

Growing in Obedience

Lessons 5-8

▼ Unit Overview ▲

Why Grow in Obedience?

This unit takes an in-depth look at the importance and necessity of having an obedient heart. Why obey? The reasons are many. This unit focuses on willing and immediate obedience out of love for God. First John 5:3 says, "This is love for God: to obey his commands." Obedience is fundamental to the Christian faith. In fact, it is evidence of faith—the faith that overcomes the world. Obedience shows the world that we believe Jesus is the Son of God.

Life in the twenty-first century promotes disobedience, and our children can't always escape the influence of someone who makes disobedience seem appealing. It is crucial that children learn to discern what is God's way and what is not. Eight- to twelve-year olds must see that living in obedience to God is the most rewarding and exciting life they can experience. And of course, the rewards are eternal.

Summary

Grow up in every way to be like Christ by using Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey as Jesus obeyed.

- Jesus obeyed his earthly parents.
- Jesus obeyed his heavenly Father.
- Jesus obeyed Scripture.
- Jesus obeyed even if it meant suffering.

▼ Lesson Aims ▲

Lesson 5

Scripture focus: (Luke 2:39-52) Jesus was obedient to God by obeying his parents.

Life focus: Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey your parents.

Lesson 6

Scripture focus: (Matthew 3:13-17) Jesus' baptism pleased God and marked the beginning of his ministry.

Life focus: Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey God, to please him.

Unit Aims

Know

List examples of Jesus' obedience to God's will.

Feel

Feel a desire to please God.

Do

Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey God in all areas of life.

Memorize

1 John 5:1-5

Lesson 7

Scripture focus: (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13) Jesus used Scripture verses to help him obey God when Satan tempted him.

Life focus: Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey when tempted.

Lesson 8

Scripture focus: (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42) Jesus prayed to do God's will.

Life focus: Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you when it is difficult to obey.

Classroom Supplies

- branch (real or constructed from paper)
- markers
- ribbon
- scissors
- hole punch

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible page 55
(leaf pattern)

▼ Memory Passage ▲

1 John 5:1-5

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

Memory Passage Review Activity

Make 12 copies of the leaf pattern and cut them out. Divide the memory passage into 12 phrases and write one phrase on each leaf. Punch a hole at the base of the stem of each leaf and thread ribbon through it. Scramble the leaves and have students tie the leaves on the branches in the order of the memory passage.

Growing in Obedience

LESSON 5

Luke 2:39-52

▼ Obey Willingly ▲

Bible Focus

Jesus was obedient to God by obeying his parents.

Life Focus

Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey your parents.

Growing Up in the Word: 1 John 5:1-5

Set up the materials for one or both of the following activities. As the students arrive, greet them by name and direct them to an activity or briefly explain the chosen activity for this lesson.

Memory Activity 1

Before class, copy the reproducible page and cut it into separate strips. Make two copies of the code.

Divide the class into two teams. Name one team "Love" and the other "Obedience." Write these names on the board and keep score during the game. Teams will race to see who can decode phrases of the memory passage faster. Distribute a copy of the code to each team. Give each team one of the phrases from set one. Award the team that finishes first one point. Then give the phrases for round two. Continue until all the phrases have been decoded.

After the teams have decoded the first few messages, it should become evident that the phrases they decoded simultaneously belong together; that is, one completes the other. For example, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" matches "and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well."

Once the game is completed, have the students place the decoded messages on the table. Have several students find 1 John 5:1-5 and read it aloud. As they read it aloud, have other students place the messages in order on the table.

Say: **Once you started playing the game, you realized that the phrases you were decoding belonged together. You were two teams working against each other to win, but you were working together to complete the memory passage. Who remembers what names I gave to your teams? That's right, "Love" and "Obedience." These two things never work against each other; they belong together and complete one another. We show our love for God through our obedience. When we obey, we show our love; when we love, then we obey. Which part of the memory passage tells us that obedience shows our love for God? (1 John 5:3.)**

Classroom Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils
- scissors

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible page 56 (Bible Code Breaker)

Classroom Supplies

Bibles

Curriculum Supplies

none

Memory Activity 2

Instruct students to find 1 John 5:1-5. Students will read the passages in various styles. Give them the command, and then give them this signal to begin: "Do what you are told." Commands follow:

Command: Chant verse 1. Do what you are told.

Command: Sing verse 2. Do what you are told.

Command: Laugh while saying verse 3. Do what you are told.

Command: Read verse 4 slowly. Do what you are told.

Command: Jump while reading verse 5. Do what you are told.

As time permits, allow students to give some commands.

