

The Descendants

Bible Story: The Descendants (Abraham and Isaac) • *Genesis 15, 18, 21, 22*

Bottom Line: I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.

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 had kept His promise and Abraham had a son named Isaac (**Genesis 15, 18, 21, 22**). But God asked Abraham to do something that shocked him: to sacrifice his only son. When Abraham was willing to obey, he demonstrated his unwavering trust in God to keep His promises. Once God saw that Abraham would obey even when it could cost him something precious, God sent a replacement sacrifice and spared Isaac.

Our Bottom Line is: **I should trust and obey even if it costs me something**. We can trust that God wants what’s best for us, so when obeying Him (or our parents, bosses, or teachers) requires us to give up something, we can believe it will be worth it.

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

STORYTELLER: “You see, the whole thing was a test. Abraham had trusted God in the past. But God was testing Abraham to see if he would obey even when it cost him something—in this case, something very dear—his one and only son. God never intended Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but Abraham didn’t know that. And he was still willing to do what God asked him to do.

Salvation Message: “You know, Abraham wasn’t the only one to offer up his one and only son. John 3:16 says (*open Bible and read directly from John 3:16*), ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.’ (*NirV*) When God sent Jesus, He sacrificed His only Son ... for us, and when we believe in Him, we can have eternal life! Another way to say it is that God loved, so God gave. When we believe, then we receive. Let’s pray.”

MC: “Wow. That was a really powerful story. It reminded me that obedience isn’t about what we’ll get out of it. Sure, there are times when obeying can benefit us, but sometimes it will cost us, like when your dad asks you to help with the yard work but all you want to do is beat that next level in the game you’ve been playing, or when your teacher asks you to stay in from recess and help another student who is struggling with his homework, or when you give up a Saturday and (*point to injuries*) and end up all bruised up because you help fix up a house.

“We should all obey God, like Abraham did. God probably won’t ask us to do the same thing, but there will be times when trusting God and obeying Him will cost us something. And you know what? I know I can trust that God loves me. And that makes it easier to know **[Impress] I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.** Let’s say that together.”

MCAND KIDS: **[Impress]** “I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.”

MC: “We may not always know the reason we’re being asked to do something like putting others first or showing kindness to someone who isn’t always kind back, but it honors God and makes the leaders in our life feel trusted. Plus, it’s the wise choice.

Connecting (Small Groups, 25-30 minutes)

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

1. Team Trust & Team Obey (*application activity / great for active learners*)

What You Need: Timer or clock (*optional*)

What You Do:

Put kids into two teams: “Team Trust” and “Team Obey.” Instruct each team to huddle up and brainstorm how they can spell their team word using only their bodies. Give them three minutes to work together. Walk around encouraging them and helping quieter kids to share their ideas or participate. Then give each team a chance to share how they can spell their word in front of the other team.

Next, whisper one of the situations below each team and give them about two minutes to talk about what it cost to obey in that situation. Then reread the situations so the other team can hear them and have each team choose a representative to share what they discussed with everyone else. Then ask if the other group has anything to add.

Situations:

- Team Trust – You did not study for your spelling test and have all A's so far this year. The smartest kid in your class sits next to you and you can see her test perfectly. You choose not to cheat. What is the cost of obeying God and being honest?
- Team Obey – When you first get to school, the kid who sits next to you tells you that she didn't have time to study for the spelling test and has all A's in spelling so far this year. She doesn't want to break her perfect record and asks you to not cover up your spelling words during the test so she can copy your answers. You tell her you can't do that. What is the cost of obeying God and being honest?

What You Say:

"Wow, I'm still thinking about how you could really stretch and bend in incredible ways to make those words. And then you had some great thoughts about the cost of obeying in those situations. **[Apply]** Do you think God realizes how much it costs us to obey Him? *(Pause.)* The costs are real. Sometimes the cost is small like sharing or letting someone else go first. But sometimes the costs are big. **[Personalize]** *(Share a personal, age-appropriate story about a time it cost you something to obey God. Why was it worth it? What did you learn from the situation?)* *(If you have time, kids can also share times when there was a cost for their obedience.)* There can be a cost to obeying God, but there can also be a great reward in obeying God—sometimes now, sometimes later. **[Impress]** I should trust and obey even if it costs me something."

2. Take Cover! *(memory verse activity / great for active learners)*

What You Need: Bible, "Take Cover Signs" (Activity Pages), painter's tape

What You Say:

"Who remembers today's Bottom Line? *(Allow a kid to say the Bottom Line.)* That's right! **[Impress]** I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out. Who do you think we're supposed to trust and obey? *(Allow time for answers.)* Now, who can say this month's memory verse for us? *(Allow a kid to recite the verse. Have a Bible handy if nobody can recite the verse.)* **[Apply]** What do you think it means to put yourself under someone's authority? *(Pause for answers, such as: You agree to obey and do what they ask you to do because they are responsible to protect you.)* At different times of the day, we are under different authorities. Whose authority do you come under in the morning? *(Pause for answers.)* What about during the day? *(Pause for answers and continue with: after school, in the evening, on the weekends, in the summer, on vacation, etc.)* Our verse makes it very clear that God says we are to obey our authorities, no matter who they are or where you are."

What You Do:

Play a game that's similar to the game "Four Corners". Tape one sign in each corner of your space. You will read one of the situations below and yell, "Take cover!" Instruct the kids to take cover in the corner that says the person that has authority in that situation. Once they've all chosen a spot, read the next one to keep the game moving. If you're curious about why a kid or kids made the choice they did, you can ask them their reasoning as long as you're careful not to embarrass them.

Situations:

- You are told to play defense at your soccer game. Take cover! (Other Adults)
- The cafeteria lady asks you to pick up trash. Take cover! (School Leader)
- The Bible tells us to love God and to love others. Take cover! (God)
- Your dad says your mom wants you to finish your homework. Take cover! (Parents)

- Your teacher asks you to move and trade desks with another student. Take cover! (School Leader)
- The 10 Commandments tell us to obey our parents. Take cover! (God)
- The babysitter says it is time for dinner. Take cover! (Other Adults)

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Circle kids up so their knees are touching.

What You Say:

"Today we talked a lot about what it cost to obey God. Sometimes it is hard and sometimes it is easy, but God is always good. He loves us and wants us to obey Him. Abraham was willing to pay a big cost to obey God, but God's plan for Abraham was so big and he gained so much in the long run that it was completely worth the cost. **[Apply] God has a plan for each of us, too. We can trust that it is a good plan, because He cares so much about us.** That's why **[Impress] I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.**"

"Let's pray. Dear God, thanks so much for the big love that You have for us. Thank You for choosing Abraham to be the father of Your special people that You would guide, watch over, and take care of. Thank You also for loving us and sending Your Son, Jesus, so we could be part of your family forever. We are so grateful that You guide, watch over, and take good care of us, too. Please be with us as we go this week, learning to trust and obey no matter what. Amen."

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