

FOUR RELATIONSHIPS EVERY KID NEEDS

“It’s easy for people to walk away from a program, but it’s much harder to walk away from rich relationships” - *Flip the Script*, pg. 53

When we focus on a relationship-first ministry approach, we help to create a culture where kids are seen, known, and belong. But this isn’t something we do in isolation! There are four key relationships kids find in church which can have transformative lifelong impact: Friends, Leaders, Influencers, and Pastors.

Friends

It’s amazing how friendship connects with a sense of belonging. Some kids make friends easily—they seem like friend magnets! But we can never assume making friends is easy or simple for anyone. Rather, we can be intentional about helping kids make friends at church. We can help kids find things in common and teach ways to build friendships such as asking each other questions, sharing toys and equipment, inviting others to participate, and so forth. Every week we offer opportunities within our spaces to build friendships and we can be intentional with kids as we see them in the hallway, when they attend events, or any other time we see them together.

Ask yourself: *How can I intentionally help kids build relationships with friends?*

Leaders

Every week leaders show up, care for kids, and helping them feel seen and known. Leaders have so many opportunities to build a relationships with kids! Knowing and using their names is just the beginning. There is incredible power when you remember information about kids—like when they tell you they have a soccer game coming up and you ask them about it the next time you see them. Or when kids are not there for a week or two and you let them know you missed them. As you are intentional about knowing kids, they can grow more open to believing what you have to teach.

Trust plus respect equals influence. Trust and respect leads to opportunities to influence kids with the truth of the gospel.

Ask yourself: *How can I intentionally help kids build relationships with leaders?*

Influencers

It’s a good thing for us to intentionally build relationships with the kids we lead. We can also help foster relationships with other adults and teens who can invest in them. These influencers can be other leaders in the room, students who are faithfully following Jesus, and even the amazing adults who bring them to church. If they are a teen or adult who are part of our church community, they can have an incredible impact and influence in helping kids know and follow Jesus.

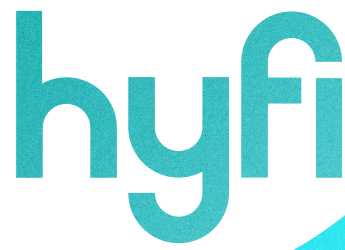
Ask yourself: *How can I intentionally help kids build relationships with influencers?*

Pastors

Our pastors should know and be known by our kids. Pastors should hear and be heard by our kids too. A personal relationship with pastors will help kids know their pastors are people they can trust and believe. Building these relationships isn’t always easy. But we can be intentional about helping kids see our pastors as friends rather than strangers.

Ask yourself: *How can I intentionally help kids build relationships with our pastors?*

Kids find real connection and true belonging at church when several adults from church intentionally invest in them. And kids are impacted when they have a best friend who is an influence on them to follow Jesus. Kids need relationships. They need to know they belong here, and we need to know that our connections with kids matter, not just right now, but for their future.



FLIP GAME

Use this game as a training opportunity for your team to work together in small groups. Players will discover ways they can help kids build relationships with friends, leaders, influencers, and pastors.

Begin by reviewing the “Four Relationships Every Kid Needs” article. Then, lead your team to play the game.

After small groups have played the game, invite players to share ideas and observations with the whole team.

Supplies: “FLIP Game” printable (1 per team), Markers or crayons (several), Adult scissors (1 per team), Clear tape (1 per team), Dice (1 per team)

Leader Prep: Print copies of the printables for each team. Set out supplies.

Game Rules:

- Prepare for the game by decorating and cutting out the game pieces. Tape together the two papers of the gameboard. Cut apart and stack the game cards.
- Take turns as a team, going in alphabetical order.
- Roll the dice and move that many spaces on your turn. Go “up” when you reach a ladder and “down” when you reach a slide. Follow the directions on other spaces.
- Draw a card when you reach a blank space, which has one of the four relationships every kid needs.
- Answer this question and share with your group: What is something I can do to help kids foster a relationship with this person?
- Ask your group to share, give feedback and offer suggestions about ways you could implement your idea.
- Play until one player reaches the end as the winner,

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YOU PICK!

