



WEEK TWO – AUGUST 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *This Used to Be My Playground (The Fall)* • Genesis 3:1–24

Bottom Line: *Trust and obey even when you think your way is better.*

Memory Verse: “*The way we show our love is to obey God’s commands. He commands you to lead a life of love. That’s what you have heard from the beginning.*” – 2 John 6 (NIRV)

Life App: *Obedience—trusting who’s in charge by doing what you’re asked to do.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We start our journey through the Bible in Genesis 3:1–23. God created Adam and Eve to take care of His perfect world. God gave them one simple rule to obey: Don’t eat from that tree. But ultimately, they didn’t trust God and did what they wanted to do. They broke the one rule, and when they did, it changed the course of history.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Index cards; pencils

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- As kids arrive, follow up with kids who came last week and ask about their GodTime challenge. Did they complete their GodTime cards and move those bookmarks? What did they learn?
- Ask:
 - Do you ever help out in the kitchen?
 - What is your favorite thing to cook?
 - What is a recipe and why is it important?
- Pass out an index card and a pencil to each child.
- Encourage the kids to write out a recipe for spaghetti.
- Instruct them to list the ingredients first, followed by the step-by-step instructions.

2. Recipe Review

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: The recipe cards created in Early Arriver, “Spaghetti Recipe” Activity Page, pencils

What You Do:

- Collect all the recipe cards and shuffle them.
- Pass out the recipe cards, making sure that no one received his or her original card.
- Instruct kids to read the recipe card in their hands and to “fix” anything that doesn’t look correct.
- They may decide to add or delete an ingredient or a step in the instructions.
- Then go around the circle and let each child quickly read his recipe card.
- Take a vote as a group to determine which recipe card is the most correct. Make it a rule that no one can vote for their own card.
- Reveal the “Spaghetti Recipe” Activity page to the group and compare it to the recipe card the group has chosen.

What You Say:

“When you cook, it’s important to pay attention to the recipe and follow the instructions carefully even if you think you have a better idea. If you don’t, you could end up with something that tastes terrible or, if you’re baking, you could end up with a pile of goop instead of a cake! [Transition] In Large Group today, we’ll hear about two people who thought their way was better but—SPOILER ALERT—it didn’t turn out well for them. Let’s go find out what happened.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Trust and obey, even when you think your way is better. Whether you’re a kid or an adult, you’ll face a moment when you don’t want to do what you’ve been asked to do. This is especially true when you have a better way in mind. We hope kids start figuring out why doing what they’re asked to do is more important than doing their own thing. Our leaders are wise and they may know things that we don’t. We should trust them and follow their directions.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Rocketing Review

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Rocket Parts” Activity Page, paper towel tubes, glue sticks, tape, scissors, aluminum foil sheets, and black and white construction paper

What You Do:

- Give each child a “Rocket Parts” Activity Page, a paper towel tube, foil, and construction paper to create a rocket. The paper towel tube will serve as the center of the rocket.
- Let kids use their own creativity to design and build their rockets.
 - Make sure kids know they can cut apart the “Rocket Parts” Activity Page and use the pieces however they choose.
- As kids are working, review the Bible story using the questions below.
 - Who created the world and everything in it? (God)
 - Who were the first two people God created? (Adam and Eve)

- What was the garden like where Adam and Eve lived? (beautiful, full of flowers and trees and plants and good things to eat)
- God gave Adam and Eve just ONE rule. What was it? (they could eat fruit from any tree in the garden except from the tree of knowledge of good and evil)
- If they did eat the fruit, what did God say the consequence would be? (they would die)
- Who came along to make Eve question God's one rule? (the serpent)
- Why do you think the serpent tricked Eve? (because he's the enemy/Satan; his one goal is to separate us from the God who loves us)
- What choice did Eve make? Did she obey God's one rule? (no, she thought her way was better and she disobeyed by eating the fruit God told her not to eat)
- What did Adam do when Eve handed him the fruit? (he ate some too)
- Immediately, what did Adam and Eve feel? (shame; they realized they were naked and covered themselves)
- When God came looking for them, what did Adam and Eve do? (they hid from God)
- What happened as a result of their disobedience? (their relationship with God was broken; they were forced to leave the garden; they would have to work hard; one day, they would face physical death; sin had entered the world and would pass to their children and to their children and so on)

