



WEEK FOUR – AUGUST 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Live to Tell (Abraham to Isaac) • Genesis 12-21*

Bottom Line: *Trust and obey even if you don't know how it will work out.*

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 need to make the wise choice.*

Summary: In Genesis 12–21, we discover how God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation. He tells Abram to pack up his family and move. Abraham wasn’t exactly sure how things would all play out, but he obeyed, trusting that God would keep His promise. God made a covenant with Abraham. And through many ups and downs, God stayed faithful to Abraham and gave him reminders along the way that He would stay true to His promise.

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: paper, 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
- Instruct the kids to draw anything they'd like to draw WITHOUT telling anyone around the circle what they're drawing.
- After a couple minutes, ask the kids to stop drawing and pass their papers to the person on their right.
- Once each child has their neighbor's paper, encourage them to finish the drawing without knowing what it was intended to be to begin with.
- After a couple minutes, let each kid share his drawing and talk about what it is.
- Let each original artist confirm if the child was correct in his or her interpretation.

2. Dice Drawing

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

What You Need: Paper, pencils, a die, "Beetle" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Make sure the "Beetle" Activity Page is put away so the kids can't see it.
- Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil.
- Kids will take turns rolling the die.
- Each time a number is rolled, call out the instruction below for the kids to draw. The kids will not know what the actual drawing will be before they start.
- You may give them the following clue: "Today, you will be drawing a living thing."
- There is only one instruction for each number on the die. So if a child rolls a number for a step you've already completed, ask her to roll again.
 - Instructions:
 - 6 is for the body, of which there is one (Kids should draw some kind a body on their page.)
 - 5 is for the head, of which there is one (Kids should draw some kind of head, etc.)

- 4 is for the wings, of which there are two
- 3 is for a leg, of which there are six
- 2 is for an antennae, of which there are two
- 1 is for an eye, of which there are two
- *NOTE: Since these numbers will be rolled randomly and not in the order listed above, kids may be asked to draw two antennae or six legs before they've drawn anything else.*
- When you've called out all six instructions, instruct kids to lay their papers on the floor in front of them.
- Let them take a minute to guess what they think they were supposed to be drawing.
- Show the kids the "Beetle" Activity Page to see if any of them came close in their own interpretations.

What You Say:

"It would have been SO much easier if I'd told you from the beginning that we were drawing a beetle, wouldn't it? It's a bit like life. We don't always know how things will turn out.

[Transition] In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a couple who chose to obey even when they had NO idea what was coming next. Let's go!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Trust and obey even if you don't know how it will work out. For kids, sometimes they'll face moments of obedience where they don't know if the outcome will be worth doing what they're told. It could mean needing to move to a new school and having a good attitude or finding out you have allergies and suddenly not being able to eat your favorite meal anymore. We can trust that God has a plan for our lives and will care for us along the way.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Stick to It Verse

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Flat bedsheet or tablecloth, "Memory Verse Phrases" Activity Page, tape

What You Do:

- Look up 2 John 6 and review as a group.

- Fold the bedsheet in half lengthwise and then in half again. Lay the folded sheet out on the floor of your small group area.
- Hand out a “Memory Verse Phrases” card to each child.
- Give each child a piece of tape to roll and stick on the back.
- Talk about how astronauts have to use things like Velcro to tape things down so that they won’t float around in the space shuttle.
- Encourage the children to work together to put the “Memory Verse Phrases” in order by sticking them in a line along the bedsheet so they stay in place.

What You Say:

*“I loved learning this verse with you this month. It’s a great reminder that we show God just how much we love Him when we trust and obey Him. He is worthy of our obedience because He made us, He loves us, and He sent Jesus to save us. I want to be like Abraham and Sarah and choose to **[Bottom Line]** trust and obey even if you don’t know how it will work out.”*

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you chose to trust and obey God when you weren’t sure how it would work out. Maybe you made a choice to do the right thing as a teenager but were afraid it would cost you some friendships. Maybe you selected a certain college because you felt like that’s where God had planned for you to go. When sharing stories about your “grownup” years, always remember to keep the content appropriate.)

2. Trust & Obey

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Space Helmets” Activity Page; craft sticks; tape; markers; star stickers, alphabet stickers, or space-themed stickers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Space Helmet.”
- Invite kids to decorate their helmets as they choose.
- Help kids add handles by taping craft sticks to the back of their helmets.
- Invite kids to “role play” astronauts on a mission and receive orders from mission control.

What You Say:

“In order to successfully complete their missions, astronauts need to follow the directions that mission control gives them. Whose directions do YOU need to follow? (God’s, my mom’s, my dad’s, my teacher’s, etc.) Why is it important to trust and obey those in charge? (They know

more; they know what's best; they love me.) Why is it important to trust and obey God? (He knows what's best; He loves me; When I obey Him, I show Him that I love Him.)

*“So remember: **[Bottom Line] Trust and obey even if you don't know how it will work out.** Because when you do, you'll show the people in charge that you love them, and you'll show God that you love Him, too!”*

3. 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:

- Give each child an index card and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to write down one thing that they're currently worried or unsure about.
- Give them some time to pray silently about what they've written down and then pray for them aloud.
- Encourage them to keep their card as a reminder that even though they don't know how each situation will turn out, they can still trust and obey God.

What You Say:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for each kid here today. They are so special to You. I know that You already know what's written on each of these cards. You know all our worries, and You ask us to talk to You about them. Help us to trust and obey and follow You even when we don't know how things will turn out. We know that You hold the future and that You love us so much. Thank You for sending Jesus. In His name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to tell their parents about Abraham and Sarah and how they chose to trust and obey even when they weren't sure how things would work out.