following God's path is the greatest adventure, with eternal rewards!









Each day includes a short, interactive devotional that connects Bible truths with the fun and excitement of video game adventures. For older kids, there's a "Bonus Points" activity designed to help them dig deeper and take their learning to the next level, like completing a special in-game mission!

Here's how you can help your child during this adventure:

Encourage them to spend a few minutes each day reading the devotional and praying. It's like checking their "health meter" to keep going strong!

Ask them about what they're learning and help them with the "Bonus Points" activities, which are designed to dig a little deeper into their faith.

We are so excited to see how God will work in your child's life during this adventure. By the end of the 21 days, we believe they'll feel closer to Jesus and see that walking with God is the best and most rewarding adventure of all. Let's power up together as we step into this exciting journey!

#### Game on, in Jesus' Name,

Jenni Sandstedt Engedi Kids Pastor





### KEY TO UNLOCKING LEVELS



Spending time with Jesus is as easy as 1,2,3.

Pick a Time

The Bible says that Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father and pray. Jesus had a specific time every day that He always knew was His prayer time. We can do the same.

When will your prayer time be?

Circle your answer:







Choose a Place

Jesus had certain places that He would go to pray. We also need to have a place that doesn't have any distractions, noises, or things that would keep us from focusing on Jesus.

My favorite place to pray is:

Track Your Progress
Use the key on the next page!

# LEUEL PROGRESS

Track your progress and mark off each star as you go!

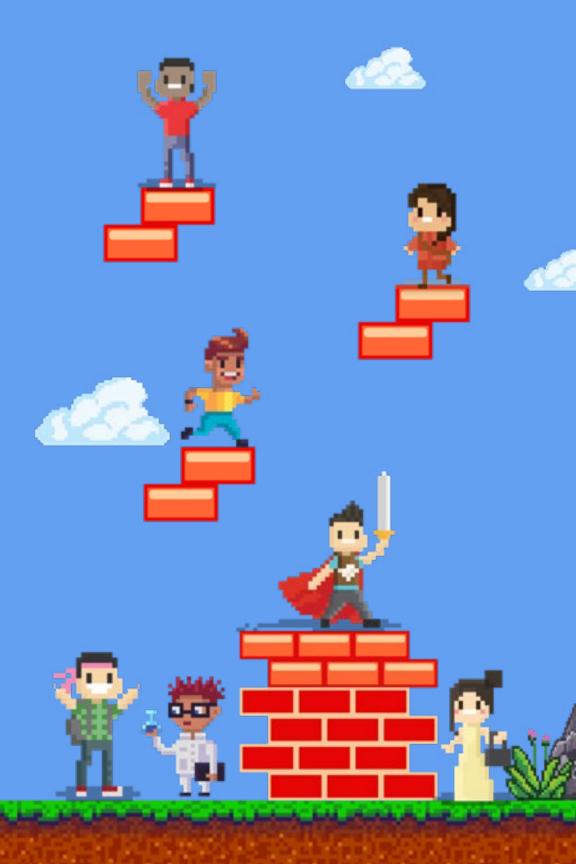






### TOU FRENCE YOU FRENCE





## LEUEL ONE





#### Psalm 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.



In games, you create characters. God made you exactly how He wants you—special and unique!

Have you ever created a character in a video game? It's fun! You get to choose their hairstyle, eye color, & clothes. Just like this, God got to design you and he did it with so much love and care. God created you on a much deeper level than just picking out your hair color though. He made you in His image and with special qualities that only you have. We can praise God for all the things we love about ourselves because he carefully chose those things for us.



Draw yourself as a video game character:



#### Older Kids

Write down three things that make you unique. How can you use those special qualities to help others?

### LEUEL TWO







#### 2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



Characters get stronger as they grow. We grow strong in Jesus when we learn more about Him and trust Him.

When Jesus came to earth, he showed everyone around Him the right way to live. He taught people how to love others and grow closer to God. Jesus still wants to teach us how to do these things today and the bible is a great way to learn how. The bible is our super special guide to learn how to trust Jesus more. The more we trust Jesus' way, the stronger we become! Knowing Jesus is the ultimate step to "level up".



