

# God's Way, Not My Way

Lesson Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-15

**Bible Truth:** I will serve the Lord the way He wants, not my way.

**Bible Story:** 2 Samuel 6:1-15

**Bible Verse:** "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." (Psalm 25:4-5, NIV)

## FOCUS

### Learning Activity: "Follow the Recipe"

#### Preparation

Find a simple recipe children can make and gather the necessary supplies to make it in class.

#### Presentation

Say: **Have you ever prepared something to eat that wasn't good? Have you ever built something that didn't work? Why do these things happen?** Allow children to answer questions as you ask them. **Usually this happens because we don't follow instructions. Today you are going to make a special treat. Be sure to follow the instructions correctly.**

Allow the children to prepare something to eat by following a simple recipe. Then allow them to enjoy what they prepared.

As they eat, say: **Why was it important to follow the recipe?** Allow children to answer. **The Word of God is like a recipe. We can find God's words in the Bible. If we want our lives to be full of blessings, we need to obey His Word. We need to serve Him the way He wants. In today's Bible story, we'll discover what happened when David didn't follow God's instructions when bringing the ark of the Lord back to Jerusalem.**

#### Materials

a simple food recipe children can make in class  
food items needed for recipe  
kitchen supplies to make recipe

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 25:4-5

### Preparation

Write Psalm 25:4-5 on a poster board or white board.

Write the following phrases on 10 sheets of paper. Be sure to leave the back side of each paper blank.

**Materials**  
poster board  
marker  
10 pieces of construction paper

page 1: Show me your ways, Lord  
page 2: teach me your paths.  
page 3: Guide me in your truth  
page 4: and teach me,  
page 5: for you are  
page 6: God my Savior,  
page 7: and my hope  
page 8: is in you  
page 9: all day long.  
page 10: Psalm 25:4-5

Create a path with these papers. Be sure to put the path in correct order.

### Explanation

Show children the Bible verse and read it together. Say: **This Bible verse contains a prayer to God. Can anyone tell me something this verse asks God to do for us?** Allow children to respond. **Yes, the verse asks God to show, teach, and guide us.** Have three volunteers underline those words. **This verse asks God to show us His ways and teach us His paths.** Underline the words ways and paths. **God has a certain way He wants us to live our lives and certain places He wants us to go.**

**Have you ever followed a path? Maybe you went on a hike with your family or friends and you had to follow a map to get to your destination. The Bible is God's map to tell us the path we should follow in life. If we do what God's Word tells us to do, then we will go the places God wants us to go and do the things God wants us to do.**

### Memorization Activity

Show the children the Bible verse path you created. Ask them to follow the path and say the words on each sheet of paper. Repeat this several times, turning over one or two papers to the blank side each time they start over.

## **INSTRUCT**

### **Bible Story: "David Moves the Ark," 2 Samuel 6:1-15**

#### **Preparation**

Read and study 2 Samuel 6:1-5.

Find pictures of this story online, in a picture Bible, or draw pictures to show to the children as you tell the story.

**Materials**  
Bible  
pictures of the Bible  
story

#### **Presentation**

Using pictures, tell the Bible story to the children.

Say: **The ark of the Lord was special for the people of Israel. It contained the laws of Moses. Many years before, the Philistine army had taken the ark of the Lord from Israel. Because David had been recognized as king of all Israel, he wanted to bring the ark of the Lord back to Jerusalem. He knew God's plans were to keep the ark inside the tabernacle, and for that reason he built a new tabernacle to place it in. Then, he sent word to the people to tell them that the ark was being taken back to Jerusalem.**

**An army of 30,000 men went to move the ark. God had given specific instructions that the ark was only to be moved by priests who were to carry it on their shoulders. NO ONE but the priests were allowed to touch the ark. However, instead of moving the ark God's way, David had it placed on a cart pulled by oxen. David and a group of musicians walked in front of the ark. They played instruments and sang praises to God. They were all joyful because the ark of the Lord was being brought back to Jerusalem.**

