

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

4 YEAR OLDS

TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 2

God Wants Me to Obey



God Wants Me to Obey

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the students what obedience is and show them that the Bible teaches us to obey God and our parents.

Key Verses

Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:8-10—Main Teaching Passages

Genesis 11:26-25:8 (Life of Abraham)

Ephesians 6:1

Colossians 3:20

Memory Verse - Romans 10:13 (November Memory Verse)

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Hook

Give one of the students a blindfold. Tell them that you are going to give them directions on how to walk around the room without hitting anything or anyone. If you want, you can have the other students stand up as obstacles.

In this game, the student needed to obey your directions. If they did obey, they would not walk into anything. The same way, God and our parents give us instructions to obey. These instructions are for our good, and it benefits us to obey them.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

A long time ago, the Lord came to a man named Abram and gave him a big command. He told Abram to leave everything behind—his home, his family, his country, everything and everyone he had ever known—and go to a country God would show him. The Lord didn't tell him where he was going, but He did promise to bless him, make him a great nation, and bless the whole world through him.

When Abram heard this, he obeyed. He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot, and they travelled west to the land of Canaan. Once they arrived there, the Lord told Abram that this land would belong not just to him, but his family after him. Abram was 75 years old when the Lord told him to leave his home, and he lived another 100 years in the land of Canaan until his death at age 175. Genesis 11:26-25:8 record many of the events of his life in the land God had promised him.

Thousands of years later, the writer of Hebrews reflected on the life of Abram (later called Abraham). Hebrews 11:8-10 says that because of his faith, Abraham obeyed God's call to go to another country. He could have lived in luxury in his own country, but instead he spent his life living in tents. And why did he obey? Because he knew earth was not his home forever. One day, he would live with God forever in the eternal city, the New Jerusalem.

LOOK

What the Lord asked Abram to do was really difficult. Imagine leaving everything you've ever known behind. That would mean your home, your toys, your friends, even your family. You would be going someplace brand new, where you didn't know anybody or have anything. Not only that, but Abram didn't even know where he was going. He just had to trust God and do what the Lord told him. And do you know what? Abram obeyed! He didn't make excuses or tell God why he couldn't go. He didn't wait until he felt like doing what God wanted him to do. He didn't obey part of God's command but not the whole thing. He did what God asked, as soon as He asked. He obeyed.

Obedience is an important part of the Christian life. In God's Word, God tells us to do many things. He tells us to love others and to tell people about Him. He commands us to tell the truth and not to steal from others. God wants us to obey these commands. That doesn't just mean when we feel like obeying or when it's easy to obey. We can't obey only when it's convenient. Just as Abram did exactly what God asked, when God asked him, we need to obey God's Word and do exactly what He wants us to do.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

As a four-year-old, one of the most important commandments God gives is to obey the adults God has put in your lives, such as your teachers and, most importantly, your parents/guardians. Obeying your parents is the primary command Paul gave to children in Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20. God gave you your parents and guardians to teach, guide, and discipline you when you are young so that you can learn what you should do and how you should live. It's important for you to listen to your parents and obey their instructions. That means doing what they tell you do when they tell you to do it, not just when you feel like it. It means giving a full effort to obeying and doing everything they say, not just what's easy or convenient.

Obedience is an important part of following Jesus. Whether you are following the commands of Scripture, listening to your teacher, or doing what your parents ask you to do, by obeying you are pleasing the Lord. So let's honor the Lord with our obedience. Let's do what His Word says and keep the instructions of our parents and teachers.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class what God asked Abram to do. How did Abram respond?

Pray: Thank the Lord for giving us instructions in His Word. Ask Him for help to obey His commandments, and particularly to obey your parents.

Parent Question: Who are some people God tells us to obey?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Genesis 12:1-9 and Hebrews 11:8-10 By David Guzik

Genesis 12:1-9

A. GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAM.

1. ([Gen 12:1-3](#)) God's previous covenant with Abram.

Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

a. **Now the Lord had said to Abram:** We know from [Acts 7:2-4](#) that this promise was made to Abram *before* he left Ur of the Chaldeans. Now that his father was dead and he was compelled to a more complete obedience, God repeated the promise.

i. Abram's partial obedience did not take God's promise away. Instead, it meant the promise was on "hold" until Abram was ready to do what the Lord said.

ii. Abram would certainly become a giant of faith, even being the father of the believing ([Galatians 3:7](#)); yet he did not start there. We see Abram as an example of *growing* in faith and obedience.

b. **To a land I that I will show you:** After stating He wanted Abram to leave his country and his relatives, God promised Abram a **land**. Specifically, God promised the land of greater Israel.

i. These are *God's* promises; notice how often God says **I will** in these verses. Genesis [chapter 11](#) is all about the plans of man. Genesis [chapter 12](#) is all about the plans of God.

