

Chess Beginner Pack

Disciple making (Draft for Testing)

Each lesson has 4 basic parts:

- I. Chess experience – play chess on a board and using physical activity
- II. Life reflection – think about how chess connects to our lives.
- III. Bible engagement – read the bible, retell it and understand what it is saying to us
- IV. Life application – bring all the lesson elements together and make a commitment

Beginner Lesson Program

No	Title	Main Idea	Bible
1	Introduction to Chess ...2	Chess is a battle between two Kingdoms. Life is also a battle.	Ephesians 2:10 God's workmanship
2	The chess pieces ...3	Learn how each of the chess pieces move.	1 Corinthians 12:4-6 Different gifts
3	The Pawn ...4	The Pawn looks insignificant but is highly valuable because it can transform into a Queen.	Luke 18:15-17 Jesus and children
4	The Rook/Castle ...5	The Rook is like a wall that protects. Who protects you and whom do you protect?	1 Corinthians 13:7 Love protects.
5	The Knight ...6	The Knight is unique in chess. It is the only piece that can leap over other pieces.	Genesis 37-41 Story of Joseph
6	The Bishop ...7	The Bishop is beside the King and Queen on the chess board. It can only move diagonally.	Mark 12:28-31 Greatest commandment
7	The Queen ...8	The Queen is a powerful piece but can still be taken by the lowest piece on the board.	1 Samuel 17 David and Goliath
8	The King ...9	The King is the chess piece that all the others work for. Attacking the King is the ultimate goal of the opposition.	John 15: 1-8 Vine and branches
9	Castling ...10	'Castling' protects the King. It is a set of moves in which the King moves towards one rook and the other rook moves towards the other side of the King.	Psalms 61: 2-3 God is our refuge to run to
10	Fear ...11	Fear can make us lose the strength to take another step. We need time to 'see the whole board'.	Isaiah 41:10 Romans 8:31

Beginner lesson 1

Topic: Introduction to Chess

Chess is a battle between two Kingdoms. Life is also a battle.

Chess - Experience

Ask the students:

- What comes to your mind when you think about chess?
- What do you already know about chess?

Explain: Chess may seem a boring game at first but really it is a battle between two kingdoms. One side is black and one is white. They start on different sides of the board.

Activity: Take the children to an open area. Divide them into two teams. The teams stand facing each other on opposite sides of the area. Ask each team to make a name for their team. Also make up a fun victory chant. Demonstrate each chant after a few minutes.

Explain: All chess pieces move differently since they all look different from others. Pieces move rightly to protect their own King and attack the opposition King.

Since all pieces move differently, they are placed in different positions or squares on the board. Some pieces look alike and are always placed in the same way on the board. These are the names: King, Queen, 2 Rooks, 2 Bishops, 2 Knights and 8 Pawn. Each has a square to sit in.

Ask:

- If you were part of a battle who would you want to be? (soldier, captain, general, doctor, advisor, King)
- Which chess piece would you be?

Activity: Stand all the children as pieces on a large chess board drawn on the ground. They can be shown where to stand in their right positions. Eight children will be Pawns. Then name 2 Rook, 2 Knights, 2 Bishops and a King and Queen.

Ask each child to stand in another position on the board when the leader touches their shoulder one at a time. When you say 'defend', all the children get into a defensive posture with their fists ready. This will be fun.

Life - Reflection

Explain: There are different soldiers each with a different rank and role (planning, going to the front line, commanding the front line). Each soldier will try hard to prove his ability and loyalty to the king. Although pieces have different ranks, they have the same value to the king because they all fight for his safety.

Ask:

- Each piece plays a different role to protect the King. Which piece would you value the most?
- Do soldiers camp in the same location of the kingdom? Why?

Bible - Engagement

Read Ephesians 2:10 together. Work in teams of 4 or 5. Make up actions to remember this verse. *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Explain: God is the ruler of the earth. We were created by Him. He has placed us here for a reason.

- What words in the verse tell us that we are created by God? (we are God's workmanship)
- What has God prepared for each of us to do? (do good works)
- What are the good works we are meant to do? (many answers)

Life - Application

- How do you think chess is like life?
- How are we supposed to live our lives?

