

Les Disobeyles

Bible Story: Les Disobeyles (The Fall) • *Genesis 3:1-24 (Supporting: Genesis 1, 2, and 4)*

Bottom Line: I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better.

Memory Verse: “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17, NIV

Life App: Obedience—trusting those who lead you by doing what you are asked to do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

What You Need: an offering container

What You Do:

Let kids put their offerings in the container. Ask kids to share and compare rules they have in their families such as rules about cleaning their rooms, doing homework, feeding the dog, or the way they treat one another. What happens if someone doesn't follow one of the rules?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

This Is My Head

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Form a circle and stand in the middle. Tell the kids that when you point to them, you'd like them to repeat your motions and words. Begin by pointing to your eye with one hand. With your other hand, point to someone in the circle as you say, “This is my eye.” The kid should then point to his eye and repeat, “This is my eye.” Continue the process with each kid pointing to different body part each time.

Play again, but change the rules. As you quickly point to someone in the circle say, “This is my eye,” but point to your foot. Explain that the person you're pointing at must reverse the action by pointing to his eye and saying, “This is my foot,” before you count to five. If he goofs up, he moves to the middle and takes your place. Continue by having the person in the middle point to a different body part and person.

What You Say:

“Great job with that game! Things got pretty messed up when we went against what we knew was right, didn't they? **[Transition]** Well, if you think THAT was a mess, wait'll you hear what's up next in Large Group.

Prepare yourself for the world's biggest mistake ever.” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

What's My Rule? (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Quietly give each person a secret “rule” they must obey in the form of a gesture. Here are some suggestions: scratch head, wink, yawn, bite lip, clear throat, roll eyes, cross arms, tap foot, say “um,” stare at the floor, or rub hands together.

Stand in a circle. Invite kids to share several sentences telling what they remember from the lesson. As they speak, they must casually include their secret gesture at least twice. When finished, let kids guess one another's “rules.” If a kid's rule isn't figured out or not guessed correctly by the others, have the kid perform his gesture as he tells what he thinks the Garden of Eden may have looked like.

What You Say:

“Aren't you glad you don't have to guess at what God wants you to do? He doesn't have secret rules you have to try and figure out. That's not how God works. He made His ways really clear to Adam and Eve. He makes His

ways clear to you as well. Know how? It's all in the Bible. Everything you need to know and do in order to obey God is all wrapped up in His Word. **[Apply] That's why it's so important to read the Bible and discover what God has to say. It's like a super instruction manual for your life!** And the One who wrote it made you and loves you. Adam and Eve thought their way was better, so they threw out God's instructions. That's when things got messy. The consequences of their disobedience were devastating. God's way is ALWAYS better—be sure to listen to Him. Learn from Adam and Eve: **[Impress] I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better."**

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Why is obedience often so hard and disobedience so easy?
- What are some reasons kids disobey their parents, teachers, or other leaders?
- When you go your own way, do you always get what you're hoping for? How does it make you feel?
- When you think your way is better, what are some positive ways you can go about talking things through with parents or leaders?
- Is there any time that you think of that you should not trust or obey someone, even if they are the adult or authority?

Catch On #2

Marshmallow Moving (*application activity / great for active learners*)

What You Need: Large marshmallows, paper plates

What You Do:

Place a large marshmallow on a paper plate for every two or three kids. Invite groups to work in pairs or trios to brainstorm the best ways to move a large marshmallow across the room without touching the plate or the marshmallow with their hands. Explain that there is only ONE correct way—YOUR way—which you will reveal at the end of the game. Give kids about five minutes to come up with their ideas then let them demonstrate in front of the whole group.

What You Say:

"Congratulations on some marvelous marshmallow moving. I will now reveal the best and most delicious way to move a marshmallow across a room using no hands. Watch and learn. (*Lean over the paper plate and pick up the marshmallow with your mouth, chew it with great satisfaction, swallow loudly, and then walk to the other side of the room.*) And that, my friends, is how it's done. (*Take a bow.*)

"If your marshmallow moving method was the same as mine, come join me over here and let's celebrate by listening to a round of applause from our friends who thought THEIR way was better. (*Pause.*) Thank you. Thank you very much.

