

Bible Point - God gave us rules because he loves us.

Bible Verse

"The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart" (Psalm 19:8a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will discover why it's important to honor parents,
 - learn what happened when Absalom disobeyed God's rules,
 - teach Pockets to honor her mother, and
 - ask God to help them honor their parents.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Honor your parents: Absalom fights for King David's throne.

Exodus 20:12: 2 Samuel 15-18 The commandments regarding our relationships with others (Exodus 20:12-17) give us lots of guidance on how to respect others, including parents, but the Bible gives one account after another of people who broke that commandment. One of those people was Absalom, son of King David.



The road to ruin for Absalom started with his brother Amnon, one of King David's sons who also had a half-sister, Tamar. Amnon, lacking respect for both his royal parent and his half-sister, deceived Tamar and then raped her. After the rape, Amnon suddenly kicked her

out. This made both David and Absalom furious, and Absalom responded by having his brother Amnon murdered. Absalom then fled from David and Israel. David mourned for Amnon but forgave Absalom and wished to be reunited with him (2 Samuel 13:37-39).

Three years later, Absalom set another subversive plan into action. He would meet people coming into Jerusalem, criticize his father's leadership, and promise to do better if he were made king. He treated the people as equals and thereby won over large numbers of people.

Later, Absalom revolted openly, and King David had to flee Jerusalem for safety. Absalom held back from attacking David right away, however, which allowed David time to muster an army (2 Samuel 18:1). In the ensuing battle, 20,000 men, including Absalom, died. Absalom's lack of respect for his father ultimately resulted in his own death. Self-centered attitudes and actions had taken the life of yet another of the king's sons.

Prayer

- Read Philippians 2:3-8.
- How does a self-centered attitude affect relationships?
- Pray: Lord, help me to encourage my students to reflect Jesus' selfless example and honor their parents by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Stone Tablet Name Tags" (p. 27), markers, pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: The Handsome Prince—Make "mirrors," and learn that Absalom was a handsome prince.	Craft sticks, tape, aluminum foil, cardboard	
	Option 2: Sandwiched With Love —Make heart-shaped snacks to see that their parents surround them with love.	Bread, jelly, plastic knives, heart- shaped cookie cutters, paper plates, plastic wrap	
	Option 3: Hearts-and-Stars Toss—Toss hearts and stars.	Various sizes of cans	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Race to the "throne."	Throne from Option 1 of Lesson 6	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story—Move toward the throne as they listen to 2 Samuel 15–18, and learn how Absalom hurt his father.	Bible, throne from "Setting the Stage," tape	ELRNING
	Do the Bible Story —Be contestants on a "game show," and tell how they can honor their parents.	CD player	
Closing	Mean to Mommy— Teach Pockets to honor her mother.		
	Ten Commandments —Sing about God's commandments, and pray.	CD player, sandwiches from Option 2	

Welcome Time

■ Welcome!

SUPPLIES: "Stone Tablet Name Tags" handouts (p. 27), markers, pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week's lesson into practice. Use questions such as "How did you honor God?" or "Why is it important for us to put God first in our lives?"
- Say: Today we're going to learn that ►God gave us rules because he loves us.
- Hand out the stone tablet name tags children made in Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout at the end of the first lesson.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.





It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed, and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "How can you show your parents that you love them?" or "How can you please your parents?"

■ Option 1: The Handsome Prince

SUPPLIES: craft sticks, tape, aluminum foil, cardboard

Set out craft sticks, tape, 8-inch squares of aluminum foil, and 4-inch squares of cardboard or poster board. Help children wrap the foil around the cardboard with the shiny side out and then tape craft sticks to the back of their "mirrors" to form handles. Encourage children to look in their mirrors and say, "Mirror, mirror, in my hand, who's the silliest in the land?" Then have children show their silliest faces. Explain that the way we feel and act is more important than how we look on the outside. Tell children that today they'll learn about Absalom, a handsome prince who had a mean heart and disobeyed his father.



