



LEADERS GUDE



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Gospel Light KidsTime Curriculum

Publisher, William T. Greig • Senior Consulting Publisher,
Dr. Elmer L. Towns • Publisher, Research, Planning and
Development, Billie Baptiste • Managing Editor, Lynnette
Pennings, M.A. • Senior Consulting Editor, Wesley Haystead,
M.S.Ed. • Senior Editor, Biblical and Theological Issues,
Bayard Taylor, M.Div. • Senior Advisor, Biblical and
Theological Issues, Dr. Gary S. Greig • Senior Editor, Sheryl
Haystead • Editorial Team, Amanda Abbas, Debbie Barber,
Mary Gross, Karen McGraw • Contributing Editors, Linda
Burlile, Mary Lou Canata, Lisa Daniel, Donna Harstine, Heather
Kempton, Jean Larson, Debi Madsen, Linda Mattia, Sandy
Michaud, Patty Moorehead, Willamae Myers, Noni Pendleton,
Karen Perkins, Barb Platt, Sharon Short, Jay Bea Summerfield,
Laura Taylor • Illustrators, Curtis Dawson, Chizuko Yasuda •
Designer, Curtis Dawson

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How to Use Kids Time



If you teach alone, follow these simple steps to lead your class:

- 1. Read "God's Kids Grow Overview" on page 6 to get a clear view of what this course is all about.
- 2. Look at "Advice & Answers for Schedule Planning" on pages 8-12, choose the schedule that best fits your situation and decide which centers you will include.
- 3. Read the tip articles (pp. 13-26) for each center you will lead, taking note of the ways you can make each center an effective learning experience for the kids in your class.



If you teach with one or more other teachers, follow the above three steps and add one more!

Decide if each teacher will lead his or her class in all of the activities or if each teacher will lead only one activity for groups of students who rotate between the centers.



If you are the children's director or coordinator of *KidsTime*, follow the above steps and add a few more!

- 1. Pay special attention to "Getting & Keeping the Very Best Staff" on pages 27-28. Remember to start recruiting early—several months before *KidsTime* begins.
- 2. Read "Questions & Answers for a Terrific Program" on pages 29-31 for tips on how to distribute and store curriculum, special ways to involve parents, eye-catching decorating ideas and more!

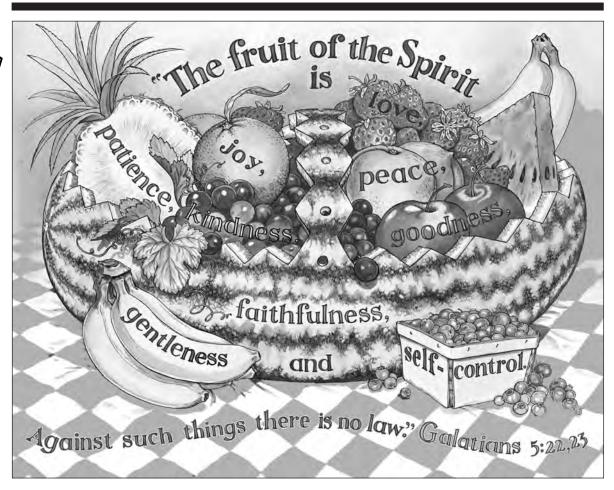


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Welcome to a year's worth of good fruit!

God's Kids Grow will help you and your students discover how the fruit of God's Spirit grows in our lives. We'll explore the ways our character displays God's good fruit and learn about Christians throughout history whose lives demonstrated those character qualities. As we explore the expressions of each fruit of God's Holy Spirit in our lives, we'll learn to cultivate attitudes that will lead us to know God better and become the fruitful people He designed us to be.

Special Features

- Every lesson includes a creative play dough activity as part of the Bible story presentation. This involvement keeps kids' interest high and gives them a way to keep their hands and their minds focused on the story!
- Also included in every lesson is a Fruitful Lives Object Talk. Kids will learn about the life of a Christian whose actions exemplified the fruit that is the focus of that day's lesson.

