

Lesson 10

Obeying and Disobeying God

Theme: Obedience—Knowing God promises reward and punishment



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: For younger students: *Bronze Serpent, Be Holy! Book 1*, page 24
For older students: *Word Shapes, Be Holy! Book 2*, page 25

Bible Facts: Take Time for Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Turn sentence strips around in pocket chart so the students can't see the Memory Verse. Tell the students you will read the Memory Verse and leave blanks, and while you do so they are to think about what goes in the blanks. Make this activity age appropriate by leaving out more words for older students and fewer for younger students. Reread the Memory Verse, leaving pauses for the same words and phrases, and have the students work together to fill in the blanks as you read.

Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Telling the Story

1. In the classroom Bibles, have students find and mark Numbers 21:4 and John 3:14. For non-reading students, read Numbers 21:4-9 aloud and talk about how the serpent was put on a pole to save the Israelites from dying from the fiery serpents' bites. For reading students, have them read the passage to themselves. Then ask the students to tell about the verses they read.
2. Ask the students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Have one student use a pointer to point out on a time line when today's lesson events took place.
4. Have one child point to the Wilderness on a map to show where today's lesson events took place. Then have a student trace the route of the Exodus through the Wilderness to show where they were in relation to finally gaining the Promised Land.

5. Using the It's Bible Time bag, pull out plastic snakes and a snake on a pole to tell lesson story of God's sending fiery snakes to punish the Israelites. Read together Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-16.
6. Let students act out the story by using the plastic snakes and the bronze snake on pole. For younger students, assign a line of dialogue to each one in order to tell the story. Use the lines below to get started:
 - Israelite 1 - I don't like it out here, I want to go back to Egypt!
 - Israelite 2 - We are hot and tired!
 - Israelite 3 - Moses is not a good leader!
 - Narrator - Then God sent fiery serpents to bite the people.
 - Israelite 4 - We are sorry. Moses, tell God we are sorry!
 - God - Put a bronze serpent on a pole and tell the people to look at it.
 - Moses - God said to look at the serpent and you will be saved from your bites.
 - Narrator - The people looked at the serpent and were saved.
7. Talk about who was raised up on a "pole" to save us. Jesus was put on the cross and died to save us from our sins.
8. See page 64 for reinforcement questions.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 10

Obeying and Disobeying God

Theme: Obedience—Knowing God promises reward and punishment

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: For younger students: *Jesus on the Cross, Be Holy! Book 1*, page 25
For older students: *Jesus on the Cross, Be Holy! Book 2*, page 24

Bible Facts: Take Time for Bible Facts

Memory Verse: The teacher reads the Memory Verse from Bible, and, as the teacher pauses, point to a student to fill in the missing word or phrase. If the student cannot fill in the blank, ask other students to help. Repeat until all students have had an opportunity to fill in some blanks.

Prayer**Starter**

Suppose you're learning to play a musical instrument such as the piano or a flute. You will enjoy learning part of the time, but sometimes it won't be so much fun. It's fun to play songs we know and like, and we'll work hard to get them down. But we may not work much on songs we don't really like, or songs that are especially hard.

You may put off practicing the harder stuff until the last minute. You might even go a week or two and not practice it at all. But if you are serious about learning to play and want to be good at it, you will tackle the hard stuff and stick with it. It won't be easy, but finally the harder songs will begin to take shape and sound better all the time.

Obedying God is something like this. Some parts of obeying are easy—it's what we want to do or something that will benefit us. Maybe what God says to do we would probably do anyway. But some parts of obeying God are not easy. They take hard work. If we are serious about pleasing God and being one of His people, we will tackle even the hard stuff and stick with it. Sometimes God's Old Testament people happily obeyed. At other times they stubbornly disobeyed.

Briefly Review the Lesson**Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story**

1. **Objective:** *Illustrate the need to protect ourselves against what is wrong and sinful*
Have candy in a bag. Talk to the students about how much they like candy. Put the bag

of candy in a container so the students can't see it, and then do the Memory Verse or have a prayer. Take the candy bag out of the container and put some in an open container so it is visible to the students. Do another activity. After the activity, take up the candy and again put it where the students cannot see it. Discuss *when* during the class period it was the most tempting to think about the candy. Make application about why God told the Israelites to completely destroy the Canaanites. He was punishing the Canaanites for being wicked, but He was also protecting His people against what was dangerous and sinful.

 2. *Objective: Illustrate good decisions and the blessings that can come from them as well as the consequences that come from bad decisions*

On index cards, write about twenty choices the students might have to make. Some examples are as follows:

- Using bad language like your friends use
- Refusing to use bad language like your friends
- Lying to get out of trouble
- Telling the truth no matter what
- Talking about someone who did something you didn't like
- Trying to help someone who is not acting right

Designate a place on a table or bulletin board for *Good Decisions* and *Bad Decisions*. Students will separate the cards into these two areas. Let a student pick a card. Before placing the card into a category as a good or bad decision, he must explain why he is placing it there. What are the consequences of this choice? Is the choice difficult for you?

 3. *Objective: Demonstrate rewards from God as blessings for obedience*

Buy a bag of gummy worms and spread them out on a sheet. Have many gummy worms all over the sheet. Remind the students that the snakes God sent were everywhere and it would be difficult not to be bitten by one. People were getting bitten, and it felt like fire and many died from the bites. After the people repented, God provided a way for people to live and not die. He put a bronze snake on a pole. (You can have a toy snake up on a stick.) People of Israel could look up to the serpent on the pole and would not die. Discuss with the students how this compares to our sins and forgiveness. You may read Jesus' words about this in John 3:14-15.

4. See page 64 for reinforcement questions.

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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