c. **I will make you a great nation:** God promised to make a **nation** from Abram. He will have enough children and grandchildren and further descendants to populate a nation.

d. **And make your name great:** God promised to bless Abram and to **make** [his] **name great**. There is probably no more honored name in history than the name of Abram, who is honored by Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

e. **I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you:** God also promised He would **bless those who bless you** and to **curse him who curses you**. This remains true today and is a root reason for the decline and death of many empires.

i. "When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple, they were soon conquered by Rome. When Rome killed Paul and many others, and destroyed Jerusalem under Titus, Rome soon fell. Spain was reduced to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; Poland fell after the pogroms; Hitler's Germany went down after its orgies of anti-Semitism; Britain lost her empire when she broke her faith with Israel." (Barnhouse)

ii. This is also one reason why the United States has been so blessed. The United States was one of the first modern nations to grant full citizenship and protection to Jewish people.

iii. This promise has also affected the church. The times when the church took upon itself the persecution of the Jewish people were dark times not only for the Jews, but also for the church.

f. **In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed:** Not only was Abram promised blessing, but God also promised to *make him* a blessing, even to the point where **all the families of the earth** would be blessed in Abram.

i. *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.* ([Galatians 3:8-9](#))

ii. *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation* ([Revelation 5:9](#)). The work of Jesus will touch every people group on the earth.

iii. Luther said the promise **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed** should be written "in golden letters and should be extolled in the languages of all people," for "who else ... has dispensed this blessing among all nations except the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ?" (Boice)

2. ([Gen 12:4](#)) Abram's departure from Haran.

So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

a. **And Lot went with him:** This was partial obedience by Abram. God commanded him to go out *from his kindred*, and he brought his nephew Lot.

b. **Lot went with him:** Lot would not be a blessing to Abram. He would be nothing but trouble and inconvenience.

3. ([Gen 12:5-6](#)) Abram's arrival in Canaan.

Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

4. ([Gen 12:7-9](#)) God appears to Abram in Canaan.

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

a. **Then the Lord appeared to Abram:** Once Abram was in the land, God reminded him of His promise. The land Abram saw belonged to Abram and his descendants.

b. **To your descendants I will give this land:** Abram never owned any of this land except his burial plot ([Genesis 23:14-20](#)). Yet God's promise was enough evidence to assure Abram that he did indeed own the whole country.

c. **And there he built an altar to the Lord:** Abram thought this was important to do. The altar was important to Abram because it was a place to meet with God, to offer sacrifice for sin, to show submission to God, and to worship God.

i. Christians have an altar also ([Hebrews 13:10](#)). We meet with God at our own place where we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for sin ([Ephesians 5:2](#)), where we submit to God as living sacrifices ([Romans 12:1](#)), and where we offer the sacrifice of praise ([Hebrews 13:15](#)).

d. **He pitched his tent:** Even in the land God gave him, Abram never lived in a house – he lived in a tent. Tents are the home of those who are just passing through and do not put down permanent roots.

i. We too are to live like tent-dwellers, as pilgrims on this earth ([1 Peter 2:11](#)). We should live as people who have their permanent dwelling place in heaven, not on earth. Too many Christians want to build mansions on earth and think they would be happy with tents in heaven.

ii. A pilgrim is someone who leaves home and travels to a specific destination. A pilgrim isn't a drifter; a pilgrim has a goal. Abram's goal (and our goal) was God's heavenly city ([Hebrews 11:8-10, 14-16](#)).

Hebrews 11:8-10

C. Faith in the life of Abraham and the Patriarchs.

1. ([Hbr 11:8](#)) Abraham's obedience by faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

a. **By faith, Abraham obeyed:** Abraham did step out in faith, going to the place God promised him; but his faith was less than perfect. This is seen by comparing [Genesis 12:1-5](#) with [Acts 7:2-4](#), where it is evident that Abraham first went half way to where God called him, and only *eventually* obeyed completely. Yet thousands of years later, God did not "remember" the delayed obedience, only the faith.

2. ([Hbr 11:9-10](#)) Abraham's sojourning life of faith.

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

a. **By faith, he dwelt in the land of promise:** Abraham lived as a "sojourner" in the land God promised, never owning any of it except the plots that he and Sarah were buried on. **Dwelt** translates the ancient Greek word *paroikos*, describing a "resident alien" – one who lives somewhere, but doesn't have permanent status there.

i. A resident alien or a sojourner is evident. The way they talk, the way they dress, their mannerisms, their entertainment, their citizenship, and their friends, all speak of their native home. If someone is the same in all these areas as the "natives," they are no longer sojourners – they are permanent residents. Christians shouldn't live as if they are permanent residents of planet earth.

b. **Dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob:** Because they had no permanent home, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived in **tents** instead of houses. They looked forward to a better city – **the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**