- Because children learn in diverse ways, *God's Kids Grow* is filled with variety to appeal to kids' many learning styles. Students may participate in several learning centers involving active games, creative art activities that will help them express what they learn and a Worship Center with several options for student involvement (including a music video).
- Additionally, younger children may participate in a coloring page activity related to the Bible verse for that lesson.
- Older students will enjoy fresh ways to apply Bible truth as they participate in activities found in *The Big Book of Christian Growth*.
- For both younger and/or older students, you may choose projects from *The Big Book of Service Projects*. These activities will give students practical opportunities to demonstrate the fruit of God's Spirit in their lives.
- Because teachers are the heart of any teaching time, *God's Kids Grow* is especially easy for teachers to use. Because the Leader's Guide is reproducible, each member of the teaching team may be given his or her own page for leading any activity. Every activity emphasizes the session's Character Builder, so every team member understands the goal of the lesson. In addition, every lesson opens with a Teacher's Devotional that gives teachers insight and background about that lesson's Character Builder.

Expect a Great Harvest!

When you and your team members are full of eagerness and understanding of the lesson at hand, your students will be eager to learn and be inspired by every lesson! As you pray and organize this course to meet the needs of your group, ask God for a sense of expectancy of what He wants to do during this time and for sensitivity to ways you can be part of what He desires to accomplish. As you and your students discover how God can help us cultivate lives that express His power and presence, expect a great harvest of spiritual fruit!





Begin your planning for *KidsTime* by choosing a learning format. No matter when or where KidsTime takes place, there are two main format options—Self-Contained Groups and the Learning Center Plan. Read the following descriptions and select the format that fits your needs.

Self-Contained Groups

If you are confined to a single room or have a small class, Self-Contained Groups may be your best option. In this format, groups of seven or eight students are formed. Each group has a teacher who leads his or her group in the activities. (If the size of the group is larger, additional teachers or helpers are needed.)

The greatest benefit of Self-Contained Groups is that teachers are able to form meaningful relationships with the students since they remain together during the entire session. The biggest disadvantage is the difficulty in recruiting teachers who feel comfortable leading a variety of activities.

Self-Contained Groups are often the best option for small churches, house churches, or Christian schools.

Learning Center Plan

The Learning Center Plan offers an exciting recruiting and schedule variation for KidsTime. In this plan, each teacher prepares and leads only one activity. Guides (adults, teenagers or even responsible fifth and sixth graders) lead groups of students to rotate between the centers. In other words, each teacher specializes in only one part of the lesson. Specialization simplifies teacher preparation and often improves teaching effectiveness. The Learning Center Plan also prevents inexperienced teachers from feeling overwhelmed. And teachers who don't enjoy leading games or who are apprehensive about telling Bible stories can leave those tasks to others more skilled in those areas.

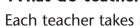
The Learning Center Plan is often the best option for medium or large churches.

What do students do and who leads them?

Students are placed in small permanent groups (12 to 16 is the best size). Each group has at least one guide who leads the group to various centers. Each group, along with its guide(s), visits each center during each session. Another idea is to place eight students in each group with one guide; then two groups participate in a center at once.

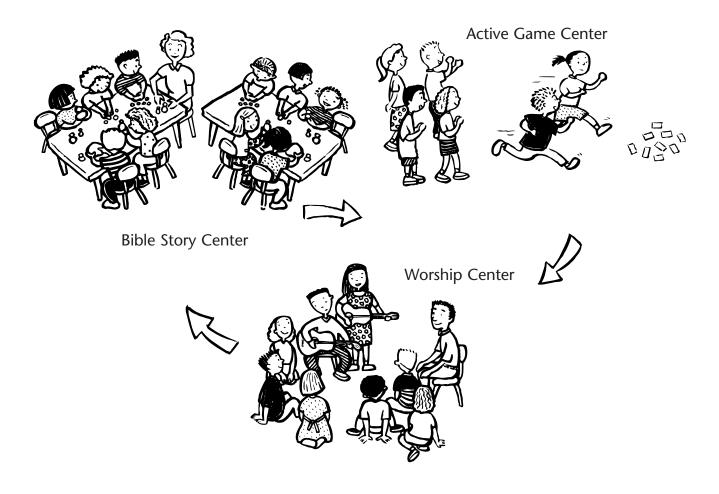
What do teachers do?

Each teacher takes responsibility for one center, remaining at the center and instructing each group as it visits the center.



What are the centers?