**FRIENDS, LEADERS,
INFLUENCERS,
OR PASTORS**

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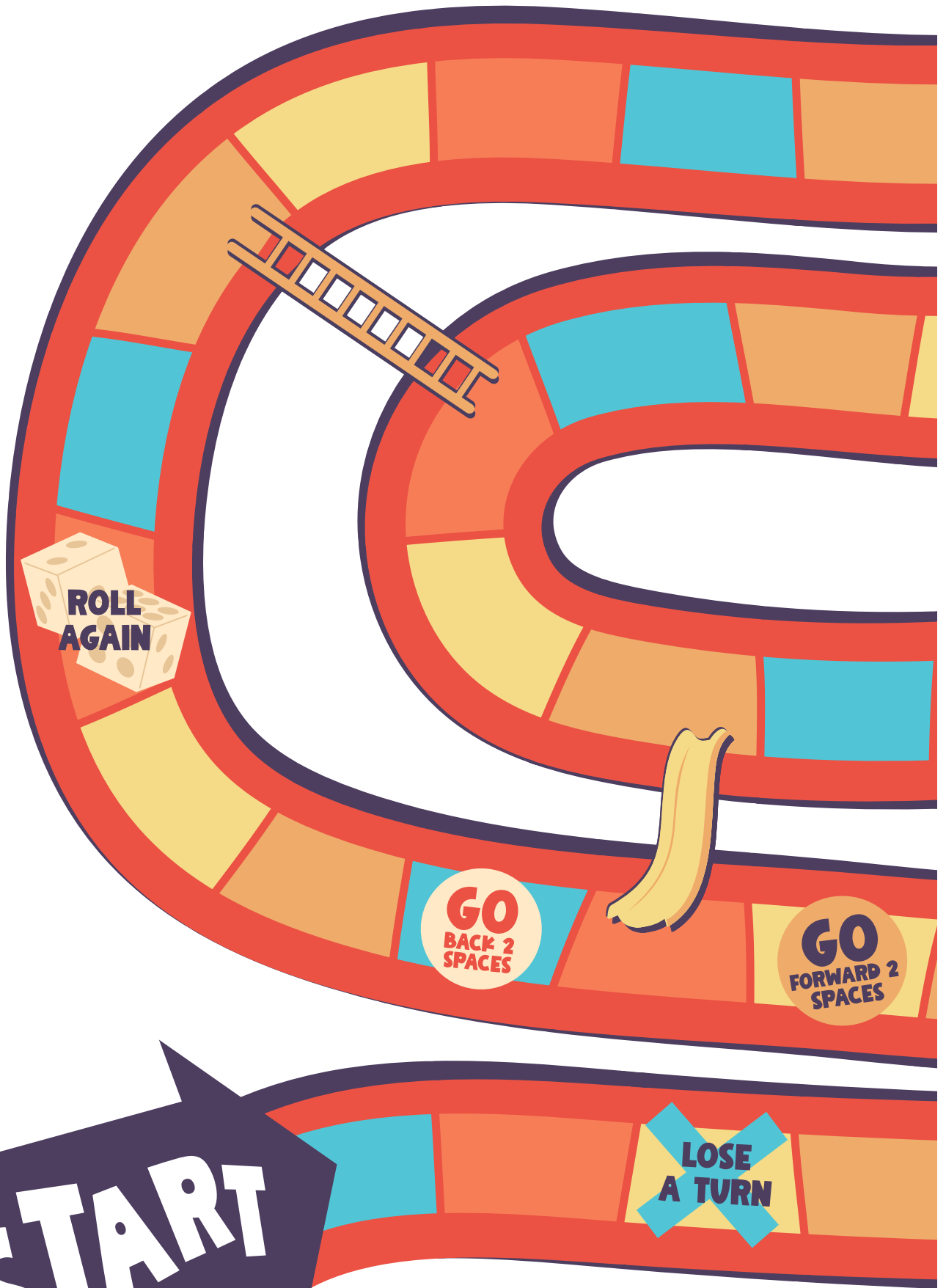
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**GO
BACK 2
SPACES**

**GO
FORWARD 2
SPACES**

**LOSE
A TURN**

START



GO
FORWARD 2
SPACES

LOSE
A
TURN

FINISH



GO
BACK 2
SPACES

**DECORATE AND CUT OUT A GAME PIECE AND ITS BOTTOM STAND.
CUT ALONG THE DOTTED CUT LINES AND SLIDE THE TWO PIECES TOGETHER.**

