

middle school



Lesson 9 / October 27, 2024

That's Obedience

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 9

Focus:

God calls us to obey Him.

Lesson 9

Bible Basis:

Genesis 12:1-7

Lesson 9

Memory Verse:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
—Psalm 32:8

Students will think about why it is important to obey as they explore God's call to obedience.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and markers (or screenshared document)

Before class, write the phrase, "Why is obedience important?" on the whiteboard (or screenshared document).

As your students enter the classroom, invite them to come up to the board and write their answer to this question based on their own experiences or on common knowledge. (If your class is meeting online, have students call out their answers as you type them on the document.) For example, "The last time I disobeyed my parents I lost my phone privileges" or "When my uncle was caught speeding, he got a ticket from the police officer."

When all students who wanted to participate have finished, read the answers to the entire class.

- **What might happen if everyone stopped obeying all laws?** (Answers will vary. Most students will come to the conclusion that traffic laws, laws on the books, school rules, etc. are there for their protection and to help society function.)

In order to incentivize customers to obey the traffic laws and drive safely, some car insurance companies reward their policyholders for safe driving. Let's take a look at one how one company does this through an app.

Play the following video for your students [1:11]:

Drivewise: Allstate's Safe Driving Tool

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BdUVHdAAMk>

- **Do you think more people using Allstate insurance began following the laws and driving safely when they received the offer of discounts through Drivewise?** (Answers will vary. Help students see that this incentive toward obedience seemed to be working.)

➤ **Have you ever been rewarded for your obedience?** (Answers will vary. Invite students to share. Perhaps a teacher, coach, or parent took this approach with them.)

➤ **In general, what do you think of rewards for obedience instead of punishments for disobedience?** (Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable answers.)

➤ **Do positive incentives work? At what point is it necessary to just obey regardless of a positive incentive?** (Invite students to share their thoughts. Most will say that a police officer can't explain to each driver why he or she must wear a seatbelt or not run a red light. Sometimes a reward helps, but often obedience is just necessary for the safe function of society.)

Incentivizing drivers with discounts for driving according to the traffic laws can help reduce car accidents and make the roads safer for everyone! Let's find out about God's expectations about obedience.

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

That's Obedience

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 9**Focus:**

God calls us to obey Him.

Lesson 9**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 12:1-7

Lesson 9**Memory Verse:**

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
—Psalm 32:8

Materials:

- Paper
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

Today we learned about Abraham, a man who ultimately did what God commanded him to do. In this case, it was going where God told him to and living out his life in obedience to God's plan for Israel.

➤ **Why is it important to obey God if He asks us to do something in His Word or when He directs us in a specific way?** (Answers may include: Obeying God leads to peace and the knowledge of being in God's will. People who disobeyed God in the Bible often suffered greatly and their examples are in the Bible to show us the importance of obeying God. For example, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Moses, King David, Saul [who later became Paul], etc.)

Abraham obeyed God when he was told to go to a new place. He believed that God would make him the father of a great nation—Israel. When God later asked Abraham to sacrifice his own son, Isaac, Abraham obeyed—after all, he had learned to trust and obey God. Isaac's life was spared and a ram was sent in his place for the sacrifice.

Have students form groups of four and discuss amongst themselves why it is often hard to obey God (the laws of the Bible), but why it is important to do so. (If your class is meeting online, you can use the breakout room feature of your video chat software.) Invite students to share personal struggles they may be facing in obeying parents, rules, teachers, coaches, etc. Have students pray for each other and encourage each other. Let students know that obedience is something all Christians struggle with, but it has many benefits. Remind students that the command to obey their parents is the only command in the Bible with a reward: that it will be well with them and they will live a long life (Ephesians 6:1-4).

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Invite all students to write down one area where they are struggling with obedience. This can be to God, to commands in the Bible, to rules at school or home, to people in authority over them, etc. Students may use the

example they shared in their small group prior or write about something new and more personal. Encourage students to reflect on this issue of obedience this week by looking at what they have written at least once. Remind students that they can pray and share their struggles with their loving heavenly Father.

God calls us to obey Him. Today's memory verse shows us how God helps us obey Him in a very loving way. Invite students to write the memory verse down on their paper and try to memorize this verse this week. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you" (Psalm 32:8).

Close in prayer thanking God for Abraham's example to us of obedience—leaving his life as he knew it and following God's command to go to a new place. Pray for special wisdom this week as students reflect on areas where they need to obey God but may be struggling.

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