

THEME FOR UNIT 11: We Love God
UNIT BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 22:37

6

NOAH OBEYS GOD

BIBLE BASIS

God commands Noah to make and enter the ark (Genesis 6:14-22; 7:11-17, 24).

BIBLE TRUTH

We can obey God.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart.” Matthew 22:37

LESSON AIM

That your students will want to do what God says in the Bible.

1

LIFE NEED (3-5 MINUTES)

- Play a game to identify rules to obey

Materials: “Wooly Lamb” Teaching Aid 3

2

BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Teach with pictures the story of Noah obeying God
- Review with an activity and questions



Materials: Bible, “Ark: Noah Obey God” and “Noah Obey God” Teaching Aids 8 and 9

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Review the Bible memory verse with a rhyme
- Color and place stickers on an ark

Materials: *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 6, sticker, crayons

4

LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about children learning about obeying God
- Color reminders to help children remember to obey God



Materials: *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 6, *Preschool Make-It/Take-It* page 3



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



Understanding the Bible

After Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden, people became more wicked. There was violence, a decline in morality, and decaying family life. God decided to destroy His creation with a flood and start all over again. We do not know with certainty the exact date of the Flood.

The main characters of Genesis are: (1) Adam and Eve (Gen. 1–3); (2) Noah (Gen. 6–9); (3) Abraham (Gen. 12–25); (4) Isaac (Gen. 26); (5) Jacob (Gen. 25–37); and (6) Joseph (Gen. 39–50). Each of the last three people mentioned is the son of the previous person.

Noah was a descendant of Seth and an ancestor of Abraham. Because Noah pleased God, he and his family were not to be destroyed in the Flood. He was probably 480 years old when God gave him the command to build a great ship on dry land with room for his family and a large assortment of animals.

Noah is a prime example of obedience to God, since he spent his life following a plan from God that he may not even have understood.

The ark Noah prepared for the Flood according to God's directions can be compared to the size of a football field, the ark being longer. The King James Version refers to the ark's dimensions in cubits (a cubit is about 18" long, Gen. 6:14-16) and states that it was made of gopher wood. This is the only place gopher wood is mentioned in the Bible. The *Victor Handbook of Bible Knowledge* states, "Some suggest that 'gopher' referred to wood covered with pitch, the substance to seal the cracks in the ark." Other scholars believe that gopher wood may be the same as cypress wood.

The ark had three decks. Probably large animals were on the lower deck, smaller animals on the middle deck, and family living quarters on the top deck.

A window under the roof provided light and ventilation.

Ordinarily, Noah was to take two genders of each type of animal into the ark (6:19-20) for later reproduction. The exception to this rule was with regard to clean animals (7:2-3). For the purpose of later animal sacrifices (8:20) seven of each clean animal were to be taken into the ark.

The Bible says the door in the side of the ark was closed by God (Gen. 7:16). Then the rains began until "the waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits" (Gen. 7:20).

The "mountains of Ararat" (Gen. 8:4), where the ark came to settle on land, are considered to be in the area of the land of Turkey today.

Understanding Your Students

Wouldn't it be fun if children were as obedient as Noah? Noah was a grown man who loved God and had learned to obey. Children are learning to obey, just as Noah must have gradually learned as he grew to adulthood.

Every day preschoolers have new experiences and learn about limits and self-control. They become frustrated easily and may react with tantrums since they have not learned how to cope with disappointments. Your example of love and cooperation will help your children see some of the ways we can work out our problems and be obedient in a group.

CLASSROOM TIPS

These are positive ways to encourage obedience in your classroom.

- Have realistic expectations. Since you know that young children can't sit still for long periods of time, you need to gear activities to their level and interests. Then you will have fewer discipline problems.
- If a rule is broken, explain in simple terms what rule the child has broken. Take the child aside to prevent embarrassment, and get down at his level as you talk to him. Then discipline with love and forgiveness. Tell the child that you forgive him and so does God.
- Try to understand why a child is breaking the rules, and deal with the situation accordingly. If a child is tired, help her find a quiet activity. If a child seems lonely, try to do something together such as looking at a book.

WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Play a familiar song from the DiskIt CD.
- Have a child helper collect offerings. Then thank God for the money the children lovingly bring each week.
- Explain that folding our hands and closing our eyes helps us remember that we're talking to God when we pray. **Dear God, thank You for the Bible, which tells us how You want us to live. We love You and want to obey You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



BEFORE CLASS

Give each child a personal greeting. **Today we will learn that we show love to God when we obey.**

Have children mark their attendance by coloring a square, drawing a happy face, or adding a small sticker. Remind the children to give any offerings, then lead them to the first activity of the day.

GETTING STARTED

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of Noah obeying God.