Pray together. Play chess.

Beginner Lesson 2

Topic: The chess pieces

Each piece in the kingdom has different roles and abilities. Each can move in a different way. Their goal is to protect the kingdom.

Chess - Experience

Explain: Last time we looked at chess as a Kingdom. A Kingdom has many people in it with different abilities. Each person has his or her role to play. It is the same with chess.

Go outside and show the children an action and a move for each chess piece. They will do the actions with their bodies. When they walk into someone they can be captured by hugging them.

1. When 'Pawn' is called all the children salute. When you call 'move' they step forward one at a time and they should not move backwards.
2. When 'Rook' is called, they place their hands on their shoulders. When 'move' is called they move only in line with the building walls and fences.
3. When 'Knight' is called, they put their hands out in front like they are riding a horse. When 'move' is called they jump ahead two jumps and then sideways once.
4. When 'Bishop' is called, the children put their hands in a triangle above their heads. When 'move' is called they can walk in diagonal lines.
5. When 'Queen' is called, the children make a crown on their head with the fingers of both hands. When 'move' is called they walk in any direction, a combination of a Rook and a Bishop.
6. When 'King' is called, the children make a cross over their heads with their hands. When 'move' is called, they can take one step in any direction.

Now that the children have learned the actions and moves. Play a game where different pieces are called out in any sequence. See if the children can remember the actions and moves.

Life - Reflection

Gather close together and ask these questions:

- How many people are in your family?
- Do you do have the same responsibilities? Why?
- What happens when the responsibilities are divided among yourselves? (more can get done, and everyone knows what their job is).

Bible - Engagement

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 together. Learn this verse by doing actions for each part.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

We all have to come together with our different abilities to serve God.

- Who gives different gifts to us? (God)
- Why do you think it is good to think of our abilities as gifts? (If we know what are abilities are we can use them to serve others. We don't deserve them, they were given to us by God and so we give them away).

Life – Application

Gather close together and ask these questions:

- What gifts and abilities do you have?
- How can you use them to serve God?

Pray together. Play chess.

Beginner Lesson 3

Topic: The Pawn can transform

Pawn looks insignificant but is highly valuable because it can transform into a Queen.

Chess - Experience

Ask the students:

- Who do you look up to and want to be like? (someone famous, older sibling)
- Show us how you imitate them. Make this fun. Act it out.

Use the chess board. Remind the children how a pawn moves. It moves in files one step at a time. It does not go backwards and can't jump other pieces. It captures in diagonals.

Tell the children that the Pawn piece is like a child. It is the smallest and weakest piece, but it can do something no other piece can do. It can transform into a Queen.

When it reaches the other side of the board it becomes a queen or any other piece.

Life - Reflection

Ask the students:

- What do you want to become in the future?
- What could stop you?
- Do you feel more like a Pawn or a Queen or King?

Bible

Read Luke 18:15-17. Jesus and the children.

Tell this story using the chess board pieces. Retell the story to each other using pieces.

Ask the students:

- What did Jesus' friends want to do with the children who came to Jesus? (send them away)
- What did Jesus do with children?
- Why are children so important to the Kingdom of God? (They accept the Kingdom and have the most potential to grow and change. They are open, teachable and humble).

Application

Ask the students:

- How do you need your life to be transformed today?
- What is required for you to take the journey of Pawn to Queen?
- How could a friend or role model help?

Pray together. Play chess.

Beginner lesson 4

Topic: The Rook

[For a video demonstration of this lesson go to <https://youtu.be/vBfIFtn7FAY>]

A rook moves vertically (files) and horizontally (ranks) therefore it is like a wall to provide security and protection. Regardless of its strength it can be captured. Who protects us and who do we protect?

Chess - Experience

Ask the students to look at the chess pieces closely. Ask them which piece is able to be balanced on top of another to build a tower. (They can test different pieces. The Rook/ Castle is the only piece that you can use to build a tower.)

Show the students how a Rook can move. Place the Rooks on the board with some opposition pieces around. Ask which opposition pieces these Rooks can capture. Allow the student to show different options.