Say: **You did a great job doing what you were told! While we were memorizing this passage, we learned the definition of obedience. What is obedience?** (Doing what you are told.) **Our memory passage is about obeying God's commands. God doesn't usually tell us to jump, but he is serious about our obedience. How serious is our obedience to God? Look in verses three and four. Obedience shows that we have faith or belief in God.**

Classroom Supplies

- slips of paper
- marker

Curriculum Supplies

none

▼ Why Grow Up? ▲

Before class, write the following attitudes on separate slips of paper: guilty, tired, surprised, sad, angry, happy, frustrated, confused, frightened, suspicious, willing.

Distribute pieces of paper with attitudes written on them. Have students pantomime the attitude they have been given and let the other students guess what attitude it is. Write their guesses on the board to create a list of attitudes we can display on our face. They may think of some that aren't on the list, and that's OK.

Say: **We have different attitudes depending on what is going on in our lives.** Discuss each attitude listed, and ask students if they have this attitude when life goes well or when life doesn't go well.

Say: **Most of us think that situations cause our attitudes and determine how we feel. If life goes bad, then we are angry. If life goes well, then we are happy. Let me see you make a "life is going well with you" face. God's Word tells us one sure way for life to go well for us—and that is to display an attitude first! Let's find out what attitude that is.**

▼ How to Grow Up ▲

Have students locate Luke 2:39-52 and read it silently.

Ask: **Where did Jesus live?** (Nazareth in Galilee.) **Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem?** (For the feast of the Passover.) **What happened when it was time for Jesus to return home?** (Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.) **Why do you think it took a day for Mary and Joseph to miss Jesus?** (They trusted that he was with them and thought he was traveling with others in the group.) **Why were Mary and Joseph upset with Jesus?** (They did not know where he was.) **How did they feel when they were searching for Jesus?** (Anxious.) **What was Jesus doing when his parents found him?** (He was talking with the teachers.) **How did Jesus' parents feel when they saw him?** (Astonished.) **Was Jesus being disobedient by staying in the temple?** Allow the students time to answer and discuss the answers, particularly the

Growing in Obedience

LESSON 6

Matthew 3:13-17

▼ Obey Immediately ▲

Bible Focus

Jesus' baptism pleased God and marked the beginning of his ministry.

Life Focus

Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey God, to please him.

Growing Up in the Word: 1 John 5:1-5

Set up one or both of the following activities for students to do as they arrive. As you greet each student by name, direct them to an activity or explain the one chosen for this lesson.

Memory Activity 1

Write the memory passage in short phrases on separate index cards. Make enough so that each student will have a card containing part of the memory passage. On the opposite side of each card, write the name of an animal. The card containing the beginning phrase of the Scripture should have the name of a very small animal such as a kitten or mouse. As you progress to the end of the passage, the animals should increase in size so that the last phrase card contains the largest animal such as an elephant. Use the tape to create a straight line on the floor long enough for all the students to stand on it side-by-side.

Mix the memory passage phrases so they are not in order. Distribute the cards to the students, and ask them not to show anyone what is on the card. Ask the students to line up side-by-side on the tape line. Explain that the object of the game is to get the memory passage into correct order. Students are not allowed to say their phrase or to look at each other's cards. Instead, students are to act like and make the sound of the animal listed on the back of their card. From this students will determine their place in line. The smallest animal has the beginning of the passage and so on. Students work until the animal sounds are in order ranging from the smallest to the largest. At that point, direct students to read their cards to see if they have achieved their goal.

Say: **Our memory passage tells us that we must be obedient to show our faith in and love for God. It is easy to say I love you. It is harder to back up our words with action. In this game, you were not allowed to use words to find your place in line, and yet your actions showed others what animal you were. When we obey God, our actions show others that we love God.**

Classroom Supplies

- index cards
- marker
- masking tape

Curriculum Supplies

none

Classroom Supplies

none

Curriculum Supplies

memory passage script
printed here

Memory Activity 2

Before class, make one copy of the script below for each student. In class, have students read through this choral reading several times. Consider presenting it for a worship service.

All: Everyone

Solo boy: who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God,

All: and everyone

Solo girl: who loves the father, loves his child as well.

Duet boys: This is how we know that we love the children of God:

Duet girls: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

All: This is love for God: to obey his commands.

Solo girl: And his commands are not burdensome,

All: for everyone born of God overcomes the world.

Solo boy: This is the victory that has overcome the world,

All: even our faith.

Solo girl: Who is it that overcomes the world?

Solo boy: Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Say: **How many times does this passage use the word *everyone*?** (Three.) **Who is everyone?** (All people.) **This passage narrows everyone down from all people to everyone in a certain group of people. What group of people is that?** (Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.) **What is important about this group of people?** (They are born of God.) **What does everyone who is born of God do?** (They obey God.) **What does their obedience show?** (It shows that they love God and are born of God.) **Do people around you know that you are born of God by the way you obey God? Do they know that you believe Jesus is the Son of God?**

▼ Why Grow Up?

