



WEEK THREE – AUGUST 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Rain (Noah) • Genesis 6–8*

Key Question: *What is the hardest thing about following somebody?*

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: Next, we head to Genesis 6–8 to the familiar story of Noah. God saw how the people on earth were choosing to live life on their terms rather than His. God grieved this world and sent a flood to wipe everything out. But Noah was faithful to God, so God instructed Noah to build a giant ark. People must have thought he was crazy, but God honored Noah’s obedience and saved him, his family, and lots and lots of animals.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Die, paper, markers, “Dice Drawing” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Give students paper and markers.
- Explain that they will be drawing something with a head, tail, nose, wings, body, and spots, but they won’t know specifically what it is.
 - The order in which they will draw the parts will be determined randomly by the roll of a die.
- Roll the die.
- Call out what students are to draw based on the numbers below.
 - One is for the body. (They will need one.)
 - Two is for the head. (They will need one.)
 - Three is for the tail. (They will need one.)
 - Four is for a nose. (They will need one.)
 - Five is for a wings. (They will need two.)
 - Six is for spots (They will need three.)
- Continue until all the parts have been added.
- Show students the “Dice Drawing” of the rocket ship when they are done, and see if anyone came close to drawing the same thing.

What You Say:

“It would’ve been SO much easier if I’d told you from the beginning that you were drawing a rocket ship, wouldn’t it? But where’s the fun in that! In today’s Large Group, we’ll learn about a time when God asked someone to obey but didn’t give him all the details. It probably took a lot of trust for him to obey what God said—especially when friends started to call him crazy. Let’s go find out more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What is the hardest thing about following somebody? Preteens are starting to realize that some people are easy to follow, while following others can be difficult. We want to give them a chance to be honest with how they're feeling about following people who are in charge. We pray they'll figure out the best way to respond when they don't want to follow someone.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bibles, foam plates, nails, permanent markers

What You Do:

- Remind students that Noah is a hero of the faith. His story of obedience was passed down through generations of Jewish people. Hundreds of years later God's people still remembered it.
- Invite someone to read Hebrews 11:7.
- Give each person a plate and a nail.
- Ask them to use the nail to make holes in the plate that form the outline of something from the story. (No arks or rainbows.)
- They can outline a person, place, object, or word.
 - Tell them to do their work without others knowing what they're drawing.
 - Exchange plates.
- Challenge students to use a marker to "connect the dots" (holes) on the plate to figure out what the picture is. In some cases, they may be way off from what the original artist was creating and that's okay.
- Show the finished pictures to one another as you remind students that Noah had a lot of dots to connect in understanding what God wanted him to do and how to do it.
- Ask:
 - As Noah tried to "connect the dots" and obey what God was asking him to do, what do you think would have been the hardest part of it all? Why would it have been hard?
 - Why is it hard for us to do the right thing when no one else is? Are the reasons the same or different as they may have been for Noah? Explain.
 - When doing what is right is going to make you unpopular or risk making your friends mad, what should you do?
 - As you look to the week ahead, what situations can you see yourself in where you'll be facing a choice to obey or cave? What will help you make the right choice?

2. Discussion Questions

[Application 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:
 - Have you ever had a “Noah moment”? Share about a time when you felt sort of like Noah did when he built the ark and all the people thought he was crazy.
 - If God was visible and you knew He was watching you (which we know He is), how might that make a difference in the choices you make?
 - What’s the hardest part about following Jesus? Why is it worth it even though it isn’t easy?

What You Say:

*“God commands us to lead a life of love. And one of the best ways to show love to the people we trust is to obey them even when others are making different choices. This week, I want to challenge you to **[Bottom Line] trust and obey even when others don’t.**”*

3. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Tissues; markers

What You Do:

- Give each student a facial tissue and a marker.
- Direct half of the group to hold the tissue so the fold runs vertically (up and down) and the others to hold it so the fold is horizontally (right to left).
- Ask everyone to gently draw an “X” in the center of their tissue, being careful not to tear it.
- Instruct them to gently rip the tissue from top to bottom so that the tear runs through the middle of the “X.”
- Show each torn tissue and observe that one direction tore more neatly than the other.
- Explain that the fibers that make up the tissues run in a certain direction. When the tissue is torn in the same direction as the grain of fibers it’s a cleaner tear than when torn across them.
- Connect this concept with the way we sometimes feel when obedience means we have to go “against the grain” or the crowd and not do what others are doing.

- Invite students to pair up with someone who tore their tissue in a different direction than they did and pray (silently or aloud) for their partner to trust and obey even when others don't.

What You Say:

“Dear God, it’s so hard for us to go against the flow—to obey you when those around us are going a different direction. In our heads we know what’s right, but it’s not always the thing we choose. Give us the help we need to be strong against the crowd, to love you more than we love what others think of us. Help us make the wise choice this week in the things we say and do. In Jesus’ name, amen.”