"Our marshmallow moving methods were a fun way to illustrate that we all have different ways of doing things. (*Teasingly*) MINE, of course, was by far the best (*laugh*), but it certainly wasn't the ONLY way. **[Apply] However, when it comes to the way we live our lives, the only right way is ALWAYS God's way. Sometimes it's hard to know what that is. God's way isn't always clear at first. You may need to ask for help from others who love God and have followed Him longer. You can always talk to God, look in the Bible, and think back to lessons you've learned here at church.** The one thing to remember is this: **[Impress] I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better."**

Catch On #3

Upside-Down and Backwards (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, paper (*optional*), pens (*optional*), hand mirror (*optional*)

What You Do:

Look up Hebrews 13:17 using the following navigation tip:

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Hebrews. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*New.*) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. It's about halfway through the New Testament section. When they find Hebrews, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 13. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 17 in chapter 13.

Hebrews 13:17 is fairly straightforward, so ask the kids to share what they think it means and how they can apply it. Who are their leaders at home, church, or school? How do they put themselves under those people's

authority? Maybe their parents have asked them not to watch certain movies or play certain video games their friends play. Or maybe they have a curfew or rules about homework that seem unnecessary.

[Personalize] Include some examples from your own life. Tell the kids how you practice obedience to God in your job, at home, and with those who are your leaders. In what ways do you follow Hebrews 13:17? Illustrate to them that obedience is important no matter how old or young you are—it's not just for a kid. As you discuss the verse, emphasize the importance of understanding God's Word in order to apply it to our lives. That's what obedience is all about.

Challenge the kids to pair up and read Hebrews 13:17 to their partners while holding their Bibles upside-down.

Optional: If time allows, give everyone another challenge. Hand out paper and pens then invite kids to choose one of the sentences from Hebrews 13:17 and then write it out backwards—even the letters should be written backwards. When finished, let them take turns holding their papers in front of a mirror to check them.

What You Say:

"Some of you did better at reading your Bibles upside down (*and writing the verses backwards*) than others. That ability would definitely come in handy if you spend a lot of time standing on your head or whenever you're too tired to turn your Bible over. Personally, I prefer to READ the Bible right-side up and KNOW it upside down and backwards. That's because when you know something 'upside-down and backwards' you really, REALLY know it.

"When it comes to God's Word, you can't let it simply go into your brain and end in your head. **[Apply]** It's not enough to just know it. You have to APPLY it to your life every single day. That's what obedience is all about—trusting God to lead you by doing what He has asked you to do.

"Reading the Bible upside down isn't easy, and neither is obeying it. The truth is there will be times when your way sounds a whole lot better than anyone else's—even God's. Watch out because that's a slippery path that most always ends badly. It sure did for Adam and Eve. We're still paying the price for their disobedience. So, when you're tempted to go your own way this week, remember: **[Impress]** I should trust and obey even when I think my way is better."

Zookeeper

Bible Story: Zookeeper (Noah) • *Genesis 6–8*

Bottom Line: I should trust and obey even when others don't.

Memory Verse: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." *Hebrews 13:17, NIV*

Life App: Obedience—trusting those who lead you by doing what you are asked to do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

What You Need: an offering container

What You Do:

Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container. Ask kids to share about their pets or favorite kinds of animals. Do they know any funny or amazing animal stories?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Directional Drawing

What You Need: paper, pens

What You Do:

Without telling kids what they're drawing, give simple but detailed instructions for drawing several objects such as a house, car, boat, bird, cloud with raindrops or tree. Your instructions for drawing a car might go something like this: "Draw two circles side by side. Put a rectangle on top. On the rectangle draw two squares toward the top." Continue with other details or stop and let kids guess what you've asked them to draw. If time allows, have kids give directions to the whole group or to a partner.

