



WEEK FOUR – AUGUST 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *What do you think your leaders know that you don't?*

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 ACTIVITY

1. Just For Fun

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Pair up
- Invite partners to do an “anti-gravity test.”
- Instruct the first partner to place their arms straight down at their sides.
- Direct the second partner to stand behind .
- Explain that the first partner will try as hard as they can to push their arms up while the second partners tries as hard as they can to hold them down.
- Hold this position for one minute.
- When time is up, ask the second partner to let go and the first partner to relax their arms. If done correctly, their arms will float up in the air by themselves.
- Switch places and try again.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What do you think your leaders know that you don't? As kids grow up, they may start to question their leaders—especially when it comes to figuring out why the need to obey them. But what if the people in charge of us know something that we don't? What if what they know about the future makes following them even more important? We hope that our kids start to think about their leaders, what they know and why that matters when it comes to obeying them.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Play-Doh

What You Do:

- Give each student a piece of dough about the size of a ping-pong ball.
- Ask them to form the dough into the shape of a letter (not x or z).
- Sit in a circle.
- Invite students to name something they appreciate a leader knowing.
 - It has to be something that they themselves don't know, and it must begin with the letter they're holding. For example, if the letter is "D," they might say, "how to make donuts," or "drive a car."
- Shape a new letter (not x or z).
- Ask students to think of a word beginning with their letters that describes a leader they can trust.
- Shape a new letter (not x or z).
- Ask the group to use their letters to begin a word that describes God.

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:
 - What do you think your leaders know that you don't?
 - Why does it matter if our leaders know stuff that we don't know? How does that affect us?
 - Are you still obeying if you do what's asked of you but with a bad attitude? Explain.
 - What do you do when a leader or other adult tells you to do something and you're not sure it's the right thing to do?
 - If we genuinely believe God knows the future, how should that affect our obedience?

3. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: "Faith Verses" Activity Page, scissors, notecards, pens

What You Do:

- Form groups of three students.
- Give each person a different “Faith Verses” Activity Page, a notecard, pen, and scissors.
- Without teammates seeing one another’s verses, have them write on one side of a notecard a question they have about their verse. On the other side, have them write a statement about what they think the verse means.
- Ask them to cut their verses into six pieces like a jigsaw puzzle then mix up the pieces.
- Invite players on each team to exchange puzzles with one another then assemble them to discover what the verse says.
- Challenge teams to discuss the verses by having each person read from his notecard the statement he wrote about the verse then ask his team to answer the question on the back.
- Bring teams together and let them share what they discovered from each verse. Let them ask any questions they weren’t able to answer within their team.
- Reflect back on the puzzle activity by saying, “Like the puzzles you assembled without first knowing what the verses said, there will be many times in your life when you won’t know how a situation will look in the end until it ends.”
- Ask:
 - How does your faith and trust in God show up in obedience?
 - Do you think it’s possible to obey God if you don’t trust Him? Why or why not?
 - If you disobey more than you obey, how might that also be a faith problem?

What You Say:

“We don’t get to choose everything that happens, but we do get to choose whether we’ll respond by being obedient. You can put your faith to work this week and follow God even when you’re feeling afraid or unsure. Put faith and obedience to work and show that you trust God with whatever happens next.”

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:

- Pray with the kids, letting a few volunteers pray aloud for the group if they’re comfortable doing so.
- Focus on trusting God no matter what and asking God’s help to trust the leaders He has put in our lives.
- Pray for help in obeying those who lead us even when we don’t know how it will work out.

What You Say:

“Dear God, we know that You sometimes ask us to do things without us knowing exactly what is going to happen. Help us trust You this week. We ask this in Jesus’ name, amen.”