Exploration: Make a boat shape with masking tape on the floor. Have the children build with blocks on the shape. This building experience will help the children understand what God asked Noah to build in the Bible story. **In our Bible story today, God asked Noah to build a boat. It was called an ark.**



Table Play: Noah obeyed God's command to fill the ark. To help the children picture the different animals from the story, set out different sizes and types of animals. Encourage the children to sort the animals in different ways such as size, color, type of animals, and so forth. **God asked Noah to fill the ark with animals. Moving and Doing:** Invite children to play "Duck, Duck, Goose." Encourage them to use different animal names in place of "duck." The different animal names will help the children become involved with the Bible story of Noah building the ark. **Noah built an ark and put lots of animals on the ark.**

1

Life Need

5 minutes

Objective: That your students will play a game to identify rules to obey.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story of how Noah obeyed God. Gather your children in a group. Show them the "Wooly Lamb" Teaching Aid and have him appear to be shivering.

Hello, Wooly. You look cold and wet. What happened to you? (*Wooly whispers to you.*) **Wooly says that his mother told him to stay inside the sheep pen. She said the clouds were dark and it was going to rain hard. But he went outside anyway. And he got ver-r-r-y cold and wet in the rain.**

(*Wooly whispers to you.*) **Wooly wishes he had listened to his mother.** (*Wooly nods and shivers again. Wooly whispers to you.*) **Wooly says that children should do what their parents ask.**

Let's play a game with Wooly about obeying. When we do what our parents and teachers ask us to do, it is called obeying. I'm going to name some rules that you hear every day at home and church. If I name a good rule that you should obey, stand up. If I name something that you shouldn't do, stay in your chair. The children will follow your example as you stand or remain sitting. Include some of your classroom rules in the game. You could include picking up toys, throwing things on the floor, sharing toys with classmates, etc. (*Have Wooly rise or sit as you play the game.*)

Children, let's tell Wooly goodbye so he can get warm and dry. I hope you feel better, Wooly. Wave goodbye to Wooly and let the children wave to him. (*Put Wooly out of sight.*)

Let's talk about obeying. Who do you obey? (Encourage the children to give answers unique to their own situations. They will probably talk about their parents, teachers, babysitters, neighbors, or other adults. Some children may also include older brothers or sisters.)

What do you do when you obey someone? (Most children will give responses such as "I listen" or "I do what I'm supposed to." As the children talk, listen for a good understanding of the word obey. Knowing what it means to obey is essential to the children understanding the lesson.)

We obey someone because we love them. Today we're going to learn that we can obey God. Our Bible story tells us about a man named Noah who loved God. As you hear the story, listen to find out how Noah obeyed God.



Wooly Lamb
Teaching Aid 3

2

Bible Learning

10 minutes

Objective: That your students will learn that Noah obeyed God.

Punch out the figures from “Ark: Noah Obeys God” and “Noah Obeys God” Teaching Aids 8 and 9 and have them ready to use as indicated in the story. Have your Bible open to Genesis 6.

Bible Story

Today’s story comes from the Bible. It comes from the book of the Bible called **Genesis**. (Show the children where Genesis 6 is in your Bible.)

Near the beginning of Bible times lived a man named **Noah**. (Show Noah, Figure 1.) **Noah loved God. One day God told Noah that He would send lots and lots of rain. It was going to rain so much that the whole earth would be covered with water.**

God had a special job for Noah. He told Noah to build an ark. An ark is a big, big boat. God said to make the ark very wide. (Stretch arms wide.) He said make it very tall.

(Stretch arms tall.) He said put on a roof, big door, and a window.

Noah obeyed God. He got the wood and started to build. Noah cut the wood to the right length with a saw. (Move arm back and forth as if sawing.) He hammered all the pieces together. (Pound fists together.) Then Noah filled all the cracks in the wood so water could not get inside.

(Show the ark, Figure 2.) Noah had done all that God told him to do. The ark was very wide. (Stretch arms wide.) It was very tall. (Stretch arms high.) It had a roof, a big door, and a window.

Then God told Noah that two of every kind of animal would come to him to get on the

ark. Tromp, tromp. (Stomp feet.) There were big animals like giraffes. There were little animals like turtles. (“Walk” the animals, Figure 3, toward the ark. Set the animals behind the ark.) Noah obeyed God. The animals went on the ark. Noah put food on the ark.

After the animals were on, Noah and his family got on the ark. (“Walk” the people, Figure 4, behind Figure 2, the ark.) Noah obeyed God in everything God told him. Then God shut the big door.

Pitter, pat. Pitter, pat. It began to rain. (Wiggle fingers downward.) Then it began to pour! It rained and rained until the whole earth was covered with water.

But God kept Noah, his family, and the animals safe in the ark. Noah obeyed God. We can obey God too.

Bible Story Review

Have children actively review the story with a poem. If you did not use a taped boat shape earlier, you may want to quickly tape a square on the floor. The children will pretend to “build” an ark with blocks on the tape while they echo the following poem.

- **Mr. Noah** (Mr. Noah)
- **Obeys God.** (Obeys God.)
- **He built an ark,** (He built an ark,)
- **Nice and strong.** (Nice and strong.)
- **He made it wide, he made it tall,** (He made it wide, he made it tall,)
- **With a roof, a window,** (With a roof, a window,)
- **And a great big door.** (And a great big door.)
- **Just as God told him to!** (Just as God told him to!)