Ask the student:

- What is the strength of the Rook?
- What is the weakness of the Rook?
- What is the job of the Rook?

Activity: Ask the students to stand and demonstrate how a Rook moves by walking in line with the walls in the room (vertically and horizontally). It cannot go diagonally.

Life - Reflection

In chess, the main job of the rook is to protect. Just like a castle or wall protects those inside.

Ask the students:

- What do you need protection from? (rain, violence)
- Who protects you from these things? (house, parents, police)
- Does everyone need protecting?

Bible – Engagement

Ask the students:

- What is love like? (Collect their ideas in a heart shape)

This is what the Bible says love is like. Read 1 Corinthians 13:7
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- What surprises you about this list?
- Why is it important to protect others?
- Who needs to be protected in chess? Why?

Life - Application

All of us are part of the community. We protect others and we in turn are protected. Protection is important for everyone to feel safe and to prosper.

Ask the students:

- Who do you have to care for and protect?
- What do you need to protect them from?
- Who needs more of your protection and care this week?
- What will you do about this?

Pray for the students. Play chess.

Beginner Lesson 5

Topic: The Knight

The Knight is unique in chess. It is the only piece that can leap over other pieces.

Chess - Experience

Gather the students together and ask them these questions:

- Think about a battle. How would a knight on a horse move differently to a soldier? (A knight on a horse will be fast and can leap over things).

Show the students how a Knight moves on the chess board.

- It moves in a L shape. To move it count two straight squares and then turn 90° and move one square. It can jump other pieces. Show all the alternative moves.

Activity: Take the children to a space they can move about, maybe outside. Ask the children move in the L shape of a Knight. Show all the variations of the Knight's L shape move.

- In which shape does a knight move? (L shape)
- Can a Knight jump over other pieces? (yes)

Life - Reflection

In life, we often have different factors that take us away from our plan.

Gather the students together and ask them these questions:

- What are your goals in life? (eg. finishing school or university, starting a church)
- What can divert you off the journey to reach the goals? (unexpected events, tragedy, failure..)

Bible - Engagement

Genesis 37- 41. Tell a summary of the story of Joseph. Use the chess pieces as characters. The story will show how Joseph could have been sent off course many times but kept his eyes on the goal; being faithful to God. Use the Knight as Joseph.

Major points of the story: *Joseph receives a dream from God that he will be a ruler. Joseph is thrown down a well by his jealous older brothers and then sold as a slave. He was sold to a rich man called Potiphar. Joseph becomes the manager in his house and then thrown into prison because he was falsely accused of rape. He helped two men in prison and then was forgotten to be repaid and was left in prison many years. Finally Joseph helped the Pharaoh (miraculously telling & interpreting his dreams) and was made governor of all of Egypt.*

Ask the students:

- What were all the bad things that happened to Joseph?
- How would you feel if you were Joseph and this happened to you?
- Why do you think Joseph ended up succeeding? (He stayed focused on his goal; the dream he had).

Life - Application

Ask the students:

- How is the story of Joseph like the Knight chess piece? (It has many twists & turns. Life was not straightforward, there were many struggles & distractions)
- What goal has God given you?
- What will it take to achieve your goal?

Pray together and play chess.

Beginner lesson 6

Topic: The Bishop

The Bishop is beside the King and Queen on the chess board. It can only move diagonally.

Chess - Experience

Review all the other pieces and how they move.

Explain: The Bishop moves in the diagonals in as many squares as it can but it cannot jump any other piece if it is blocked. The way it moves is the same way it captures the opposition piece. It can also move backwards diagonally.

The students can practice moving Bishops diagonally on the chess board. You could set up some pieces for them to try and capture with their Bishops.

Activity: Ask the students to stand up and do the action of the Bishop. (hands as a triangle over their head). Now ask them to move in diagonals around the room or outside space.

Life - Reflection

Explain: The Bishop has one main rule: only move diagonally.

Ask the students:

- What rules do we have to follow in our community? (many responses)
- What happens when we disobey them? (We hurt ourselves and others, we get punished, we create danger or resentment etc.)

