Bible Point

We can ask God to show us the right thing to do.

Bible Verse
“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- discover that finding the right thing to do is easier when they ask God,
- understand that when they do the right thing, God is happy,
- talk about when it’s hard to figure out what to do, and
- ask God to help them make the right decisions.

Teacher Enrichment

The Bible Basis

Samson’s parents ask God for direction.

Judges 13:1-25
The story of the birth of Samson, described in this passage, is really quite remarkable. We don’t know for sure that Manoah or his wife prayed for a son, but from the context it appears that they must have, because the angel of the Lord came to them and promised one. And they didn’t question the promise at all (Judges 13:6-8).

This was no ordinary son that was to be born. He was the one who would begin to free Israel from bondage to the Philistines, which they had been in for 40 years at the beginning of today’s passage (Judges 13:1). Perhaps that promise is why Manoah pleaded with the Lord for the angel of the Lord to return and tell them how to raise this special son. That was certainly the right thing to do, and the angel of the Lord did return with specific instructions.

It’s interesting that at first Manoah and his wife thought they were seeing a prophet, which is indicated by their use of the term “man of God.” When they realized that it was “the angel of the Lord” who had appeared to them (Judges 13:19-21), they were terrified. Many believe that this term refers to a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. If so, Manoah’s prayer brought a direct response from God himself. What more could we ask for when we pray?

Prayer
- Read James 5:16.
- What does this verse tell you about Manoah? How do you think your righteousness affects your prayers?
- God, help me live a life of righteousness and dedication to prayer before my students as I…
Lesson 10

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

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Welcome

SUPPLIES: “Prayer Name Tags” (p. 134), safety scissors, markers, tape

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Growing Together” discussion. Use questions such as “Why does God want us to forgive each other?” and “Did you forgive anyone last week?”

- Say: Today we’re going to learn that we can ask God to show us the right thing to do.

- Help children make name tags. Photocopy the “Prayer Name Tags” and follow the instructions. Help children write their names on the name tags and attach them to their clothing.
- Tell children that the attention-getting signal you’ll use during this lesson will be blowing the bird whistle. Ask children to respond by raising their hands. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so you’ll have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.

Attention Grabber

Patterns

SUPPLIES: markers, index card

In this game, children will try to guess a combination of four colors to see that it’s easier to find out what’s right when they can ask questions.

Before class, use colored markers to draw a combination of four colors on an index card. Draw color spots so nonreaders can easily figure out the combination. Use a color combination that will match the colors of the linking hearts and stars. Fold the card in half so the children can’t see the combination.

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor around the linking hearts and stars.

Say: I’ve put four colors on this card. Your job is to guess what order they’re in so you can put four links in that same order. Work together to put four links together, and I’ll tell you if you guessed the correct pattern.

Give children two minutes to work together on the color pattern. Don’t give them any help. When they put four colors together, just tell them whether they guessed correctly. After two minutes, stop the game. The children probably won’t be able to put the right colors together in that amount of time.

Say: I’m sorry you didn’t get the right combination. Let’s play again. This time, you can ask me yes-or-no questions. For example, you could ask, “Is the first color green?” But you couldn’t ask, “What color is the first color?” Are you ready?

Have the children ask questions about the pattern. When they guess a color correctly, have them start making a chain with the linking hearts and stars. When the children have guessed all four colors, show them the card with the color combination drawn on it.
Collect the linking hearts and stars, and then ask:

- **Why was it hard to guess the correct combination in the first game?** (We couldn’t ask questions; we couldn’t see what was on the card; we didn’t get any help.)
- **How was the second game easier?** (You helped us; we were allowed to ask questions; you gave us clues.)

Say: **In this game, it was easier to figure out the right combination of colors when you could ask me questions first. Today we’re going to talk about how to figure out the right thing to do. We can ask God to show us the right thing to do. God will always answer our prayers and show us what to do.**

## Bible Exploration & Application

### Treasure Hunt

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, treat, CD player, paper towel

Before class, cover a sweet treat such as marshmallows or sandwich cookies with a paper towel. Put the treat in a corner of the room or on a chair under a table where it’s visible but out of the way.

Cue the CD to track 8, “Treasure Hunt.” Have the children scatter the cardboard pieces, checkered mat (half-unfolded), and linking hearts and stars around the room. These will be the “triggers.” Have the children stand in a tight circle facing out at one end of the room with their arms linked. Tell them they can’t let go of each other during this activity.