Pretend to "level up" by acting out things you can do to grow closer to God (reading the Bible, praying, etc.).



#### Older Kids

Find a Bible verse that encourages you to grow spiritually and write it down. Share it with someone to encourage them.

### LEUEL THREE











#### 1 Corinthians 12:4

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.



In games, characters have powers. God gave you special talents like being kind, helpful, or a good friend!

My mom gives the best hugs. My dad makes me laugh a lot. My grandma is really good at telling stories. My friend can do really hard math problems. My brother knows exactly how to help me when I get upset. Everyone we know has special talents and things they are really good at. It's like God gave everyone their own unique special powers! We get to take the super special powers that God gave each of us and use them to do good for others.



Share one special thing you're good at that God has given you.



#### Older Kids

Think of someone you know who has different talents than you. How can you work together to make a difference?

### LEUEL FOUR



#### Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.



Power-ups in games help characters. God gives us strength, like a power-up, to do hard things.

There are all sorts of level ups in games. My favorite is being invincible. When you become invincible you can run through anything. Sometimes I forget that when I am playing games and I still go around everything – I need to remember I am invincible. When we have to do hard things we need to remember God gives us strength to do them. His strength comes from remembering He is always with us. When we remember God is with us and loves us, we can do anything!



Act out getting a "power-up" from God by flexing your muscles!



#### Older Kids

Write about a time when you faced a challenge and needed God's strength. How did He help you?

### LEUEL FIUE





#### Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.



In games, you need armor to protect yourself.

Did you know God gives us armor to help us stand strong? It's not actual armor that you can see, but it is real. He gives us truth, faith, He saves us by sending Jesus to save us from our sins, He gives us peace. And He gives us a sword – the Bible. Finally, He gives us prayer. When we read our Bible and pray we are fighting a battle and standing strong on our faith in Jesus.

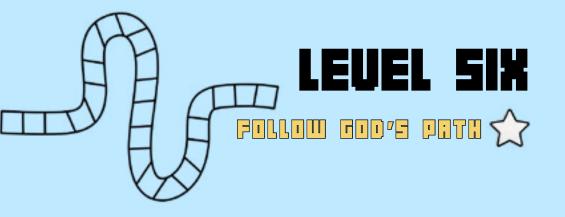


Pretend to put on armor: helmet, shield, belt, and shoes!



#### Older Kids

Research each piece of the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) and write a short description of how it protects us in life.





#### Proverbs 3:6

In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



In games, you follow a map to get to your goal. God shows us the way to go in life when we listen to Him.

When my daughter was little she loved to get the maps at amusement parks. She would find all the places she wanted to go and even help us find the bathroom when we needed it. Did you know God has given us a map? He gave us the Bible. The more we read our Bibles the more we learn about Him and His love for us and others. As we learn about Him we learn how to listen to Him and follow where he leads us.



Draw a simple map of your house or neighborhood, and talk about how God helps guide us in life.



#### Older Kids

Create a life map of your own goals and dreams, and pray for God's guidance on each step.

MILL

## LEUEL SEUEN









#### Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.



After a tough level, you rest. Jesus gives us rest when we're tired or worried.

Do you know what peace is? When I think about peace I think about sitting on the beach at Lake Michigan and watching the gentle waves on the water. That's what God's peace is like: gentle and calm. But we know sometimes the waves on the lake can get really big. God is still in control of those waves whether they are big or small. Sometimes we get tired or worried but God is always in control. He's in control when things are easy and when things are tough. Knowing God is always in control gives us peace.



Practice resting by closing your eyes and thanking God for His peace.

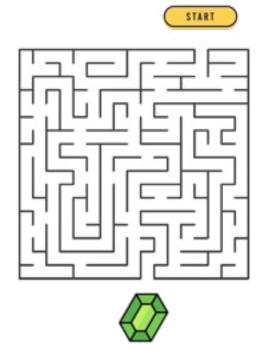


#### Older Kids

Focus on something in your life that's been hard or stressful. Take 5 minutes to pray and ask Jesus for rest and peace in that situation.