Say: **Think of a fast-food restaurant. What kind of service do you expect at a fast-food restaurant? What would you do if it took over an hour to get a hamburger or French fries? Would that be acceptable? We usually receive our food immediately at a fast-food restaurant. We're going to think like a fast-food restaurant to play this game. We will have to act immediately. In order to complete the task before the time expires, you will have to start as soon as I give the instruction.**

Give students a task to complete, and give them a certain amount of time to complete it. Start with simple activities and an adequate amount of time so that students are able to complete the task given to them. As the game continues, the activities will grow longer and the time shorter. Decrease the time so that students are unable to finish the given task in time. Task suggestions follow:

1. Switch chairs with the person across from you.
2. Take your Bible and find the book of Numbers.
3. Stand up, turn around three times, and sit down.
4. Look in your Bible for John 3:16.
5. Stand up. Walk around the table counterclockwise until you reach your chair.
6. Find Ephesians 4:2 and write down the last word in that sentence.
7. Take off both shoes, untie or unbuckle them completely, and then put them back on.

Classroom Supplies

- Bibles
- timer or stopwatch
- paper
- pencils

Curriculum Supplies

none

8. Walk to the four corners of the room, touch each corner three times, and return to the seat that was on your right.
9. Draw a picture of your house.
10. Recite the alphabet.

Continue as time allows, making up your own activities.

Ask: **As the activities took more time to complete, what happened to the time? Did you find it hard to finish the activities in the time allowed? What happened when you didn't start on your task immediately after it was assigned? It was likely that you ran out of time!**

How did you feel when you finished the task before the buzzer went off? (Good, happy, joyful.) How did it feel not to finish the task before the buzzer went off? (Disappointing.)

In order for you to experience the feeling of doing a good job, you had to act immediately. In order for us to experience the joy God has for us, we must obey immediately. Have students read 1 John 5:1-5. **Acting immediately was important to play this game. Obeying immediately is important for pleasing God.**

▼ How to Grow Up ▲

Have students read Matthew 3:13-17.

Ask: **Why did John the Baptist try to discourage Jesus from being baptized?** (John thought he needed to be baptized by Jesus.) **How did Jesus answer John?** (Jesus said that he needed to be baptized in order to obey God.) **How soon did Jesus want to be baptized?** (Immediately.) **So how and when did Jesus obey God in this passage?** (Jesus obeyed God by being baptized right away.)

Let's talk about John the Baptist. Did John know that Jesus is the Son of God? (Yes.) **How did John feel about baptizing Jesus?** (He didn't think he was worthy.) **What if John had refused to baptize Jesus or had asked for a couple of days to think about it?** (John would have been disobedient to God.) **So how and when was John the Baptist obedient to God in the passage?** (John obeyed God by baptizing Jesus, and he did it when Jesus told him to do it—now.)

Was God pleased with Jesus and with John? (Yes.) **How do we know that God was pleased with them?** (God said so from Heaven, and he sent a dove to rest on Jesus.) **Nothing is said about God being pleased with John, but John obeyed, and God is pleased with obedience.**

God calls us to obey him and to obey him immediately. He doesn't tell us that it's OK for us to think about obeying him. We are to do it now—immediately. Both John and Jesus showed their love for God when they obeyed him immediately. When we obey God, we please him. In fact, we show that we love God when we obey him.

Classroom Supplies

Bibles

Curriculum Supplies

none

▼ Ready to Grow Up ▲

Classroom Supplies

- Bible
- ribbon
- scissors
- colored paper
- hole punch

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible page 55
(leaf pattern)

Before class, prepare three leaves. Use different colors of paper. Write the following information:

Who? God

How? Immediately

Result? Please God.

Punch a hole at the base of the stem and thread ribbon through it. Gather students around the obedience tree. Say: **Last week we learned that obedience is willingly doing what we are told to do. Let's review the leaves that were placed on the tree last week: What?** (Doing what you are told.) **Who?** (Parents.) **How?** (Willingly.) **Results?** (It will go well with you.) **Your assignment was to obey your parents willingly. You had a Scripture verse and a prayer to help you. How did the week go? How did your prayer and Scripture help you obey at home?** Let students report.

Not only does God want us to obey willingly, he wants us to obey immediately, not to be ones who say, "Yeah, well, I might get back to you on that in a couple of days!" Obedience does not give us a choice when to obey. Obedience is immediate. When our parents ask us to do a chore, do they mean next week or next month or the second time that we are asked? No, it means now.

We've added to our definition of obedience this week. Show students the three leaves. Obedience is willingly and immediately doing what you are told. So far we have a list of two people we need to obey. Who are they? (Our parents and God.) **Let's add these new leaves to our tree.** Have students do so.

