



FAMILY HOUSE PARTY

YOUTH EDITION

READY

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SET

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GLOW

Let's Glow Crazy!

As students get older, playdates with other families often fade. Casual conversations over coffee while the kids play or an impromptu meet-up at the playground are replaced with sports practices, teacher meetings, and homework time. The child birthday parties—that doubled as parent social hours—are replaced by teenage sleepovers, mall scavenger hunts, and paintball parties where no parents are allowed!

Whether you hosted playgroups in your home or organized the weekly playground meetup, you would probably agree that the most important aspect was the connection you created with other parents. Those connections gave you a sense of community and a feeling of belonging.

We want to equip you to build and foster connections in your community. Your neighbors, friends, and team parents may not need a preschool playdate, but they would probably join you for a Family House Party! That's right! We want to help you bring the connection and fun of playdates to your backyard—for one night only! We are excited to introduce "Ready, Set, Glow."

What is Ready, Set, Glow?

"Ready, Set, Glow" is a family-style evening that your family hosts for other families. It is more than a cookout and better than a game night! Ready, Set, Glow is a family competition game night meets social media meets fun extravaganza.

Why Ready, Set, Glow?

Reaching out to your neighbors and other non-church families can be hard and even awkward. You have probably spent some time chatting across the fence to a neighbor about the weather, or you may sit side-by-side at the soccer game every weekend, cheering on the kids. These are opportunities for connection, but you need a way to move past polite, friendly exchanges toward a chance to share your faith and build real community.

This toolbox resource will provide everything you need to make your "Ready, Set, Glow" night a success! It includes a printable invitation, suggested schedule, shopping list, set-up ideas, activities, and the details to lead a faith-focused devotion and dessert time.

Where Can I Host Ready, Set, Glow?

Your home is the ideal location for the Ready, Set, Glow event. Not only is it free, but it provides an opportunity for more families to come—and others to just drop-in when they see the activity! If the weather is warm, you can even host the party outdoors!

Where Can I Host Ready, Set, Glow?

The best time to host Ready, Set, Glow depends on your schedule and availability. Consider reviewing sports and school schedules, and try not to compete with holiday events or family gathering times. Based on your area, this might be an excellent event for the cold, winter months, or a perfect opportunity to host outside in your backyard.

How Do I Make Ready, Set, Glow a Success?

PREPARATION

- **Guest List:** Take some time as a family to discuss who you want to invite. Think beyond your family's usual friend circle and include new families in your neighborhood, school, or sports teams. Ask your kids about new students at school or church.
- **Invitations:** Use the provided invitation to make your event "official." Customize the details or handwrite the time and place for a personal feel. Consider using the blank space on the back to write a note or provide additional instructions or details. Spend some time in prayer over each invitation and family as you go. If possible, hand-deliver the invitations. That way, you can add a personal encouragement!

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Sample Schedule: The event will run more smoothly (and you will feel more relaxed) if you prepare a general schedule in advance. You can be flexible and adjust as needed, but it will give you confidence and peace of mind to know you have plenty of activities planned.

Feel free to use (or adapt) this simple sample schedule. If you are hosting an outdoor event, shift your plan to start just before dark:

- 4:30: Set Up/Prep
- 5:30: Arrival/Welcome
- 6:00: Dinner
- 6:30: Lights Go Out/Glow Sticks Come On
- 6:45: Short Explanation
- 7:00: Games, Challenges, and Fun
- 8:30: Dessert/Devotional
- 9:30: Wrap Up/Clean Up
- 10:00: Goodbyes

SHOPPING LIST: The intent of this event is for families to show up with only their sense of humor. Your family should provide the rest: food, fun, and faith. Make the menu simple, the games silly, and the faith shared.

SUGGESTED MEAL: The food can be as simple or advanced as you want. Pizza, chips, and drinks is an inexpensive and popular choice. If you want to make your dinner glow, use a black light and serve up items that are white or light in color, like pasta or rice. "**Glowing Ice Cubes**" make a fun addition to the festivities, as well!

A great dessert option is vanilla ice cream sundaes with toppings. Even Oreo's and pre-made cotton candy come alive under a black light. If you want to make your dessert truly glow, consider making "**Glow in the Dark Cupcakes**."

