

1st and 2nd Timothy

Paul writes to Timothy to encourage him to fight the good fight and to guard the truth as a good minister of the gospel. 1st and 2nd Timothy are two books that give the first detailed description of how the church should operate. The principles include the call to ministry, qualifications for ministry and care by those in ministry. "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

Guard the Truth

Objectives: Play out the roles of a faithful minister of the faith (guard), false teachers who attack the truth, and truth itself.
Gain insight into your own faith.
Have fun with your family.

Number of Players: at least 3--Truth, bishops, false teachers. If more than 3, divide them equally between bishops and false teachers -- 1 (**truth as a person, bishops as the guards-defenders of the truth, false teachers as the attackers of the truth**) (hint: make sure you have someone with a strong knowledge of bible truth playing the bishop)

Length: 30 minutes - 1 hour

Set up: Have "Truth" stand in the middle of the room. The bishops should form a circle around and surrounding truth. Their job is to guard the truth from lies. The false teachers will make up an outer circle around the whole group. Their job is to try to spread their lies and rumors via sticky notes.
The Bishops will guard the truth by countering the attacks of the false teachers with the truth.

Props: Bibles
sticky notes or pieces of paper
pens or pencils to write with

The Play: Begin by giving the false teachers 5 minutes to get together and discuss what lies and rumors they can spread to attack the truth. They should write one per note on the paper provided.
At the same time, the bishops should take 5 minutes to pray and study to be able to withstand the attacks of the enemy.
Once everyone is ready arrange the players as mentioned in Set Up. The false teachers go first by crumpling up one of their pieces of paper with a lie on it and tossing it at the truth.
The bishop's job is to guard the truth and they should catch or deflect the crumpled paper lie. They should then uncrumple and read the lie and then counter the lie with the truth. (i.e. Lie: God doesn't care about you. Truth: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.") Then toss the lie back at the false teachers (they cannot use this lie again).
Continue play until the false teachers run out of lies or until you get tired of playing.



FAMILY STUDY

Discussion: Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the character they played. Questions to consider: How has your thinking changed about your own character? What are some other words for "guard?" How are you guarding the truth in your circle of influence? If everyone in your church were just like you, what kind of church would it be? What kind of legacy do you want to leave?

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.