

Boys of the Old Testament Fulfilling God's Plan



Meet six boys that love God and want
to live for Him...no matter what!

12 weeks of Fun for Preschoolers

Children's Church Stuff.com

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Introductory stuff

Order Of Service

Everything about this curriculum was designed with you, the teacher, in mind. The sections in each lesson are put in the order you find them for a specific reason. Preschoolers are active (an understatement) so active segments follow sitting segments keeping them from sitting for an extended length of time at any point. This enables the service to move along smoothly and the teachers to feel more successful.

Curriculum Management

In the Curriculum Overview we have provided an estimated amount of time that each section should take. Of course, every class is different but for most the amount of time given should work great. Tweak the order of activities to suit your needs and don't fret if you can't fit in each section on any given week. Make copies of the lesson each week so your originals don't get misplaced or messed up. Then mark on the copies or keep a chart of which sections you didn't fit in so you can pull out an unused game or activity on a day when service goes long or a teacher doesn't show up.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or suggestions, you can e-mail us through our website www.ChildrensChurchStuff.com. Of course, there is always this option too: Children's Church Stuff, 428 S. Seminary, Collinsville IL 62234

Bible Translation

We use the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted. At times another translation offers greater understanding for young ones.

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Written by: Amy and Patricia Meyers



Curriculum Overview



This segment is just a little note to give you more insight about the lesson. It will tell you where the lesson is found in the Bible so you can read the whole story prior to service, if you wish. Also, a few thoughts to get you focused on the goal of the lesson as you prepare to teach it. Pausing to read these thoughts can really help encourage and refresh you as you enter the classroom. What you are doing is so important to the kids, the parents, and to God.



Today's Point

Today's Point is the emphasis for the day. Every section is centered around this point. Say it often and have the kids repeat it after you. By focusing on a realistic amount of information, you can be sure the kids will walk away with a nugget of truth each week.



Included here will be a complete list of what you will need for each lesson: things to purchase, stuff to grab out of your supply cabinet, and papers to copy will all be listed.



Today's Verse

This is a simple memory verse pertaining to the lesson. There is a section in each lesson for teaching the memory verse. It is also printed on the coloring sheet. Encourage the parents to go over the verse with the kids during the week. Preschoolers learn by repetition.



Suggestions and Tips



Teacher Tips

In this segment we offer a couple of helpful hints and tricks that anyone can put into practice immediately. These tips are versatile and address problems most preschool classrooms face. They also help new teachers become acclimated to being in the classroom. So take a minute each week to read them over, tweak them to your needs, and watch your classroom become more vibrant, more peaceful, and more fun!



Suggested Toys

This section offers a few suggestions of toys that pertain to the lesson. Some weeks there will be a play-related suggestion provided or questions to ask the kids. Helpers and teachers should always be interacting with the kids, but playtime is key. Kids love it when their teachers play with them, it makes the teacher more accessible. So pull out these suggested toys, get down on the kids' level, and introduce the lesson with play. The kids will take in more of the lesson if they already have a taste of it. One-on-one time also helps to get to know the kids better.



Video Suggestion

A short video or video clip suggestion is offered here to restate today's lesson in a new way. The video suggestion is not put in the service order since it is just that, a suggestion; something extra to add in if you have time. You can find most, if not all, of these videos at your library or video store. All kids love movies, so you know they are going to be paying attention. Showing the story this way really helps the kids retain the message.



Curriculum Overview



10-15 minutes

We have found it works best to have toys out as the kids arrive. That way, they get a little playtime and no one gets left out of any activities. Usually all the latecomers have arrived by the end of playtime and everyone is ready to get started on the activities.



3-5 minutes

A simple, quick paced game or method is included here to get the kids excited about cleaning up the toys after playtime. Then the room is ready for you to do all your activities and you don't have to worry about tripping over toys. Involving the kids in clean up is also a great way to teach them to follow directions and be good helpers. Including character-building moments is part of ministering to this age group. Them having fun while doing it is an added bonus!



3-5 minutes

We offer an easy-to-learn song that portrays the main point in a fun way the kids won't soon forget. Go over the songs slowly and let the kids really learn the words. Sing a phrase at a time and ask the kids to repeat. Then sing all together once they know the words fairly well. Putting a rhythm to the lesson really makes the message stick in the kids' minds long after service has ended.

Memory Verse Activity



3-5 minutes

Preschoolers are extremely capable of retaining information if it is taught so they can understand it. By repetition and lots of fun, your class will amaze you with their memorization skills. Don't limit them! The activities range from simple motions to silly games. Each week the verse will reiterate today's point and really seal it into the kids' minds. The memory verse is also printed on the coloring sheet so the parents can practice the verse with the kids during the week. Once the words are in the kids' heads, the meaning will sink into their hearts.



Curriculum Overview

Bible Lesson



5-7 minutes

The Bible lesson is a short teaching of today's Bible story, written in a way that is proven to relate to preschoolers. Each lesson is written conversationally, enabling even the newest of teachers to get an idea of how to present it. But we do not recommend that you simply read the paper aloud. Taking the time to read over the story prior to service frees you to really connect with the kids. Preschoolers respond very well to eye contact and involvement, so take every opportunity to include them in the lesson.

Object Lesson



3-5 minutes

An illustration of the lesson with an object is included as another opportunity to seal in the message. The objects are easy-to-find items that you may even have in your supply cabinets or toy boxes already. This lesson is also written conversationally, but we recommend that you read through it prior to service and offer it in your own words. Object lessons are great for getting the kids involved and allowing them to touch and really experience today's point.



8-10 minutes

The suggested snack always ties in with the lesson in some way. They are perfect for getting the kids talking about what you have been learning. Many of these snacks are very easy to find, put together, or make for a great illustration of today's point. You may, of course, pull out whatever you have on hand or tweak these ideas to fit your specific situation and needs.



12-15 minutes

The crafts are very simple to do and offer the kids a tangible piece of the lesson to bring home. Provided is the information on ordering the craft materials whether it be supplies or a craft kit. Some supplies may be purchased from other locations, but we have found Guildcraftinc.com to have wonderful quality as well as great prices (and great people to work with as well).



Curriculum Overview

Game



5-7 minutes

No preschool class would be complete without a fun game. Each week, the game will restate today's point and/or the story. All of the games are simple to understand and a blast for the kids. Any items required for the game will be things you have on hand or can acquire easily. Feel free to tweak the games to accommodate your group size, ability, and space. These are also great games to know how to play for a week that someone doesn't show up or service runs long.

Tucker Tales



3-5 minutes

This quarter we will meet Tucker, the dog, and his animal friends. Each short story will bring today's point into a more realistic setting for the kids. They will really love these characters and will learn so much while enjoying a fun story. There are no pictures with these stories so the kids are free to imagine the characters any way they want.

Coloring sheet and Review



Going back over the lesson before the kids leave is always a good idea. Included in each lesson is a short list of review questions to get you started. The questions cover today's point and the Bible story. The page following each lesson will be a coloring sheet with the memory verse printed on it. We recommend giving each child a copy to color while you ask the review questions and they wait for their parents. We recommend that you do not start this activity until 10-15 minutes prior to service ending. Too much coloring time will bore the kids and provide an opening for chaos. If you have more than 15 minutes left and have done everything, play the game again. If you run out of time, you can always send the coloring sheet home with the kids to color later.



Lesson 1 • Obedient Dan



Nothing puts a smile on God's face quite like the sight of His children obeying Him. He loves nothing more than to see us follow His commandments and live in peace because of it. This week's lesson is taken from Daniel 6:7-15. We will explore the beginning of Daniel's story and talk about his obedience to God even in extreme conditions. Pray for God to speak through you and really help this message to sink into the kids' hearts. Preschoolers need to see that everyone is happier when we are obedient: our parents, our teachers, but most of all, our Heavenly Father. All of us need to know that if we obey God fully, everything else falls into place.



Today's Point

God is happy when we obey

Today's Materials



- o Object Lesson-One board game, preferably Candy Land
- o Craft- A Prayer Chain Craft kit from Guildcraftinc.com item #353-731 for each child and a permanent marker
- o Coloring Sheet- A copy of the coloring sheet for each child and crayons



Today's Verse

Daniel prayed three times a day.
Daniel 6:10 (NLT)



Suggestions and Tips



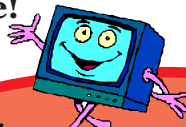
Teacher Tips

- Teaching the kids new songs is a great way to get today's message stuck in their head. Preschoolers learn by repetition so sing one line at a time and ask the kids to repeat it back to you. Then do two lines at a time, then sing the whole thing. The kids will have these songs memorized in no time and will be singing them all week long.
- Get to know the kids' parents. Talk to them briefly when they pick their child up. Parents love to hear that their child was particularly helpful, very kind, or learned something quickly. Tell them! It's a great way to establish a relationship and who knows, maybe they'll want to volunteer to help in your class sometime!



Suggested Toys

Prior to service, dig through your toy boxes. Pull out any toys that require directions such as simple board games or building blocks/lincoln logs. Put these toys in a separate bucket. As the workers interact with the kids during playtime, ask them to use these toys to introduce today's point. Show the kids how God is happy when we obey, just like the game is most fun or the structure looks best when we obey the directions. Play really helps seal the point into the kids' minds and they'll take in so much more of the lesson if they already have a taste of it.



Video Suggestion

Veggietales has a video of this story called Where's God When I'm Scared. It is only thirty minutes long so it is great to have playing as the kids come in or while they wait for their parents. Or use it in your lesson by showing just the part telling this story.



Lesson 1 • Obedient Dan



Welcome the kids to church. Have some toys out ready for playtime. Invite the kids to join in the playtime as they arrive. Allow the kids to play with workers interacting with them.



Today to get the kids to help clean up, let them practice their colors. Shout a color and then ask the kids to put away every toy they can find that is that color. Once all of the toys of the first color are cleaned up, shout out another color. Continue until all the toys are put away. Encourage everyone to work fast and follow directions. After you're done, tell the kids what a great job they did obeying you. God is happy when we obey.



Ask the kids to sit in a circle and sing a few familiar songs. “The ABC’s” or “Jesus loves me” are great ones. Then introduce a new song like this one.

Obey Song

Sung to: London Bridges

God is happy when we obey
We obey, we obey
God is happy when we obey
It makes Him smile

Memory Verse Activity



“Daniel prayed three times a day.”
Daniel 6:10 (NLT)
Have the kids gather around and ask them to repeat the verse after you, a few words at a time. After a few times through, teach the motions. Daniel prayed (fold hands in prayer), three times a day (hold up three fingers). Once they know it fairly well, ask the kids to say the verse with you instead of after you. Once they have a good grasp on the words, stop and ask if anyone would like to perform the verse by themselves. If some do, great! If not, say it once more as a group and move on to your next activity.



Lesson 1 • obedient Dan

Bible Lesson



Can you all show me how you pray? Great job. Let's all pray together. Everyone repeat after me. (Say the prayer a few words at a time and encourage the kids to repeat after you.) Dear Jesus, thank you for bringing us all to church today and thank you that we can all pray together. Amen.

Do you guys like to pray? (Let them answer.) Me, too. It makes God very happy when we pray. God loves to hear us talk to Him. God also loves to see us obey Him. You guys like to obey, don't you? (Let them answer.) Everyone did such a great job obeying the directions of our clean up game. It makes God smile really big when we obey our parents and teachers.

We are going to talk about a guy in the Bible that loved to pray and obey more than anything else in the whole world. His name was Daniel. Daniel prayed three times every single day. Can you all show me three fingers? (Encourage everyone to participate.) That's great, that is how many times Daniel prayed every day. That's a lot of praying, isn't it? (Let them answer.)

Daniel lived in a town where the king told everyone what to do. The king was a bad guy and he said that no one was

allowed to pray to God. The king wanted everyone to pray to him. But Daniel knew that he shouldn't pray to anyone but God. The Bible tells us to pray, doesn't it? (Let them answer.) So when Daniel kept praying, he was obeying God. Daniel prayed three times every single day. He was obeying God every single day. That was the right thing to do, wasn't it? (Let them answer.)

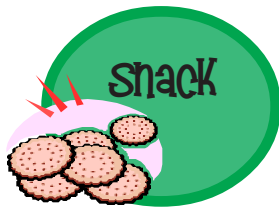
Daniel didn't let the bad king make him disobey God. The king had lots of guards making sure that everyone was only praying to him and not to God. The king would send the guards to walk around the town and look in people's houses to make sure they weren't breaking the law.

One day while they were doing their searches, a guard looked in Daniel's window and saw him praying to God. The guard knew that Daniel was doing something the king said not to do. So he took Daniel to the palace to see the king and be punished. That wasn't very nice, was it? (Let them answer.) Daniel was such a good boy, he was obeying God.

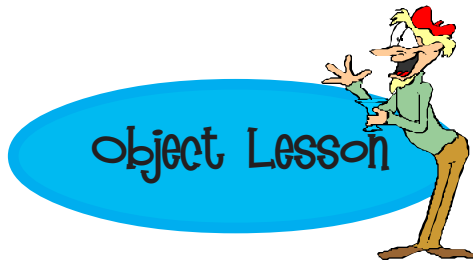
What do you think the king did to Daniel? (Let them answer.) We will have to wait until next week to find out what happened.



Lesson 1 • Obedient Dan



Using a cookie or biscuit cutter, help the kids cut a slice of bread and lunch meat into O's. As you help each child, ask them what letter their snack looks like. Then explain that obey starts with O. Or pull out some O shaped cereal and let the kids string them onto clean yarn or twine to make necklaces. Measure the string on a child to make sure it can easily be pulled over their head, leave extra room for when it's full of cereal. As they munch, talk about Daniel and how obey begins with O.



Needed: One board game, preferably Candy Land.

(Open the game in front of the kids and set it up like you are going to play.) **Who knows how to play this game? Raise your hand. Ok, so first I pick a card, right? (Let them answer.) Then what do I do? (Let them answer.) Yes, I move my player the closest spot that is the same color. So I drew a ___ card. I need a helper to show me which space to move my player to. (Call up one or two children to help you.)**

Now, if you were playing with me, would you want me to play by the rules or would you mind if I cheated and moved my player all the way to the end instead of stopping on this square? (Let them answer. Encourage them to be honest about how they would feel.) You wouldn't like that at all, would you? (Let them answer.) Do you think it would make you happy or unhappy? (Let them answer.) Sure, it would make you unhappy if I cheated.

When we are playing together, everyone is happier when everyone else obeys the rules. That is true in almost everything in life. Are your mommy and daddy happier when you obey their rules? (Let them answer.) Are they happy when you disobey their rules? (Let the kids answer. Make sure everyone is participating in the answer time.) Of course, they are happier when we obey the rules. All mommies and daddies are happier when their children obey. Even my mommy and daddy are happier when I obey the rules -- and look how old I am!

God is happy when we obey, too. Did you know that? Who did we learn about from the Bible today? (Let them answer.) What did Daniel do that made God very happy? (Let them answer.) Do you want to make God happy? (Let them answer.) Of course you do. So do I.



Lesson 1 • Obedient Dan



Needed: Prayer Chain Craft from Guildcraftinc.com item #353-731 for each child and a permanent marker.

Give each child a craft kit. Show them how to link the foam strips together to make a chain. This craft teaches kids how to pray with each link in the chain representing a prayer step (folding hands, etc.). It could also be used to remind kids of the lesson by writing one word of 'Daniel obeyed when he prayed' on each link. This craft does not need glue so it's very simple and fun!

Game Simon Says



Replace Simon with your name. Give orders such as "_____ says touch your toes" and the kids must touch their toes. But if you say "touch your toes" without saying your name first and someone does, they are out. When someone is out, keep it positive, but they do need to sit out. Keep the game moving quickly to keep the ones out from getting bored. Whoever is the last one standing gets a big cheer and round of applause from everyone. Tell the kids what a great job they did obeying. Just like when Daniel obeyed God.



Tucker Tales Tucker obeys



"Tucker, do you want to go out?" Danny asked his big yellow dog.

Tucker wagged his tail and smiled. Tucker was one of those dogs that could smile.

"You have to stay in your yard, Tucker," Danny said. "Don't forget."

Tucker listened, but didn't like what he heard. He didn't like staying in his own yard. Howard, the cat from the brown house in back got to run all over the neighborhood. Molly, the poodle from next door always ran into Tucker's yard. And Marty, the gray schnauzer from two doors down was always at Howard's house.

Tucker ran out the back door, across the deck and down the 7 steps.

"In your yard, Tucker!" Danny said once more.

Tucker's head drooped.

"Stay in your own yard," Marty said, making fun of Tucker,

"Poor big yellow dog," said Howard the cat. "It must be hard living with those people."

"Hey!" said Tucker. "My family is great."

"Then why do they boss you around so much?" asked Molly who had just popped through the bushes into the flower bed in Tucker's yard.

"Because they love me," said Tucker.

"What would happen if you went out of your yard?" asked Howard.

Lesson 1 • Obedient Dan

"I don't know. I think they would be angry at me," said Tucker.

"Do you care if they are angry?" asked Molly.

"Yes, I care!" said Tucker.

"Really?" asked Molly. "I wonder if my owner gets angry when I pop into your yard."

Marty and Howard strolled over into Tucker's yard.

"My owner doesn't care where I go," said Howard.

"I don't know about my owner," said Marty. "They haven't said anything about it. They just let me in when I bark at the door."

"I like it when my owners are happy. They pet me on the head a lot," said Tucker.

"I like it when they throw toys," said Molly.

"Me, too," said Tucker.

"They throw toys for you?" asked Marty.

"Tucker!" Danny called from the deck. "You wanna play catch?"

Tucker looked at his friends and smiled his biggest smile ever. "My boy wants to play with me!" Tucker ran to the deck wagging his yellow tail.

"I wish my owners told me what to do," said Marty.

"Danny seems to really like Tucker," said Molly.

"Yeah, he does seem happy with him," said Howard.

"Do you think they are extra happy with Tucker because he obeys?" asked Molly.

"I don't know," said Marty. "I

think I'll go home and see what my owners are doing."

"Me, too," said Molly as she slid back under the bush to her own yard.

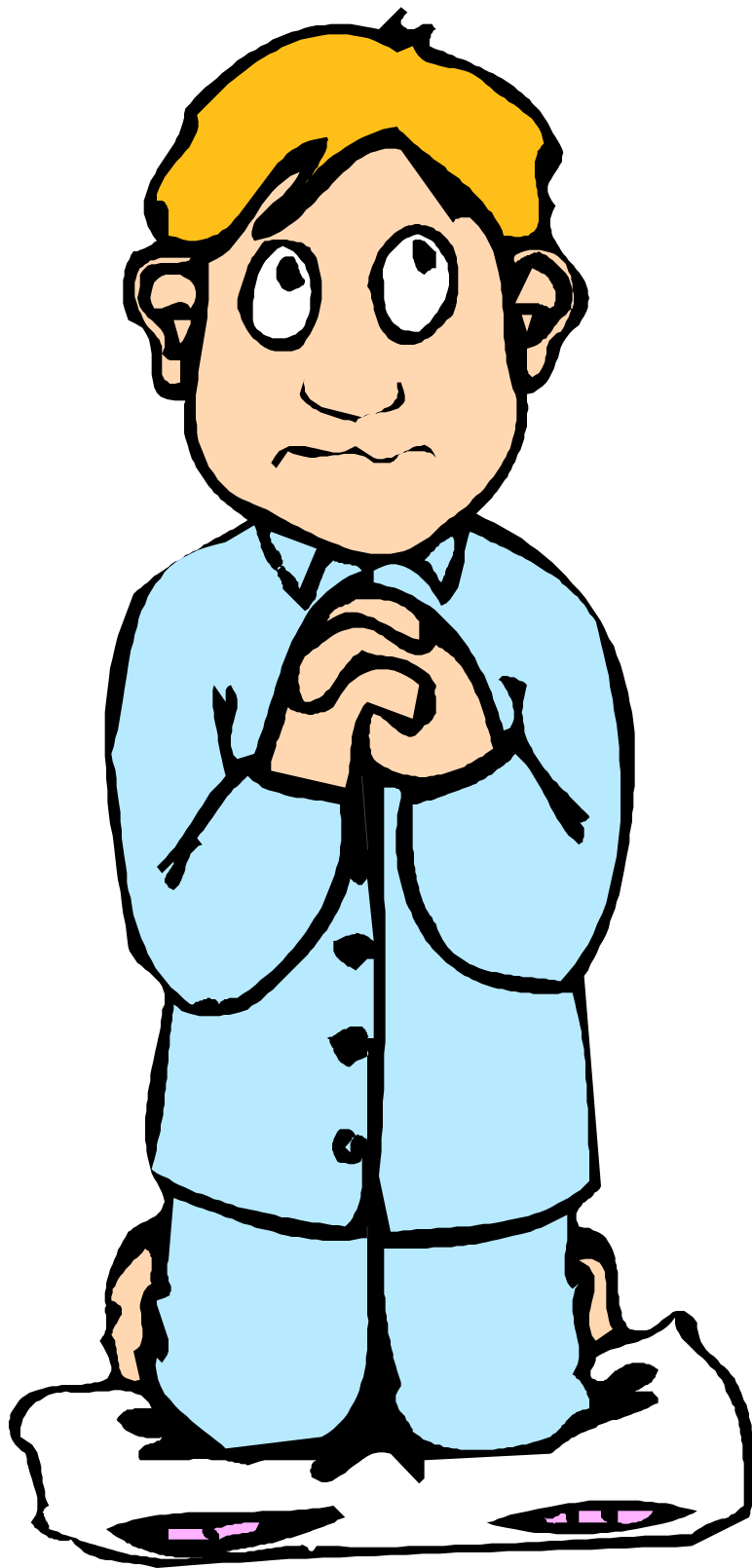
Howard walked back to his house without saying a word, but Marty and Molly knew he wanted to see if his owners were happy with him, too.



Copy the praying boy coloring sheet (on the next page) for each child. Pull out some crayons and let the kids color while they wait for their parents. Here are a few review questions to ask while they work. It's great to revisit the lesson to really seal it in their minds. So get them talking with these questions and add a few of your own.

- 1) How many times a day did Daniel pray?
- 2) Did Daniel stop praying to God just because the king said so?
- 3) How can we be obedient like Daniel?





**Daniel prayed three times a day.
Daniel 6:10**