GAMES/ACTIVITY SUPPLIES:

- **LED Light Up Punch Balloon** (2)
- **Glow in the Dark Silly String** (2)
- **LED Sword** (1) OR **Glow Stick Wands**
- **Make Your Own Glowing Super Ball**

DECORATIONS AND GLOW THEMED FUN:

- Glow Sticks: Ready, Set, Glow wouldn't be complete without glow sticks! Small packs of ten are available at your local dollar store or 100+ packs can be found at large retail stores (Walmart, Target, or Party Store).
- **Family Glow Night At-Home Party Kit: 153 Pieces**
- **Bulk Glow Party Pack**
- **Glow in the Dark Table Cloths**
- **Glow in the Dark Beach Ball**
- **Glow in the Dark Hair Spray**
- **Glow Stick Football**
- **Glow Stick Balloons**
- **Glow Stick Plates**
- **Glowing Party Favors**
- **Color Changing Tea Lights**

Set Up

Create a welcoming and open space, leaving plenty of room for everyone to mix and mingle.

Decorate with glow-in-the-dark streamers, balloons, and glow sticks. Glow in the dark stars on the ceiling add a fun touch, too! Prepare and unpackage any needed game supplies and provide plenty of garbage cans/trash receptacles.

SUGGESTED PLAYLIST: "Stu Min Fresh Mix"

THE GLOW GAMES:

Games/Activities for Purchase:

- **Glow in the Dark Bowling**
- **Create Your Own Superball**

Games Using Available Supplies:

- GLOWING MARSHMALLOW MUNCH: One parent and one child from each family will play this partner game. Distribute 10-15 mini marshmallows per team. Using a glow bracelet, the parent will create a circle target around their mouth. Students then try to throw the mini-marshmallows into their parent's mouth.
- DESIGN YOUR DAD OR MOM MASTERPIECE: Using glow in the dark silly string, students have 1 to 2 minutes to design their parents and create a glowing statue masterpiece.
- HEADBANGER BOP: Cue up your favorite 80's hairband headbanger jam and tie on the classic "Band-ana" with a LED punch balloon. Have two different rounds: students vs students and parent vs. parents. Players have one minute to head-bang along to the music and receive one point every time the balloon hits their forehead.
- STICK-TIONARY: Using glow swords/wands or a large glow stick, families will face off against each other in this Pictionary/Charade style game. In each round, one player from each family will receive a word/clue. The player must illustrate the clue in the air for their family to guess.
- GLOW SHAPE SHIFTERS: Everyone will receive two large (necklace) glow sticks. During each round, families will try to create the shape, item, or word that is announced. Each player must be part of the shape and use at least one glowstick. See the following examples:

- “Circle.” The family will create a circle of glow sticks, length to length, touching at the tips.
- “First Letter of Your Last Name.” The family will use their glow stick to form the shape of the appropriate letter.
- Other options: Smiley face, tree, car, or flower.
- “STICK-TOK” Grab the cellphones because the night is about to go viral! Using clear packing tape and glow sticks, tape glow sticks to the front of each person, creating a “glow stick person.” Each family will choose a song (from their personal playlist) and create a synchronized 30-second (or longer) dance routine. Record the performances and post them on social media. If you want to take it to the next level, have friends, family members, and followers vote for a winner! Check out these examples: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIE6UB0JIJU>

DESSERT AND DEVOTIONAL:

Serve up some delicious desserts while you laugh and reminisce about your favorite moments from the night. Take this time to thank everyone for coming, share a simple faith story, read a passage (Matt. 5:14-16 is an option), and explain that this was an opportunity for your family to shine a light on others in a fun way. Consider using this time to invite the families to join you in the coming week(s) to attend church.

OTHER OPTIONS:

- Take It Outside: Ready, Set, Glow can easily transition to an outdoor event at your local park or as part of a camping trip/picnic. Be sure to shift the schedule to start the fun right before dark!
- Make it a Church-Wide Event? The purpose of the Ready, Set, Glow event is to build community within your sphere of influence. You can also expand your vision and encourage others to host a glow event on the same night! Make it a churchwide outreach with multiple family events across the town.