Play the “Treasure Hunt” segment of the CD. It’ll give the children instructions for the game. When the segment is over, turn off the CD player. Say: **I will be your guide for this adventure. Anyone who steps on a trigger must leave the hunt. That person doesn’t get to share the treasure.**

Have the children ask you questions about where to go. Give them instructions such as “Move four steps toward the window and walk around in a circle to the right five steps; then take one step toward the door.” Give the children time to move between instructions. Warn individual children when they’re about to step on one of the triggers. Lead them close enough to see the treat. Then lead them away from the treat. After several instructions, lead the children to the treat. Don’t let them eat it yet.

Say: **Congratulations! You followed the instructions. Your reward is this treat. But first, let’s put away these triggers.**

Have children collect the cardboard pieces, checkered mat, and linking hearts and stars and put them away.

Gather the children, and ask:

- **When you asked for help from me, did it seem like I always gave you good directions?** Explain. (Yes, because you knew where the treasure was; no, because sometimes you led us away from where I thought the treasure was.)
- **Did you ever want to go your own way? Why or why not?** (Yes, when I could see the treat; no, I knew I was supposed to follow instructions.)
• What happens when you don’t pay attention to instructions from your mom or dad or teacher? (Sometimes I get hurt; I get in trouble.)

Say: This game reminds me of a verse in the Bible about following instructions. Listen to Ezekiel 20:19. Read Ezekiel 20:19 aloud. Decrees and regulations are special instructions God gives us to help us know the right thing to do.

Ask: • Why do you think God wants us to follow his instructions? (He knows what’s best for us; he knows what’s going to happen; he’ll keep us safe.)

• How can we know what God wants us to do? (Ask him; pray about it; read the Bible.)

Say: We can ask God to show us the right thing to do. Right now, the right thing to do is to put this snack away until the end of the lesson.

After the protests die down, say: Sometimes it’s hard to follow directions. We may not want to follow the instructions God gives us. And sometimes we may want to do our own thing. But finding the right thing to do can be an adventure. Do you know what the greatest adventure is? Knowing Jesus! God sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross for our sins. Those are all the times we do the wrong thing instead of the right thing. If we believe in Jesus and are sorry for our sins, God will forgive us. God will always lead us to the treasure of knowing the right thing to do. And the right thing to do is to believe in God’s Son, Jesus.

Today we’ll listen to a Bible story about a man and a woman who asked God to show them the right thing to do for their baby son.

Bible Insight
Samson was designated by God to be a Nazirite before he was born; his parents were told of this designation by the angel of the Lord. A Nazirite was a special person who was consecrated to divine service to God. Usually, a Nazirite’s vow was temporary, but Samson was to be a Nazirite for his entire life.

HANDS-ON BIBLE
Provide blank sheets of paper and pencils or crayons for children to write with. Have children open their Hands-On Bibles to Ezekiel 20 and look at the Fun Fact called “A Tough Job.” Say: A prophet in Bible times was a man of God who spoke for God so people would know the right thing to do. Sometimes God asked him to do really hard things, but he would ask God to help him obey and do the right thing. We can ask God to show us the right thing to do, too. Listen while I read you this Fun Fact.

Read “A Tough Job,” and help the children follow the instructions to write down their plan for asking God to show them the right thing to do. If some children do not have their own Hands-On Bibles to write in, give them blank sheets of paper to write on.

When children have finished, ask: • When is it hard to do the right thing? (When I don’t want to; when I’m not sure what the right thing to do is; when I’m tired.)

• What is one thing you want to ask God for help with this week so you can do the right thing? (I want God’s help with getting along with my friends; I want to obey my mom and dad so I don’t get yelled at.)

Lead the children in prayer. Pray: Dear God, we want to obey you. Please show us the right thing to do and then help us do it. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Preparing for Samson

SUPPLIES: Bible

Say: The story today comes from the book of Judges, which is in the Old Testament. Show children the book of Judges in the Old Testament. Listen carefully so you’ll know the right thing to do during the Bible story. Whenever I say the name “Manoah” (mah-NO-uh), all the boys will say, “a man of God.” When I say “angel,” wave your arms as though you’re flying. The Bible doesn’t tell us what Manoah’s wife’s name was, so when I say “wife,” all the girls will say, “a woman of God.” When I say “baby,” say “waaa” as though you’re crying.

Rehearse each of the cues and responses with the children.

Say: During the time our story happened, God’s people kept disobeying him. They didn’t ask God about the right thing to do. So God allowed some mean people called the Philistines to rule over them. But God had a plan to rescue his people from the Philistines.