Option 2: Sandwiched With Love

SUPPLIES: bread, jelly, plastic knives, heart-shaped cookie cutters, paper plates, plastic wrap

Set out bread, plastic knives, paper plates, jelly, and heart-shaped cookie cutters. Have children wash their hands and then form an assembly line with Cutters to cut the bread into heart shapes, Jelly Spreaders to spread jelly on half of the heart shapes,





If you do not choose Option 2. you may choose not to serve a snack during the Closing activity, or you may wish to bring an alternative snack such as cream-filled sandwich cookies or cheese-filled crackers.

Stackers to top the jellied slices with the plain heart shapes to make sandwiches, and Plate Pilers to arrange the sandwiches on plates. As children work, explain that God gives us parents and caregivers to "sandwich" us with love. Tell children that today they'll learn why God wants us to honor and obey our parents.

Cover the sandwiches with plastic wrap, and set them aside until the Closing activity.

Option 3: Hearts-and-Stars Toss

SUPPLIES: various sizes of cans

Set out three clean, empty cans in graduated sizes, one behind the other, going from short to tall. Have children line up about three feet from the cans and take turns trying to toss four links from the linking hearts and stars into any can. Each time a child tosses a link into a can, have him or her tell one thing they like

about their parents, such as "I love my dad's pancakes" or "I like how my mom reads to me." As children play, explain that God's rules tell us to honor our parents.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player track 2

Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

SING

We will pick up our toys. We will pick up our toys. We will pick up our toys And put them all away.

There's [name] picking up toys. There's [name] picking up toys. There's [name] picking up toys, Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: throne from Option 1 of Lesson 6



Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Form two groups, and have both line up at one end of the room. Place the throne from Lesson 6 at the opposite end of the room. If the throne was disassembled last week, drape a colorful blanket over a chair.

Say: Last week we took turns sitting on the throne and feeling special. We honored our friends by saying nice things about them. Today you'll try to get to the throne again, but this time, someone else will be trying to get there first!

Give the first person in Group 1 the jewel ball. Say: Members of Group 1 will walk to the throne holding the jewel ball between their knees. Give the first person in Group 2 a link from the linking hearts and stars. Members of Group 2 will walk to the throne balancing the heart or star link on their heads. When I give the signal, the first person in each group will move to the throne and try to touch it first. If you drop your item, pick it up, put it back where it belongs, and try again. When you reach the throne, hold your item in your hand and skip back to the next person in your line. Ready? Go!

When each child has touched the throne, collect the jewel ball and linking hearts and stars, and return them to the Learning Lab. Have the children form a circle; then ask:

- What was hard about this relay? (The ball kept falling; it was hard to balance the star; the other team was faster.)
- What was it like when you dropped your item? (It made me mad; it was frustrating; I didn't like it; I thought I'd lose.)

Say: Last week, we helped each other feel special on the throne, but this week, we raced against our friends. Today we'll learn about a prince who tried to get to the throne and become the new king even though his father was the king. Remember, -God gave us rules because he loves us. And one of God's rules says to honor and obey our parents. The prince didn't honor or obey his father. Let's get ready to hear what happened when Prince Absalom disobeyed God's rules.

Move the throne aside until "Hear and Tell the Bible Story."



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player



Before class, make surprise cards for the activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the stone tablets

stamp inside one of them. Bookmark 2 Samuel 15-18 in the Bible you'll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person** to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



Now it's time to read God's book, Read God's book, read God's book. Now it's time to read God's book. Let's hear a Bible story.

(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who finds the stone tablets stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ►God gave us rules because he loves us.

Let's say a special prayer now and thank God for giving us rules. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "Thank you, God, for giving us rules."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside, and pick up the Bible. Lead the children in this prayer: **God, thank** you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that *you gave us* rules because you love us. In Jesus' name, amen.