What You Say:

"It's hard to draw something when you aren't sure what it is. Great job following directions! **[Transition] In today's lesson a man had to obey and follow some very important instructions. Let's head over to Large Group and find out what happened.**" Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1

Build It and They'll Come (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: Bibles; pipe cleaners

What You Do:

Give each person two pipe cleaners (or other provided objects). Ask kids to shape the pipe cleaners into a reminder of something from the Bible lesson. It can be a person, thing, or event. When finished, review the lesson by letting kids take turns sharing what they made and how it reminds them of the story of Noah.

Form a circle. Have kids hold their Bibles in one hand and their creations in the other. Remind them that Noah didn't follow the crowd—he followed his God. To the people around him, it didn't seem to make any sense to build an ark on dry land without a river in sight. But he followed what God wanted him to do even though it wasn't what everybody—or ANYBODY—else was doing. Instruct kids to begin passing the Bibles to the left at the same time as they pass their creations to the right as quickly as they can. When kids have their own creations back, ask them to share some things they think Noah had to face from the unbelieving people.

What You Say:

"Like in this game, obedience to God's Word may often take you in the opposite direction of everyone else. That's not a bad thing. God will use your obedience in good ways and may even open up greater opportunities later. **[Apply] So don't decide whether you'll obey this week based on what everybody else is doing. If you're the ONLY one not cheating on a test or lying to your parents, that's not a bad thing. If you're the ONLY one who doesn't swear or make fun of other kids, that's not a bad thing either.** Just ask Noah. He

knew what it meant to live right in a world gone wrong. The words would've sounded different back in Noah's day, but I'm sure he often said, **[Impress]** **"I should trust and obey even when others don't."**

Catch On #2

Going Against the Grain (*application activity / great for active learners*)

What You Need: newspaper or facial tissues

What You Do:

Give everyone a facial tissue or a page from a newspaper. Ask kids to tear it slowly from top to bottom. Then have them tear it the other direction (side to side). Ask them to look at the tears. One direction will have a reasonably smooth and straight tear, but the other direction will be jagged and irregular. Explain that newspaper or tissue has a "grain" in it—a direction in which the fibers are lined up. If you tear in line with these fibers ("with the grain"), the tear is straight. If you tear across them ("against the grain"), the tear is rough and jagged.

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- How are obedience and disobedience like going with and against the grain?
- When is it hard to obey or go against the grain when others are doing something else?
- Why is it easier to do what everyone else is doing? What happens if you don't?
- Tell us about a time when you felt a bit like Noah did when he built the ark and all the people thought he was crazy.

What You Say:

"Today's Bottom Line is: **[Impress]** **I should trust and obey even when others don't.** **[Personalize]** (*Share an age-appropriate story about a time you followed the crowd and another time when you went against the grain. What was easy or hard about it? What was good or bad?*) One of the amazing things about Noah is that he did EXACTLY what God asked him to do—even when everyone else wasn't. That's not easy. Ask God for help. Doing the right thing when everyone around you is doing the wrong thing takes God's help. But here's the coolest part—even though Noah lived a long time ago, **[Apply]** **God's power is still the same. Just like God gave Noah the strength to do what was right, He will also give you strength if you ask Him. You can do the right thing, too, even when it feels like you're the only one."**

Catch On #3

Walk On (*memory verse activity / great for active learners*)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Look up Hebrews 13:17. Refer to the navigation tip from last week if kids need help locating the verse. When everyone has found it, read it together.

Then pair kids up. Have partners stand back-to-back and link arms. Ask them to come up with two different ways they can most easily move as a unit to get to the other side of the room. Have them try one method going down and the other method coming back. In the end they should discover that the best ways are to walk either sideways or with one person walking forward and the person walking backward.

[Apply] **Gather everyone together and ask kids to share how their attempts at walking across the room as a unit were like or unlike being in obedience to God. What does it mean to "walk with God"? How does disobedience mess things up or make it harder?**

What You Say:

"In our game it was important for partners to figure out how to walk together instead of each going in a different direction. Obedience to God works that way, too. It's all about learning to do life alongside God by following His Word. Learning the Bible won't really matter if you don't live it. God wants you to obey your parents and leaders, but the ultimate obedience is when you do what He tells you to do—even if it conflicts with what others do. At times it might seem easier to NOT obey God, but that's when you need to grab on to the same attitude Noah had: **[Impress]** **I should trust and obey even when others don't."**

Are We There Yet?

