

Are We There Yet?

Bible Story: Are We There Yet? (Abraham's Calling) • *Genesis 12:1-5 (Supporting: Genesis 13:2-18, 15:1-6)*

Bottom Line: I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out.

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 gave Abraham a promise of descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky (**Genesis 12:1-5; 13:2-18; 15:1-6**). God asked Abraham to leave his home and travel to a new place that God had prepared for him. Abraham didn't know where or how God would keep His promises, but he trusted God. Abraham obeyed by packing his household and following God.

Our Bottom Line is: **I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out.** Sometimes we find ourselves in difficult circumstances where we don't know what's going to happen. But we always know we can trust God, so we can confidently obey.

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 NIV*

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

MC: “Abraham’s story is pretty amazing, right? Can you imagine leaving everything without knowing where you were going? I don’t know about you, but I like to know how things are going to work out before I decide if I want to do something or not. But Abraham didn’t have that choice. Still, he kept doing what God asked him to do. Sometimes God asks me to do things without knowing exactly what is going to happen.

“But, like Abraham, I know **I should trust and obey even if I don’t know how it will all work out.** That takes a lot of courage! Let’s pray and ask God to help us obey Him even if we don’t know how it will all work out.”

HOST and KIDS: *[Impress]* **I should trust and obey even if I don’t know how it will all work out.”**

HOST: “Man, that’s easy to say but hard to do. I can’t even imagine what must have been going through Abraham’s mind when God asked him to leave everything behind. That must have been really scary.

“You know, there are going to be times when you’ll be asked to do something that scares you, too. Maybe your teacher asks you to show the new student around school or your coach wants you to play a new position. Sometimes we get scared when we’re not in control. But God is always in control and we can trust Him. This doesn’t mean that the new student will be nice to you or that you’ll score the winning point. But we can trust God and know that He is happy when we obey those who lead us. That reminds me of our definition for 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. Follow Me (*application activity / review the Bible story / great for active learners*)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Instruct kids to line up behind you, like a train. Kids should put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. If the kid behind you can’t reach your shoulders, she should put her hands on the sides of your waist. Then tell kids to close their eyes. They will need to trust and obey you, because you are going to lead them around like that! If possible, lead kids down some hallways and around the church. If not, lead them around the classroom. You might need to divide kids into two smaller groups and have a helper lead the second group. As you walk, randomly tell kids to do certain things like hop, tiptoe, and so on.

What You Say:

“You really trusted and obeyed me! Even though we just stayed right here in our church, we got a little feel for what Abraham had to do when he trusted and obeyed God. What did God tell Abraham to do? *(Move to a brand new place, even though he had never been there and didn’t know how it would turn out.)* Abraham seemed to believe that *[Impress]* **I should trust and obey even if I don’t know how it will all work out.** *[Apply]* **When are some times that you might need to trust and obey even when you don’t know how it will work out?** *(When they have a substitute teacher; when a parent wants them to learn to do something new.)* **Let’s all try to be like Abraham and trust and obey God even when we can’t see what’s going to happen next.”**

2. It's All About the Attitude (application activity)**What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Say:**

"Today, we're learning that **[Impress]** I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out. But you know what? **[Apply]** As kids, sometimes you don't have a choice about whether you can obey, because your parents make a decision for you. They might decide to move to a different town or they might send you to a new school. When something like that happens, the important thing is to have a good attitude about it. **[Personalize]** (Tell kids about a time your parents made a decision like that. What was your attitude about it?) Let's take a few minutes to talk about how we might respond in those kinds of situations."

What You Do:

One at a time, say one of the scenarios below. After each one, ask kids to quickly use words, body language, and facial expressions to show a bad attitude about the situation. This is how they'd react if they weren't asking God for help. Then instruct kids to spin all the way around. When they stop, they should use words, body language, and facial expressions to show a good attitude about the situation.

- Your family moves to a new town that's far away from your friends, grandparents, cousins, and everyone you know.
- Your parents decide you are going to play basketball this year, and you've never played before.
- Your parents decide to send you to a new school where you don't know anybody.
- Your dad loses his job, so you can't go on vacation like your family had planned.
- Your mom is going to have a baby, so now you and your brother have to share a room.

Then ask kids to think about some good things that might come out of some of those situations. For example, they'll meet new friends in a new town, on a new team, or at a new school. Or if they have to stay home instead of going on vacation, maybe they'll discover some new fun things to do right there in your own town. If you have extra time, the kids could also tell you about other situations not yet talked about where they had to choose a good attitude over a bad one when they didn't have a choice.

Pray and Dismiss**What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

Bring kids into a circle. Pick one kid and tell him he will say the prayer, "I will trust!" The kid to his right will say the prayer, "I will obey!" The kid to his right will say, "I will trust!" Continue this around the circle, switching off prayers with each kid. Encourage them to keep going around the circle, going faster and faster until you tell them to stop. Then guide them to all pray together, "God, I will trust and obey!" Give them a few seconds of silence to think in their heads about something they aren't sure how it will turn out. Encourage them to share that with God and talk to them about their concern. Then finish with the prayer below. **What You Say:**

"God, thank You for loving us. I'm so glad we can trust You, even when we don't know how it will all turn out. We will obey and trust You no matter what. In Jesus' name, amen."

"Today, you've learned with me that **[Impress]** I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out. God might not ask us to pack up and move to an unknown place like He did Abraham, but He still asks us to obey Him every day. **[Apply]** If we decide ahead of time that we will obey God no matter what, that'll make it easier to actually do it when we're faced with something we don't really want to obey. So, keep telling God that you'll trust and obey, but don't just say it, really mean it!"

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