### GET YOUR GAME ON!

FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH TO THE STORE





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KEEP IT UP!







### LEUEL EIGHT

# GOD HELPS US WITH $\diamondsuit$



#### 1 Samuel 17:37 (David vs. Goliath)

The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine (Goliath).



In games, you fight big bosses. God helped David fight Goliath, and He helps us too!

David was brave! But he wasn't brave because he was so strong or because he was the biggest. Goliath was stronger and bigger than David. David was brave because he knew God was with him. And because God was with him he could face the giant. We can face scary things too because God promises to never leave us and to always be with us.



Pretend to sling a rock like David and say, "God is with me!"



#### Older Kids

Read the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17). What qualities did David show that helped him win? How can you show those qualities in your life?

# LEUEL NINE



REEP TRYING WHEN





#### James 1:2-3

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.



Sometimes, you lose in games but keep trying. When life is hard, God helps us grow stronger.

Can you imagine what it would be like if you were good at everything you ever tried? It would be pretty cool, but we would never be learning anything new and learning new things is fun too. When we face tough things, we are learning new things – new things about God and new things about ourselves. These new things we learn make us stronger and make our faith stronger. And that brings us joy, because we are learning about God's love for us.



Think of a time when something was hard, and talk about how God helped you not give up.



#### Older Kids

Write about a tough experience where you learned to trust God more. How did that situation help you grow in faith?





#### Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.



You need a good strategy to win in games. In life, we trust God's plan because He knows what's best for us.

Do you remember where we find God's plan for our life? If you said the Bible you are right. The Bible is full of God's best plan for our lives. The Bible teaches us how to love Him with all our hearts and how to love others. The Bible also teaches us about God's love for us and when we know how much He loves us we will be able to trust Him. And when we trust Him we will be able to follow His best plan for us.



Draw a picture of yourself following God's plan.



#### Older Kids

Think of a time when your plan didn't work out but God's plan did. Write about how God's plan turned out better.situation help you grow in faith?

### LEUEL ELEUEN



### 🔷 WATCH OUT FOR SOERRY TRAPS!





#### 1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.



Games have traps that can hurt you. In life, there are traps too—like doing wrong things—but God helps us stay safe.

Our enemy, the devil, wants nothing more than to trick us into making bad choices and doing the wrong things. We need to keep watch and think about the choices we are making. God promises to help. He promises to give us a way out. And He wants us to bring all our cares to Him - our worries, our troubles, our bad choices - because He cares for us. Knowing that God cares for us reminds us to watch out for those tricks from our enemy and make good choices.



Make an obstacle course and talk about how we can avoid bad choices.



#### Older Kids

Identify one "trap" in your life (like a bad habit or negative influence) that could pull you away from God. How can you avoid it?

### LEUEL TWELUE







#### Ecclesiastes 4:9

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.



In games, you play in teams to win. In life, God wants us to help each other!

Have you ever read "The Pout-Pout Fish in the Big-Big Dark? In the book the Pout-Pout fish can do some really cool things. But when he teams us with Ms. Shimmer he is faster than a sailfish, smarter than a dolphin, and stronger than a shark. And, even though he is afraid of the dark, he can face the dark with his friend, Ms. Shimmer. God wants us to have friends and be friends like the Pout-Pout Fish and Ms. Shimmer. When we work together we are stronger and smarter. When we work together we can help each other stay on God's path for our life!



Think of ways to be a good teammate at home or school.



#### Older Kids

Think of someone you can encourage or help this week. Write down what you will do for them and make a plan to carry it out.

### LEUEL THIRTEEN





#### Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.



In games, you watch your health bar to stay strong. Don't give up doing good, even if it's hard.

I have a dog and I need to walk her every day. Sometimes I don't feel like it, especially when it is raining or snowing. But if I don't walk her, she gets crazy and naughty. She chases her doggy sister around the house and steals food off the table. When I walk her she's calm and cuddly and I get good exercise too. Sometimes we want to give up when we are trying to make good choices and follow God's plan for our life. It's hard, but when we don't give up we grow and learn more about God.



