



Kids Club

Leader Guide

Mar.

Week 1

March 3, 2024

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Trust and Obey coloring page/kid
Bible/person

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break
20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up
30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer
10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

TODAY'S FOCUS:

Jesus accepts the will of the Father.

WEEKLY VERSE:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead. He is not here; he has risen!"
-Luke 24:5b-6a (NIV)

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 26:36-46, The Garden of Gethsemane

ROCK BRIDGE MISSION:

We exist to glorify God. When we follow God's will and do what He asks of us, it lets us point back to Him and give Him the credit for every good and perfect thing in our lives.

PRAYER:

Thank you for loving us and for sending Jesus. Teach us to be obedient, just as He was, so we can do your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

INTRODUCTION:

DO THIS AS KIDS ARRIVE: Ask, "what are some rules you find hard to follow at school or at home?" ***Share your own answer, too! From laws given to us (speed limits!) to rules we set for our own homes (no phones at the dinner table) - we are all challenged to follow some rules and our kids need to hear that!***

SAY THIS: We are only a few weeks away from Easter, the most important day of the year for Christians. On Easter we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave. We remember that we serve a living God who overcame death and can give us eternal life. Today we're beginning a series of lessons about this awesome and amazing story. But before we get to that story, I want to go back, a little further in time, to a story from the Old Testament.

We're going back to the book of Jonah which tells the story of a prophet named Jonah. Jonah was a man God used to deliver messages. God asked Jonah to deliver a message to the wicked city of Nineveh. If Nineveh did not change its wicked ways and ask forgiveness, God was going to destroy that city!

It was an important message that God entrusted to Jonah, but Jonah didn't want to do it. Instead, he got on a boat headed out to sea - the opposite direction of Nineveh. Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, and he didn't want to see the people of Nineveh saved. God had to send a storm and a giant fish to put Jonah back on track!

What does this have to do with the Easter story? Think about that question as we read today's scripture.

READ: Matthew 26:36-46

TALK ABOUT THIS: In this story, we see Jesus was facing a tough choice of his own. Like Jonah, God had asked Jesus to do something he knew would be challenging to endure. Jesus was fully God and man, but while the divine side of

him knew his mission was to die, the human side said to His Father, "If it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

It wasn't just death that waited for Jesus. Jesus was arrested, put on trial, beaten, forced to wear a crown of thorns, spit upon, cursed at, and finally nailed to a cross to suffer the most agonizing death ever devised by man!

Like Jonah, Jesus had a choice. He could obey, or He could run. Jesus did not run. He knew this was God's will, and He was obedient to the very end.

DRIVE IT HOME:

There are two lessons we can take from the Garden of Gethsemane. First and foremost, Jesus really loves us. I mean he really, REALLY loves us. In our world today, there aren't too many people who would die for someone, especially someone they never met. Jesus died for his friends, his enemies, for you, and for me. He obeyed God because he knew by obeying God, he could give all of us a new life.

The second lesson is a challenge for all of us. Jesus was obedient to God, and he challenges us to be obedient too. We need to obey our parents, teachers, coaches, and other mentors, but more than anything, we need to obey God.

God has a plan for each one of you. For some it will mean serving God right where you are, in school or at home or some place else close. For others, it may mean going out on a mission trip. It may one day even mean going someplace dangerous to share the Good News.

Whatever God calls you to do, do it. Do it with all your heart. Do it knowing that God will go with you.

Jesus didn't *want* to suffer. If there was another way, His prayer leads us to believe He would have taken it, but He was never, ever going to run. Jesus was obedient. That incredible obedience means we can have eternal life. It means we are amazingly loved. And it means we need to prepare our hearts to be just as obedient.

Let's thank God for the obedience of Jesus, and ask him to help us to be just as obedient when the time comes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ASK THIS:

1. Where did Jesus go to pray?
2. Who was with Jesus in the Garden?
3. What did Jesus pray for?
4. Why do you think Jesus asked if there was another way?
5. Why did Jesus obey God and not run away?
6. What are some scary things God asks his people to do?
7. When God asks you to do something hard, how will you decide if you are going to obey?

ACTIVITY:

DO THIS: Designate a line and make one side of the line “true” and the other “false”. Ask kids to stand on the side of the line that shows which answer they choose for each statement.

1. Jesus went to the garden to pray.
TRUE
2. Jesus was not afraid or worried about dying.
FALSE
3. Jesus asked God if there was another way to complete his mission.
TRUE
4. Jesus was obedient, even though he was afraid.
TRUE
5. God doesn't expect us to be obedient like Jesus.
FALSE

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

DO THIS: Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the scripture reference and see who can find it first in their Bible. Let everyone find it and read it aloud together again.

SAY THIS: Luke 24:5b-6a (NIV) “Why do you look for the living among the dead. He is not here; he has risen!”

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

Challenge the kids to get fit and feel the burn by doing exercises like, ten push-ups and ten sit-ups. **Ask kids about what sports they do or practice that has them saying “yes!” for the end result - even though they want to say “no!” because it’s challenging.**

SAY THIS: If you’ve ever done any real exercise, you know it’s not easy. It’s hard work. It leaves your muscles and body sore and aching. That’s why so many people don’t exercise, even though it’s good for them. They don’t want the pain that comes with it. You can’t get fit without a little soreness and pain. If you want to get fit, you have to pay the price.

Jesus had a price to pay so he could forgive our sins. If Jesus could have done it another way, he would have. The cross was the only way, and Jesus knew that. That’s why Jesus didn’t waver. That’s why he went to the cross. Jesus was obedient to God, even though it cost him a painful death. Let us never forget what he did for us. Let it inspire us to be obedient as well.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY 2: COLORING PAGE

DO THIS: Pass out the **Trust and Obey coloring page** and talk to kids as they color. Share what’s below and invite them share ways they can choose obedience the first time instead of just apologizing after the fact.

SAY THIS: For those of us who have been in church for a while, we’ve heard that God is so forgiving. We know that when we make mistakes, we can say sorry and He hears us. But, obeying God is way more important than just doing wrong and asking God to forgive us.

When we do what God asks, it shows Him we really trust His promises and genuinely care about our relationship with Him. Sure, God forgives us when we mess up, but what He really wants is for us to try our best not to mess up in the first place. That's how we show our faith in Him is real.

On the flip side, when we disobey, it's like saying we don't think God can handle things or we're not sure if He's reliable. It shows we're more focused on doing things our own way than following God's plan.