One room or outside area is designated for each of the *KidsTime* learning centers. Post a large sign to identify each center. Give centers fun, interesting names: The Fruit Barn (for the Bible Story Center), The Harvest Corner (for the Active Game Center), The Art Patch (for the Art Center) or The Praise Garden (for the Worship Center). Start with the centers suggested in the following diagram:



You may want to combine several groups together for one or more of the centers (for example, the Worship Center or the Bible Story Center). Other centers may be added (for example, Fruitful Lives Object Talk Center, Bible Verse Coloring Center, Service Project Center, Discipleship Activity Center).

How do I plan the time schedule?

Plan the activities in each center to last the same amount of time. The centers in *KidsTime* can be taught in any order. In a one-hour program, groups would remain in each center for 15 minutes. (Add 5 minutes to the first center each group attends to provide for a brief welcome time.) Allow 5 minutes for groups to move from center to center, following a preestablished route. With this schedule, groups would be able to participate in three centers. If you have more time for each session of the program, additional centers may be added or the time in each center may be lengthened (generally it is best to limit the time in each center to a maximum of 25 minutes in order to keep student interest high). Use the chart below as an example of how to schedule groups.

Sample one-hour schedule

	11:00-11:20	11:25-11:40	11:45-12:00	
Group 1	Welcome and Bible Story Center	Worship Center	Active Game Center	
Group 2	Welcome and Active Game Center	Bible Story Center	Worship Center	
Group 3	Welcome and Worship Center	Active Game Center	Bible Story Center	

How do I make the Learning Center Plan run smoothly?

- Predetermine the route each group will travel, including room and building entrances and exits. Ask guides to walk their routes in advance to become familiar with all locations.
 - Establish a signal for notifying groups when it's time to move to the next center.
- Provide labeled tables or other areas where students may leave their projects and belongings during the session.
 - Provide color-coded name tags to identify each group.

Schedule options

The following schedules show the use of the Basic Plan learning centers. You can adapt these sample schedules to the needs and interests of your church. Other centers can be added or substituted in order to meet the needs of younger or older students (see "Centers for Younger and Older Students" on p. 12). In addition to the centers suggested in this course, many churches include centers for such things as snacks, recreational games (soccer, baseball, volleyball), children's choir and elective classes (cooking, woodworking).

When planning your *KidsTime* schedule, remember to include a variety of activities in an order that will meet the needs of children. For example, if students have been sitting in the adult worship service before coming to *KidsTime*, plan an active center at the beginning of KidsTime. If students attend Kids-Time after being in Sunday School, provide a snack at the beginning of *KidsTime*.

Basic Plan

(60-90 minutes)

Bible Story Center and Fruitful Lives Object Talk

15-30 minutes

Active Game Center 15-20 minutes

> **Art Center** 15-20 minutes

Worship Center 15-20 minutes

Sunday Morning Option 1

(60-90 minutes)

Adult Worship Service 15-20 minutes

Active Game Center 15-20 minutes

Bible Story Center and Fruitful Lives Object Talk 15-30 minutes

Art Center 15-20 minutes

Sunday Morning Option 2

(60-90 minutes)

Bible Story Center and Fruitful Lives Object Talk 15-30 minutes

Active Game Center 15-20 minutes

> Children's Choir 15-20 minutes

Art Center 15-20 minutes

Weekday Options

(75-90 minutes)

Active Game Center 15-20 minutes

Bible Story Center and Fruitful Lives Object Talk
15-20 minutes

Snack Time 15 minutes

Art Center 15-20 minutes

Worship Center 15 minutes

For help in staffing and recruiting, make a planning page to be completed on a weekly or monthly basis (see samples).

Date Lesso	ime God's Kids Grov (s) <u>Sept. 1</u> In # and Title <u>1- The</u> Ding Team <u>Karen, H</u>	Fruit of the	 Spirit_			
Time 10:45 11:15 11:35 11:50	Center Bible Story/ Fruitful Lives Object Talk Art Active Game Worship	Teachers Karen Heather Dave Karen, Dave	Helpers Dave, Heather Karen, Dave Karen, Heather Heather	KidsTime God's Date(s)Sep Lessons 1-4 Teaching Tea	s Kids Grow t. 1, 8, 15, 22 m Linda, Mary,	Jon
				Time 11:00-11:20 11:25-11:40 11:45-12:00	Center Active Game Bible Story Worship	Teachers Linda Jon Mary

Centers for younger and older students

If you have primarily younger or older students in your program, consider offering the Bible Verse Coloring Center (for students as young as kindergarten), the Service Project Center (for younger and/or older students) or the Discipleship Activity Center (for older students). Any of these centers can either be substituted for one of the Basic Plan centers or added to the Basic Plan.