Bible Story: Are We There Yet? (Abraham's Calling) • *Genesis 12:1-5 (Supporting: Genesis 13:2-18, 15:1-6)*

Bottom Line: I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out.

Memory Verse: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." *Hebrews 13:17, NIV*

Life App: Obedience—trusting those who lead you by doing what you are asked to do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

What You Need: an offering container

What You Do:

Collect the offerings. Ask kids to share about different kinds of vacations they have taken or would like to take. What made the trips special? What souvenirs did they bring back?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Fortunately, Unfortunately

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Sit in a circle. Explain that you will begin telling a story about taking a long trip. You'll say something like, "We started on our trip to Florida, but unfortunately ..." and then describe something unfortunate that happened, such as, "we had a flat tire in the driveway." Then stop, and instruct the person to your left to pick up the story by countering with something positive that happened, such as: "Fortunately, my mom knows how to change a tire." That person then continues on with the story. He ends his turn with "Unfortunately ..." and fills in with something bad that happened. Continue around the circle developing the story while keeping the "fortunately / unfortunately" pattern going. The more exaggerated and silly the statements get to be, the better!

What You Say:

"That was one craaaazy story. Unfortunately, we need to end it there. **[Transition]** But fortunately, it's time to go to Large Group. Get ready to hear about a guy whose story took some unusual twists and turns—including a really long trip." Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1

News Reviews (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: newspapers, markers, Bibles

What You Do:

Divide kids into groups of three and give each trio a newspaper. With the paper still intact, have groups use markers to write four or more key events that occurred in today's Bible story in consecutive order throughout the pages. Tell them to make sure the earlier events are written in the beginning pages or sections of the paper and the later ones in the pages following. Kids can use their Bibles to look up the lesson passage for ideas and accuracy (*Genesis 12:1-5; Genesis 12:6-15:1*). When finished, have kids carefully take the paper apart and rearrange the pages and/or sections.

Next, teams exchange papers with another team to see who can reassemble the newspaper back to the original order in the shortest amount of time. Teams can check lesson highlights as well as the newspaper page numbers to make sure they are correct.

Note: Collect and save the newspapers for next week's prayer activity.

What You Say:

"Abraham didn't have the advantage of reading the last pages—or even the middle of his story—the way we do in the book of Genesis. I wonder how each of us would react if God said to us, 'Sell everything that won't fit into

the trunk of the car, and say good-bye to your friends, all of your cousins, the neighbors, and Uncle Leroy, because you probably won't be coming back here ever again. Everybody get in the car and buckle up. It's gonna be a long ride. You won't know where you're going so you'll have to trust Me the whole time. But don't worry, I'll show you the way. So, you ready?"

"Abraham was an amazing guy. Can you imagine leaving everything comfortable and familiar without knowing what was next? Basically, Abraham said, **[Impress]** 'I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out.' He had no idea where his road trip would take him or how it would end, but he trusted God.

[Apply] "Your faith story is still being written. This week another chapter will be added. You don't get to choose everything that happens, but you do get to choose whether you'll respond by being obedient. You can put your faith to work and follow God even when you're feeling scared or alone. God is in control, He loves you, and He has an incredible story He's writing called 'Your Life.' Obedience shows that you trust Him with it."

[Personalize] (Share a situation in your life that is open-ended right now such as a job expectation, financial need or something uncertain where you're continuing to trust God. How are you being obedient in that situation?)

Catch On #2

Your Guess Is as Good as Mine (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: filled plastic eggs (or other containers), index cards, pens

What You Do:

Scatter the plastic eggs (or other containers) around the room. Give each of the kids an index card and a pen. Have them write the numbers 1-10 on their cards.

Invite everyone to walk around the room and begin examining each of the eggs. Explain that they are to try and figure out what's inside each egg and the quantity of the items inside the egg. They can pick them up and shake them, but they can't open an egg and look inside. Tell kids to write down what they think is inside—including the amount of the item—beside the number on their index card that corresponds with the number on the egg. They can examine the eggs in any order but will have only five minutes to finish. Explain that after the game, you'll reveal what's inside each egg. Tell kids to make good guesses because anyone who correctly guesses the object (and amount of it) in an egg gets to keep whatever is inside the egg.