■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, throne from "Setting the Stage," tape



Before class, tape together the ends of Story Circle 2 from the Learning Mat: The Ten Commandments to form a ring. Set Circle 2 on the throne from "Setting the Stage," and place the throne at the opposite end of the room. Take the jewel ball to your story area.

Point to the Bible and say: Today's Bible story comes from the book of 2 Samuel. Before we hear a new story, let's see if you remember which of God's rules we learned about last week. If you remember something about God's rules, raise your hand, and I'll bounce the jewel ball to you so you can tell us what you remember. Then you can bounce the jewel ball to someone else so he or she can share, too.

Encourage children to tell about honoring God, speaking God's name with respect,

worshipping only our one true God, and resting on the Sabbath.

Sav: The fifth rule God gave the Israelites saus. "Honor your father and mother."

Ask: • What does it mean to honor someone? (To say they're the best; to obey them.)

Say: Today we'll hear about a prince named Absalom who didn't honor or obey his father, King David. Absalom was handsome on the outside, but on the inside, he was greedy and selfish. As we hear how Absalom wanted to be king, we'll move toward the throne and the Story Circle.

As you read the following story, have each child take a small step toward the throne every time you say "Absalom."

King David ruled the great country of Israel from his palace in the city of Jerusalem. David was a good king. But his wicked son, Absalom, wanted to steal David's throne. "If I were king." Absalom thought. "people would bow down to me. They would give me expensive gifts. And, best of all, I would be the boss!"

Every morning, Absalom went to the city gate to meet people who had complaints for the king. Absalom listened to the people's problems and then said, "The king won't listen to you. But if I were the king, I would listen!"

Absalom wanted the people to like him more than they liked King David. Absalom gave the people of Jerusalem so much attention that some people started wanting him to be their king! Soon, King David became afraid of Absalom's followers—there were so many of them. King David knew that his son had enough soldiers to take over the city. So David gathered his followers and fled from the city to the desert. There, David went up on a mountain and cried about all the bad things his son had done.

Before long, Absalom gathered a huge army and marched out to fight David and his men. It was a terrible battle—thousands and thousands of men died. But King David's armu won! In the midst of the battle. Absalom was killed. When David learned that his son had died, he cried again. Despite all the bad things Absalom had done, David still loved him. "Oh, my son Absalom," he wept. Because Absalom didn't honor his father, thousands of people died.

Have the children form a circle near the throne; then hold Circle 2 so the first picture is showing.

Ask: • How did Absalom behave toward his father? (Not nicely; he tried to steal his father's throne; he fought against his father.)

• How do you think King David felt when he saw all the bad things his son was doing? (Bad; sad; angry.)

Turn Circle 2 so the second picture is showing.

Ask: • Why did Absalom's men fight David's army? (To get rid of King David; because they wanted Absalom to be the king.)

• What happened during the battle? (Absalom died; lots of men died.)

Turn Circle 2 so the third picture is showing.

Ask: • Why was David sad? (Because Absalom died; he missed his son; he was sad about all the bad things that had happened.)

• What should Absalom have done instead of fighting his father? (Obeyed his father; not caused trouble; told his dad he was sorry.)



Say: ►God gave us rules because he loves us. If Absalom had followed God's rules and had honored his father, many lives would have been saved. God wants us to honor our parents, too. Let's learn how we can do that.

Return Circle 2 to the Learning Lab.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Form trios, and give each trio three linking hearts and stars that are linked together. Have trios scatter around the room and sit down while you take your place in the middle of the room.

Play "Game Show Music" (track 11) on the CD while you say: **Welcome to** "Honor Your Father and Mother," the game show that asks you, "What's the right thing to do?" But be careful—one wrong answer can lead to big trouble! Let's get started! Turn off the CD player and say: I'll read a short story about a child who might be tempted to disobey or not be nice to his or her parents. If your group thinks of a nice way for the person to treat his or her parents, rattle your linking hearts and stars. I'll call on more than one group to share their answers.