Part of God’s plan included a man named Manoah (pause), his wife (pause), and a baby son (pause).

One day, an angel (pause) of God appeared to Manoah’s (pause) wife (pause). The angel (pause) told her that she would have a baby son (pause).

“The baby (pause) will help save God’s people from the Philistines,” the angel (pause) said. The angel (pause) gave Manoah’s (pause) wife (pause) directions about what she should eat and drink. Then the angel (pause) left.

Ask: • Why do you think the angel told her what to eat and drink? (So the baby would be healthy; to see if she’d obey.)

• What kinds of things do your parents tell you to eat and drink? (Vegetables; milk; apples; lots of water.)

Say: People who were set apart to do extra-special things for God had special rules about what they could eat and drink. Also, to show that they belonged to God, they never cut their hair. The angel (pause) wanted Manoah’s (pause) wife (pause) to follow these rules even before the baby (pause) was born to show she knew that God’s plan for the baby (pause) was special.

She told Manoah (pause) everything the angel (pause) had said to her. She told him that their baby (pause) would be set apart for God.

Manoah (pause) stopped right then to pray! He prayed that the angel (pause) would come back to explain to him how the baby (pause) should be raised. Then Manoah (pause) and his wife (pause) waited for God to answer their prayer. Manoah (pause) knew that he could ask God to show him the right thing to do.

One day, when Manoah’s (pause) wife (pause) came back, she ran to get Manoah (pause), who asked the angel (pause) how to get ready for the baby (pause). Manoah (pause) wanted to make sure he understood what they were supposed to do. The angel (pause) answered his question. Then Manoah (pause) and his wife (pause) prepared a sacrifice to worship God. Then an amazing thing happened: The angel (pause) rose up to heaven in the flame that burned the sacrifice.

Manoah (pause) and his wife (pause) knew that God had answered their prayer. He had shown them the right things to do. Soon the baby (pause) was born, and they named him Samson. God was pleased with Samson.
Thank you for following instructions so well!

Ask: • What was it like to follow instructions during this story? (Fun; boring; I got tired of it.)

• When do you get tired of following instructions and doing the right thing? (When it gets hard; when it gets boring and I want to go play.)

• Why is it important to do the right thing? (To make God happy; to keep from getting in trouble; to keep from getting hurt; so things work out all right.)

Say: Sometimes doing the right thing is hard. But doing the right thing makes God happy. Manoah and his wife knew that God had special plans for them and their son. They knew how important it was to follow instructions. ►We can ask God to show us the right thing to do. And we can ask God to help us do the right thing. Right now, let’s play a game about doing the right thing.

Show Me the Right Thing

SUPPLIES: Bible, flashlight

Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Choose a volunteer to be “Do Right.” Have Do Right step outside the room.

After Do Right has left the room, have the rest of the children choose an action they want the child to do—jumping jacks, for example. Choose one child in the circle to do jumping jacks. Everyone else can do other actions such as hopping or clapping their hands. There should be plenty of different actions so Do Right will have a hard time determining who to follow. Call Do Right back into the room.

Say: We want you to do the right thing. One person in the room is doing the right thing, but we can’t tell you who that person is. You have to look for the right action. We’ll tell you when you do the right thing.

Give Do Right a few minutes to determine whose action to copy. If the child has difficulty, cue other students to do the action until Do Right figures it out. Let several children have a chance to be Do Right.

Ask: • When were Do Right, why was it hard to do the right thing? (I didn’t know who to follow; everyone was doing something different.)

• What makes it hard to know the right thing in real life? (Different people tell you different things; I don’t know who to ask; I forget to pray.)

• What are some wrong things people do? (Lie; do dangerous things on the playground; make too much noise in class.)

Say: Sometimes it’s hard to know the right thing to do because so many people do the wrong thing. But ►we can ask God to show us the right thing to do. God will always help us, and God’s ways are always right. The Bible tells us what happens when we do right and follow God. Listen while I read Psalm 19:8. Read Psalm 19:8 aloud. A commandment is a special rule that God wants us to follow. When we obey God, it brings us joy. Then ask:

• What does the Bible say will happen when we do the right thing? (We’ll be happy; we’ll find joy; we’ll feel good.)

• Why do you think doing the right thing brings us joy? (We’re doing what God wants; we make God happy when we do right; we don’t get in trouble.)

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Grades 1 & 2
Say: Following God is always the right thing to do. If we’re ever unsure about what is right or wrong, we can just ask God, and he’ll lead us in the right direction.