If you would like to include preschoolers in *KidsTime*, here are some suggestions to follow:

- Preschoolers will enjoy the play dough activities that are a part of the Bible Story Center. However, expect preschoolers to make items of their own choosing or simply to play with the dough instead of making every item as older children might.
 - Have preschoolers participate in the Art Center and the Worship Center.
- During the Active Game Center, either lead preschoolers in simple games such as Follow the Leader and Mother, May I? or allow preschoolers to have free play on playground equipment or with toys and puzzles indoors.





Leading a Child to Christ



One of the greatest privileges of serving in Sunday School is to help children become members of God's family. Some children, especially those from Christian homes, may be ready to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior earlier than others. Ask God to prepare the children in your class to receive the good news about Jesus and prepare you to communicate effectively with them.

Talk individually with children. Something as important as a child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be handled more effectively one-on-one than in a group. A child needs to respond individually to the call of God's love. This response needs to be a genuine response to God—not because the child wants to please peers, parents or you, the teacher.

Follow these basic steps in talking simply with children about how to become members of God's family. The evangelism booklet *God Loves You!* (available from Gospel Light) is an effective guide to follow. Show the child what God says in His Word. Ask the questions suggested to encourage thinking and comprehension.

- 1. God wants you to become His child. (See John 1:12.) Do you know why God wants you in His family? (See 1 John 4:8.)
- 2. You and all the people in the world have done wrong things. (See Romans 3:23.) The Bible word for doing wrong is "sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin? (See Romans 6:23.)
- 3. God loves you so much He sent His Son to die on the cross for your sins. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sins. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 4:14.) The Bible tells us that God raised Jesus from the dead and that He is alive forever.
- 4. Are you sorry for your sins? Do you believe Jesus died to be your Savior? If you do believe and you are sorry for your sins, God forgives all your sins. (See 1 John 1:9.) When you talk to God, tell Him that you believe He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to take your punishment. Also tell God you are sorry for your sins. Tell Him that He is a great and wonderful God. It is easy to talk to God. He is ready to listen. What you are going to tell Him is something He has been waiting to hear.
- 5. The Bible says that when you believe in Jesus, God's Son, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. This means God is with you now and forever. (See John 3:16.)

Give your pastor the names of those who make decisions to become members of God's family. Encourage the child to tell his or her family about the decision. Children who make decisions need follow-up to help them grow in Christ.

NOTE: The Bible uses many terms and images to express the concept of salvation. Children often do not understand or may develop misconceptions about these terms, especially terms that are highly symbolic. (Remember the trouble Nicodemus, a respected teacher, had in trying to understand the meaning of being "born again"?) Many people talk with children about "asking Jesus into your heart." The literal-minded child is likely to develop strange ideas from the imagery of those words. The idea of being a child of God (see John 1:12) is perhaps the simplest portrayal the New Testament provides.

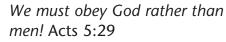




Daniel's Good Choice



Bible Verse

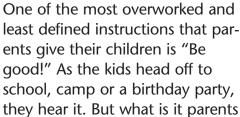




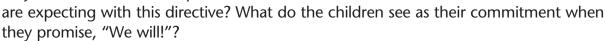
Bible Story Reference Daniel 1



Teacher's Devotional







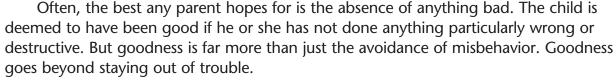
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Character Builder

We show goodness by choosing to obey God, even when it is







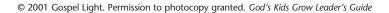
Goodness involves doing things that are right, actively seeking to do what God has already defined as worthwhile. Daniel and his friends earned a good reputation in Babylon, not just by refusing to go against Jewish dietary rules and not just by taking a stand against food and drink that had first been offered to idols. They were recognized by the king as being 10 times better than all others because they excelled in their work. The lives of Daniel and his friends reflected the knowledge and understanding God had given them (see Daniel 1:17). Doing things God's way, instead of the way everyone else does them, is the definition of real goodness.