▼ Growing Up Every Day

Classroom Supplies

Bibles

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible page 57
(Pleasing God Prayer)

Ask students to find and read John 14:15. Say: **We often don't think about what our actions show about how we feel about God. This week your assignment is to willingly and immediately obey God. Our obedience pleases God.** Distribute the Pleasing God Prayer. **At home paste this prayer to one edge of your picture frame. Each night before you go to bed, pray this prayer and read the Scripture. When it is time to obey God, remember this prayer and Scripture. Let's pray the prayer together now:**

"Dear Father, I love you. I want to show my love for you by obeying you. Help me to remember this. Help me show you I love you by obeying you. In Jesus' name, amen."

Growing in Obedience

LESSON 7

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13

▼ God's Word Helps Us Obey ▲

Bible Focus

Jesus used Scripture verses to help him obey God when Satan tempted him.

Life Focus

Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you obey when tempted.

Growing Up in the Word: 1 John 5:1-5

At the beginning of class, set up the materials for one or both of the memorization activities. As the students arrive, greet them by name and direct them to an activity or briefly explain the chosen activity for that day.

Memory Activity 1

Before class, cut one piece of paper for each brick. The paper should be the size of the side of one of your bricks. The more bricks used for this activity, the more students will have to move around, and the better the point will be made. Divide the memory passage into the same number of phrases as you have bricks. Write each phrase on a separate piece of paper. Attach each one to the side of a brick. Provide gloves if bricks are rough.

In class, put the bricks in a pile. The order of the passage should be shuffled. Instruct students to stack the bricks in order with verse one at the bottom and verse five at the top. When finished, students should read the passage aloud. Next ask them to move the pile of bricks across the room and again stack the bricks in memory passage order, but this time they should make the stack look different from the first stack. When finished, students should read the passage aloud. Continue in the same manner for one more round. At the start of the fourth round, students should begin to complain about moving the bricks. This time tell them to take the papers off the bricks and to move only the papers across the room. They can then lay the papers in order on the floor and recite the passage.

Say: **Carrying bricks is a lot of work. It was fun the first time, but it got old quick! This is what disobedience is like. We think it looks fun, and it may be the first few times. Then it becomes a burden. Our memory passage tells us that God's commands are not a burden. They won't weigh us down. They aren't hard to carry. In fact, even when God's commands seem hard to obey, they don't burden us; they bless us. God blesses us when we obey his commands.**

Memory Activity 2

Before class, make a large heart from the poster board. Write the memory passage on the heart, clearly marking the verses. Place it where it can be seen easily. Use the masking tape to make seven lines an equal distance from each

Classroom Supplies

- bricks
- paper
- marker
- gloves

Curriculum Supplies

none

Classroom Supplies

- poster board
- masking tape

Curriculum Supplies

none

other on the floor. They should look similar to the five-yard lines on a football field. Label lines in the following order: "Start," "Verse 1," "Verse 2," "Verse 3," "Verse 4," "Verse 5," "Finish."

Explain that the heart represents God's love that is available to us, love that he wants to shower on us, if we obey him. Then play this version of Simon Says in which the words "To obey" are substituted for "Simon Says." The goal is for students to reach the "Finish" line. At each line, students are to stop and recite the indicated verse from 1 John 5.

Most of the commands should move the students forward; however, not all of them have to. Try using some of these commands: "To obey, hop on one foot forward"; "To obey, waltz to the next line"; "Touch your nose"; "Turn around"; "To move forward, sing loudly"; "To obey, crawl six steps." If students obey a command that hasn't been preceded with the words "to obey," they must return to the starting line. Instruct the first student to reach the finish line to grab the heart with the memory passage and take a victory lap, holding the heart high.

Say: **Were the instructions in this game hard to follow? For some of us, the only problems were with our hearing! Who won the victory in this game?** Name the student. **We all like to win. Our memory passage tells us how we can win a victory. What does it tell us in verses 4 and 5?** (Our faith is the victory.) **What is faith?** (Faith is believing that Jesus is the Son of God.) **How do we show that we believe Jesus is the Son of God?** (We obey.)

Classroom Supplies

- three eggs—two hard-boiled and one raw
- napkins
- bowl

Curriculum Supplies

none

▼ Why Grow Up? ▲

Call students' attention to the bowl of three eggs. Say: **Two of these eggs are the same; one is different.** Pass the bowl of eggs around the table, and have each student take a turn investigating the eggs in order to detect a difference. They are to look but not to touch. After everyone has had a turn, crack open the eggs to reveal the inside and how they are different.

Say: **These eggs appeared to be the same, but in fact they were not the same. Many things in life can appear innocent when they are really dangerous. When this happens, we are deceived. Satan fools us with deception.**

The difference in something that looks innocent but is dangerous can actually be enormous, and once we realize this, it may be too late. For instance, what if I had asked one of you to hit your head with an egg? What difference would it have made if you had picked the raw one instead of the hard-boiled one? It's the same with other choices, like choosing friends or going to the movies. We can choose to be friends with anyone, but we have to be careful about not choosing friends who will help get us into trouble. Going to the movies isn't necessarily bad, but we have to be sure we don't choose bad movies to watch. We have to be on our guard, not relying on our own power, but relying on God's power and his Word to catch Satan's deceptions.

