



Noah Obeys God

4

Bible Focus: Genesis 6, 7

Bible Memory: "This is love for God: to obey his commands" (1 John 5:3).

Life Focus: ♥ We can obey God even when it's hard.

Heart to Heart

God asked Noah to build a large ark, although Noah probably had never built anything so large. God asked Noah to gather his family and the animals into the ark to protect them from floodwaters, although Noah probably had never seen a flood.

It's more difficult to obey when we don't understand or see the benefits. It's also hard when we must move out of our comfort zones, go against peers, or sacrifice our desires to do what God wants. As you teach on obedience, help your children understand that we cannot obey without the Holy Spirit's help. Encourage them to make good choices, but lay the foundation that we obey by saying yes to God (surrender) and by staying close to Him (intimacy), not by trying harder or "gritting" it out!

Lesson 4 at a Glance

Step 1

Focus In

Use one of these activities to help children *explore times when it is hard to obey*.

≡ **Quick Step:** Simon Says



Option: Build a Boat



Bible Memory

Use this activity to introduce the Bible memory verse.



HeartShaper Materials

Other Materials

- blocks

- Bible

Step 2

Explore His Word

Use all of these activities to help children *tell how Noah obeyed God* and develop Bible skills.

Noah Obeys God



Bible Review Activity



Bible Skill Builder and Bible Memory Activity



- Resources Sheets 6 and 8 story figures 4A–4F, CD, and Sheet 2 Bible memory poster; Teaching Picture 4; (optional: Resources enhanced CD Review Questions)

- Bibles, craft sticks, clear tape, paper plates or paper, markers, reusable adhesive or pushpins, CD player

Step 3

Make It Real

Use one of these activities to help children *discover reasons to obey God even when it's hard*.

≡ **Quick Step:** Obeying God Is a Good Idea



Option: Why Obey God?



Option: Story from Weekly Bible Reader®



- Activities p. 11

- pencils (optional: animal stickers)

- Weekly Bible Reader® Issue 4

Step 4

Live It Out

Use either of these activities to help children *name a time they will obey God even when it's hard*.

≡ **Quick Step:** I Will Obey God



Option: I Will Obey Boat



Saying Good-bye

- Weekly Bible Reader® Issue 4, Activities Unit 2 Bible Memory poster and stickers

- snack crackers, napkins

- cake pan filled with water, toy boats, towel

Focus In (10–15 minutes)

Life Focus

♥ We can obey God even when it's hard.

Step 1 • Use one of these two activities to help children explore times when it is hard to obey. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Do check-in procedures you follow (name and security tags, collect offering, attendance chart, etc.).
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the activities described on page 26.

Quick Step Simon Says

Let's think about times when it's hard to obey by playing a game like Simon Says. I will tell you to do several things. One of you will obey and do exactly what Simon says to do. The rest of you will not obey what Simon says to do. Choose one child to be the one who follows Simon's directions.

Simon says stand up. Simon says sit down. Simon says hop on your left foot. Choose a different child to follow Simon's directions, and then give more directions. **Simon says smile. Simon says hold your hands over your head. Simon says laugh.** Continue in the same manner until several children have had a turn obeying what Simon says to do.

- **Is it hard to obey when others are not obeying?**
- **Tell me other times you find it hard to obey.** (when I want to do something else, when I think I can't do it)

Sometimes it's hard to obey. But the Bible tells us ♥ we can obey God even when it's hard.

Option Build a Boat

Let's think about times when it is hard to obey. I'm going to give you an instruction I want you to obey. You need to build a boat with the blocks I give you. Give each child only a few blocks. Children should have trouble making boats since they each have only a few blocks.

- **Why are you having trouble obeying my instruction to build a boat?** (don't have enough blocks, don't know how to build a boat)
- **What do you feel like doing when you need to obey but it's hard?** (give up, don't even try)
- **When is it hard to obey?** (when I think I can't do it, when I want to do something else)

Put out all the blocks and let kids work together to build a boat. **Sometimes it's hard to obey God, but our Bible tells us ♥ we can obey God even when it's hard.**

Bible Memory 1 John 5:3

Tell me some things you would do to show someone you love him or her. Finish this sentence: "I love my mom (or dad, grandparent, brother, sister) so much, I will . . ." Ask each child to repeat the sentence and fill in a way he will show love for a family member. Read 1 John 5:3. **The Bible tells us that if we love God, we will do what He says and obey His commands.** Let's say "I love God so much, I will do what He says." Ask the children to repeat the sentence together a few times. **It's easier to obey God when we remember we show Him our love by obeying Him. Then ♥ we can obey God even when it's hard.**

Materials

none



Teaching Tip

Use a rhythmic clap to gain or regain children's attention. Practice doing the clap and have children respond with the same clap. Tell children that whenever they hear the clap they should become quiet and do the clap. Use the clap only when you need it.