**Suddenly, the music stopped. When the cart pulled by the oxen approached a bump in the road, the ark moved as if it would fall. One of the men walking next to the ark reached out his hand to steady the ark and keep it from falling. When his hand touched the ark, he fell dead. God had said that no one, with the exception of the priests, was to touch the ark. The people had forgotten His command.**

**"What does this mean?" the people were asking themselves. David was also astonished. He was afraid to take the ark to Jerusalem, so he left it at the home of Obed-edom, who lived nearby. Then David and the people returned to their homes.**

**For three months, the ark of the Lord was in the house of Obed-edom. During the time the ark was there, the Lord blessed Obed-edom and his household.**

**When King David heard of this, he wanted to return the ark to Jerusalem. On this occasion, he followed God's commands about how to move to the ark. He ordered the priests to carry the ark on their shoulders as the Lord had commanded in the law book. As the priests**

walked towards Jerusalem, David danced before the Lord. The Israelites cheered and played their trumpets. Finally, the ark entered the city of Jerusalem. It was placed in the tabernacle that David had prepared for it. After this, David blessed the people and praised the Lord for everything He had done for Israel.

Say: David learned that we always need to do things God's way. It is always best to follow God's commands and do things His way!

## APPLICATION

### Learning Activity: Drama, "God's Way vs. My Way"

#### Preparation

Write the following situations on a poster board or white board:

Your little brother keeps using your toys without asking permission.

Your best friend forgot to do her homework, and she wants to copy your answers.

A bully is picking on your friend.

You find out that someone at school has been gossiping about you to other kids.

You think your teacher is picking on you because she doesn't like you.

**Materials**  
poster board  
marker

#### Presentation

Say: **We face many situations in life. There are two ways to handle things: God's way and our own way.** Divide children into groups and assign them one of situations listed above. They will develop two skits. One skit will solve the problem "God's way" and one will solve the problem "My way." Once the groups are ready, each group should act out their skits without telling the class which solution is "God's Way" and which one is "My Way." The class will try to guess which of the two skits represents "God's Way."

## MINISTRY TIME

#### Preparation

None

**Materials**  
2 small piece of paper for each  
child  
pencils  
trash can

## Presentation

Give each child two small pieces of paper. Ask them to write "My Way" on one sheet of paper and "God's Way" on the other. Invite children to pray, asking God to help them respond to situations the way God wants. As a symbol that they want to follow God's way, ask children to crumple the "My way" paper and put it in the trash can. Have them take home the "God's Way" paper as a reminder to follow God this week.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

### Learning Activity: Bible Study, "Tell Me About the Ark"

#### Preparation

Write the following questions and Scripture references on index cards:

- Who built the ark? Exodus 37:1
- What materials were used to build it? Exodus 37:1-2
- How big was the ark? Exodus 37:1
- How it was supposed to be carried? Exodus 37:2-5
- What was in the ark? Deuteronomy 10:2; Exodus 16:33; Numbers 17:10

**Materials**  
index cards  
pencils, markers, crayons  
paper  
measuring stick (ruler)  
artist drawing of the Ark  
of the Lord

Prepare a sheet of paper large enough to draw the ark according to its true measurements (3  $\frac{3}{4}$  feet long, 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  feet wide, 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  feet tall). You can use tape and attach several sheets of paper together.

#### Presentation

Say: **The Ark of the Lord was a trunk, similar to a suitcase you might use when you take a trip. The ark was very important to the people of Israel. You can learn more information about the ark by reading some Bible verses.**

Allow each child to work with a partner. Give a prepared index card to each team. Ask them to read the Scripture verse and to write their answers to the questions. Allow a few minutes for each team to complete the task, and then ask each team to share their answers.

Show the drawing of the ark to the children if you have it available. Allow them to draw the ark on the large paper using the exact measurements.