Read the following situations, pausing after each to allow trios to share their responses. After two or three responses to each situation, ask children to tell you what might happen if the person in the story does the wrong thing.

- · Maria's friends are going bike riding on a steep hill in their neighborhood. Maria knows that her mom thinks the hill is too dangerous, and she knows that there's busy traffic at the bottom of the hill. But Maria's mom is away at work and wouldn't know if Maria rode down the hill.
- Matthew loves playing his new video game. His dad has already called him twice to come and set the table for dinner. But Matthew has gotten more points than he's ever gotten before, and he still has two players left.
- Destiny is excited about going to the ice skating show tonight. But her dad told her she has to take a nap since she'll be staying up late. Destiny doesn't like taking naps because she always wakes up feeling grouchy.
- · Miguel's grandmother gave him a new pair of in-line skates for his birthday. Miguel's mom wants him to write a thank you note, but Miguel hates writing letters.
- Kim's mother came home from work with the flu. But Kim had asked three friends to come over to his house and play video games. The games are exciting, and the boys are shouting and having a good time. Kim's mother is trying to sleep right above the room where the boys are playing.

After several groups have shared a response for each situation, give a round of applause. Collect the *linking hearts and stars*, and then ask:

- Why is it important to honor our parents? (Because they love us; because they usually know what's best; because God wants us to.)
- How do your parents feel when you're helpful and kind to them? (Good; happy; glad.)
- What happens when you don't honor and respect your parents? (They get mad; it makes them sad; I get in trouble.)

• What happens when you're careful to honor your mom and dad? (They like it; they smile; it makes everyone happy.)

Say: ►God gave us rules because he loves us. God's rules say to honor our parents so we can have a long life. That's because our parents love us and want us to do what's best for us. Our Bible verse for today is from Psalm 19:8a, and this is what it says: ►"The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart." We honor God when we obey our parents, and that can give us a happy feeling inside! You did such a super job in our game show that I'll stamp everyone's hand with the stone tablets stamp. When you look at your stamped hand, you can remember that ► God gave us rules because he loves us.

Stamp each child's hand with the stone tablets stamp, and then say: Let's see if Pockets knows about honoring her parents. Pockets! Pockets!



(BIBLE VERSE



Closing

Mean to Mommy

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, have kids wave goodbye and then put Pockets away and out of sight.





Pockets: (Whispering) Shh! Don't talk so loud; I don't want my mom to

know where I am.

Teacher: Pockets, your mother will worry if she doesn't know where you

are. What's wrong?

Pockets: (Sounding like she's going to cry) I've done a terrible thing, and I'm

embarrassed.

Teacher: What terrible thing did you do, Pockets? It couldn't be that bad.

Pockets: Oh, it could be, and it is. I *really* yelled at my mom. She told me I couldn't ride my

> bike without my helmet on, but I did it anyway. When Mom saw me, she said I couldn't ride my bike for three whole days! I was so mad—I don't like to wear my helmet. Why should I wear my helmet? So I yelled at my mom and said that the

helmet rule was a dumb rule.

Teacher: How did you feel after you disobeyed and yelled at your mom?

Pockets: Bad. I love my mommy, and she looked sad when I yelled at her.

Teacher: Your mom gives you safety rules because she loves you so much. ►God gave us

> rules because he loves us, too. Today we've been talking about God's rule that says to honor our parents. That means God wants us to obey our parents and show them

respect.

BIBLE POINT

Pockets: Yelling at Mom wasn't very respectful, was it? I want to tell my mom that I'm sorry,

but how can I?

Teacher: Children, do you have any ideas about how Pockets can apologize to her mother and

show her mother that she does honor her? (Let the children give Pockets ideas on how

to apologize, such as saying she's sorry, drawing a picture, or giving a hug.) I'm sure your mother will forgive you because she loves you so much.

Pockets: I know you're right. I'm going to go right now and give my mom a hug and

tell her I'm sorry. Thanks, everyone! I'll see you next week.