Share a way you can keep doing good, even when you're tired.



#### Older Kids

Find a Bible verse about perseverance and write it down to memorize. Think of a situation where you'll need that verse to encourage you.

### LEUEL FOURTEEN

# HELP OTHERS WHEN $\diamondsuit$



#### Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.



In games, you can revive teammates. God wants us to help friends when they are feeling down.

When I was a kid I lived on a pig farm. I helped with chores and one thing I needed to do was catch little pigs. Sometimes they were so heavy I couldn't pick them up and they would try to get away from me. I would hold onto their back legs as tight as I could and call for help. Once my dad came over and helped we could easily pick up the pig and put it in the cart. When we encourage each other we are helping each other carry heavy burdens. Giving someone encouragement lets them know they are not alone and they are loved.

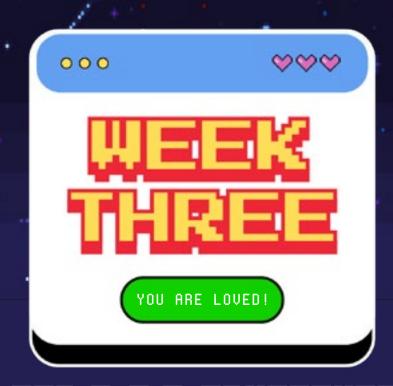


Talk about how you can help someone who needs encouragement.

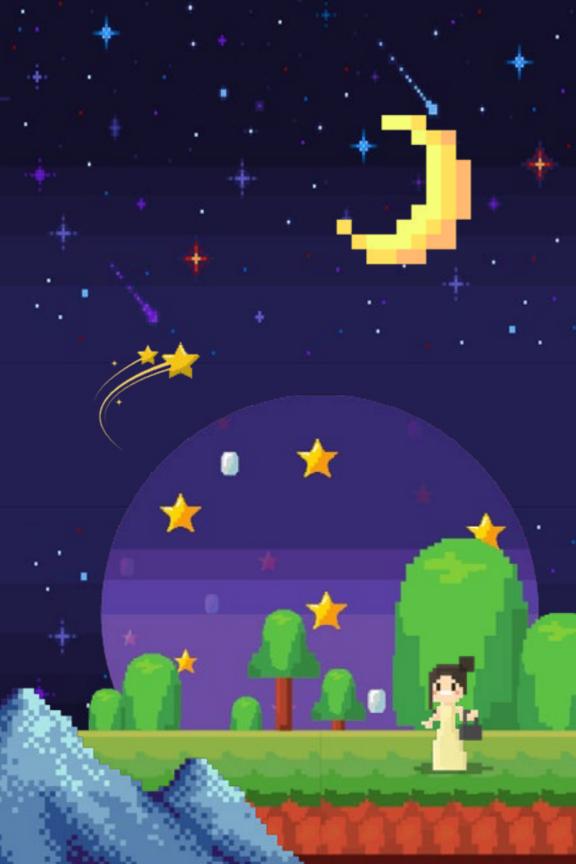


#### Older Kids

Think of a friend who might be struggling. Write them a note or send a message to encourage them this week.



### GOD'S BIG ADVENTURE FOR US



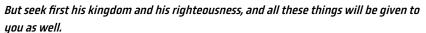
### LEUEL FIFTEEN



### WHAT'S YOUR BIG HOVENTURE?



#### Matthew 6:33





Games have big quests. Our big adventure is to love God and love others.

A little while ago my mom, sister and niece went on a hot air balloon ride. My mom had wanted to do this for a long time. They had fun floating in the sky – it was their biggest adventure. We all have a big adventure – even bigger than riding in a hot air balloon. Our big adventure is to love God and to know that He loves us too. When we know how much He loves us and we love Him we can't help but share His love with others and invite them to join our adventure.



Share a way you can keep doing good, even when you're tired.



#### Older Kids

Find a Bible verse about perseverance and write it down to memorize. Think of a situation where you'll need that verse to encourage you.