What You Say:

*“Adam and Eve made such a HUGE mistake. They thought their way was better. But let me ask you something: who made Adam and Eve and that beautiful garden they enjoyed? (Pause for responses.) Yes, God did! He always knows best. His rule was there to protect them. But they chose to disobey, and it had devastating consequences. There will be times when we're tempted to think our way is better. But obedience reminds us to trust those who lead us by doing what we're asked to do. We need to [**Bottom Line**] **trust and obey even when we think our way is better.**”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Tell your few about a time when you disobeyed your parents as a kid because you thought you knew better. What happened? Whose way was actually better: yours or your parents'? How could you have handled the situation better?)*

2. Uno?

[Application Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Uno Cards

What You Do:

- Pass out 8–10 cards (depending on how large group your group is) to each player. If you have more than 10 kids in your group, break into two groups to play two games.
- Encourage the kids to start playing the game.
- General rules:
 - Kids will play one card at a time.
 - They must play a card that matches either the color or the number of the top card on the discard pile.
 - If they do not have a card to play, they must draw a card.
 - Wild cards can be used at any time during a child’s turn.
 - If a child plays a “draw two” or “draw four” card, the next player must draw that number of cards and his/her turn is over.
 - Play continues until a player is down to one card. When this happens, he/she must yell “Uno!” If they fail to call out “Uno!” that player must draw two cards.
 - Play continues until one player is out of cards.
- New Rules:
 - Instead of matching either the color or number, you can now ONLY match the color, not the number.
 - If you play a “draw four,” you must draw the four cards yourself.
 - The “reverse” cards may only be played when you have two cards left.
 - Wild cards aren’t wild anymore. All wild cards are RED.
 - “Draw four” cards aren’t wild anymore. “Draw four” cards are now BLUE.
 - Instead of matching the color, you can now ONLY match the number.
 - Only girls can play for the next two minutes. (Be sure to watch and call out the next rule when time is up.)
 - Only boys can play for the next two minutes.
 - Only people born in September, March, or May can play for the next two minutes.
- Call time on the game and gather the cards.
- Ask:
 - Have you ever played a game of UNO like that before? Was it frustrating?
 - Did you think my rule changes were crazy?
 - In real life, what do you do when you think your way is better?

What You Say:

“How did it feel to have the rules changed so quickly while you were in the middle of the game? (Pause for responses.) While these rules were silly, real rules—like the ones at school and at home—help protect everyone. Some rules make sense to you and some might not. Sometimes we just need to obey even when we think our way is better.

“Adam and Eve didn’t obey in the garden because they thought their way was better. But years later, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus would surrender His will and trust that God’s way was the best way. Jesus obeyed—going all the way to the cross for you and for me in order to fix our broken relationship with God. God loves you, and He wants the best for you.

*That’s why you should **[Bottom Line] trust and obey even when you think your way is better.***”

3. No Talking Line Up

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible, paper, markers

What You Do:

- Look up 2 John 6 and review the verse together as a group.
- Count up the number of kids in your group and divide the verse into that number of words or phrases.
- Assign each word or phrase to a kid and instruct kids to write their assigned word/phrase on a sheet of paper in large handwriting.
- Shuffle the pages and hand them back out.
- Instruct kids to line up in verse order, based on the word or phrase on their page.
- There’s only ONE rule: they may not talk!
- Time them to see how long it takes them to get in verse order.
- Collect the pages, shuffle, redistribute, and play again—still with no talking—to see if they can beat their time.

What You Say:

*“That was fun! You only had one rule—NO talking—and you followed it even when it was REALLY hard. This verse is a great reminder that we show God we love and trust Him by obeying Him. That’s why it’s so important to **[Bottom Line] trust and obey even when you think your way is better.**”*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Index cards, pencils

What You Do:

- Hand out an index card and a pencil to each child.
- Instruct the kids to write down the name of someone who is in charge of them, such as: parent, teacher, grandparent, coach, Small Group Leader, babysitter, etc.
- Encourage the kids to pray silently that God would help them obey that person this week even when they think their way is better.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for the people in our lives who take care of us. Help us to obey this week, even when we think our way is better. Thank You for forgiving us when we disobey and for loving us so much that You sent Jesus. It’s in His name that we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their rockets and tell them about Adam and Eve and the choice they made to disobey.