



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

We can obey God even when we don't understand.

THE BIBLE

Abraham leaving his home: Genesis 12:1-8 (Hebrews 11:8, James 1:12, 25; Luke 11:28, 18:27; Galatians 6:9)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Cheese Puff Head
- **ACTIVITY** | Blindfolded Obstacle Course
- **POLL** | Where would you rather live?
- **STORY** | Share about a time when you moved to a new place.
- **THE BIG IDEA** | We can obey God even when we don't understand.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Genesis 12:1-8
- **ACTIVITY** | Drawing Without Looking
- **SCRIPTURE** | Hebrews 11:8
- **ACTIVITY** | Challenges and Bright Sides
- **ACTIVITY** | Egg Walk
- **SCRIPTURE** | Proverbs 3:5
- **ACTIVITY** | Water Drop
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Double Dog Dare Challenge
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - Would it be hard for you not to know where God was leading you?
 - Why do you think Abraham obeyed God even when it was hard?
 - What is something difficult that God might ask you to do or has asked you to do?
 - What is something hard that you are going through, and what do you think God is asking you to do during this time?
 - When God asks us to follow and obey Him, what are some promises God gives us?
- **SCRIPTURE** | James 1:12, 1:25; Luke 11:28; Galatians 6:9
- **ACTIVITY** | Challenges and Bright Sides List
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Titus 3:5; Deuteronomy 6:5



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can obey God even when we don't understand.

THE BIBLE

Abraham leaving his home: Genesis 12:1-8 (Hebrews 11:8, James 1:12, 25; Luke 11:28, 18:27; Galatians 6:9)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Cheese Puff Head

- Welcome to church! It's our third week of our series Double Dog Dare! We're learning about being brave and obeying God, even when it's was challenging. Let's kick off the service with a fun challenge!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose four kids (two teams of two) to play the game. Place two chairs on the tarp or plastic table cloth. Have two kids put on trash bags and shower caps and have them sit on the chairs. Cover the shower caps with shaving cream. Tell the other two kids to throw cheese puffs at their teammate's head. The team with the most cheese puffs stuck at the end of 60 seconds wins the challenge. To play a less-messy version of this game, have one partner hold a bowl over his/her head while their partners try to toss Cheese Puffs into the bowl.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *You can let them cover their faces with whipped cream and have a partner toss cheese puffs to try and get them to stick to the whipped cream.*

ACTIVITY | Blindfolded Obstacle Course

- Today, we're going to learn about someone who followed and obeyed God even when he had no idea where God was leading him. I need two kids who are willing to accept our next Double Dog Dare challenge without even knowing what it is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the activity begins, create two identical obstacle courses, including one item to "climb under" (e.g. chair, kid-sized table, cardboard tent) and one tall item to "jump over" (e.g. trashcan, chair). You can use cones or pool noodles on the floor to create a course or other obstacles.*

Choose two kids to participate with the help of two leaders who will assist each kid through the obstacle course. Pair up each kid with one leader, and have the kids put on blindfolds while their leader stands next to them. Tell the leaders to get the kids through the obstacle course by verbally giving instructions. When the kids get to the obstacles they have to climb under or jump over, leaders should secretly lift or remove the items so the kids can get through it successfully. Provide dramatic and fun commentary as kids go through the obstacle course. Talk about how tight the space is to crawl under or how high the item is to jump over while encouraging them. The kids should think they have successfully climbed under the items or jumped over the items while they are blindfolded, even though the leaders are secretly moving them. After they finish the obstacle course, have the kids take off the blindfold and look at the course they just finished. Then reveal what the leaders did to help. You can remind them that God helps us through hard situations when we choose to obey.

- You both successfully completed this crazy obstacle course! You couldn't see what was happening, but you listened to and trusted your leaders, and they got you through it.
- In our Double Dog Dare series, we're learning about the importance of obeying God even when it's hard.
- **God asks us to trust and follow Him no matter what, but do we dare to obey?**

POLL | Where would you rather live?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids answer why they chose their choice.
- Read the following choices . . .
 - On a sunny beach
 - In the quiet mountains
 - In a busy city
 - On a private boat on the ocean
- **If you could move there right now, would you?**
- Sometimes, living somewhere else seems like a great idea, but if you were asked to move right away, it might be hard! We'll see in our Bible story how someone chose to obey God, even when it was hard.