### LEUEL SIXTEEN

### COLLECTING HERUEALY TREASURES







#### Galatians 6:2

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When I was a kid I lived on a pig farm. I helped with chores and one thing I needed to do was catch little pigs. Sometimes they were so heavy I couldn't pick them up and they would try to get away from me. I would hold onto their back legs as tight as I could and call for help. Once my dad came over and helped we could easily pick up the pig and put it in the cart. When we encourage each other we are helping each other carry heavy burdens. Giving someone encouragement lets them know they are not alone and they are loved.



Talk about how you can help someone who needs encouragement.



#### Older Kids

Think of a friend who might be struggling. Write them a note or send a message to encourage them this week.

## <u>LEUEL SEUENTEEN</u>





#### John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.



In games, a guide shows you where to go. The Holy Spirit is our guide who helps us make good choices.

Sometimes when I walk my dog I see someone walking with their guide dog. A guide dog leads someone who is blind. Whenever her dog sees us it leads her away from us to protect her. Her dog also keeps her from tripping over things people have left on the sidewalk. The Holy Spirit is our guide. When we follow where He leads He keeps us from falling and keeps us away from danger. He will always help us to make good choices.



Play Follow the Leader game to show how we follow God.



#### Older Kids

Write about a time when you felt the Holy Spirit guiding you in a decision. How can you listen to His guidance more?

## <u>LEUEL EIGHTEEN</u>

### TALKING TO GOD ANYTIME .





#### Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.



In games, you can fast-travel to get places quickly. We can "fast travel" to God by praying anytime, anywhere.

Did you know phones used to have to stay home and they were attached to the wall by a cord? See if you can find a picture of one. Now that we have cell phones we can talk to each other whenever we want or need to. Jesus is even closer to us than a cellphone. Whenever we need Him, we can just talk to Him. And we can talk to Him about anything we want - thanking Him for the beautiful flowers and asking for help with a hard task. He is always just a prayer away.



Pray together about something important to you.



#### Older Kids

Start a prayer journal, writing down your prayers and what you're asking God for. Record how God answers those prayers over time.

### LEVEL NINETEEN



### TOO WINS THE BIGGEST BATTLE



#### Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.



In games, the final boss is the hardest. In life, Jesus wins over all evil!

Have you ever jumped or walked on bubble wrap or the air pillows that come in a package? I love the popping sound they make. That is what Jesus does to evil - pop! He stomps it out and completely destroys it.



Act out defeating a big "boss" and cheering for God's victory.



#### Older Kids

Read Revelation 12:7-9 and write down what happens in the ultimate battle between good and evil. How does this give you confidence when you face challenges in life?

## LEUEL TWENTY

### NEW LIFE IN JESUS







#### 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!



Games let you start over when you lose. Jesus gives us a new start when we ask Him for forgiveness.

Butterflies come from caterpillars. A caterpillar spends its life eating and then makes a chrysalis. Finally, it comes out as something new – a butterfly! When we ask Jesus for forgiveness we are made completely new! Jesus takes away our sins and replaces them with something new and beautiful.



Talk about what it means to have a fresh start with Jesus.



#### Older Kids

Write a personal prayer asking Jesus for forgiveness in areas where you need a fresh start. Reflect on how being a new creation in Christ helps you live differently.

### LEVEL TWENTY ONE



7 GOD'S 81G WIN!





#### Revelation 21:4

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.



At the end of the game, you win the prize. Our prize is being with Jesus forever!

Did you ever play the crane game? You put in your money and move the joystick and then drop the claw on top of the prize. And then, hopefully, you pull out your new stuffed animal or toy. Sometimes you have to play this game over and over to win a prize. When we love Jesus, our prize is being with Him forever. That means someday we go to heaven and celebrate with Him, but it also means He is with us right now. And that is the best prize we could ever win!



Celebrate by having a "victory party," praising God for His love and the promise of heaven.



#### Older Kids

Write down what you imagine heaven will be like based on what you read in Revelation 21. How does the promise of eternal life with Jesus affect the way you live now?





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