

Lesson 8 / July 26, 2009

Yo' Momma Knows Best

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 8 Focus:

Obeying your parents
pays off.

Lesson 8 Bible Basis:

Proverbs 4:10–11; 29:17;
Luke 2:51–52; Ephesians
6:1–3; Colossians 3:20

Supplies needed:

device with Internet access like a computer, laptop, or smartphone (optional)




When is the theme of obedience to parents more applicable than smack in the middle of summer vacation? Free from the structure of school and scheduling, middle school students are likely to feel the strain of family closeness at a time when they are desperately looking for independence.

This week's lesson will help you and your students discuss God's best plans for children and their parents. The Bible passages in today's study not only give prescriptions for behavior, but also promise a lifelong blessing to those who obey their parents.

If you have access to the Internet in your classroom, watch this popular short clip on YouTube of a little boy who says he only loves his mommy if she gives him cookies. If you can't view it together in class, watch it yourself and then explain it to your students. When you are finished, discuss the following questions together.

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8aprCNnecU>]

This child may be very young, but his response to his mother sounds a lot like a teenager!

-  **What does he have in common with kids your age?**
-  **How are kids your age sometimes tempted to fill in the blank? "I only love you, Mom, if you give me _____."**
-  **What would happen to the child if he got what he wished for? What would happen to your friends if their parents gave them everything they wished for?**

Explain that today's lesson is not merely a repeat of a tired phrase: "Obey your parents." Instead, it is a study of cause-and-effect, a promise that when we do things God's way, we will be blessed.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; Step 4 appears below.)

for use as

STEP 4 Lesson 8
Focus:Obeying your parents
pays off.Lesson 8
Bible Basis:Proverbs 4:10-11; 29:17;
Luke 2:51-52; Ephesians
6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

As a final activity for your students, guide them in creating three-minute skits that show the difference between obedience and disobedience. Do not give them too much time to prepare; the more impromptu the performance, the better. Ten minutes should be enough time for each group to prepare a quick scene.




It's best not to have too many students in each scene, otherwise the quiet ones disappear into the background. This is also a good time for your more active students to shine, so give your energetic students a leadership role, whether as a director or the prominent actor. Depending on the number of students you have, you can create one, two, or three short scenarios.

Group One: Act out a three-minute scene that depicts a family traveling in a car for summer vacation. The children should demonstrate how NOT to act in accordance with God's Word. (If your group has trouble thinking of ideas, offer suggestions such as ignoring the parents' safety rules, fighting among siblings, arguing over food or vacation plans, etc.)

Group Two: Act out a three-minute scene just like Group One, except this time the actors will demonstrate God-honoring behavior—both from the parents and the children.

Group Three: This group will prepare a scene where a mother and her three children are at the dinner table. The children will depict disobedient behavior (texting at the table, making rude comments about the mother's cooking, disregarding questions, etc.)

After each group has a chance to perform their skit, follow up with some brief discussion questions.

-  **Which one of these scenes can you identify with the most?**
-  **Is there a character you saw that reminds you of your own behavior—or someone in your family?**
-  **When you saw the most disobedient kids from an outsider's perspective, what did you notice? What type of adults will they mostly likely become if they continue practicing this behavior?**

Lesson 8
Memory Verse

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

—Proverbs 1:8

▶ **Is it unrealistic to expect kids to behave? Why would God ask us do something impossible if He wasn't prepared to help us?**

As you close today's lesson, encourage your students to ask for God's help in their pursuit of obedience. Close in prayer, being especially sensitive to those in your group who are struggling with family conflict, have only one parent, or find it difficult to submit to parents who might be immature and weak themselves.

(David C. Cook is not affiliated with and does not endorse any website listed on these pages.)