Materials

blocks



Spirit-Led Insight

Remind the children often God's Spirit is working in them to help them live like Jesus, who always obeyed his father. God's power will help them obey!

Materials

Bible



Transition to

Explore His Word

- See the *Resources* enhanced CD for transition tips.
- As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Life Focus

- ♥ We can obey God even when it's hard.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

Step 2 • Use these three activities to help children tell how Noah obeyed God and develop Bible skills.

Prepare Your Mind--Bible Background

The people God created became corrupt and violent. Noah separated himself from this evil by being righteous. So God gave Noah specific directions on how to build an ark big enough to house not only Noah and his family but also a male and female of all living creatures. Noah also took seven of each clean animal--the kind God deemed as good for food and pleasing to God as sacrifices.

The 450-foot-long ark probably was made of cedar or cypress wood and looked more like a barge. It was 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high and it had three stories. The floodwaters lasted five months. Seven more months passed before Noah, his family, and the animals could leave.

Prepare Your Heart--Drawing Near to God

What are some ways we've learned to worship God? (singing, clapping, shouting)

Let's see if we can use each of these ways today. When I count to three, let's all shout: "We love you, God! You help us obey!"

Sing and clap, using songs from the enhanced CD. End with a quieter song that leads into prayer. Thank God for His Holy Spirit, who helps us to obey.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the enhanced CD for ideas.

Materials

Bibles, *Resources* Sheets
6 and 8 story figures



4A-4G, craft sticks, clear
tape, *Teaching*

Picture 4, small paper plates or
pieces of paper, markers

Before Class

Attach craft sticks with clear tape to
the backs of figures.



Option

Play the recorded Bible story from
the *Resources* CD Track 10.

Noah Obeys God (Genesis 6, 7)

Do you remember how to find the book of Genesis? Genesis is at the beginning of the Bible. Books in the Bible are divided into sections called chapters. Have children count to six. **Our story starts in Genesis chapter six.** Open your Bible to Genesis 1 and point to the chapter numbers. As you turn the pages, have children tell you when you reach chapter six. **Our story from Genesis 6 and 7 tells us how Noah obeyed God even when it was hard.** Have the children find Genesis 6 and 7 in their own Bibles.

Before class, make happy/sad faces for the children or have children make them now. Draw a happy face on one side of the paper plates or papers and a sad face on the other side. Attach craft sticks if desired. **You can help me tell today's story. When you hear something sad in the story, hold up the sad face. When you hear something happy, hold up the happy face. You also need to listen for how a man named Noah obeyed God.** Show the figures as indicated in the story or let children hold the figures.

The people on earth had become very bad and did evil things (*sad face*). They no longer loved God or did what He wanted them to do. They were so evil, God was sorry that He had made people. This made God very, very sad. God said He was going to bring great floods on the earth and destroy all the people and everything He had made.

But there was one man who pleased God. (*Happy face. Show 4A; Noah has gray hair.*) His name was Noah. Noah loved God and obeyed Him. Noah found favor in God's eyes, and God did not want to destroy Noah.

God told Noah, "I am going to destroy all people and everything I have made (*sad face*). But I will keep you and your family safe." (*Happy face. Remove 4A. Show 4B and 4C.*) God told Noah to build a large boat called an ark. God gave Noah very specific instructions on how to build the ark. The ark had to be big enough to have room for Noah, his family, and every kind of animal. It would also have to be big enough to store food for everyone. Noah obeyed God and did everything God had told him to do. Finally, the ark was finished. (*Remove 4B and 4C. Show 4D.*) Noah then waited for God to tell him what to do next.

(*Show 4A.*) One day God said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family." God also told Noah to take two of every kind of animal and even more of some other kinds of animals.