Jesus was a master at catching Satan's deceptions. Jesus knew just what Satan was up to and just how to handle him. Let's find out how Jesus handled Satan.

▼ How to Grow Up ▲

Distribute the reproducible page. Direct students to read the Scripture silently and follow the instructions given on the page.

When the page is complete, say: **Satan worked hard to get Jesus to sin—to disobey God. He tried to deceive Jesus. What method did he use?** (He wanted Jesus to think that he needed to prove he was God's Son. He misused Scripture.) **These are both examples of how Satan uses deception. He makes us think that we have something to prove. He makes something seem right when it is wrong.**

It is important for us to understand how Jesus dealt with Satan. What was Jesus' answer to each of Satan's temptations? (Jesus quoted Scripture.) **How many times did Jesus have to answer Satan with Scripture?** (Three.) **We can follow Jesus' example when Satan tries to deceive us.**

▼ Ready to Grow Up ▲

Before class, prepare two leaves. Use different colors of paper. Write the following information:

How? Use Scripture

Result? Defeat Satan.

Punch a hole at the base of the stem and thread ribbon through it. Show reproducible page. Say: **We've tried to trick you into thinking these two pictures are the same. Are they? Look closer.** Distribute pages and give students time to find the differences. When students are finished, say: **This was a fun activity, but Satan's tricks of deception are serious.**

Satan uses temptation deceptively in our lives to trick us into doing wrong or making bad choices. We know that Satan tried to trick Jesus by quoting Scripture and by trying to make Jesus think he had to prove he was God's Son. We know that Satan will try to trick us into disobeying God by making something wrong look right or innocent. We have to realize that sin or temptation will not always appear in the way we expect it.

When Jesus was tempted, he trusted in God, relied on the Scripture, and was obedient to his father. We must rely on God and use his Word to help us obey. With God's help, we can become a master at catching on to Satan's deceptions.

Gather students around the obedience tree. Say: So far this month, we have learned that obedience is willingly and immediately doing what we are told to do. Let's review. Review the leaves on the tree: **What?** (Doing what you are told.) **Who?** (Parents and God.) **How?** (Willingly and immediately.) **Results?** (It will go well with you and you'll please God.) **Last week your assignment was to please God with your obedience. You had a Scripture and a prayer to help you. How did the week go? How did your prayer and Scripture help you obey?** Let students report.

Say: **Today, we will add two more leaves to our tree.** Select students to read the leaves and add them to the tree. **Jesus used Scripture to help him obey God. In doing so, his obedience defeated Satan.**

Classroom Supplies

Bibles

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible page 58
(The Temptation of Jesus)

Classroom Supplies

- colored paper
- scissors
- ribbon
- hole punch
- marker
- pencils

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible pages 55
and 59 (leaf pattern
and What's the Difference?)

▼ Growing Up Every Day ▲

Classroom Supplies

Bibles

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible page 57
(Temptation Prayer)

Before class, copy and cut out one Temptation Prayer for each student.

Ask students to find and read 1 Peter 5:8, 9. Say: **Satan is like a lion, and he wants to deceive you into doing wrong. Your assignment this week is to use Scripture and prayer to obey when you are tempted.** Distribute the Temptation Prayer. **At home paste this prayer to one edge of your picture frame. Each night before you go to bed, pray this prayer and read the Scripture. Then when you face temptation, remember this prayer and Scripture. Let's pray together now:**

"Dear Father, Help me stand strong against my enemy Satan. Help me be alert to the tricks he will use to get me to do wrong. Help me remember these words. In Jesus' name, amen."

Growing in Obedience

LESSON 8

Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42

▼ Prayer Helps Us Obey ▲

Bible Focus

Jesus prayed to do God's will.

Life Focus

Use Scripture verses and prayer to help you when it is difficult to obey.

Growing Up in the Word: 1 John 5:1-5

Set up the materials for one or both of the memorization activities. As the students arrive, greet them by name and direct them to an activity center or briefly explain the activity chosen for this lesson.

Memory Activity 1

Have the students sit in a circle. Give a student the heart and ask him to read the first verse, then pass the heart to the next student, who in turn reads the next verse, and so on. Once the heart has made it around to all students, begin again. This time, turn the heart so the words are facing the group and away from the person holding the heart. The first student recites the first verse from memory and passes the heart to his neighbor for him to recite the next verse. The group can provide clues or hints to the person reciting. Continue this until the heart has made it all the way around a couple of times.