When the time is up or kids have finished their guesses, have everyone come sit down. Hold up the first egg and let kids share their guesses. Then open it up to reveal the contents. Give away any contents that were guessed correctly.

What You Say:

"Tomorrow is hidden from you. In fact, the very next minute is not something you can see. It's like the contents in the plastic eggs. You can guess what's there, but you won't be right all of the time. God has given you a good mind, but still you can see and understand only so much. On the other hand, God sees and knows everything. On top of that, He loves you. He sees the whole story of your life from beginning to end and wants to guide you through it. That's why you—like Abraham—can say, **[Impress]** 'I should trust and obey even if I don't know how it will all work out.'"

"Wouldn't it be great if you could know how things were going to work out before you decide if you want to do something or not? But that's not how it works. Only God knows the details. That's one huge reason why you need to trust Him. **[Apply]** You might face something this week that's scary or hard and you don't know how it's going to work out. Don't panic. God knows exactly what's up ahead. Hang close to Him. Ask God to show you how to trust so that you can step out and obey."

Catch On #3

Beginning and End (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles, "Beginning and End" Activity Pages, tape, yarn, scissors

What You Do:

Review the memory verse by reciting Hebrews 13:17 together.

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- In what ways do parents and leaders “keep watch over you”?
- Why do we sometimes resist being watched over?
- What are some results or consequences of not being an obedient person?
- What are some results or benefits of being an obedient person?

Form pairs. Give partners the “Beginning and End” Activity Page, scissors, yarn sections, tape, and a Bible.

Explain that the cards contain all six sentences of Hebrew 13:17. Some cards contain the first half of a sentence and the others contain the second half. Ask partners to cut out the cards and then match up the beginning and ending phrases of each sentence. Then they should place the sentences in order on the floor. Let kids use their Bibles if they need help remembering the verse. (See Illustration 1.)

Next, have them tape the cards containing the beginning of each sentence onto the end of a separate piece of yarn. Instruct the kids to lay the strands of yarn on the floor then crisscross and jumble them up, but leave each of the open ends clearly exposed. Instruct pairs to shuffle and stack the remaining cards and place them beside their yarn jumble. (See Illustration 2.)

Have pairs trade places. Challenge them to match up the remaining cards containing the ends of each sentence and then tape the card to the appropriate strand of yarn—the one containing the first half of the sentence. (See Illustration 3.) Tell them that they cannot move or untangle the jumbled strands but must only use their eyes to determine which piece of yarn leads to the matching card.

When done, let kids gently untangle the strands and see if they have matched the phrases correctly.



What You Say:

“A jumbled pile of yarn is a mess. It’s tangled, twisted, and confusing. Ever feel like things at home or school are like that? I know I do. Life gets ridiculous at times. In the middle of all the mess it’s easy to forget that God is right there with us. He knows everything that’s going on. He knows the beginning, the end, and everything in the middle.

“In our game, the first and last parts of our memory verse were connected by a piece of yarn. Your life story is connected, too. It’s tied to God’s plan. He knew when your life began and knows when it will end. Now, as you live out the middle of the story, He wants to lead you through it. But the only way that can happen is for you to say, **[Impress] ‘I should trust and obey even if I don’t know how it will all work out.’** That’s not always easy—not for kids, not for adults, not for anyone ... not even Abraham.

“I have to wonder if, along the way, Abraham doubted if he made the right decision. If he did, it’s clear that he got over it and kept going, kept following what God asked him to do, kept obeying, and kept trusting even though he didn’t know how the story would end. **[Apply] This week, you’ll have opportunities to live out Hebrews 13:17 by obeying parents and leaders. If you mess up or your world feels like it’s turning into a confusing, jumbled mess, keep going. Keep obeying God and asking Him to lead you through it. He stuck with Abraham, and He’ll do the same for you.**”

The Descendants

Bible Story: The Descendants (Abraham and Isaac) • *Genesis 15, 18, 21, 22*

Bottom Line: I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.