Now let’s look at our Bible verse for today. It comes from Psalm 119:105, and this is what it says: “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” Say that with me: “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” Do you know what this Bible verse is talking about? The Bible! If we follow the Bible, we can always know the right thing to do. Watch this.

Darken the room if possible by shutting off the lights or closing blinds. Take out the flashlight, shine it on your feet, and then turn it off again. Say: If I try to take a step without help, it can be hard. Take one small, teetering step, and then stop. But look what happens when I turn the flashlight on. Now I can see where to walk. Walk straight, shining the flashlight before you. Do you see how the light from my flashlight makes it easier for me to see? The Bible is like the flashlight. It helps us follow God and see the best way to go. Then we can do the right thing. Now let’s learn about times we need to figure out the right thing to do.

Closing

Sweet Choices

**SUPPLIES:** treat from “Treasure Hunt” activity, CD player

Ask: • What have you learned today? (That God will show me the right thing to do; that it’s important to do right.)

You’ll need the sweet treat from the “Treasure Hunt” activity. Have the children wash their hands.

Say: We’re going to build a sculpture with our treat to show some of the times we have to figure out the right thing to do.

Have the children think of times they have to figure out the right thing to do. For example, children might think of times they argue with friends or want to watch television but know they should do their chores. For each situation they share, have them stack one of the treats in the center of a table to create a sculpture. As each person shares, have the rest of the class respond, “You can ask God to show you the right thing to do.” Keep going until everyone has shared at least once.

Ask: • What does our sculpture look like? (A cloud; a tower; a robot.)

• Did you know what the sculpture would look like when we finished? (Yes, I knew it would be a tower; no, I thought it would look different.)

Say: We may not know what will happen when our choices are made. But there’s one thing we can be sure of. We can ask God to show us the right thing to do. Say that with me: “We can ask God to show us the right thing to do.” And we can know that God will help us. Let’s take our sculpture apart and taste God’s sweet promise to help us.
Let’s pray silently to God. For each bite you take, think of a different time you need to know the right thing to do. Then ask God to help you. Think about the ideas we talked about when we built our sculpture. I’ll play some soft music to help us pray quietly.

Play the “Prayer Music” segment of the CD (track 9). When the music ends, turn off the CD player, and say: **Tell a friend what you prayed about.**

Then pray, asking God to help each child do the right thing.

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**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week’s topic. Follow up the “Growing Together” activities next week by asking children what their families did together.
Prayer Name Tags

Photocopy a name tag for every child in your class. Make a few extras for visitors. Cut them out. Have the children decorate them to look like themselves. Attach them to children’s clothing with tape.
Today your child learned that we can ask God to show us the right thing to do. Children discovered that God has great plans for them and is always ready to help them understand what they’re supposed to do.

**Etc.**

Put a note in your child’s lunchbox to let your child know you’re praying for him or her during the day. Be specific. You could write, “Today I’ll pray that God will keep you safe during recess” or “Today I’ll pray that you’ll do your best on the spelling test.”

**Prayer Magnets**

Turn your refrigerator into a prayer journal. Glue several small pieces of differently colored paper together. Wait until the glue dries, and then paint the paper with two coats of clear nail polish. Glue a magnet to the back, and designate your creation a “requests” magnet. Make another, and designate it an “answers” magnet. Family members can write or draw their requests and put them under the requests magnet. Check the requests magnet every day to see how God has answered your prayers. Put all the answered requests under the answers magnet.

**Talking to God**

Regularly spend time praying as a family. Expand your dinner blessing with time to make requests and give praise to God. Pray in the morning before everyone leaves for the day. Get together for a special Saturday breakfast to sing praises for God’s gifts. You could even pray together in the car on the way to church. Make sure your child sees you talking to God.

**Family Fun**

Make and fly a kite together. Glue and tie two dowels together in a cross. Use a knife to make notches in the ends of the sticks. Put string through the notches to make an outline of a kite. This is the frame. Cut an old bedsheets, and staple it around the frame. Make a tail out of the bedsheets scraps. Use a marker to write prayer requests on the tail. Attach string to the horizontal dowel of the kite. While you’re flying the kite, discuss where, when, and how to pray.

**Key Verse**

“The word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).

**Prayer 10:**

“We can ask God to show us the right thing to do.”

**Bible Story**

Samson’s parents ask God for direction. 
Judges 13:1-25

**Today’s Verse**

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9b).