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

STORY | Share about a time when you moved to a new place.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share (or ask another leader to share) about a time when you left home or moved somewhere new. Share if God spoke to you before, during, or after. Share if any positive outcomes came from the move, or if you learned any lessons in the process.

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

- **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 we don't understand.**

BIBLE STORY | Genesis 12:1-8

- **Has your family ever moved to a new house? How about a new city? Has anyone moved to a new state?** That's a big move! I bet it took a lot of preparation and I'm sure it was a big change! We're going to read about someone who had a big move with his family too!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Provide visuals for the Bible story. You can use a large map of Canaan/Israel so they can visualize Abraham's travels.
- God's command to Abraham was very clear. **Do you remember what it was?**
- God didn't tell Abraham exactly where to go. He just said, "Go to the land I will show you." Sometimes, it's hard for us to get out the door even when we know where we're going, like to the grocery store or to school! Some of you know it's extra difficult to move with your family to somewhere brand new. So imagine how hard it might have been for Abraham to go somewhere that was completely unknown.
- **Did Abraham listen to God and follow His instructions?** Yes! Abraham believed in the promises that God gave him and he chose to trust and obey God even when he didn't know what was coming. He trusted God to get him to lead him and get him to the right place.
- We don't know what our futures hold and we may not always know where or why God wants us to live a certain way or do a certain thing, but we can trust Him and follow Him. We can let Him direct us to where He wants us to be. Just like Abraham, God wants us to trust and obey Him even when we don't understand.

ACTIVITY | Drawing Without Looking

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give all the kids a paper plate and a crayon or marker. Have them put the paper plate on a table behind them and challenge them to draw a triangle on the plate (with their backs turned away from the paper plate). Then tell them to draw a square under the triangle. Then tell them to draw a small square in the larger square, and a small rectangle inside the square, but at the bottom of it. Then tell them to draw a tree next to the large square. Let them look at their pictures.
- **What do you think of your picture? Do you know what it was supposed to look like?** It was supposed to be a house! Some of them don't look very much like houses!
- **Was it hard to draw a picture when you didn't know what the finished product was supposed to look like?**
- You knew what the instructions were, but you couldn't see what was on the paper and you didn't know what the end was supposed to look like. **How do you think Abraham felt when he didn't know where God was leading him?**
- Even when he couldn't see the end and didn't know where he was going, Abraham still followed God.

SCRIPTURE | Hebrews 11:8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- Hebrews chapter 11 is sometimes called the Hall of Faith. It includes people throughout the Bible

who had great faith in God.

- Abraham is listed in the Hall of Faith for many reasons, and we just read one of those reasons. **Who can remember what that was?**
- It's exactly what we learned today. God called Abraham to a new place even when he had no idea where he was going to end up, and he obeyed!
- Abraham's choice to obey God even when he didn't understand showed great faith and love for God. When we obey God, we're showing Him that we love Him and have faith in Him too.

ACTIVITY | Challenges and Bright Sides

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the kids into groups of two or three and give them Bibles, blank paper, pens or pencils. Tell them to fold their paper in half, then write "Challenges" on the left side of the paper. Give them a few minutes to read through Genesis 12:1-8 and write all the challenges Abraham may have faced. Next, have them write "Bright Sides" on the right side of the paper and read it again, this time looking for positive outcomes Abraham may have experienced.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Write the challenges and bright sides on their papers ahead of time. Include an illustration next to each example.
- It might have been really hard for Abraham to leave his home, but his desire to obey God was greater than his own comfort. In the end, Abraham benefitted from following God.
- We can choose to obey God even when it's hard, just like Abraham did. We can trust that God will also honor us for our obedience.