Memory Verse: “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” *Hebrews 13:17, NIV*

Life App: Obedience—trusting those who lead you by doing what you are asked to do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

What You Need: an offering container

What You Do:

Collect offerings as kids enter. Ask the kids to share how they would spend \$5, \$10, \$100, and so on.

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Give and Take

What You Need: Playing cards

What You Do:

Divide kids into two or three groups and give each group a deck of playing cards. Guide them to play the games. (They might not all be playing the same game.) You might need to review the rules for kids who have never played a certain game or if it's been awhile since last they played.

What You Say:

“Did you notice that there was a lot of ‘give and take’ going on during our card game? You gave up a few cards, took a couple more, gave away another, and so on. The rules of the game require some give and take. Like it or not, that’s how the game is played. In today’s Bible story there wasn’t a card game going on, but there was definitely some interesting give and take happening. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group and you’ll find out what I mean.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

Ouch! (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

Tell the kids that you’re going to read from a list of 10 statements about today’s Bible story. Some of the statements will be true and some will be false. If the statement is true, kids should shout “OUCH!” in a high-pitched voice. If it’s false, they should shout “OUCH!” in a low-pitched voice. Then ask what would make the statement true.

Before you begin, tell kids that they must choose one of the following actions to do during the *entire* activity:

- Stand on one foot
- Run in place
- Twiddle thumbs as fast they can (demonstrate for kids who may not know what this is)
- Hold arms straight out to the side

After they have chosen their actions and are ready, begin reading the review statements below. Pause after each one to let kids respond with the appropriate “OUCH!” answer. Take enough time to make sure kids are beginning to feel tired or uncomfortable doing their actions.

1. Today’s Bottom Line is: I should trust and obey because it won’t cost me anything. (*False*)
2. At the start of today’s story, Abraham is 99 years old and Sarah is 89. (*True*)
3. God sent five visitors with a message to Abraham. (*False—two visitors and He came Himself*)

4. When Sarah heard that she would have a child in a year, she laughed out loud. *(True)*
5. God kept His promise and Isaac had a son named Abraham. *(False—Abraham had a son named Isaac)*
6. Isaac's name means "laughter." *(True)*
7. God asked Abraham to give up his son, but Abraham refused. *(False—he was going to obey)*
8. Isaac carried the wood and an animal for the offering. *(False—he didn't carry an animal)*
9. God provided a ram for the sacrifice in the place of Isaac. *(True)*
10. The name of the mountain where this story took place is called Mount Isaac. *(False—Mount Moriah)*

Congratulate the kids for their answers and for hanging in there with their actions.

Ask them to share some things that they think may have been going through Abraham's mind as he walked up the mountain. What are some things that may have been going through Isaac's mind as he walked up the mountain? The lesson focused on Abraham's obedience, but what about Isaac? How did he show obedience and trust?

Take a moment to help kids see the clear connection between Abraham's obedience and Jesus' obedience. Remind them that Jesus knew what it felt like for obedience to cost something. He paid the ultimate cost for us. He gave His life in order for us to be able to have a relationship with God. Read or have one of the kids read Philippians 2:8 out loud. Explain that Jesus paid the ultimate cost when He obeyed God in giving His life for us. He paid for our sin—took our place and became our substitute—so that we could have eternal life by believing in Him.

What You Say:

"You're probably feeling better by now. Did your arms get tired or your thumbs ache or did you get bored of standing on one foot? By the time we finished, 'OUCH!' wasn't just an answer—it was probably how you were feeling! Getting through our game cost you a little something, didn't it? Well, not to be cruel, but that's what I was hoping would happen!

[Apply] "See, whenever you make the decision to trust and obey God, there will be times when it will be hard to stick with your decision. You may want to give in when you feel discouraged, confused, or when it's costing you more than you like. That's when you need to remind yourself of today's Bottom Line: **[Impress]** I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.