Explore His Word (continued)

The animals began to go into the ark. (*Display 4E and 4F. Ask kids to make the sounds these animals make.*) It probably took a long time, because there were lions, monkeys, birds, dogs, snakes, sheep, owls, and every kind of animal that God had made. When the animals were safe inside, God shut the door of the ark. (*Remove 4A, 4E, and 4F*)

The floods did come (*sad face*), but Noah, his family, and the animals were safe in the ark. (*Happy face. Show Teaching Picture 4.*) The rivers and lakes and oceans were so full that they spilled over onto the dry ground. The water rose higher and higher until the trees were covered by water. (*Show 4G. Put 4D on top of 4G.*) Even the tops of the highest mountains were covered by water. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights (*sad face*). The only thing in the whole world on top of the water was the ark. But Noah, his family, and the animals were safe and dry (*happy face*). Noah obeyed God even when it was hard, and God kept Noah and his family safe.

Bible Review Activity

How did Noah obey God? (Noah built an ark when God asked him to; Noah did everything God asked him to do.) **Let's see what else you remember from the Bible story.** Divide the children into two groups. Ask one group to stand and show their sad faces when they hear something sad and the other group to stand and show their happy faces when they hear something happy. Ask each group a question after they stand.

- **People had become evil.** (*sad*) **What did God say He was going to do since people had become evil?** (bring great floods and destroy everything)
 - **One man pleased God.** (*happy*) **Who was this man and why did God not want to destroy him?** (Noah; Noah loved God and obeyed Him.)
 - **God said He would keep Noah and his family safe.** (*happy*) **What did God tell Noah to build, and what was Noah to put in it?** (an ark; his family, two of every kind of animals, and extras of other animals)
 - **The floods did come.** (*sad*) **How long did it rain and what was the only thing on top of the water?** (40 days and nights, the ark)
- Noah obeyed God even when it was hard. And ♥ we can obey God even when it's hard.

Bible Skill Builder and Bible Memory Activity

There is a verse in our Bibles that will help us obey God even when it's hard. Before class, find 1 John 5:3 in your Bible and put a bookmark there. Attach the Bible memory poster to a wall or bulletin board.

Our Bible memory verse is in 1 John. Remember we talked about chapter numbers? This verse is in chapter five. Have the children count to five. **Each chapter is divided into verses. Our verse is found in chapter 5, verse 3.** Show the group where the verse is found in the Bible. Help the children find the verse in their own Bibles and ask for a volunteer to read it.

Point to the words on the poster as you read them. Pause at the blank spaces and ask kids what words should go in the blanks. Let kids put the correct words from the bottom of the poster on the blank spaces.

Play "This Is Love for God." Play it a second time, inviting kids to join in. **We can show our love for God by obeying His commands. And ♥ we can obey God even when it's hard.**

Life Focus

- ♥ We can obey God even when it's hard.

Expert Tip

"Children must be drawn into the environment or lesson with something that attracts them. Once the children are attracted, they must be involved somehow. They can't just observe others' involvement."

—Steve Alley

Materials

happy/sad faces
used during
the Bible story
(optional: *Resources*
enhanced CD Review Questions)



Option

Use the Review Questions from the *Resources* enhanced CD to help children further review the story.

Pastoring Tip

Praise the children, and praise them to their parents as you see them responding with obedience. Be sure to take the time to notice!

Materials

Bibles; *Resources* CD
Track 3, and Sheet 2
Bible memory poster;
reusable adhesive or pushpins; CD
player



Teaching Tips

You may want to ask advanced readers to help beginning readers find the Bible memory verse.

See Lesson 5, Step 2 for motions kids can do while singing "This Is Love for God."

Life Focus

- ♥ We can obey God even when it's hard.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

Step 3 • Use one of these three activities to help children discover reasons to obey God even when it's hard.

Materials

Activities p. 11, pencils
(optional: animal
stickers)



Added Fun!

Provide animal stickers for children to press on.

Materials

none



Pastoring Tip

Emphasize to the children that they have a choice to obey or not, just as Noah did. The Holy Spirit does not make them obey. He works within them to help them love God and want to obey him. He gives them power to do things that are hard.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader®
Issue 4



Quick Step Obeying God Is a Good Idea

Noah discovered it was good to obey God even when it was hard. Let's find out reasons why it's good for us to obey God even when it's hard. Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Demonstrate how to fold the ark along the dotted lines so that the middle section is hidden. Then have children turn their pages over and fold on the dotted lines.

