



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

We can obey God even when others don't.

THE BIBLE

Noah's Ark: Genesis 6:5-22, 7:1-24, 8:1-22, 9:11-16
(Psalm 128:1, Romans 12:2)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Matching Animals
- **ACTIVITY** | Animal Walk Race
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Making Rain
- **STORY** | Share about a time when it was hard for you to obey.
- **THE BIG IDEA** | We can obey even when others don't.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Genesis 6:5-22, 7:1-24, 8:1-22
- **OBJECT LESSON** | One Finger Block
- **ACTIVITY** | Foil Boats
- **SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 128:1
- **ACTIVITY** | Leak-Proof Bag
- **ACTIVITY** | Stuff The Boat
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Double Dog Dare Challenge
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - How did Noah live differently than other people?
 - Do you think it was easy or hard for Noah to obey God when others weren't?
 - Why do you think it is important to obey God?
 - Have you ever had a time when you decided to obey God, even when others didn't?
 - What are some things that could happen if you choose to obey God when others don't?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Romans 12:2
- **ACTIVITY** | Obedience vs. Disobedience
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can obey God even when others don't.

THE BIBLE

Noah's Ark: Genesis 6:5-22, 7:1-24, 8:1-22, 9:11-16
(Psalm 128:1, Romans 12:2)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Matching Animals

- Welcome! We're starting a new series called Double Dog Dare, where we'll face dares and challenges that are going to challenge us to be brave.
- Let's start off with our first challenge. In this game, you'll need to find matching animals in a bin of cereal. We need some brave contestants to come play this game!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, fill a large bin with any kind of breakfast cereal. Put 6-10 pairs of toy plastic animals in the cereal and mix it up. Call up two kids and blindfold them. Tell them to find as many matching pairs as they can. As the kids are playing, to make it even harder (and messier!), you can pour some milk into the bin.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Instead of breakfast cereal, hide the plastic animals in water beads or JELL-O!*
- **Was it hard to find the matching pairs of animals with your blindfolds on? How did you find them?**
- **Did you expect this game to be messy?**
- We're going to learn today about a story involving someone who obeyed God even when others didn't and accepted a special assignment, or dare, from God. The Bible story involves pairs of animals. **Can anyone guess what story it is?**

ACTIVITY | Animal Walk Race

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print two sets of the Animal Walk Race printables and cut them apart. Put the slips in a bowl for each team. Set out a cone to be the starting line and finish line on the other side of the*

room. Split the kids into two equal teams and line each team up by the starting line next to one of the bowls. They will draw one of the slips and do what it says, racing to the finish line and back. Then they will tag the next person in line, and that person will do the same. They can put the paper slips back after each turn, but have someone mix them up. You can also have an older kid available to help the younger kids read theirs. The first team to get everyone on their team through the race wins.

- **FOR PRETEENS:** Play a fun game with your preteens to help them find animal pairs! See your weekly instructions for details.
- In this game, you had to obey commands from the papers you drew. In our Bible story today, we are going to learn about a man who dared to obey God, even when no one else was obeying.

OBJECT LESSON | Making Rain

- **Did you know with just a few ingredients we can make it rain in this jar?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a cup or jar with water. Add a thin layer of shaving cream. Place drops of food coloring on the top of the shaving cream, then wait for the rain to fall.
- We can make it rain inside this tiny little jar, but we can't make it rain for real! In today's story we're going to hear about a man whose family (and a ton of animals) were trapped in a terrible storm, and how his obedience to God saved them all.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

STORY | Share about a time when it was hard for you to obey.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share about a time (or have another adult share) when it was hard for you to obey an authority figure in your life. Then share about a time when it was hard for you to obey God. Try to share stories the kids in your ministry can personally relate to.
- **Is it hard for you to obey your parents and teachers? Why do you think it's hard? What about obeying a rule – like when someone tells you not to do something – even when you don't think it's a big deal. Is that hard for you, too? Why do you think obeying is so hard?**
- **Is it hard to obey God?** We're going to learn about someone who obeyed God, even when no one else was obeying.