- Think about the rules you have broken? Tell a partner about a time that you broke a rule. What happened?

Bible – Engagement

Explain: In Exodus 20 God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These were rules that he gave His people; the Israelites. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments into just two commandments many centuries later.

Read Mark 12:28-31 together.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Ask the students:

- What were the two commandments Jesus told us to obey? (Love God and love others)
- What is difficult about keeping these commandments?
- How often do you think about these commandments as you go about your daily life?

Life - Application

Ask the students:

- Take a moment and think of any rule you have ever broken. What should you do when you have disobeyed a commandment and have hurt others? (say sorry and ask for forgiveness).
- When we disobey God, what will he do if we say sorry? (He will forgive us).

Pray together and play chess.

Beginner Lesson 7

Topic: The Powerful Queen

The Queen is a powerful piece but can still be taken by the lowest piece on the board.

Chess – Experience

Physical challenge: While standing ask a student to come and try and push you back. Ask the other students who they think will win. (They will say the teacher will.) Why?

- Ask the students:
 - If you had a choice would you become Queen or Pawn? (Queen). Why?

Hold the Queen and show how it moves.

- How many squares can it move to? (27)
- Why is the Queen more powerful than all the other pieces?

Ask a student to show how the Pawn moves. It has only one option unless capturing another piece. So, the Queen is much more powerful.

Life - Reflection

- Ask the students:
 - What makes us all want to grow up and be powerful?
 - Who is powerful in our community?
 - What is the biggest problem with someone who thinks they are powerful? (They forget they are vulnerable too).

Bible - Engagement

Read 1 Samuel 17 or simply tell the Story of David and Goliath. Use chess pieces to act out the story. Alternatively take the students outside and act out the story.

- Ask the students:
 - What was Goliath like? (Strong and Powerful)
 - What happened to Goliath in this story? (he was killed by David because he underestimated the danger)
 - Why was David willing to be so brave? (he wanted to honour the Lord only)
 - Who was like the Pawn and who was like the Queen in this story?

Life - Application

In chess, a Queen can be captured by even a Pawn. So never underestimate a small piece in the right position.

- Ask the students:
 - Who or what are you stronger and more powerful than?
 - How can you take care not to be too proud; even too proud to see danger?

Pray together and play chess.

Beginner Lesson 8

Topic: The King

The King is the chess piece that all the others work for. Attacking the King is the ultimate goal of the opposition. When he is under threat and must move, it is called 'check'. When he cannot make a move without capture he surrenders. This is 'checkmate'.

Experience - Chess

Review all the other pieces on the board and how they can move.

Activity: Everyone stand and do the action of the King. (hand making a cross above the head) Now take a step in any direction.

Explain: The King moves in all directions but in only one step. It's the leader and the head of the game. All opposition pieces move towards the King.

Ask the students:

- What is the job of all the other pieces? (to protect the King, and to attack the opposition King)
- Who would move more, the King or the other pieces? (others)
- Why would the King move? (If he was under threat of 'check')

Explain: Attacking the King is the ultimate goal of the opposition. When he is under threat and must move, it is called 'check'. When he cannot make a move without capture he surrenders. This is 'checkmate'.

Life - Reflection

Discussion: Imagine the black chess pieces are one family. There would be a father, mother, children and grandchildren.

Ask the students:

- What is the role of the Father in the family? Mother? Grandparents? Children? Grandchildren?
- What connects the family together? (Same colour, the pieces work together in unity).
- Why is it important to connect the pieces as a team and work together?

Bible - Engagement

Read John 15: 1-8 together.

Now act out this story with students taking different roles of gardener, vine and branches. One child starts as the vine (Jesus). Then add a gardener (God the Father). Then add all the other children as branches. Discuss the story together.

Ask the students:

- In the story who is the Gardener? Vine? Branches?
- Why is it important for branches to stay connected to the vine? (to be successful and bear fruit).
- What are the consequences of leaving the vine? (death and fruitlessness).

Life - Application

Ask the students:

- How do you stay connected to God? (Pray, read Bible, gather with believers, etc)
- What will you do this week to stay more connected with God?