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

ACTIVITY | Egg Walk

- God told Abraham to go. And even though Abraham wasn't sure where God was leading him he obeyed. Sometimes putting our trust in God and obeying Him can be hard and scary. Our next activity is going to take a lot of trust and obedience. **Are you ready for our next Double Dog Dare?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Check out [this](#) video to see this in action. Open four full egg cartons of raw eggs and make sure no eggs are cracked or broken. Arrange all eggs the same way –either pointy end up or rounded end up. Lay a tarp or plastic table cloth on the floor and arrange the egg cartons into two rows. Choose two kids (or more) kids to do the challenge (be mindful of egg allergies). Tell the kids to take off their shoes and socks. With the assistance of a partner on each side of them, have them place one foot in the middle of the first carton of eggs and then the other foot in the middle of the other carton. Tell them to keep their foot as flat as possible. Putting too much pressure on their heels or toes may cause an egg to crack. Once they are steady, have them continue walking on the other cartons until they reach the end.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Let them be leaders and helpers during this activity.
- **Was it hard to trust that the eggs would not crack when you stood on them?** Just like it took a lot of trust to walk on the eggs God wants us to trust and obey Him even when it doesn't make sense.

SCRIPTURE | Proverbs 3:5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- God wants us to put our trust in Him. One way we can show Him that we trust Him is by obeying

Him even when we don't understand.

- **How hard do you think it was for Abraham to trust and obey when God told him to go?**
- **Have you ever had a hard time trusting God?**
- **What is one area in your life you need to do a better job trusting and obeying God about?**

ACTIVITY | Water Drop

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice the experiment a few times before class until you are comfortable with it. Fill a cup with water and get an index card or small card that fits over the mouth of the cup. Print the Water Drop printable. Check out [this](#) video to see this in action. Practice ahead of time. Choose a kid to help you with the experiment. Instruct them to sit in the chair. Give them a copy of the experiment instructions and have them read them out loud. Follow the directions as they read them. Once you have finished, give the kids a few seconds to see what you did, then place your hand back over the index card and turn the cup back over.
- I have instructions for a fun experiment. If I obey the instructions, I should be able to turn a cup of water upside down without spilling any water. **Who is willing to trust me and be a part of our next Double Dog Dare challenge?**
- Luke 18:27 reminds us that what is impossible with man is possible with God. Someday God may ask you to do something that seems too big or even impossible. But God wants us to trust and obey Him even when it's hard, and He promises to be there to help us.

OBJECT LESSON | Double Dog Dare Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Double Dog Dare Challenge for Week 3 and pass them out to all the kids.
- It's time for our Double Dog Dare Challenge of the week! I dare you to do something kind for someone you don't know. Bonus points if it's someone who recently moved here from another place!

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

- **Did Abraham know where God wanted him to go?** (No.)
- **Would it be hard for you not to know where God was leading you?**
- **Why do you think Abraham obeyed God even when it was hard?** (He trusted God and God's leading; he believed God's promises.)
- **What is something difficult that God might ask you to do or has asked you to do?** (Be kind to someone who hurt you; tell someone you don't know well about Jesus; give up playing a game so you can spend time with Him, apologize to someone you hurt, etc.)
- **What is something hard that you are going through, and what do you think God is asking you to do during this time?**

- When God asks us to follow and obey Him, what are some promises God gives us?

SCRIPTURE | James 1:12, 1:25; Luke 11:28; Galatians 6:9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verses in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Let the students read the verses out loud for everyone.
- What do these verses say about how we should react to challenges or trials?

ACTIVITY | Challenges and Bright Sides List

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids Bibles, paper, and writing utensils. Tell them to fold their paper in half and title one half of the page, "Challenges," and the other half of the page, "Bright Sides." Give kids some quiet time to think of some challenges they have faced recently in life as well as the positive outcomes they have experienced.
- Sometimes, challenges are positive outcomes in disguise. In other words, when you're going through a challenge, sometimes it can be hard to see the positive things that come from them, even when they are there. Let's look up some verses to help us understand how challenges can help us grow.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Go to [this](#) website and show your preteens funny pictures of dogs who had trouble obeying their owners. Ask them how dogs disobeying reminds them of us disobeying God and how it is different.

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