Say: **What does it mean to overcome the world? The apostle John uses the word *world* in this passage to refer to sin and evil. So to overcome the world means to overcome evil, sin, and temptation. What does obedience have to do with overcoming temptation? When we obey, we overcome or defeat evil. We obey because we love God and believe that Jesus is God's Son. Overcoming evil is choosing obedience over disobedience.**

Memory Activity 2

Before class, write key words from the memory passages on small pieces of paper that will fit on a student's forehead. Prepare one for each student.

In class, use tape to attach one slip of paper to the forehead of each student. This will enable them to easily see other people's papers but not their own. Gather together in a circle or around the table. Each student is allowed to ask yes or no questions to try and guess what word is written on their forehead. For a small class, choose one student to begin asking the group questions. Allow several questions and then have another student take a turn. For a large class, have students find a partner. Each partner asks one question of the other and then the entire class switches partners. Continue the game until everyone has discovered his word.

Classroom Supplies

memory passage heart
from Lesson 3

Curriculum Supplies

none

Classroom Supplies

- paper
- pens
- tape
- basket

Curriculum Supplies

none

Say: **Was it easy to guess the words? Did anyone guess the correct answer on the first try? Most of us had to keep asking and guessing. It took time, patience, and perseverance. Commitment also takes time, patience, and perseverance. It requires dedication, and we can apply this to our study on obedience. Obedience isn't a one-time thing; it requires a commitment to obey again and again.**

▼ Why Grow Up ▲

Classroom Supplies

- a guest speaker who has mastered a skill (if someone is not available, bring a musical instrument)
- index cards
- pens or pencils

Curriculum Supplies

none

Invite a talented musician, artist, or one who fluently speaks a foreign language to come and share what was involved in mastering his talent. Once the guest has shared with the class, encourage the students to ask questions concerning how this person discovered their gift, how long they have had it, how long they have been dedicated to it, how often they practice, and so on.

If you cannot find someone to visit your class, or if time does not allow this, bring a musical instrument to class. Pass the instrument around the room and invite the students to try to play it. Some may have the ability and others won't.

After the guest has shared their talent or after the class has tried to play the instrument, ask: **How does a person achieve a goal or develop a talent? What does it require?** (Dedication and commitment.) **Most people can't expect to sit down at a piano the first time and play beautifully; it requires practice, dedication to lessons, and a commitment to learn. Commitment applies to many areas of life, but none are as important as our commitment to God.**

▼ How to Grow Up ▲

Classroom Supplies

- costumes (sheets, pieces of material, robes)
- pieces of poster board cut in half to write the script on
- video camera and TV/VCR (optional)

Curriculum Supplies

none

Have students find and silently read Matthew 26:36-46. When finished, assign the following roles to students: Jesus, Peter, James and John (the two sons of Zebedee), and disciples. All students other than Jesus, Peter, James, and John can be disciples. Distribute the costume materials to the students and help them assemble a Bible-times outfit. Lead students to pantomime the scene from the Garden of Gethsemane. If weather permits, move outside to create a more realistic feel. As you read the passage aloud, students will perform the actions and mouth the words.

Before you begin, determine where the disciples will wait while Jesus prays. Determine the places where Jesus will pray. Instruct students to show the way they think Jesus and the disciples felt that night.

Say: **The disciples were sleepy. How does someone who is sleepy act? Show me. Jesus was sorrowful. How does someone who is sorrowful look? Show me.** Discuss how the disciples probably looked and acted. Discuss Jesus' attitude toward the disciples. Determine his body language during that time and when he was praying to God.

When all the instructions have been given, practice the pantomime, and when students are somewhat comfortable with their roles, perform it. If possible, videotape the performance and watch it together in the classroom.

Ask: **How many times did Jesus pray and then return to his disciples?** (Three.) **Why was Jesus sorrowful?** (The time had come for him to be crucified.) **Why did Jesus continue to pray? This was a hard time for Jesus. Jesus had a burden to carry for us; he knew that suffering was in store**

for him the next few days. He continued to pray to seek comfort and to speak with his father. He had made a commitment to obey, and he followed through.

What is the main idea of this passage of Scripture? (Prayer.) What caused Jesus to pray? (The difficult time ahead of him.) Jesus shows us here how important it is for us to pray when we need help obeying God.

▼ Ready to Grow Up ▲

Before class, prepare two leaves. Use different colors of paper. Write the following information:

How? Pray

Result? Able to do what is difficult.

Punch a hole at the base of the stem and thread ribbon through it. Make one copy of the Difficult Time Prayer for each student.

Gather students around the obedience tree. Say: **We've been working hard this month to grow in obedience. We've learned that obedience is willingly and immediately doing what we are told to do. Let's review what we've learned.** Review the leaves that are on the tree: **What?** (Doing what you are told.) **Who?** (Parents and God.) **How?** (Willingly; immediately; using Scripture.) **Results?** (It will go well with you; you will please God; you will resist Satan.)

Last week your assignment was to use Scripture and prayer to resist temptation. How did the week go? How did your prayer and Scripture help you obey? Let students report.

