

Trust and Obey

Theme: Obedience — Following Christ

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Have a letter for each student in the classroom mailbox. You may wish to write it in your own handwriting on parchment stationary and roll it to look like a scroll. Be sure to read the note on page 10 of this Guide about first century AD scrolls. Write a personal note to each student about what will be studied during the quarter and what you expect from them, expressed in an enthusiastic and loving way.


Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Introduce the new Memory Verse. Have Memory Verse strips in the pocket chart. Read it aloud together. Ask “Who, What, When, and Why” about the Memory Verse.



Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Teaching the Lesson

1. Create a setting for telling the story that emphasizes New Testament letter writing. Have a small old table and chair, some parchment-type paper, a quill pen, and a candle or small oil lamp.  Explain that for teaching this lesson the teacher is someone who is guided by the Holy Spirit. The students are Christians in first century local churches. They have questions and problems. They need information, encouragement, and correction. In those days, there were no telephones, computers, Internet, or e-mail. When they were separated by distance, people communicated through letters. The Holy Spirit guided men to write letters to churches and Christians to teach, warn, correct, and encourage them.
2. While sitting at the old table, “write” a letter as you tell the story of the New Testament. Jesus lived in the world and died on the cross. He was raised from the dead, and His message was preached in the world. People obeyed the gospel and became Christians. Christians who lived near each other met together to worship and serve the Lord. They needed information and directions about following Jesus. The Holy Spirit guided men to write letters giving the churches and Christians what they needed. This is why we call the New Testament letters “Letters from Heaven.” Today, we can read these letters to learn what we are to do and think as we follow Jesus.



3.  Make a scroll from two wooden rolling pins and crumpled brown paper. Explain that in all there are twenty-one letters in the New Testament. These letters are sometimes called “epistles.” Thirteen letters were written by the apostle Paul, two by the apostle Peter, one by James, and one by Jude. Four letters do not have the writer’s name. Three of them are associated with the apostle John and bear his name — 1, 2, and 3 John. We do not know who wrote the letter we know as Hebrews, so we usually call him “the writer of Hebrews.” In the first century AD when the letters were written on scrolls, writers usually put their names at the beginning of the letter so the reader would know who was writing without having to unroll the scroll.
4. In the classroom Bibles, have students find and mark Romans 5:6-8.
5. Sitting at the letter-writing table, retell at the students’ level Paul’s message to Rome. Three BIG ideas for children from Romans may be these:
 - Sin is going our way instead of God’s way. This is not right, and it is not good. Sin is wrong; it is bad news.
 - God has good news for the world. Sinners can be saved from sin in God’s Son Jesus Christ.
 - Paul told the gospel to help people be right with God. Jesus died for our sins; we must trust and obey Him. Read Romans 5:6-8.
6.  Use items from the Letters from Heaven Package to illustrate the day’s lesson, taking them out one at a time as you talk about good things we can do for Jesus. Have graphics of hands, feet, eyes, and mouth. Have a RIGHT-WRONG sign for each student — a craft stick with a blue circle with a “RIGHT” sign across it on one side and a red circle with a “WRONG” sign across it on the other. For younger children, use a smiling face on one side and a sad face on the other.
 - Have the children hold up the blue circle when you talk about what is right and the red circle when you talk about what is wrong.
 - Take out the hands, feet, eyes, and mouth graphics one by one. Talk about how the apostle Paul used his hands, feet, eyes, and mouth to serve Jesus, especially in writing letters. Lead the students to talk about how they can use their hands, feet, eyes, and mouth to serve Jesus.
7. Have Romans 5:6-8 printed on a scroll-like sheet, as described on page 9 of this Guide. Talk about the meaning of the verse and then put it on the Letters From Heaven Wall.

Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- Trust and Obey
- Be Careful Little Eyes
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Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Follow the sample on page 65 of this Guide to make a worksheet for the new Memory Work. For younger students, have paper and crayons or markers and have them draw a picture of the new Memory Verse.

Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Read the Memory Verse together. Ask the students what they remember of “Who, What, When, and Why” about the Memory Verse.

Prayer

Starter

Imagine that you wake up one morning and go out to get the day’s newspaper. While you’re pouring your cereal and milk, you’re unrolling the paper. You sit down to eat, give thanks to God for your food, and turn the newspaper over to read the headlines. Right there in big letters across the front page is your name. The headlines read, “[YOUR NAME] IS CHARGED WITH DOING WRONG.” This is bad news, and it’s all about you. How would you feel?

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Lesson

1. *Objective: Illustrate right and wrong and consequences*

☀ Designate a Right Chair and a Wrong chair. Have actions printed on strips of paper following the examples listed below. Fold the strips and place them in a container. Have a student draw a strip and read it out loud. The student must decide if taking the action leads one to sit in the Right Chair or the Wrong Chair. Talk about how one may move from the Wrong Chair to the Right Chair by making an apology, asking for forgiveness, or changing behavior. Make the application that sin puts us in the Wrong Chair and how Jesus makes it possible for us to move to the Right Chair. Sample actions are as follows:

- Hitting my brother or sister
- Doing my Bible class lesson
- Calling someone a hurtful name
- Saying “Please” and “Thank you”

2. *Objective: Highlight key verses from Romans and discuss their meaning for children*

☀ On parchment paper print key verses from Romans, and roll the pages into “scrolls.” Number the scrolls on the outside so you will know the sequence in which to use them.

Romans 3:23; 1:18; 5:8; 1:16; 10:9-10; 6:23

3. *Objective: Illustrate good news*

☀ Prepare some newspaper headlines featuring the students in your class. Using the names of students in your class, have some “Bad News” headlines – KEVIN DISOBEYS HIS PARENTS, LEANN CHEATS ON A TEST. Have some “Good News” headlines: LAUREN FOLLOWS GOD’S WORD, CHARLIE OBEYS HIS PARENTS. Show a bad news headline and talk with the students about how it would feel if this really came out in the newspaper one day. Show a good news headline and have a similar discussion. Use this setting to teach that at a certain age everyone will have a bad news headline because everyone sins. But Jesus makes it possible for the headlines about us to be good news because He forgives and saves. Talk about the gospel as good news.

4. *Objective: Demonstrate trusting and obeying*

Sing “Trust and Obey.” Illustrate the meaning of song by playing “Trust and Obey.” Students take turns standing up and falling backwards for the teacher to catch, showing trust and obedience.

Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- Trust and Obey

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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