

We Worship God When...We Obey Him

Lesson Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1-28

Bible Truth: I can worship God by being obedient.

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 15:1-28

Bible Verse: "Love the Lord your God. Do what he requires. Always obey his rules, laws and commands."(Deuteronomy 11:1,NlrV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "What Makes God Smile?"

Preparation

Drape a piece of material over a chair to create a throne. Ask an adult to play the role of the king. Choose one thing that will make the king smile, such as singing or giving a compliment. Instruct the adult to only smile if the children do the action you have chosen for the game. DO NOT tell the children what will make the king smile.

Materials
paper crown
chair
piece of material

Presentation

Say: **We are going to play a game called, "Make the King Smile."** Let me introduce you to the **king**. Introduce the king and ask him to sit on his throne. He should have a very serious expression on his face. **Our king is a very serious man, but one thing can make him smile. Unfortunately, he does not want to tell you what makes him smile. You will have to figure it out.** Divide children into teams of two or three. Explain that each team will get one opportunity to make the king smile. Give them a few minutes to plan how they are going to make him smile.

When everyone has had an opportunity to plan, allow each team to come before the king and do or say something that they hope will make the king smile. If no one is able to make the king smile, the teacher gets a turn!

Say: **What things did you do or not do to make the king smile? What was the only action that would make the king smile?** Allow children to respond. **Did you know that God is our true king? Do you ever wonder what makes God smile? Listen carefully to today's Bible lesson in order to discover one action that pleases God and makes Him smile.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Deuteronomy 11:1

Preparation

Write Deuteronomy 11:1 on a piece of poster board.

Write each word of the Bible verse on a separate sheet of paper. Place the words in an envelope. Do this three times to create three sets for the memorization game.

Materials
poster board
paper
3 envelopes
pencil or marker

Explanation

Read Deuteronomy 11:1 with the children. Say: **What does the first part of this verse tell us to do?** Ask one child to underline the phrase "Love the Lord your God." **The rest of this verse tells us how we can show this love to God. Can someone underline the word that tells us how we can show love to God?** Allow one child to underline the word obey. **Has your mom ever asked you to do something? What happens if you grumble or complain?** Allow children to answer. **What happens if you do it cheerfully?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, when you obey your mom, it shows that you know she is in charge and you respect her. You also obey your mom because you love her. When we obey God, it shows Him that we know He is in charge of the whole world and it is our job to obey Him. Remember, when we show God that we know who He is and what He has done, we are worshipping Him. Love and worship go together. When we obey God, we show that we love Him as we worship Him through our obedience.**

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into three groups. Give each group a prepared envelope containing the words of the Bible verse. Let them race to see which group can put the verse in order the quickest.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "King Saul Disobeys," 1 Samuel 15:1-28

Preparation

Read and study 1 Samuel 15:1-28.

Write the following questions on small pieces of paper:

- Against whom was Saul fighting?
- What did the Lord ask Saul to do?
- What was the name of the prophet God used to speak?
- How did Saul disobey the Word of God?
- Why did Saul keep some things and some sheep?
- What was Saul's punishment for being disobedient?

Materials
Bible
paper
pencil
markers or crayons

Presentation

Divide children into six teams. Give each team one of the questions you have written on the pieces of paper. Ask them to listen for the answer to their question as you tell the story.

Draw pictures of the Bible story as you tell it to the children (or draw the pictures ahead of time).

Say: **One day, Samuel went to visit King Saul. "I have a message for you from the Lord," he said. "God wants you to destroy the Amalekite people. Don't save any of the spoils- the sheep, camels, or bulls. Destroy everything and everyone."**

Saul gathered his army and marched to the city of Amalek. They fought the Amalekites and won. But Saul didn't obey the Word of God that was spoken through Samuel. Saul and his men took the king of the Amalekites as prisoner and kept the best part of everything that belonged to the Amalekites.

While Saul and his men were marching back home, the Lord spoke to Samuel, "I am sorry that I chose Saul to be king over my people. He doesn't obey my commandments." Samuel was very sad. He cried all night long, praying and talking to God.

The following morning, Samuel went to see Saul. When Saul saw Samuel, he said, "I've done what God ordered me to do."

"Then, why do I hear the sound of sheep and bulls," asked Samuel.

Saul replied by saying, "I've brought these animals to be offered as sacrifices to the Lord."

Samuel said, "Saul, it's better to obey God than to offer Him sacrifices. Because you did not obey the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king of Israel."

Give each team a few minutes to discuss the answer to their questions. Then the teams can share their questions and answers with the whole group. Say: **Sacrifice was an important part of Old Testament worship, but in this story God had not asked for sacrifice. He had asked for obedience. Remember to always do what God asks you to do.**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Creative Scripture, "More Than Sacrifice"

Preparation

Write 1 Samuel 15:22 on a poster board.

Cut several small pieces of paper that can cover the word "sacrifice" written on the poster board.

Materials
poster board
markers or crayons
paper
scissors
tape or adhesive to
attach paper to poster

Presentation

Say: **Let's read what Samuel told Saul in today's Bible story.** Read 1 Samuel 15:22 with the children: "But Samuel replied: Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice..."

What did Saul offer to God instead of obeying? Allow children to answer. **Yes, he said he was going to offer the bulls and sheep as sacrifices, but God wanted his obedience more than a sacrifice.**

What do we offer God instead of obeying Him? Sometimes we offer our time. We are willing to spend time reading the Bible but we are not willing to obey God by controlling our tempers. Write the word "time" on a piece of paper and put it over the word "sacrifice." **It is possible that we want to give money to help out someone who is sick, hungry, or homeless. But perhaps we are not willing to obey God and forgive someone who has mistreated us.** Write the word "money" on a piece of paper and put it over the word "sacrifice."

Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to write one thing that children sometimes want to do instead of obeying. When they are finished, place each of their words over the word "sacrifice" and discuss. Say: **Many of the things we wrote are good things. We should read our Bibles and give money to help others. However, if we do all of those things, but do not obey God, then we are not doing what He has asked.**

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **Let's look at the words we wrote. If they are good things like reading our Bibles, let's say, "I will read my Bible AND obey." If they are things we shouldn't do, let's throw them in the trash. Go**

through the words with the children and say the appropriate phrase or toss the paper into the trash. Then say a prayer asking God to help the children always be obedient to God.

Materials

the words children wrote during the application activity
trash can