Say: **In today's Scripture, we saw that Jesus had a difficult time ahead of him. We may never face anything as difficult as dying on a cross, but we will have difficult times. Let's name some difficult times that we might have or that we have had.** Discuss. These could include a loved one's death, divorce of parents, sickness, missing family member, addiction problems, and so on. **Why might it be difficult to obey during these times?** (We feel sad; we don't want to; we are angry.)

Difficult times are important times to pray. When we have a difficult thing to do or a difficult situation to face, we must still do what God has asked us to do, and we must do it with prayer.

Let's add the last two leaves to our tree. Select students to read the leaves and add them to the tree. **Prayer helps us to obey God. Jesus showed us how important prayer is. He prayed until he knew he was ready to do the difficult thing that he needed to do.**

Ask students to find and read Philippians 4:6. Say: **We often feel anxious when we are having a difficult time. This week your assignment is to use Scripture and prayer to help you obey during a time that is difficult or a task that is difficult.** Distribute Difficult Time Prayer. **At home, paste this prayer to the last edge of your picture frame. Each night before you go to bed, pray this prayer and read this Scripture. When you have a difficult time, remember this prayer and Scripture. Let's pray together now:**

"Dear Father, I feel anxious. Your Word tells me to pray when I feel anxious. I ask for your help through this difficult time. Thank you for your help. In Jesus' name, amen."

Classroom Supplies

- ribbon
- scissors
- marker
- colored paper

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible pages 55 and 57 (leaf pattern and Difficult Time Prayer)

▼ Growing Up Every Day ▲

Classroom Supplies

none

Curriculum Supplies

reproducible page 57
(four prayers)

Before class, make one copy of the four prayers for each student. Say: **At the beginning of class, we talked to a person who is accomplished in** (name area of accomplishment). **We talked about what it takes to be exceptional at something. It takes hard work and commitment. Both hard work and commitment are needed in our relationship with God. We must work hard to obey, we must be committed to know Scripture, and and we must pray in every situation. These actions are necessary ingredients for obedience.**

We've used four Scriptures and four prayers this month. We're going to read each Scripture and pray each prayer as we close out our unit on obedience.

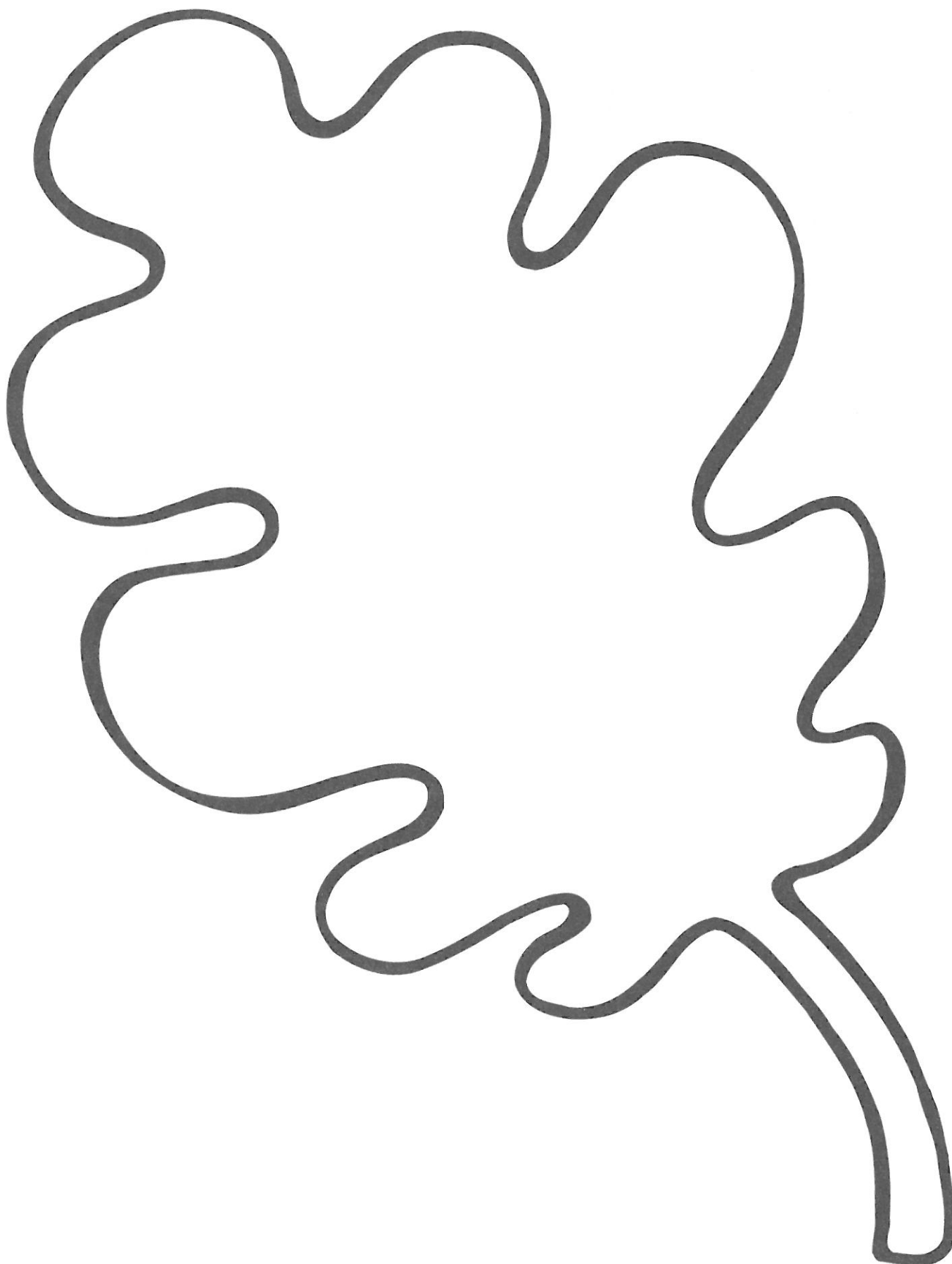
Ask a student to find and read Ephesians 6:1-3, then lead the class in the Parents' Prayer.