Bible Story Center

Materials

Goodness poster from Poster Pack, ¼ cup (2 oz.) play dough for each student.

Tell the StoryFollow along with me to make some things found in today's story.



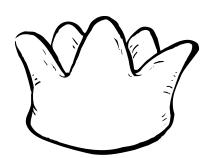
1. **Make a crown out of your dough**. Many years after King David was king of Israel, the country was being attacked! The King of Babylon had come to Jerusalem with his army, tearing down the city walls and taking many people as captives. Among the people captured were four boys, who were probably about 14 years old. These boys had to walk for days and days, probably tied together like slaves. Finally, they arrived at the city of Babylon over 800 miles from home.

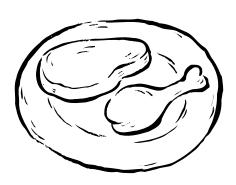
Soon after the captives came into the city, the king's officer, Ashpenaz (ASH-puh-nahz), came to look them over. He chose some young men from among the captives to be trained to serve the king. The four friends from Jerusalem—Daniel and three others—were chosen, too. Being trained to serve the king meant that they would not be treated like slaves. BUT there were some problems!

First, all the young men being trained were given new names, names that honored the false gods of Babylon! Then, the king ordered that everyone in his training program had to eat ONLY food from his table!

2. Make a big plate and some pieces of meat to put on the plate. The king may have thought this was an honor. But for Daniel and his friends, it was TROUBLE! God had commanded His people not to eat certain foods as a way to show that they wanted to obey Him. Besides, the king's meat would have first been offered to the idols of Babylon. Eating the king's meat would be like worshiping idols—and not honoring God.

If we obey the king and DO eat the king's meat, we will disobey God, Daniel and his friends thought. But if we DON'T





eat his meat, we will disobey the king and he may have us killed.

Daniel and his friends must have thought about all the good-tasting food the king offered them. Why not go ahead and eat the king's food? After all, their parents weren't with them. No one would ever know. But Daniel and his friends decided to make a good choice—to obey God's rules, no matter WHAT!

"It's against the laws of our God for us to eat this food," Daniel explained to Ashpenaz. "Please ask the king if we can just have vegetables to eat and water to drink."

But Ashpenaz was afraid he'd get into BIG trouble if he agreed to do such a thing. He wasn't willing to disobey the king!

Daniel, however, was determined to obey God. So he went to the guard whom Ashpenaz had put in charge. He told him the same idea. The guard agreed to the experiment.

3. **Remove meat and make vegetables and fruit.** For 10 days, Daniel and his friends ate nothing but vegetables and drank only water. The rest of the young men ate the food from the king's table. What do you think happened? At the end of the 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked better and stronger than the others! So the guard continued to let the four friends eat only vegetables and drink only water.

At the end of their three years of training, Ashpenaz took all the young men to the king. The king looked at them all and talked with each one. But his favorites were Daniel and his friends. God had given these four young men more wisdom than the king's own advisors.

Daniel and his friends made good choices. Even though they were away from their parents and even though they could have gone along with something that was wrong, they chose to obey God. They obeyed God, no matter what!



Focus on the Fruit

What happened to Daniel and his friends in Babylon? (Chosen to serve the king. Given the king's food to eat.) What did Daniel and his friends choose to do? (To obey God's rules, no matter what.) What happened? (After eating only vegetables, they looked stronger than the others.)

Show the Goodness poster. Sometimes it's hard to make a good choice. We might be afraid that others will make fun of us, or we might not be sure about how to talk and act. But if we ask, God will help us do what is good and help us obey Him. That's how His fruit of goodness grows!

Fruitful Lives Object Talk

Bible Verse

We must obey God rather than men! Acts 5:29

Materials

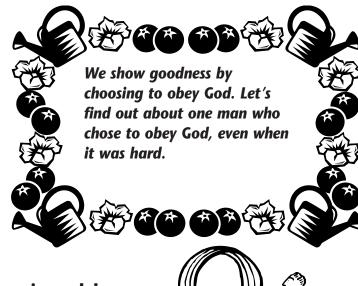
Bible with bookmark at Acts 5:29, sports medal or trophy.

