

Lesson 5

Listen and Obey

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Proverbs 4:1-9 and I Kings 3:5-9

MEMORY VERSE: Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Colossians 3:20

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Proverbs 1:7-8.

CATECHISM: The Fourth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- learn to listen to and obey parents
- ask God for wisdom

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. Upon David's death Solomon was appointed King of Israel. Although not in the lesson read I Kings 2: 1-4. This is David's instruction to Solomon. King David had been faithful in teaching Solomon God's way, how to love and serve God. In the lesson texts see that Solomon was choosing to follow God's ways, he desired to honor and serve God as his father had done. He prayed to God and asked for wisdom as he begin his work as King of Israel. God has given us parents in our lives to help us know how to honor God but also to honor and serve our parents.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: Who was King Solomon? Who was his father? What do we know about King David? What had he taught his son Solomon? When Solomon became king what did he do? What did Solomon know about the value of following God's way? (Look at Proverbs 4:1) What are things you can do to honor God and your parents?

ACTIVITY 1: Word Search Activity

ACTIVITY 2: Fill in the blank Activity: HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER – Honor, Serve, Obey, Love, Respect – HEAR GOD'S WORD

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to be an example of one who trusts God only.

Pray that you will wait upon the Lord as He guides you through this Sunday School year.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God about what's going on in your life.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and pray for them by name.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

1 Kings 3:5-9, Proverbs 4:1-9

Solomon was born when David was old, the last of his sons (1 Chronicles 3:5) and his second child with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24). David, whose name means "beloved" was a man of war and bloodshed (1 Chron. 28:3), but named his son Solomon, which means "peaceful." God, however, named him Jedidiah, which means "beloved or darling of the Lord" (2 Sam. 12:25). At this time Solomon was not in the line of succession and was not expected to ever be king.

Absalom was David's favorite son and rightful heir (2 Sam 13:37; 18:33), and the people expected him to succeed David (2 Sam 14:13; 15:1-6). The death of Absalom when Solomon was a young child left the throne vacant, but Bathsheba reminded David of his pledge to her that Solomon should be his heir to the throne (1 Kings 1:13). Solomon reigned for 40 years, around 970–930 BC.

Solomon acknowledges that God had been faithful to David who "walked before You in truth, righteousness, uprightness of heart toward You" (v.6) and that God had given David a son (Solomon) to sit on the throne. Solomon is already wise enough to admit that he is still like "a little boy" (v.7) who doesn't know how to "go out or come in." (a Hebrew expression of going from home and coming back, that is, everywhere; meaning to conduct daily business).

He had not been trained specifically to be a king, and knew he needed a greater wisdom to deal with political and civic matters and to judge the people in a fair and righteous way. God gave Solomon the opportunity to ask for wisdom rather than it just being given. Solomon's choice of wisdom shows that he is already wise and wants to rule in obedience to God's word.

Teaching God's word requires something we don't naturally have as sinful human beings, and that is wisdom. The Jews always placed a high value on wisdom, which is not only a matter of good advice and careful planning, but of applying God's word to practical life. Also, Godly wisdom is found only in those who have a right relationship with God so that they understand the human condition of being dead in sin and of God's saving grace that leads to a true knowledge of Him (Prov4 :1-3).

Solomon begins this section with words that he (and other children) very likely heard from their own fathers: “pay attention so that you may gain understanding” (Prov. 4:1). He also shows honor and obedience to his father by repeating what David had said to him: “Let your heart take hold of my words; keep my commandments and live” (4:3-4). Godly wisdom enables one to live a godly life and benefit from God’s goodness, mercy, and grace in all matters of life.

Solomon stresses the need to gain wisdom by writing “Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!” (Proverbs 4:5). Wisdom in Proverbs is personified as a beautiful woman, and if we keep her and love her, she will provide security (4:6), honor (4:8) and beauty (4:9).

This wisdom is given only to those who first have a right relationship with God as David and Solomon did, and know what to ask for. Our relationship with God is found in Christ who reconciled us to God on the cross (Rom 5:10). And being thus reconciled to God Jesus “became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption” (1Cor 1:30).

In receiving this wisdom from God, then “we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor 2:16). Jesus was always obedient to Joseph (Lk 2:51) and to his heavenly Father (Jn 14:31), obedient even unto death on the cross (Phil 2:8).

