

Les Disobeyles

Bible Story: Les Disobeyles (The Fall) • *Genesis 3:1-24 (Supporting: Genesis 1, 2, and 4)*

Bottom Line: I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.

Memory Verse: “Obey your leaders. Put yourselves under their authority. They keep watch over you. They know they are accountable to God for everything they do. Obey them so that their work will be a joy. If you make their work a heavy load, it won’t do you any good.” *Hebrews 13:17*

Life App: Obedience—trusting those who lead you by doing what you are asked to do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **OBEDIENCE** and
God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

From the very beginning, God set up leaders on earth. We see in Genesis 1 that God instructed Adam to rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, and the livestock that moves on the ground. Much later in the Old Testament, God called out prophets, judges, kings, and priests to lead His people. All of these leaders, although different in many ways, had one main thing in common. Their job was to follow God. An interesting pattern is revealed through their lives—when they trusted and obeyed God, the people under their leadership prospered.

Obedience is trusting those who lead you by doing what you’re asked to do. God asks us to trust Him by giving us specific things to do to accomplish His work around us. He may even ask us to do something that seems too hard or too uncomfortable. But we can choose to trust that He’ll work out the details and take care of our needs. Then it’s easier for us to choose to obey and act on what we know, because we trust our ultimate leader.

Often it’s hardest to obey when God asks us to trust another person that He has chosen to lead us. Sometimes we may wonder if they know what they’re doing or if we can trust what they say. We may even think that we have a better plan. That’s when we need to remember that our leaders are accountable to God (not us) for the decisions they make. Our job is to obey our leaders and, as long as their instructions line up with God’s commands, do what they ask of us.

This month, let’s think about how:

- (1) God desires a relationship with us. Being obedient to Him demonstrates trust and builds that relationship.
- (2) The Bible challenges us to respond to God in obedience even when life doesn’t make sense.
- (3) As we trust God and obey, we become more like Jesus.

This week, we’re discovering:

In this week’s Bible story, God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden with just one command (**Genesis 1, 2, 4**). When they began to doubt God, they made their own plan and disobeyed Him. Their one act of disobedience continues to have profound affects for every person on earth.

Our Bottom Line is: **I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.** Sometimes we think we can make a plan that’s smarter, easier, or quicker than our leader’s plan, but our leader sees the bigger picture and understands the greater consequences. We might respectfully ask questions, but we can trust their plan.

The monthly memory verse is: **“Obey your leaders. Put yourselves under their authority. They keep watch over you. They know they are accountable to God for everything they do. Obey them so that their work will be a joy. If you make their work a heavy load, it won’t do you any good.” *Hebrews 13:17***

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

MC: “There were a lot of things that changed because of Adam and Eve’s choice to disobey God. They had to leave the Magnificent Paradise because they could no longer be around a perfect God. They began to argue with each other. Even the job of taking care of all the plants and animals became exhausting.

“When Adam and Eve broke God’s rule, the world became broken. That’s right. They now lived in a broken world, as we see in the One Big Story. (*Point to spot on timeline.*) They thought their way was better, so they disobeyed God. And it didn’t stop with them. Their children and their children’s children disobeyed God and because of their sins, no one was able to have a perfect relationship with God. But God had a plan to make things right between them again.

“Let’s be honest. There are a lot of times we think our way is better. Maybe our parents have asked us not to play ball near a busy intersection, even though it seems like the perfect place to kick the ball around. Or maybe the water looks really nice but there is a sign that says, ‘No Swimming: Dangerous.’ We may THINK we know better, but the consequences could be really dangerous. So if there’s one thing I can learn from Adam and Eve’s mistake, it’s that **[Impress] I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.** Can you say that with me?

MC AND KIDS: “I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.”

MC: “Great job! We can be sure that God’s way is always better than our way. After all, He made us! Let’s pray and ask God to help us obey Him.”

“Wow. I know this for sure—after today I’m really going to remember: **I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.** This whole month we are talking about obedience.

Connecting (25-30 minutes)

Make the connection of how today’s Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Body Spell (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Help kids look up the memory verse using the navigation tips below.

Finding verses: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Hebrews in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Hebrews, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Hebrews. Help the kids find the page. When they find Hebrews closer to the end of the Bible, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 13. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 17 in chapter 13.

Then instruct kids to stand while they do the following motions to help remember the verse. Tell them to try to figure out the secret word.

1. Put your arms out in a circle in front of you. (*This represents the letter “o.”*)

2. Put your arms straight against the sides of your body. Then keep your right leg straight, but touch the toe of your left foot to your right ankle making a half circle with your left leg. (*This represents the letter “b.”*)
3. Crouch down and tuck your head down. (*This represents the letter “e.”*)
4. Lift both arms up in the air at a 45-degree angle. (*This represents the letter “y.”*)

Ask if anyone figured out the secret word. If they are still stuck, ask for four volunteers and have one kid do each of the motions in order, standing side by side. Give other clues below, as needed.

- o – “OH! Look at you!”
- b – “Looks like a bat ball.”
- e – “You look all curled up and round.”
- y – “WHY, you look great!”

What You Say:

“So, what is this verse teaching us to do? (*Obey.*) Let’s practice that word a few more times. Can you do the motions fast? (*Pause so kids can do the motions.*) Can you do it slowly? (*Pause.*) **[Apply] This verse is all about who to obey and why we should obey them. While people in authority watch over us, we can make their job easy or hard, just like some of those motions were easy and some were harder. I want to make the job of watching over me a joy. That’s a good reason that [Impress] I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.**”

2. What’s My Rule? (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Quietly give each person a secret “rule” they must obey in the form of a gesture. Here are some suggestions: scratch head, wink, yawn, bite lip, clear throat, roll eyes, cross arms, tap foot, say “um,” stare at the floor, or rub hands together.

Stand in a circle. Invite kids to share several sentences telling what they remember from the lesson. As they speak, they must casually include their secret gesture at least twice. When finished, let kids guess one another’s “rules.” If a kid’s rule isn’t figured out or not guessed correctly by the others, have the kid perform his gesture as he tells what he thinks the Garden of Eden may have looked like.

What You Say:

“Aren’t you glad you don’t have to guess at what God wants you to do? He doesn’t have secret rules you have to try and figure out. That’s not how God works. He made His ways really clear to Adam and Eve. He makes His ways clear to you as well. Know how? It’s all in the Bible. Everything you need to know and do in order to obey God is all wrapped up in His Word. **[Apply] That’s why it’s so important to read the Bible and discover what God has to say. It’s like a super instruction manual for your life!** And the One who wrote it made you and loves you. Adam and Eve thought their way was better, so they threw out God’s instructions. That’s when things got messy. The consequences of their disobedience were devastating. God’s way is ALWAYS better—be sure to listen to Him. Learn from Adam and Eve: **[Impress] I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.**”

Optional Discussion Questions

If you lead, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Why is obedience often so hard and disobedience so easy?
- What are some reasons kids disobey their parents, teachers, or other leaders?
- When you go your own way, do you always get what you're hoping for? How does it make you feel?
- When you think your way is better, what are some positive ways you can go about talking things through with parents or leaders?
- Is there any time that you think of that you should not trust or obey someone, even if they are the adult or authority?

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No Supplies needed

What You Do:

Pair up kids of similar size and height. Play a game of invisible Tug-of-War. Ask partners to pretend they're holding onto the ends of a rope and each pulling on it as hard as they can.

After a few minutes, bring everyone together. Ask the kids to picture a game of Tug-of-War in which they are on one end of the rope and God is on the other. Talk about areas of life where we play Tug-of-War with God by resisting His way and trying to go our own. Mention areas of struggle such as being honest, obeying parents/teachers, treating others nicely, and so on.

Give kids a few minutes to think of an area of obedience that is particularly hard for them right now. Ask them to share with a neighbor what they will do this week to make progress in their obedience to God. When finished, repeat today's Bottom Line together. **I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.** Then close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, please help us to follow through on what we've written inside these envelopes. We don't want to play Tug-of-War with You. Help us to not fight against You and go our way instead of Your way. We love You and want to obey You. We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.

[Apply] "Obedience isn't always easy, so that's why we ask God for help! When we pray honestly, God hears. It shows Him that we're trying to obey Him. Whether it's doing something your parents or a teacher tells you, or something God says in His Word, obeying God and those who lead you will likely save you from a whole lot of trouble."

Give each child a GodTime card and sucker as adults arrive to pick up.