

Simon Says

Simon Says is a fun game to play with kids. It is a good way to teach listening skills in a fun way. Kids and adults like it because it is easy to play and has virtually no prep time. All you must do is say, "Let's play Simon Says," and most kids are immediately ready to play. What does it take to win? I don't mean how do you win. Winning is following all the directions that Simon says to do and ignoring the ones where Simon does not say to do. But what does it take to win?

For most of us, our inclination is competition. We might naturally think that being a competitive person or being coordinated will give us an advantage. That is not likely the case. According to Steve Max, professional Simon Says caller (I didn't know that was a thing either. I am in the wrong profession), winners typically are the more respectful players. These players intently listen to the suggestions, evaluating if the suggestions are for their benefit, and then follow through in doing them.

Do we respect our parents? Do we respect our spouses? What respect do we have for those around us? Are we willing to intently listen to others as they converse with us? We all know people that do. We know people that when we are speaking to them, it seems as if we are the only person that matters. It doesn't matter who is speaking, that person is listening intently. Are we as parents intently listening to what our children have to say? Believe it or not, they learn respect from seeing how we respect them and others.

Do we respect God? Do we listen to his suggestions and then follow through in doing them? ***For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome (1 Jn 5:3).***

Over the next several weeks, we will be talking about respect. Sue is going through a series in her class about this topic with the kids. We will be having articles that go along with what she is teaching. This will be a great opportunity to reinforce what they are learning and to remind ourselves that it matters in our hearts too.

-Alex Swango