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SUPPLIES: CD player, sandwiches from Option 2



Say:
ightharpoonup God gave us rules because he loves us. Our moms and dads give us rules because they love us, too. Both God's rules and parents' rules protect us and keep us safe. Let's sing a song to remember that God's rules are good.

Lead children in singing "Ten Commandments" (track 12) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" with the *CD*. Encourage children to follow your actions as they sing.

SING

Our God gave us Ten Commandments (point to heaven; then hold up 10 fingers), Commandments, commandments. (Give a high 10 on "commandments.")
Our God gave us Ten Commandments (point to heaven; then hold up 10 fingers)
To show us his love. (Hug self.)

God's rules help me and you (point to self and then to a friend)
To live like God says to. (Open hands like a book.)
Our God gave us Ten Commandments (point to heaven; then hold up 10 fingers)
To show us his love. (Hug self.)

(Repeat.)



When the song ends, turn off the CD player. If you chose Option 2, serve the heart-shaped snacks that children made, or serve the alternative snack you brought. Remind the children that God gave us parents to surround us with love. When children have finished their snacks, say: Jesus, God's Son, came to earth to tell us about God's love and goodness. Jesus loved his heavenly Father so much that he obeyed and died on the cross for our sins. But he didn't stay

that way! Jesus came back to life and lives in heaven now. I'm happy that Jesus is alive, aren't you? When we obey our parents, as Jesus obeyed his heavenly Father, that is something to be happy about.



Pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us parents who take care of us and love us. Help us to honor, respect, and obey them, as Jesus honored, respected, and obeyed you. In Jesus' name, amen.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



Lively Learning: Absalom's Friends

Choose three children to stand in the middle of the room with their arms linked together. Explain that the children in the middle represent Absalom and his friends. Have the rest of the children gather at one end of the room. On your signal, have the children at the end of the room tiptoe as fast as they can to the other end of the room. Absalom and his friends may try to tag the other children by taking slow, giant steps, but their arms must remain linked. If a child is tagged, he or she becomes one of Absalom's friends and links arms with the rest of them. As children play, explain that Absalom gathered lots of friends before he fought his father, King David. Remind children that Absalom disobeyed God's commandment and lost the battle and his life.

■ Make to Take: Anywhere, Anytime Smiles

Set out crayons, safety scissors, tape, paper plates, and 18-inch lengths of yarn or ribbon. Have children cut paper plates in half and then draw smiles on them and color them. Help each child tape his or her paper smiles to each end of a piece of yarn. Have children bring their "smiles" to their parents (along with real smiles of their own!). Remind children that God gave us parents because he loves us.

■ Treat to Eat: Gingerbread Parents

Set out slices of bread, plastic knives, paper plates, frosting, chocolate chips, and gingerbread-man cookie cutters. Allow children to cut gingerbread "parents" from the bread and then spread frosting on them and add eyes and noses with chocolate chips. As children work, remind them that God gave us parents to love us and take care of us and that God's rules tell us to honor our parents.



Story Picture: David Mourns absalom

Hand each child a photocopy of the "Today I Learned…" handout. Set out crayons and glue, and allow children to color their handouts. Then show children how to place drops of glue on David's tears. Explain that when the glue dries, it will look clear like water. Remind children that ▶God gave us rules because he loves us.

Today your child learned that God gave us rules because he loves us. Children heard what happened when King David's son Absalom didn't honor or obey David. They talked about ways to honor their parents.

God gave us rules because he loves us.

Verse to Learn

"The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart" (Psalm 19:8a).

ask Me...

- How did Absalom show disrespect to King David?
- How do you honor your parents?
- How can we honor our parents and grandparents?

Family Fun

• Help your child make a special gift box for his or her grandparents. Children may wish to fill a shoe box with cookies, candies, coupons for phone calls or hugs, and a special handmade card. As you work to put items in the box, explain that it's good to honor grandparents, too.

King David Mourns absalom (2 Samuel 15-18)