"The story of Abraham is a good example of the cost of obedience. Can you imagine how easy it would have been for Abraham to turn around halfway up the mountain and decide that obeying God just wasn't worth the price of his son? Instead, he chose to do whatever God asked him to do. He was ready to give it all up if that's what God wanted. That takes a lot of trust. In the end, he was rewarded for his faith—not with a cookie *(or whatever snack you provided)*, but with a promise that God would bless his family and also bless the entire world through them. So here's the thing: while it's true that obedience may cost you something this week—your comfort, your time, your stuff—it's still the wise choice."

Catch On #2

Definitely a Challenge *(application activity / great for active learners)*

What You Need: Bible, plastic eggs, cookie sheets

What You Do:

Invite kids to work with a partner or as a team to maneuver their plastic egg into the square on the cookie sheet. No one can touch the egg except to place it in one of the corners of the cookie sheet to begin the game. As soon as the egg is in the square, have team members begin counting the seconds to see how long they can hold it there. First team to get to 30 is the winner. Give a high-five to the winners and then have everyone come together and sit down.

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- *(Hold up a Bible.)* How is the Bible like the perfect square in the middle of your cookie sheets?
- *(Place one of the plastic eggs on top of the Bible and attempt to balance it there.)* If being in the middle of the square represents being obedient, how do we act like the plastic eggs sometimes?

- (As kids answer, let them take a turn at balancing the egg on the Bible.) What can you do this week to help you stay inside God's square of obedience?
- What should you do if you disobey?

[Personalize] When you were about the age of the kids in your group, what was hardest for you when it came to obeying? Looking back, what would you do differently? Share your thoughts with the kids.

What You Say:

"That game was definitely a challenge! Inside the square was where you wanted the egg to stay, but that wasn't easy. It's like the eggs had a mind of their own! **[Apply]** Obedience is learning how to stay in the square—God's square. It's knowing what God says about right and wrong and then making the choice to follow it. It means trusting those who lead you by doing what you are asked to do. Staying in the square—that's going to cost you something. You might not get to do everything your friends are doing. You might not get your way when your parents or leaders have other ideas.

"But what you DO get in exchange for obedience is God's blessing. Even though obedience isn't about what you can get out of it, it's one very good reason to stay inside God's square. Don't be like the wobbling eggs that wanted to keep rolling away from the perfect spot in the middle of your cookie sheet. Obedience will definitely benefit you, which is why you and **[Impress]** *I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.*"

Catch On #3

Sour Power (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles, lemon wedges

This is a whole group activity – Girls vs. Boys!

What You Do:

Practice saying Hebrews 13:17 together to help kids remember it from previous weeks.

Form two equal teams to play a relay race. Give the first person on each team a lemon wedge. Explain that they must eat the lemon wedge down to the skin and then smile as they recite the verse. As soon as they're done, the next person on their team gets a lemon wedge and must eat their lemon wedge down to the skin and smile while reciting the verse. The first team to have everyone eat a lemon slice and say the verse is the winner. Have Bibles available in case kids need help quoting Hebrews 13:17.

What You Say:

"Eating sour lemons and trying to smile didn't work very well, did it? Your eyes watered and your mouth tightened up. The looks on your faces would have been very different if you'd been eating your favorite pizza or some yummy ice cream. Do you ever feel like obedience is about as much fun as eating sour lemons—or catching a cold? If you're obeying your parents and leaders but have a sour attitude, you're missing out on the best part of following God.

"Obedience isn't a bad word. Sure, it's not always easy to follow God the way Hebrews 13:17 says you should, but that doesn't mean it isn't exciting when you do. Every day that you wake up, you have the chance to do life together with the God of the universe! That's about as fantastic as it gets.

[Apply] "So, this week, don't walk around looking like you just ate a lemon. Get excited about following God. And yes, it's going to cost you something, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Let's finish this activity by saying today's Bottom Line two different ways. First, say it like a kid who has a sour lemon attitude about obedience. (Pause as kids use a grouchy voice to say, **[Impress]** *I should trust and obey even if it costs me something.*) That's really sour! Now say it like a kid who loves God and wants your life to put a smile on God's face. (Pause as kids use a happy, excited voice to say the Bottom Line.) Perfect!"