Fathers are still commanded to teach their children in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord” to gain the wisdom to honor and obey their parents and enjoy a rich and fruitful life on earth (Eph 6:1-4).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

wisdom: the right use of knowledge. God is the source of wisdom (Pr. 9:10, Col. 2:2-3), wisdom is hearing and obeying God (Deut. 4:5-6).

anointed: oil poured on the head of a person to signify they had been chosen by God, to make sacred by pouring on oil or ointment.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”
Colossians 3:20

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Fourth Commandment, see if the students can remember something from the story in the last lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

SAY: God tells us in the fourth Commandment to honor our parents. **ASK:** Have you ever gotten in trouble for not listening to your parents? (response). Even a prince needs to listen to his parents and obey them. Today, we will learn about a prince who listened to his father.

Read the Lesson

READ the opening paragraph. Ask for a volunteer to read the next paragraph.

ASK: What did King David teach Solomon? (His parents taught him to listen to and obey God.) King David taught Solomon to trust God and talk to God.

Either read the third paragraph or have a volunteer read it. **ASK:** Do your parents ever tell you stories about when they were young? **SAY:** I imagine King David told Solomon about protecting his sheep by killing a lion and a bear. He must have told his children about the time God helped him kill Goliath with his slingshot and a stone. David stepped up to do that because the giant defied the army of the living God (1 Samuel 23:26).

David loved God. Even though King David was not a perfect parent, he loved God and he loved his family. He loved his son, Solomon, who was going to be Israel's next king.

God had told King David that it would be Solomon's job to build the temple that David had hoped to build. King David stored up many of the supplies Solomon would need to do this and told Solomon about those supplies. King David also gathered advisers for the new, young king and commanded them to help Solomon with his huge task. David even wrote a Psalm for Solomon, that we can still read in our Bibles today (Psalm 72 can be read here, perhaps in a modern or simple translation if time allows). King David prayed for Solomon to be wise, love God, and treasure God's Word.

When Solomon was king, God told him to ask for whatever he wanted, and He would give

it to him. Solomon humbly asked God for wisdom to lead the people well. Solomon had listened to his father.

God's Word tells us that if anyone needs wisdom, they can ask God and He will give it to them (James 1:5, paraphrased).

God says to hear the instruction of a father to gain understanding and wisdom (Proverbs 4:1). Tell the students they can talk to the adults in their lives when they need help and understanding.

Then listen.

Repeat the Memory Verse

The goal in the following weeks will be for students to memorize the Bible verse and catechism before the next class session. This will be their weekly assignment and will help students to gain more from their lessons in class each week. Some students may not be used to memorizing, but it is important to encourage them to hide God's Word in their hearts. The creative ideas for teaching the memory verses will then serve as a review for most students but will also help others to learn the verses. The teacher should also memorize the Bible verses and catechism to serve as a model for the students. You may want to give a reward at the end of the quarter to those who have memorized all the memory verses, enrichment verses, and catechism.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Hide and Seek

Activity 1

Find all the words in the wordsearch.

Activity 1
HIDE AND SEEK

Words and names are hiding in this puzzle. Can you seek and find 16 of them? Then retell the story using the words you find.

ACTIVITY CENTER

Words found in the puzzle: Goliath, Solomon, giant, anointed, David, instruction, wisdom, soldier, faithfulness, king, decision, victory, forsake, God, and proverb.

Letter Code

Activity 2

Write the first five words of the Fourth Commandment, and then choose words from the list for the next set, using the numbered letters for the phrase at the bottom.

Activity 2
LETTER CODE

Write the first five words of the Fourth Commandment. Talk about ways we can obey them.

H O N O R T H Y F A T H E R
A N D T H Y M O T H E R

Which words show how God wants us to act towards parents and others who care for us? Write them in the blanks below.

H O N O R
1

S E R V E
2 3

O B E Y
4

L O V E
6

R E S P E C T
7

disobey
obey
honor
respect
dishonor
hate
love
talk back
serve

Match the numbers above with the blanks below. Fill in the correct letters to discover another way we can honor God and honor our parents.

H E A R G O D ' S W O R D
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class: