





Lesson 12

Love God, Love People

Memory Verse:

Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey. 1 John 5:3 (NIRV)

Scripture References:

-  1 John 5:3
-  Exodus 20
-  Matthew 22:34-40
-  James 1:25

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- Seeker Series #6, "Pathway" for each child
- 2 pieces of red paper
- Scissors
- Guest with trained dog or picture of a dog
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Beach ball or inflatable ball
- Music CD and player (optional)
- Blindfold
- Several small prizes or pieces of candy
- One copy of "Love God, Love People" from page 11 for each child
- Pen or pencils
- Piece of cloth or newspaper

Life Point:

I will obey God's commands.



This lesson is based on Seeker Series Issue #6: "Pathway". It is recommended that you read this story before class so that you are familiar with it. Make sure each child has their own copy.

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson, the children will learn:

- We show our love for God by obeying His commands.
- To follow the two greatest commandments
- God wants us to share His love with others

Teacher Introduction:

PowerMark Seeker Series Issue #6, "Pathway", helps the children learn how to grow in their Christian faith. The Seekers learn that Christians grow in Christ through prayer, reading the Bible, going to church, memorizing scripture, obeying His commands and telling others about Jesus.

Christians need to learn the importance of obeying God and His commands. Obedience is key to our Christian growth and nurturing our relationship with God.

In this lesson, the children will learn that God wants each of us to obey Him and His commands. They will learn the two great commandments that Jesus gave. His command was to love God and to love people. When we do both, we will be careful to fulfill all His commands. They will also learn that if we love God and love people, we will share the Good News of His salvation with those who don't know Him.

As you prepare to teach this lesson, pray that the children will begin to develop an obedient heart. Pray that they will be quick to obey God and take His commands seriously. Ask yourself how well you are obeying God's commands. Remember, your life is a living example for the children to follow.

Large Group Time

Supplies:

- Bible

➡ **NOTE:** This is supposed to be a fun game for the class. Move along quickly as you give each command. Be light hearted as you instruct the children to sit down when they make a mistake. Add more commands, if time permits.

🕒 Lesson Introduction

Title: “Simon Says”

Purpose: To introduce the topic of obedience and that we should obey God’s commands.

Preparation: None.

Let’s play a game of “Simon says.” When I give a command and say “Simon says” before the command, you should obey the command. If I give a command but do not say “Simon says”, do not obey the command. After each command, the children that did not properly obey will sit down.

Simon says, stand up.

Simon says, jump up and down.

Clap your hands.

Simon says, clap your hands and jump up and down.

Shake the hand of the person on your right.

Simon says, touch your toes.

Simon says, hop on your left foot.

Simon says, pat the back of someone beside you.

Pat the top of your head.

Snap your fingers.

Simon says, turn around in a circle.

Simon says, stretch you arms up in the air.

Run in place.

Simon says, shout “hello.”

Clap your hands 5 times.

Simon says touch your ears.

Wiggle your nose.

Simon says, wiggle both arms.

Sit down.

Simon says sit down.

Simon Says is a fun game to play. To win the game, you must listen carefully and decide when to obey. The Bible talks a lot about obedience and how important it is. Today we’re going to learn that loving God means that we will obey His commands. In our Bible lesson, we will learn about two important commands that we should obey.

🕒 Bible Lesson

Supplies:

- Bible
- 2 pieces of red pa-

Title: “The Two Greatest Commandments”

Purpose: To teach the children the two greatest commands of God that we are to obey.

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☐ Scissors

📖 **Scripture:**

- Exodus 20
- Matthew 22:34-40

Preparation: Cut the two red pieces of paper into heart shapes. Write “God” on one heart and “People” on the other.

What are rules or commands that you are expected to obey at home? (Allow response). **What are rules or commands that you are to obey at school?** (Allow response). **What are some rules or commands that drivers are to obey on the road?** (Allow response.)

No matter where we are, who we are, or what we are doing there will always be commands and rules to obey. These rules help us know what to do and how we should behave. What do you think would happen if everyone decided that they no longer needed to obey the rules? (Allow response.) **Our life and our world would be a really big mess. Rules and commands help keep order, safety, and peace in our lives.**

There are also commands for living a Christian life. As Christians, we find those rules in the Bible. How many of you have heard of the Ten Commandments? (Allow response.) **God gave these commandments to Moses just after he led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. We can find the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Open your Bible to Exodus 20. The Ten Commandments are:**

1. **You shall have no other gods before Me.**
2. **You shall not make for yourself an idol.**
3. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**
4. **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**
5. **Honor your father and your mother.**
6. **You shall not murder.**
7. **You shall not commit adultery.**
8. **You shall not steal.**
9. **You shall not give false testimony.**
10. **You shall not covet.**

Open your Bible to Matthew 22:36. **One day when Jesus was teaching, a man asked Him, “Which is the most important commandment in the law?” What do you think He said? What do you think is the most important commandment?** (Allow response.)

Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).”

What was the first and greatest commandment? (Allow response.)
Answer: love God will all your heart, soul and mind. **This first commandment tells us to love God with all you are – your whole person. Hold up the heart with “GOD” written on it.**

If you love God with all you are, then you will not worship other gods, you won’t want to make idols, you will not misuse His name,

and you will keep the Sabbath day holy. This one commandment sums up the first four of the ten commandments which deal with our relationship with God.

What was the second greatest commandment? (Allow response.) Answer: love your neighbor as you love yourself. **Who is your “neighbor”?** **Do you think that God only means that you are to love the person who lives next to you?** (Allow response.) **Do you think that command means that you should only love those who live in the same city, state or country?** (Allow response.) **When God said to love your neighbor, He meant to love everyone – all people.** Hold up the heart with the word “PEOPLE” on it.

If you love people then you will honor your parents and you will not murder people, commit adultery, steal from others, lie about others, and covet someone else’s things. This second command sums up the rest of the ten commandments that deal with our relationship to other people.

By putting these two commandments together, Jesus was teaching us that these two commands stand together. You can’t have one without the other. Have all the children stand up. Tell them to stand only on one foot. If we only loved God but don’t love people, it would be like trying to go through life standing on only one foot. Let’s see how long we can keep our balance standing on just one foot. Wait a few moments while the children try to balance themselves on one foot. This isn’t very easy, is it? When you stand on just one foot you begin to feel wobbly and it is hard to stay balanced. Now stand on both feet. Standing on both feet restores your balance and helps you to stand strong.

When we live our life by these two commandments, loving God and loving people, our spiritual life will be balanced and strong. If you want to grow as a Christian, you need to obey these two great commandments.

© Object Lesson

Supplies:

- Bible
- Guest with trained dog or picture of dog

Scripture:

- Exodus 20

Title: “Obedience Training”

Purpose: To illustrate the kind of obedience that God desires from each of us.

Preparation: Invite a person in your church to visit your class who has trained his/her dog to obey his/her commands. If possible, have the person bring his/her dog. A picture of a dog would also work if someone is not available.

How many of you have a pet? (Allow response.) **I’ve invited someone to join us today who has a pet dog.** Invite the guest and dog to join you at the front of the room. Introduce him and his dog. **Our guest has taught his dog to obey his commands. Who would like to see**

how the dog obeys his master's commands? Have the guest give the dog some basic commands such as "sit", "come", "stay", etc.

Do you think this dog has always obeyed his master's commands? (Allow response.) Perhaps the guest can tell a story of a time when the dog did not obey. **What did the master have to do to get his dog to obey his commands?** (Allow response.) Answer: train the dog. If the dog has learned some other "tricks", ask your guest to show the class some of those tricks.

Why is it important to train a pet, like a dog, to obey your commands? (Allow response.) **Dogs are limited in what they know or understand. Many times a dog's master gives a command to protect him from danger or harm. What are some examples of times a master may give a command to protect the dog?** (Allow response.) **Are these commands meant to keep the dog from having fun? Are these commands used to treat the dog poorly? No, these commands are for the dog's own good – to help keep him safe. If a dog never learns to obey his master's voice, he may get hurt, lost, or even die.**

A good dog learns to trust and obey his master's voice. His obedience is a sign that he trusts his master and is willing to submit to his authority.

Just as a dog needs to learn to obey his master, we must learn to obey God and His commands. God doesn't give us commands because He is mean or to keep us from having fun. God's commands are given so that we can live a good life. The Bible says, "*But suppose you take a good look at the perfect law that gives freedom. You keep looking at it. You don't forget what you've heard, but you do what the law says. Then you will be blessed in what you do.*" (James 1:25 NlrV). If we want to live in God's blessing, we need to obey His commands.

When we choose to obey God's commands, we are showing that we love and trust Him. In fact, the Bible teaches that if we say that we love God we will obey His commands. Just as the obedient dog shows that he trusts his master and is willing to submit to him, obeying God is a sign of our love for God and our willingness to put Him first in our life.

A faithful Christian obeys God and His commands. If an obedient dog pleases his master, just think of how much more an obedient Christian pleases his master, God. Let's show our love for God through our obedience to Him.

© Bible Verse

Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey. 1 John 5:3 (NlrV)

Supplies:

- Bible
- Chalkboard and

chalk

- Beach ball, inflatable ball, or light weight ball
- Music CD and player (optional)

Purpose: When the verse is taught using actions or an activity, the children will learn the verse easier and will retain it in their memory longer.

Preparation: Write the verse on the board. Inflate a beach ball or similar light-weight ball.

Activity Instructions: Lead the children in saying the verse several times until they appear to know the verse. Explain that the ball will be thrown into the group of children. When a child catches the ball, they should immediately throw it to someone else. The children should throw it around the audience until the teacher says “stop” or until the teacher stops the music. Whoever is holding the ball when the music stops must stand up, along with all the children in their row, and say the memory verse together, out loud. After they are finished, the child with the ball begins throwing it again when the teacher says “go” or when the music starts. Repeat this process 5 to 8 times.

Small Group Time

© Small Group Activity #1

Supplies:

- Blindfold
- Several small prizes or pieces of candy

Title: “Obedience Blockers”

Purpose: Disobeying God and His commands can lead to trouble.

Preparation: Set up a simple maze or obstacle course using chairs or some of the children. Place a small prize or piece of candy at the end of the maze or course.

Select one child from the group. Place the blindfold on him. Tell him that he has one minute to walk through the maze to the prize waiting on the other side of the room. Spin the child around several times and then face him toward the maze. When you say go, have him make his way through the maze. Neither you nor the children can give him any direction or help. After one minute, tell him to stop and remove his blindfold.

Ask: How did it feel to go through the maze blindfolded, without any help? Was it easy or hard to find your way to the prize? Was it scary trying to go through the maze alone?

Now tell him to try one more time. However, this time he can choose one of the other children to help him by giving directions such as how many steps to take, which way to turn, etc. Blindfold him, spin him around a few times and face him toward the maze. When you say go, his helper can begin giving him instructions to lead him to the prize.

After he has reached the prize, ask: **How did it feel to go through the maze this time? Was it easier to find the prize? What made the difference? Did you feel scared or safe this time? Why?**

Change the order of the maze and allow other children to walk through it. First without a helper and then with a helper.

It is easier to go through the maze when someone gives you instructions. What if you chose to ignore your helper's commands? Would you reach the prize? (Allow response.)

Have you ever felt like your life was a maze? You weren't sure what to do, which way to go, or who to listen to? (Allow response.) As Christians, who and what can we trust to guide us through our lives and lead us in the right direction? (Allow response.) Answer: God and His Word, the Bible.

In our game, when you listened to and obeyed your helper's commands, you made it through the maze to the prize. As Christians, obeying God and His Word also leads to a prize. The prize is God's blessing and a good life. Remember, we show God that we love Him by obeying His commands and His commands are not hard to obey.

© Small Group Activity #2

Supplies:

- One copy of "Love God, Love People" from page 12 for each child
- Pen or pencils
- Scissors

Title: "Love God, Love People"

Purpose: To allow the children to think of ways they can show their love for God and other people and then do it during the week.

Preparation: Make one copy of "Love God, Love People" from page 11 for each child.

Give each child a copy of "Love God, Love People". Tell them to think of three ways that they can obey God and show Him their love this week. Write or draw a picture of one of the ways they will obey God in each heart labeled "Love God".

Then have them think of three ways they can show God's love to others. Write or draw a picture of one of the ways they will show others God's love in each heart labeled "Love People".

Cut each of the heart shapes out. Encourage them to take the hearts home and put them some place visible to serve as a reminder to show love to God and others during the week. When they show love to God or others as written on one of the hearts, they write their name and the day on which they did it on the back of the heart.

Optional: Have the children bring the hearts back to class next week and share what they did to show love to God and others.

© Bible Verse Review

Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey. 1 John 5:3 (NIRV)

Supplies:

- Bible

- Chalkboard and chalk
- Piece of cloth or newspaper

➔ **Optional: If a chalkboard is not available, write the verse and maze on a large piece of paper.**

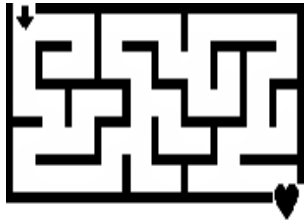


Figure 1

Supplies:

- PowerMark Seeker Series #6 “Pathway” books (one for each child)
- Pencils or pens

Purpose: To review the Scripture Verse and encourage the children to memorize it.

Game: “A-MAZE-ing Verse ”

Preparation:

Write the Bible verse on the board. Draw a maze (See example in Figure 1) under the verse. At the finishing point of the maze, draw a heart. Cover the maze with the cloth (old sheet, towel, newspaper) until you’re ready to begin the activity.

Activity Instructions: Have the children recite the verse together several times. Once the children are comfortable reciting the verse, remove several words from it and draw a line (_____) as a placeholder for each word removed.

Remove the covering from the maze. Ask the children to raise their hands, if they know one of the missing words. If they give the correct answer, they get to choose which direction to go in the maze. You can make this game as easy or as hard as you like depending on the difficulty of the maze. When the class finally makes it to the end, tell them that the heart represents the love they show for God when they choose to obey His commands.

© Life Application

Purpose: To find ways to apply this lesson to daily living and encourage the children to change their lives in order to live the way God wants them to live.

Review the story up to page 9. Read the book beginning at page 9. Here are some ways to read the book together:

- You read the book aloud as the children follow along.
- The children can take turns reading. Each child reads one page.
- You can assign the children to read the parts of particular character(s) (PowerMark, Yaro, Shanti, Amber, Mr. Bala, etc.)
- The children can read the book on their own, quietly.

After reading the book, ask the following questions. Have the children raise their hand if they want to answer a question. Only one child should answer at a time. Make sure the discussion is not dominated by only one or two children. Encourage all of the children to be involved in the discussion.

Be careful not to approach this time as a test with you, the leader, asking questions and the children giving the correct answer. Instead, spend the time in a conversational manner with the children. Listen to what the children have to say about the book, especially the Bible portion of the story. By listening you will be able to assess how well they understand the gospel presentation through the Seeker’s Series.

1. **What is one way that we can learn how God wants us to live?** *Reading the Bible* (page 9).
2. **How often should we read the Bible?** *We should try to read the Bible often* (page 9).
3. **In addition to Bible reading, what else should we do to grow to know God better?** *Pray often* (page 10).
4. **Why is it important for Christians to grow closer to God through prayer and Bible reading?** *It is easier to know what God wants us to do and how to obey Him* (page 11).
5. **The Bible tells us that we should love one another. How did the girl show another girl love during lunch?** *She shared her lunch* (page 11).
6. **How do we live a life that pleases God?** *Listen to Him, obey Him, read the Bible, pray, and follow His commands* (page 11).
7. **What happens when we choose to continue to disobey or ignore God's command?** *It makes it hard for us to hear God speak to us through our conscience and it makes the Holy Spirit sad* (pages 12-13).
8. **How can we show other people God's love?** *By serving them and caring for them* (page 14).
9. **Why should we be baptized?** *To follow Jesus' example and show that we are saved* (page 14).

© Closing Prayer

Take some time to briefly explain the way of salvation through Jesus, God's Son. Pray with them that they will be obedient to God and His commands. Also, have the children pray for those they know who need to hear about Jesus. Pray that they will be witnesses to their friends and family.

End the small group time in prayer. Instruct the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask if anyone would like to ask Jesus to take away their sin. Lead those that respond in a salvation prayer. Break the prayer into small phrases and have the children repeat the prayer after you. Here is a sample prayer of salvation:

**Dear God,
 I am sorry for all of my sin.
 Please forgive me...
 For all of the wrong things...
 I have done, said, and thought.
 I believe Jesus died on the cross...
 So my sins could be taken away...
 And He came back to life...
 Three days later.
 Please come into my life...**

**And help me love You...
And live like You want me to live.
Thank You for taking my sin away...
And loving me.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

In addition to the prayer of salvation, allow time for the children to share prayer requests or praise reports. After they have shared, pray for their needs and praise God for their praise reports. You can also have the children volunteer to pray for each others' needs. As you are praying, summarize what was learned today.

**“Love God, Love People”
Small Group Activity #2**