Review with these questions.

1. What did God tell Noah to do? (Build an ark, put in two of every kind of animal, and get in the ark with his family.)

2. How did Noah obey God? (He did all that God told him to do.)



“Noah Obeys God” and “Ark: Noah Obeys God” Teaching Aids 8 and 9

Bible Application

10 minutes

Objective: Students will learn that they can obey God.

Bible Memory Verse

We can show love to God when we obey Him. Our Bible verse says to “love the Lord your God with all your heart.” Let’s listen for our Bible verse in our action rhyme.

**Love the Lord your God
with all your heart.**

(Clap, clap.)

Listen and obey.

(Cup hands around ears.)

Thank Him every day.

(Fold hands in prayer.)

**Love the Lord your God
with all your heart.**

(Clap, clap.)

Did you hear our Bible verse in the poem?

Repeat it together: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart” Matthew 22:37.**

Let’s pretend you are the animals coming to the ark. Divide the children into groups of two. If you have an odd number of children, have a group of three. Name each pair as a type of animal.

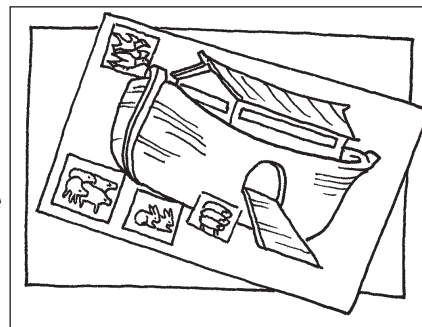
Stand at one end of the room with the children at the opposite end. **Let’s pretend that this is the ark. When I call your animal name, walk to the ark saying our Bible verse, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart” Matthew 22:37.**

Call the animals a pair at a time until all the children have had a turn. Be prepared to help the different groups say the Bible verse.

Handcraft

Today we’re going to color a picture of an ark that you can take home. We’ll add some stickers of animals. When you look at it, it will help you think of Noah and how he obeyed God.

In advance, remove Lesson 6 from each Make-It/Take-It and the four stickers for Lesson 6 from the center section of each booklet. Let the children color their pictures.



Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 6

Then help them attach the bunny, sheep, and bird stickers to the left of the ramp. The bird sticker can be placed in the sky.

Who built the ark? (Noah.) What happened after Noah took his family and the animals into the ark? (It rained for a long time.) God kept Noah safe.

Noah obeyed God when he built the ark. You can obey God too. Obeying God shows that we love Him.



Life Response

10 minutes

Objective: That your students will color reminders to help them remember to obey God.

Read aloud to your students "Time to Obey" from *My Sunday Pictures* Lesson 6, back.

Present-Day Story

Aunt Mary and Uncle Walter were teaching their Sunday school class outside. It was always special for the children to sit outside.

"Let's play a game about obeying," said Aunt Mary. She explained what it means to obey. It is when we do what our parents or teachers ask us to do.

"I'm going to name some rules that you hear every day at home and church," Uncle Walter said. "If I name a rule that you should obey, stand up. If I name something that you shouldn't do, stay sitting."

The children had fun playing the game.

Uncle Walter began to tell a Bible story about a man named Noah.

"I know who Noah was," Anthony said. "He was a man who loved and obeyed God. He built a big boat called an ark to put animals in."

"That's right, Anthony," Aunt Mary said. "Noah did that because God told him to. Noah obeyed and God kept him and his family safe."

"When we obey God, we show we love Him," Uncle Walter said. "Let's work on obeying God this week."

Closing Activities

Show children the Bible picture story on *My Sunday Pictures*. Today's Bible story told us about Noah.

Noah loved God very much. He obeyed God by doing what God had told him to do. Noah, his family, and all the animals were kept safe in the ark.

Noah obeyed God.



My Sunday Pictures
Lesson 6 (back)



My Sunday Pictures
Lesson 6 (front)

We can obey God too. How can you obey God? (Talk to God; listen to Bible stories; show love to others; listen to our parents.)

Remove the elephant patterns from page 3 of the Make-It/Take-It books. Give each child an elephant pattern. **Elephants are supposed to be good at remembering. These elephants remind us we can obey God. We can each put the elephants in places to help us remember that we can obey God. Where could you put your elephants at home to help remember that we can obey God?** (Children may talk about places at home such as a bedroom, the refrigerator door, or the car.)



Make-It/Take-It
Page 3

Gather the children in a circle away from the table. Each child should hold his or her elephant pattern on his or her lap. Give each child the opportunity to share where the pattern will be put as a reminder that we can obey God. You may go first to model what to do. **I am going to put my elephants _____ to help me remember that we can obey God.**

We can obey God just as Noah did. Pray with your little ones. **Dear God, Noah obeyed You. Help us to remember that we can obey You too. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hand out the "Noah's Ark" Make-It/Take-It project and *My Sunday Pictures* for Lesson 6.

Say a personal goodbye to each child. **Show your love to God this week by obeying Him.**