Ask a student to find and read John 14:15, then lead the class in the Pleasing God Prayer.

Ask a student to find and read 1 Peter 5:8, then lead the class in the Temptation Prayer.

Ask a student to find and read Philippians 4:6, then lead the class in the Difficult Time Prayer.

Ask the class to find and read 1 John 5:1-5 together.



BIBLE CODE BREAKER

Code: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

_____ who _____
 5.22.5.18.25.15.14.5 2.5.12.9.5.22.5.19

 20.8.1.20 10.5.19.21.19 9.19 20.8.5

 3.8.18.9.19.20 9.19 2.15.18.14 15.6 7.15.4

_____ 1.14.4 5.22.5.18.25.15.14.5 23.8.15 12.15.22.5.19

 20.8.5 6.1.20.8.5.18 12.15.22.5.19 8.9.19

 3.8.9.12.4 1.19 23.5.12.12

 A 10.15.8.14 E A

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 23.5 12.15.22.5 20.8.5 3.8.9.12.4.18.5.14

 15.6 7.15.4

_____ 2.25 12.15.22.9.14.7 7.15.4 1.14.4

 3.1.18.18.25.9.14.7 15.21.20 8.9.19

 3.15.13.13.1.14.4.19 A 10.15.8.14 E B

_____ is _____
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 20.15 15.2.5.25 8.9.19 3.15.13.13.1.14.4.19

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 14.15.20 2.21.18.4.5.14.19.15.13.5

 A 10.15.8.14 E C

_____ 6.15.18 5.22.5.18.25.15.14.5 2.15.18.14 15.6

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 23.15.18.12.4

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_____ 23.8.15 9.19 9.20 20.8.1.20

 15.22.5.18.3.15.13.5 20.8.5 23.15.18.12.4 ?

_____ he who _____
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 _____ is the _____
 10.5.19.21.19 19.15.14 15.6 7.15.4

 A 10.15.8.14 E E

Parent's Prayer

Read
Ephesians 6:1-3

Dear Father, I love my parents. Help me to show my love for them by obeying them willingly. Thank you for your promise that "it will go well with me" when I obey my parents. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lesson 4

Lesson 2

Lesson 3

**Pleasing God
Prayer**

Read
John 14:15

Dear Father, I love you. I want to show my love for you by obeying you. Help me to remember this. Help me show you I love you by obeying you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Temptation
Prayer**

Read
1 Peter 5:8

Dear Father, Help me stand strong against my enemy Satan. Help me be alert to the tricks he will use to get me to do wrong. Help me remember these words. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Difficult Time
Prayer**

Read
Philippians 4:6

Dear Father, I feel anxious. Your Word tells me to pray when I feel anxious. I ask for your help through this difficult time. Thank you for your help. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Photo Frame

Instructions

- Cut out the picture frame along the outside lines.
- Cut out the dotted square photo area.
- Center your photo behind the frame in the photo area.
- Secure with tape.
- Glue the picture frame to a piece of sturdy paper the same size.
- Each week add a Scripture reference and a prayer to one side of the frame.

The Temptation of Jesus

- Draw a book shape over each time Jesus or Satan quotes Scripture. Hint: Look for the words "it is written."
- Write a big number 40 over the number of days and nights Jesus went without food.
- Make a check mark over the times that Satan asked Jesus to prove that he is God's Son.
- Draw an arrow over the words Jesus used to send Satan away.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. If you are the Son of God," he said,

"throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