Tell children to look at the ark side but keep it folded. **Why did God tell Noah to build the ark?** (God wanted Noah, his family, and some animals to be safe when the flood came.) **Why was it good that Noah obeyed God?** Have kids open the picture. (God kept Noah's family and the animals safe.) Help kids finish the sentence. (obeyed)

Tell children to look at the other side but keep it folded. **What is the mother telling her son? Why should Dylan obey his mom?** Ask children for ideas, then have them unfold their pictures. **Why was it good that Dylan obeyed his mom?** (A big truck could have hit him.) Help kids finish the sentence. (obey, hard)

♥ We can obey God even when it's hard because God knows what is best for us, He wants to keep us safe, and we love Him and want to please Him.

Option Why Obey God?

Noah discovered it was good to obey God even when it was hard. Let's find out some reasons why it's good for us to obey God even when it's hard. Read the following sentences. Kids are to stand and put both thumbs up high if it's a reason to obey God. They are to sit down and put both thumbs down low if it's not a reason to obey God.

1. We can obey God even when it's hard because God knows what is best for us. (thumbs up)
2. We can obey God even when it's hard because we might get some candy. (thumbs down)
3. We can obey God even when it's hard because God wants to keep us safe. (thumbs up)
4. We can obey God even when it's hard because we might get a new video game. (thumbs down)
5. We can obey God even when it's hard because we love Him and want to please Him. (thumbs up)

What are some reasons to obey God even when it's hard? (God knows what is best for us, He wants to keep us safe, and we love Him and want to please Him.) **There are lots of reasons ♥ we can obey God even when it's hard.**

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader®

Noah discovered it was good to obey God even when it was hard. As I read a story, let's find out reasons why it's good for us to obey God even when it's hard. Read "Rain Boots" from Issue 4.

- **What are some reasons you should obey God even when it's hard?** (God knows what is best for us, He wants to keep us safe, and we love Him and want to please Him.)

Live It Out (5–10 minutes)

Life Focus

- ♥ We can obey God even when it's hard.

Step 4 • Use one of these two activities to help children name a time they will obey God even when it's hard.

Quick Step I Will Obey God

We've learned how Noah obeyed God even when it was hard. You need to decide to obey God too, even when it's hard. Ask the children to name times they could obey God, but it would be hard. (obeying a parent, not cheating on a test I haven't studied for, helping a brother or sister when I'd rather be doing something else)

Give children napkins and several crackers but tell them not to eat the crackers yet. Ask the children to think of times when it would be hard to obey. Have kids, one at a time, pick up a cracker and say "I will obey God . . ." and name a time when they will obey God even when it's hard. After all have had a turn, children can eat their crackers.

Maybe it was hard for you to wait to eat your crackers. It's sometimes hard to obey God. But God loves you, He knows what is best, and He wants to keep you safe. ♥ We can obey God even when it's hard. Close with prayer, asking God to help each child obey.

Option I Will Obey Boat

We've learned how Noah obeyed God even when it was hard. You need to decide you will obey God too, even when it's hard.

Ask children to name times when it might be hard to obey God. Refer to ideas mentioned in the *Quick Step* activity. Place a pan filled with water on a towel. Divide kids into two groups, placing each group on either side of the pan. Ask children to take turns pushing the boat to the other side of the pan. As a child pushes a boat, ask him to say "I will obey God . . ." and name a time when he will obey God even when it's hard.

Sometimes it's hard to obey God. But obeying God gets easier the more you obey. Remember that ♥ we can obey God even when it's hard. Close with a time of prayer. Encourage children to pray aloud or silently and ask God to help them obey even when it's hard.

Saying Good-bye

- Distribute Issue 4 of *Weekly Bible Reader*[®] and the Unit 2 Bible Memory poster and stickers from the *Activities* book.
- Make sure children have projects and activity sheets they have done.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on page 26.

Materials

snack crackers,
napkins (use animal
crackers for a tie-in
with the Bible story)



Teaching Tip

If the children have trouble thinking of times when it is hard to obey, list several ideas on the board: doing a chore that they don't want to do, completing homework, or going to bed on time.

Materials

cake pan or other
large flat container
filled with water, toy
boats, towel



Evaluate

1. Can the children share reasons to obey God when it's hard? Who helps them do this?
2. Do they understand that God's Spirit works in them to help them make obedient choices?
3. What times did children name when they would obey God even though it might be hard?