Pray together and play chess.

Beginner Lesson 9

Topic: Castling

'Castling' protects the King. It is a set of moves in which the King moves towards one rook and the other rook moves towards the other side of the King. There are two types of castling: - the short and the long castling.

Chess – Experience

Activity: Play a game of hide and seek tag. All the children hide and one person tries to find and tip the other players. A player can be safe if they get to an area marked out as 'bar'.

After the game ask the students:

- How did you find protection in hide and seek? (bar)
- What did it feel like when you had no protection?

Explain: Show the learners how castling is done and let them try it by themselves on the chess board. The King moves towards one rook and the other rook moves towards the other side of the King. Demonstrate long and short castling.

Activity: Get three students to act as two rooks and one King respectively. Make the actions. Now get them to show the castling on both sides, that is to say on the King's side and also to the Queen's side.

Ask the students:

- What do you think is the purpose of castling? (protection)

Life – Reflection

Ask the students:

- What sorts of things do you and your friends need protection from? (many answers)
- Who can protect you?

Explain: Castling in life teaches us to stay away from danger. Being out late at night opens many chances for danger. If you make one key decision, then you can protect yourself from many other dangers.

Bible - Engagement

Read Psalm 61: 2-3 together. Make actions to remember this verse.

*From the ends of the earth I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.*

Ask the students:

- How does the person feel when they are far from God and help? (faint, distant)
- Where is the only place to find true refuge? (God)

Tell a story about a time you were in trouble and needed help and protection?

By castling, it shows that we should look for safety in the Lord and run away from danger or evil.

Life - Application

Ask the students:

- What parts of your life are in danger where you need to run to God for refuge?
- What will you do about this today?

Pray together and play the game of hide and seek again.

Beginner Lesson 10

Topic: Fear

Fear is an unpleasant emotion caused by an actual or perceived danger or threat. Fear can make us lose the strength to take another step.

Chess- Experience

Gather the students and ask:

- Have you ever been scared? Too scared to make a move?
- How do you behave when scared? (shiver, bite teeth, close eyes...). Encourage students to act them out.

Explain: When we play the game of chess, we face a lot of threats in the form of 'checks'. 'Checks' cause us fear that stops a player from visualizing the next moves. However, chess is a very friendly game with equality, so that 'when a player makes one move, the next move is for the opponent. This gives one time to think even when you are scared. You will have the strength and get a solution by seeking protection from other pieces. In chess, we call this a 'barking dog that can't bite'.

Activity: Ask students to sound like barking dogs.

- Do all dogs that bark, bite? (No, most dogs do not bite!)

The pieces on the board give strength to the weak and poorly positioned pieces, and boost your morale to move on.

Life - Application

Gather the students and ask:

- What sorts of things make you scared?
- How does your body and emotions feeling when you get scared? (raised heart rate, sweaty palms, paralysed, 'butterflies' in stomach).

Explain: Because life is like chess, we tend to think that it is all over just because of small checks (problems / trouble). At times, we even give up. But we need to look at the whole board, look at the whole of life and realise that it is not the end.

- What do you learn from the board and pieces? (Give strength to others).
- What do the pieces do when they are in trouble? (Seek help from others).

Activity: Ask the children to act like different pieces on the board. Choose one to be a black Pawn and another to be a white Bishop. When the black Pawn is attacked by the white Bishop, the Pawn will cry because he is scared of being captured. Then will ask for protection from his team mates who will come in and protect it. (Remind the students to move in the way their piece would move as a Knight, Pawn, Rook and so on).

The Pawn will smile and be happy because it can no longer be captured by the opponent.

Bible – Engagement

Read Isaiah 41:10 together.

*So do **not** fear, for I am with you; do **not** be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Ask the students:

- What does this voice tell us not to do? (do not fear or be dismayed)
- What is the promise in this verse? (God will uphold us)

Life – Application

Ask the students:

- Where in your life do you need to apply this verse?
- What do we do when we fear? (pray and believe that God is bigger than our fear. Give our fears to Him. Remember Romans 8: 31 - *If God is for us, who can be against us?*)

Share and pray in pairs.

Play chess.