THE BIG IDEA | We can obey God even when others don't.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **We can obey God even when others don't.**

BIBLE STORY | Genesis 6:5-22, 7:1-24, 8:1-22

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Due to the amount of reading in this Bible story, kids with special

needs may benefit from preferential seating. See your weekly instructions for more details.

- **What was the dare, or challenge, Noah was given?** God told him to build a big boat.
- **Do you know why this happened?** People were not following God's commands. God was heartbroken when he saw that the people He created and loved were full of violence and disobedience. They weren't obeying him by loving others and doing what was right. Instead, they were living in sin.
- But Noah found favor in God's eyes. **What did you notice about Noah that set him apart from everyone else?** That's right! He was righteous and lived a life that honored God.
- **Why do you think it was important to Noah to live his life in obedience to God?**
- **Do you think he lived this way because he wanted to earn God's favor?** No, Noah lived his life obeying God because he loved God.
- But it was probably hard for Noah to live around so many people who didn't obey God. **Do you think Noah might have been nervous when God told him to build the ark?** He might have wondered if people would make fun of him or get upset with him or think he was crazy. But Noah did what God wanted him to do, even when he was the only one following God.
- We can follow God too. **Do you ever feel like it's hard to do the right thing and obey God when others aren't?**
- We can be brave like Noah by obeying God even when others don't.

OBJECT LESSON | One Finger Block

- It's time for another Double Dog Dare challenge! Three contestants are going to race to place a block into a bucket. It sounds pretty easy! But the challenging part is they can only use one finger.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare one participant ahead of time. They will have a special role: To disobey the rule and use more than one finger to put their block in the bucket when you pretend to be distracted. Optionally, you could tell the participant to encourage the other kids to break the rule, too. Have three kids (including the one you prepared ahead of time) come forward and tell them they will have 30 seconds to get their block into the bucket on the table using only the tip of one finger to touch the block. Demonstrate acceptable and not acceptable uses of their hand. Set a timer and let them try. Pretend to get distracted (e.g. getting the audience to cheer loudly or knocking something over and having to pick it up), taking your eyes off the table and kids. The prepared participant should put their block into the bucket. The other kids may follow suit and put their block in the bucket too, or they may call out the one who cheated.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *If this activity is too difficult for kids with special needs allow them to do this at a separate table and invite a few peers to join them.*
- **Did anyone complete this challenge following all the rules?**
- **Did anyone break the rules? Why did you break the rules?** One person was told ahead of time to break the rules, so we could see what would happen if you saw someone else doing the wrong thing. **Did that make you want to do the wrong thing too?**
- Here is one way you can complete this challenge without breaking any rules: you could work together and help each other! Let's try it. You can all take turns putting one finger all on the same block, pushing together to lift it up into the bucket. Then you could do the same for the other blocks.
- It might have been very tempting to use more than one finger, especially after seeing someone else do the wrong thing. Today, we learned that Noah chose to obey God even when others weren't. **Do you think that took bravery?** It sure did!

ACTIVITY | Foil Boats

- God gave Noah very specific instructions on how to build the ark. **Can you imagine how challenging it would have been if God didn't give Noah any instructions or Noah didn't follow the instructions?** He might not have built something big or sturdy enough for his family and all the animals. The ark may not have even floated!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tear a short piece of aluminum foil off the roll and lay it on top of a bowl of water, then add pennies on top until it sinks. Have the kids help you count how many pennies it can hold before sinking. Then ask the kids if it would be easier to build a better boat if they had better instructions. Invite a kid to come help you as you make a bigger boat like [this](#) one. Tell them to start with a big square of foil and fold it in half. Then they will fold down the top two corners, and fold the bottom flap up. They will turn it over and fold the other flap up on the other side. They will then open the bottom of the boat and unfold it just enough to make a boat shape.*
- Noah knew that God knows what's best. God loved Noah and only gave him those instructions so he and his family – and all the animals – could be saved.. Noah obeyed God's instructions and was able to build a huge, sturdy boat that could float for a long time!
- If we follow the right instructions to make a boat, I'm sure it'll hold more pennies than the first boat did. Let's give it a try! **Did the second boat hold more pennies?** Yes!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 128:1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it!*
- This verse says we are blessed when we fear and obey God. **What do you think this verse means by fear?** It's not a bad kind of fear; it means respect.
- **Can you share a time when you have been blessed because you obeyed?**
- Noah obeyed God even when others chose not to and his family was blessed because of his obedience.
- Just like Noah, God loves us and wants to bless us. We can obey Him even when others don't.

