

My Best Life—Obedience

By Frieda Nossaman

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 8**Focus:**

Live on the edge—
obey God.

Lesson 8**Bible Basis:**

Acts 5:17-20, 26-32

Lesson 8**Memory Verse:**

“We must obey God rather than human
beings.” —Acts 5:29b

To examine what living on the edge looks like in relation to obedience to God, students will watch and discuss a video about a young man helping others during COVID-19.

Materials:

- Paper or index card
- Pens/pencils

These are unprecedented times. Gathering for church or Sunday school no longer are things to take for granted as a result of the COVID-19 virus that has put the world on hold. Your middle schooler may feel varied emotions as he or she watches online church or spends The Lord’s Day in a different way than he or she would choose to. Kids may miss their church friends and the adult teachers who have become important people in their lives. Give grace as you watch this video together and use it as an opportunity to talk about the virus and its impact. Make sure your middle schooler has access to paper and pens or pencils. Have them write down how the virus, missing school, church, and friends is making them feel today. Take some time to read their paper together and be sure to pray with and for your middle schooler.

Share the following video [2:24]:

Acts of Kindness: Teen starts Zoom Food Deliver to help people at high risk of COVID-19.

<https://youtu.be/t8IowGpJQ-o>

➤ **Why do you think this boy, named Trip, is helping others during this difficult time when he still has his own online schooling to worry about as well as his own circumstances related to the virus?** (Answers will vary. Note that Trip is putting the needs of others, such as the elderly, before his own needs. That is a great thing to do in hard times, but it isn’t always easy or fun.)

➤ **How might Trip’s actions be considered living on the edge?** (Answers will vary. Trip is taking precautions with his health and safety so he will very likely stay safe, but he is still taking a risk as he helps others and is sacrificing his own time to play video games with friends or just relax. Trip is instead choosing to go out and help others less fortunate.)

➤ **Middle schoolers can’t drive yet. In what ways could a middle school student help others during this time of social distancing in the COVID-19 pandemic?** (Answers will vary. Invite speculation and contemplation. Some ideas might be: Ride along with someone who can

drive and help carry supplies to the door, put pantry food and other staples in a nearby Little Library in the neighborhood. Designate a neighborhood spot like a corner with an interesting rock or tree as a supply area and make signs to distribute letting others know of these supplies. Call friends and use social conferencing technology to see friends and check in on them. Help parents and siblings around the house with chores and homework. There are many ways to live on the edge and stay safe at the same time.)

It isn't easy right now to be a young person. Remember that everyone in the world is experiencing a similar level of frustration and anxiety about the future. In today's lesson, you'll see ways you can live on the edge and obey God. Let's dig in and learn more.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 8 / May 10, 2020

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STEP 4 

Lesson 8

Focus:

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Lesson 8

Bible Basis:

Acts 5:17-20, 26-32

Lesson 8

Memory Verse:

“We must obey God rather than human
beings.” —Acts 5:29b

Materials:

- Optional: Cardstock and art supplies to create a Mother’s Day card

The apostles, Peter included, were arrested and brought before a crowd that wanted to judge them for their actions of living on the edge and obeying God. They had been freed by an angel of God. That would have shown them that they could do anything by God’s power. The apostles were compelled to “tell the people all about this new life”—a life changed by Jesus Christ.

The apostles said, “We must obey God rather than human beings” after they had been supernaturally rescued by an angel. This experience definitely empowered them to not be afraid of what people might do to them. They knew God was on their side. Yet as a middle school student this is very hard to follow because it is imperative to obey our parents and to follow the rules of our state and city and country during this time of social distancing and other rules put in place to help us and keep the COVID-19 virus from spreading.

Ask volunteers to read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 and Phil. 2:4.

➤ **Keeping those verses in mind, how might you be able to live on the edge as a Christian young person obeying God foremost but also respecting the rules that have been put in place for you to follow?** (Answers will vary. Invite conversation. Let your middle schooler know that there may be rules that come that would go against God’s Word and what is taught in the Bible; we need to find the balance to obey God foremost but also do what is right by others in charge. It is not easy to do. That is why it is important to read the Bible to know what it says and also pray for discernment and wisdom as well as ask spiritually mature people God has placed in your life for advice.)

➤ **Can you imagine Peter and the apostles in this situation living on the edge and obeying God no matter what it cost them? What do you think this scene looked like? Describe it.** (Answers will vary. Obviously, the crowds and people in power coming after the apostles must have been surprised that they were freed. Even if they didn’t know an angel had freed them, they must have known that God was on their side! What a powerful witness!)

If you choose to have your students participate in this optional activity: **You can live on the edge by making a difference in one person’s life. Today is Mother’s Day.** (Use this time to

have your students gather whatever supplies are on hand to make and send a card to their moms to show them appreciation. If any of your students do not have a mom in their life, encourage them to send a note or card to a special aunt, grandmother, or female church member who has impacted them.)

You don't have to be on the front lines, but your presence—be it online or on the phone—may be just what someone needs today to find encouragement. Who will you reach out to today to share with boldness what God has done and about your faith in Jesus Christ? It isn't easy to live on the edge in obedience to God, but He empowers us to live courageously. People around you are asking many questions about life and death, and they all have many "whys" that they can't find answers to. If you know Jesus Christ personally, you have an answer for them. Reach out today to someone and share that answer in a loving, brave way. Live on the edge—obey God!

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