Lead the Activity

1. Show sports medal or trophy. **How do you think I got this award?** Volunteers tell ideas. Briefly explain to students where the item came from. **Many ath-**

letes dream of the chance to win Olympic medals.

2. Eric Liddell (lih-DEHL)was an athlete in England who could run very fast! In 1924, he hoped to win a gold medal at the Olympics. But when the race schedules were announced, Eric discovered that he was supposed to run in a race on a Sunday. Years before, Eric had said that he would not work or play sports on Sundays. He made this choice to show his love and obedience to God. Eric wanted to spend time worshiping God on Sundays, not running races. So Eric said he would not run in the Sunday race.



When people in England heard about Eric's decision, they were furious! They thought that Eric didn't care about his country. But Eric started training for a different race that did not take place on Sunday. No one thought he could win this race, however, because it was longer. On the day of the race, much to everyone's surprise, Eric not only won the race and the gold medal, but he also ran this race faster than anyone else in the world had ever run it!

Conclude

Read Acts 5:29 aloud. How did Eric Liddell show that he wanted to obey God? Why might it have been hard for him to show goodness in this way? Students respond. Pray, asking God to help students choose to obey Him, even when it is hard.

Additional Information for Older Students

Eric made choices that showed goodness throughout his life. Just one year after winning the Olympic gold medal, Eric went to the country of China as a missionary. For 20 years, Eric Liddell helped people in China learn about Jesus. The story of Eric Liddell's life and his good choices was told in the movie *Chariots of Fire*.

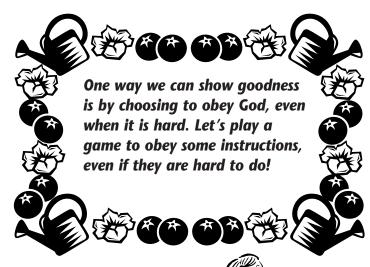
Active Game Center: Shuffle Fun

Materials

Bible, index cards, marker, two paper bags, four empty shoe boxes or large tissue boxes.

Prepare the Game

Print the following commands on separate index cards: "Do three jumping jacks," "Smile and say hello to your teacher," "Clap seven times," "Wink at your team," "Turn around twice." Make two sets of cards. Place one set in each bag. Remove lids or tops of boxes.



Lead the Game

- 1. Divide group into two teams. Teams line up on one side of the playing area. Place one bag of index cards on the opposite side of the playing area from each team.
- 2. Give the first student on each team two boxes. At your signal, the first student on each team steps into his or her boxes and shuffles to his or her team's bag. Student takes out an index card, reads card and returns it to the bag and then performs the action on the card, stepping out of the boxes if necessary. Student steps back into boxes, shuffles back to his or her team and steps out of boxes for the next student to begin the relay. Game continues until all students have had a turn.

Options

- 1. Draw a picture of the command instead of writing it, or have someone read the cards for any nonreaders in your class.
- 2. If playing surface is slippery, do not have students walk with feet in boxes. Instead, students walk to team's bag while holding on to their ankles.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What was hard about this relay? (Moving quickly or completing a command with the boxes on our feet.)
- 2. What are some of God's commands from the Bible? (Love others. Don't lie. Care for people who are different from you.) When are some times it is hard to obey God's commands? (When everyone else is disobeying God's commands. When we don't feel like being kind or loving.)
- **3.** Read Acts 5:29 aloud. **Why is it most important to obey God?** (His laws are the best, even when they are hard. He loves us. He is God, the maker of everything. His laws tell us how to follow God's plans.)

Art Center: Veggie People

Materials

Bibles, two or three kinds of vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, carrot, celery, cucumber, bell pepper, radish, etc.), kitchen knife, paper plates, plastic knives, toothpicks, napkins, vegetable dip.

Prepare the Activity

Cut vegetables into strips and chunks. Place on separate plates in the center of the work area. Make a sample vegetable person (see sketch below for ideas).

Lead the Activity

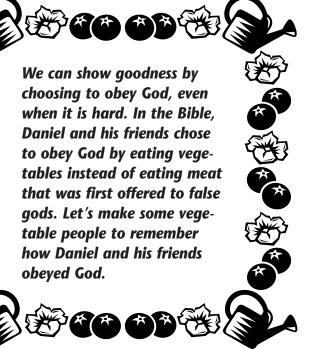
- 1. Show students your sample person and suggest a few other construction ideas using the vegetables you have provided.
- 2. On a paper plate, each student constructs a person using vegetables. As students work, ask them to tell ways kids their age could show goodness by obeying God, even in a hard situation. Ask the Discussion Questions below to expand the conversation.
- 3. Distribute napkins and serve vegetable dip. Students eat leftover vegetables and/or vegetable people.