ACTIVITY | Leak-Proof Bag

- **If I told you to poke this sharp pencil through this bag of water, what do you think would happen?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, practice this experiment so you can do it easily. Open a plastic sandwich bag, fill it half full with water, and close it. Swiftly push a sharp pencil into the bag and push it out the other side of the bag. Continue with more pencils, holding the top of the bag with one hand and pencils with the other hand. Show the kids as you do this experiment or let some come up and try it.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Split your preteens into pairs, give each pair the supplies for this activity, and let them do it themselves.*
- Sometimes God will ask us to do things we may not understand, like building a big boat when there's never been a flood before. Noah had lived his life obeying God, and he knew he could trust and love God even more. So he chose to obey God and made the ark. Because he lived for God,

obeyed God, and trusted Him, Noah and his family were saved from the flood.

- Poking a pencil through a bag of water seems like it would cause a big mess, but after I got that one pencil through and water didn't splash all over me, I became more confident in doing it again. When we live our lives consistently obeying God, we also grow to trust and love God more. When God asks us to obey Him, we can have confidence to obey again and again, even when others around us aren't choosing to obey.

ACTIVITY | Stuff The Boat

- **Are you ready for another Double Dog Dare challenge?** I need six volunteers for our next challenge.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose six kids to participate in this challenge. Divide them into two teams of three. Have each team choose one person to be the "boat." Have the boat put on an extra large t-shirt (as big as you can find!). Blow up a bunch of balloons ahead of time (or let the kids help you blow them up when you start this challenge). Give the kids one minute to see how many balloons they can stuff into their teammate's t-shirt.
- God instructed Noah to build a boat and then told him to put two of every kind of unclean animal and seven pairs of every clean animal on the boat. Each team is going to have one minute to put as many animals (balloons) into the boat as possible.
- I am sure getting all those animals onto the ark was more of a challenge than this game! But even when it was hard, Noah chose to obey God.

OBJECT LESSON | Double Dog Dare Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Double Dog Dare Challenge for Week 1 and pass them out to all the kids.
- It's time for our double dog dare challenge of the week! Your Double Dog Dare challenge for the week is to **do something that is hard**. It could be anything, but make sure it's something for God! You could read a whole book of the Bible, memorize a hard verse, talk to someone about Jesus, ask someone if you can pray for them, invite someone to church, turn from a sin, give generously to someone in need, or anything else you feel like God wants you to do!
- Come back next week and share with us how your challenge went!

MEMORY VERSES | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- How did Noah live differently than other people?
- Do you think it was easy or hard for Noah to obey God when others weren't?
- Why do you think it is important to obey God?
- Have you ever had a time when you decided to obey God, even when others didn't?
- What are some things that could happen if you choose to obey God when others don't?

(Encourage kids to think of things that are both positive and negative. For example, you could get teased, but your confidence and trust in God will grow.)

SCRIPTURE | Romans 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What are some of the patterns of this world that God does not want us to copy?**
- **How do you think we can renew our minds?**
- **Is there an area of your life where you have followed what others have done instead of obeying God?**

ACTIVITY | Obedience vs. Disobedience

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid two pieces of paper and a pen. Have them write one way to obey God on one paper and one way people disobey God on the other. Collect all the papers and mix them up. Designate one bucket as the obedience bucket and the other as the disobedience bucket. Before you put them in the corresponding buckets, put all the papers in a stack. Have kids take turns choosing a paper and reading it aloud, then have them vote on whether what was written is a way to obey or disobey God. They can put each paper in the correct bucket.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Help them with writing ideas if they need help. Offer suggestions, and be prepared to help them read, if needed.
- Even when people around us are disobeying God, I dare you to obey God even when others don't!

MEMORY VERSES | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5

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