

## #9 – FIRE

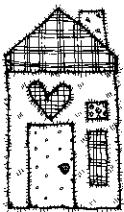
# Safety in the Home

*Through the fire thou shalt not be burned.  
Isaiah 43:2*

**PURPOSE:** Teach fire safety in the home.

**SONG:** “I Am Glad for Many Things,” CS 151

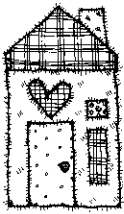
**DIVIDE THIS LESSON INTO SEVERAL FAMILY HOME EVENINGS.**



**FIRE INSPECTION.** Take a tour of your home. As you move from room to room, discuss things in each room that could burn. What fire hazards do you see? (You might purposely set up a few, like leaving the iron plugged in but turned off, setting a plastic toy on the stove next to a burner that’s off, leaving a pile of rags by a can of paint thinner.

Point out the smoke detectors in your home. Demonstrate how a detector works by holding a lighted candle about six inches under it.

When you have finished your fire inspection, review the objects in your home that are flammable and the fire hazards you saw.



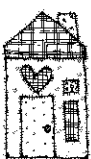
**FIRE SAFETY RULES.** Discuss how to protect your home from fire. Some safety rules to think about are:

- Don't play with matches or lighters.
- Don't set objects too close to heaters, fireplaces, or kitchen stoves.
- Don't overload an electrical outlet.
- Make sure a fire in the fireplace is out before leaving the room.
- Watch the stove while cooking.
- Don't keep dirty rags in a pile.
- Unplug electrical appliances when finished using them.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen—if you don't have one, how do you put out a grease fire on the stove? (baking soda or metal lid)



**SMOKE DETECTORS.** What are the best places to install smoke detectors? Outside the bedrooms? Over the kitchen stove? Near heating vents? How many smoke detectors does your house need?

- Most home fires involving deaths happen at night when people are sleeping.
- Contrary to popular belief, the smell of smoke may not wake someone asleep. Poisonous gases and smoke produced by fire numb the senses, putting victims into a deeper sleep.
- Smoke detectors should be placed outside each bedroom and on every level of the home, including the basement. Install detectors in or near dens, living rooms, dining rooms, and family rooms.
- Detectors are not recommended for kitchens, bathrooms, or garages where cooking fumes, steam, or exhaust could set off false alarms.
- Heating or air conditioning vents could blow smoke away from a detector while your house is filling with smoke.
- Batteries should be changed at least once a year and should never be taken out of the detector for other uses.
- Cleaning is important. Dust and cobwebs can reduce an alarm's sensitivity to smoke.



**PLAN A FIRE ESCAPE.** When a fire occurs in your home, there's no time for planning. Planning and practicing escape routes now with your family could one day save lives if a fire does break out.

- **DRAW A FLOOR PLAN OF YOUR HOUSE.** Show windows, doors, stairs, and halls. Mark two ways out of every room.
- **PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE PLAN.** Have a fire drill in your home twice a year. Make it realistic by pretending some escape routes are blocked.
- **AGREE ON A MEETING PLACE.** The spot should be outside your home where family members can gather to wait for the Fire Department. This allows you time to count heads and inform the Fire Department if anyone is trapped inside. Make sure children understand they DO NOT go back into the house for any reason—not even to get a pet.
- **IF YOU ARE TRAPPED.** Close all doors between you and the fire. Stuff the cracks around the doors to keep out smoke. Wait at a window and signal for help with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight. If there's a phone nearby, call the Fire Department and tell them where you are.

## FIRE SAFETY ACTIVITIES



**GETTING OUT A WINDOW.** If you choose a window for an emergency exit, make sure it is possible to reach the ground safely. If a bedroom window does not open easily, what can be used in the room to break the glass? What can you cover yourself with so the glass will not cut you as you break the window? If you break a window, knock out the jagged glass as best as you can. Throw bedding over the window sill for protection against cuts. If there is no one to help you get down from a high window, tear up bed sheets and tie them together to make a rope.

- Practice tearing up an old bed sheet, making a rope, tying it to something, and climbing out a ground-level window with the rope.



**GETTING OUT OF BED.** Most fires in which people get hurt happen at night when the family is asleep.

Q: How should you get out of bed if you smell smoke or see fire?

A: Roll out of bed, drop to the floor, and crawl along the floor.

Q: Why should you stay low?

A: To stay below the smoke.

### **OPENING A DOOR.**

Q: What do you do before opening a door during a fire?

A: Touch the door. If it's hot, do not open. If it's cool, open slowly. Close it if heat or smoke rush in.

Q: What if you can't open the door because it's hot?

A: Use the second escape route.

- **Practice getting out of bed and checking a closed door for fire.**



**STOP, DROP AND ROLL.** A fire must have oxygen to burn. If your clothing catches on fire, remember to follow these 3 steps.:

**STOP** running

**DROP** to the ground

**ROLL** back and forth (cover your face with your hands).

- **Practice STOP, DROP, AND ROLL.**  
Materials needed: String and balloons.

Cut a piece of string long enough to tie around each child's waist.

Blow up 3 balloons and tie the balloons to the string.

The child says STOP, DROP, AND ROLL then falls to the ground and rolls back and forth until the balloons pop.



**FIRST AID FOR MINOR BURNS.** Remind children to immerse the burned area in cold water. It should then be covered with a clean dry cloth or a loose bandage until an adult can look at it.

- **Try this activity to help children remember how to treat a minor burn.**  
Materials needed: Crayons, white drawing paper, blue watercolor markers (Crayola markers work well)

Using a crayon have the children draw around their hand and color in their handprint. Use a blue watercolor marker to create drops of water on the waxy areas of the handprint. Dip the picture in a pan of water and quickly lift it out. The water drops will run across the hand.