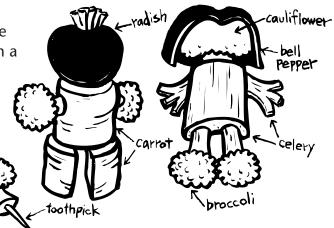
Option

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Discussion Questions

- **1.** How do we know what God wants us to do? (He tells us in His Word, the Bible. By listening to our parents.) What are some things God's Word tells us to do? Volunteers respond. Invite older students to read one or more of the following verses aloud: Exodus 20:12, Galatians 5:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, James 1:19, 1 John 3:11.
- 2. When are some times it is hard to obey God's commands? (When you feel tired or angry. When you don't know God's commands. When everyone else is disobeying God's commands.) Why do you think it's important to obey God, even in those hard times?
- 3. Name one way you can show goodness by obeying God's commands this week.





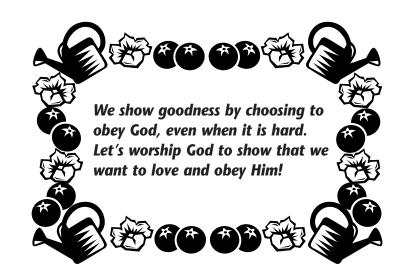
Worship Center

Bible Verse

We must obey God rather than men! Acts 5:29

Materials

Bible, God's Kids Grow cassette/CD or music video and player, "Goodness!" word chart (p. 469 in this book), large sheet of paper on which you have printed Acts 5:29 with each word scrambled, masking tape.



Sing to God

Play "Goodness!" encouraging students to sing along with the music. **What is one way you could act to show goodness?** (Keep my promises. Tell the truth. Make choices that show I want to obey God.)

Hear and Say God's Word

Display paper on which you have printed the scrambled words of Acts 5:29. As students identify each of the scrambled words, print them on the paper. Then ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud. This verse reminds us that when others tempt us to do wrong, we need to obey God and show our love for Him. Why is it so important to obey God? (Because God loves us so much, He knows what is best for us.)

Pray to God

When we obey God, we are showing goodness and our love for Him. Silently think of a time when you need help obeying God's commands. Lead students in prayer, asking for His help to obey Him, even when it's hard.

Options

- 1. Play "Fruit of the Spirit" and/or "Just Ask Him" (p. 459 and/or p. 475 in this book), encouraging students to sing along with the music.
- 2. Before leading students in prayer, briefly tell about an age-appropriate example of a time you obeyed God in a difficult situation.
- 3. Ask an older student to read Psalm 150 aloud as a prayer of praise to God.

Bible Verse Coloring Center

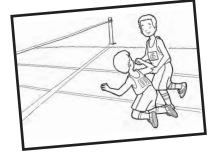


Materials

Crayons or markers, a copy of page 113 or page 114 from *Bible Verse Coloring Pages #2* for each student.

Lead the Activity

Read Acts 5:29. How is someone in this picture obeying God? What are some situations in which you can obey God this week? Students color picture.



Option

Students make borders for their pictures by gluing pictures to sheets of construction paper.

Service Project Center

Materials

Materials needed for "Breakfast in Bed" (p. 14 from *The Big Book of Service Projects*).

Lead the Activity

Students complete "Breakfast in Bed" activity as directed in *The Big Book of Service Projects.* Doing something special for others is a way to show goodness. What are some other ways we can show goodness by obeying God this week?



Discipleship Activity Center

Materials

Discussion Cards for James 1:22-25 (pp. 165-170 from *The Big Book of Christian Growth*), materials needed for "Post-it Pandemonium" or "Coin Cups" (p. 24 or p. 59 from *The Big Book of Christian Growth*).



Lead the Activity

James 1:22-25 tells us how to show goodness in the way we speak to others. Today we're going to play a game to talk about how to obey these verses. Students complete activity as directed in *The Big Book of Christian Growth*.