



WEEK TWO – AUGUST 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *What is at stake if you don't obey?*

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 ACTIVITY

1. Just For Fun

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

What You Need: Paper; markers

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Set out paper and markers.
- Ask students to draw a picture of a rocket.
- After a few minutes (even if they aren't finished drawing), let students choose partners.
- Have the students exchange drawings with their partners then sit back-to-back.
- Tell them to make three changes to their partner's rocket without him or her seeing. The first change should be easy to detect, the second less obvious, and the third change barely noticeable.
- Ask partners to turn around, exchange papers again, and then guess what's different about their original rocket.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What is at stake if you don't obey? When you disobey there are often consequences—some natural, others handed to you from a leader. Kids probably realize they get in trouble if they disobey, but as preteens they are ready to understand the disobedience also breaks down trust you've built with those who are in charge. When we obey, we build trust. We want kids to realize why obedience matters.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Read the scenarios below.
- After each one, invite students to (collectively) share two benefits of obedience in that situation and two possible consequences of disobedience.
- Vote on the benefit and consequence they feel are the most likely outcomes.
- Allow students to share experiences they've had in situations similar to the one you read.
- What positive benefits or negative consequences did they face? What did the experience teach them?
- Ask students to come up with additional scenarios if time allows.
 - Scenarios:
 - You're not supposed to snack right before dinner, but you're so stinkin' hungry. You remember there's a candy bar in your backpack.
 - Your teacher asked you to give a sealed envelope with a note in it to your parents. You're going crazy wondering what it says. You're pretty sure you can carefully open the envelope then seal it again.
 - Your aunt is staying with you while your parents are out of town. She insists that you can't have more than 30 minutes of screen time each day, but the rule your parents have is 60 minutes. You know you're right, but there's no convincing her.

2. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Provide Bibles (or let students use a Bible app on their phone).
- Ask everyone to look up Genesis 3.
- Allow a few minutes for students to silently read the lesson's passage to themselves.
- Invite the group to take turns "Space Walking" (slow motion movements) as they act out something from the passage while others guess the event.
- Ask:
 - As you read Genesis 3, where do you see the first hint of disobedience?
 - Why do you think Adam and Eve chose to disobey God?
 - Apart from never listening to a creepy snake, what else do you learn from these verses?
- Challenge students to share specific verses where they see the following results of disobedience:
 - Guilt
 - Blame
 - Lies

- Punishment
- Regret
- Invite students to finish this sentence: “One thing I’ve learned from Adam and Eve is ”
 - **Pro Tip:** *There will be times when students face a situation in which they’re sure their way is better than what a parent, teacher, or other leader is asking them to do. And they may be right! Remind students that God always wants us to show respect. Suggest ways they might be able to talk things through and share what they’re thinking in a way that’s calm, kind, and respectful.*

What You Say:

“Minus the talking snake and the perfect world, disobedience is still much the same as it was back in Genesis. People choose to go their own way. Just like Adam and Eve, we can get fooled into thinking our way is better than anyone else’s—even God’s. What was at stake when Adam and Eve chose to disobey? Take a lesson from Adam and Eve: it’s never a good idea to go against God’s rules!”

3. Discussion Questions

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Based on what we’ve learned today, how would you best define sin? What about obedience?
 - Why is obedience often so hard and disobedience so easy?
 - Parents, teachers, and other leaders are more experienced and wiser than kids. They know what’s best, but they’re not always perfect. They make mistakes. How should you handle a situation when your way actually IS probably better than the leader’s?
 - Is there ever a time when you should not trust or obey someone, even if he or she is the adult or authority? Explain.
 - If the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 could be turned into a song, what would be a good title for it?

4. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask kids to share how they did last week reading their Bible and GodTime each day.
- Continue encouraging them to make use of the GodTime cards and to spend time taking to God at the beginning and end of their day.
- Invite your group to pray silently for God’s help to live out obedience—trusting those who lead them by doing what they’re asked to do.
- As you call out the following leaders, pause briefly after each one to allow students time to think about the relationships they have with leaders in their life.
- Encourage students to ask forgiveness if they have had disobedient attitudes or actions and to pray for the choices they will make this week.
 - Parents and family members
 - Teachers, coaches, and other leaders
 - Church and community leaders
 - God

What You Say:

“Dear God, in 2 John, verse six, You tell us that ‘The way we show our love is to obey God’s commands.’ It goes on to say that You command us to ‘lead a life of love.’ We can’t do that without Your help. Our love for others begins with a love for You, so we ask that You grow in us a genuine attitude of love that gives us the power to choose obedience even when it’s hard. In Jesus’ name, amen.”