Warming Up for God's Word

Why do we have rules?

What are some rules you have to follow?

What happens when you don't follow the rules?

Even though rules are sometimes difficult to follow, they are used to help, guide, and protect us. Obeying rules that are set before us brings blessings. Disobeying rules brings consequences.

The Bible is God's holy word that He wrote. All the stories written in the Bible are true. Our journey into the Bible is going to bring us to a decision Adam and Eve have to make: Will they choose to follow the rules God has placed before them?

Reading God's Word

Read Genesis 3 aloud to the children.

Genesis 3 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

The Temptation and the Fall

3 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. 3 But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "In fact, God knows that when[a] you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God,[b] knowing good and evil." 6 Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Sin's Consequences

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze,[c] and they hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 And he said, “I heard You[d] in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

11 Then He asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12 Then the man replied, “The woman You gave to be with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.”

13 So the LORD God asked the woman, “What is this you have done?”

And the woman said, “It was the serpent. He deceived me, and I ate.”

14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than any livestock
and more than any wild animal.
You will move on your belly
and eat dust all the days of your life.
15 I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.

16 He said to the woman:

I will intensify your labor pains;
you will bear children in anguish.
Your desire will be for your husband,
yet he will rule over you.

17 And He said to Adam, “Because you listened to your wife’s voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘Do not eat from it’:

The ground is cursed because of you.
You will eat from it by means of painful labor[e]
all the days of your life.
18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
19 You will eat bread[f] by the sweat of your brow
until you return to the ground,
since you were taken from it.
For you are dust,
and you will return to dust.”

[20] Adam named his wife Eve[g] because she was the mother of all the living. [21] The LORD God made clothing out of skins for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them.

[22] The LORD God said, "Since man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever." [23] So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. [24] He drove man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

Recalling God's Word

- What was the one rule that God laid out for Adam and Eve?
    - That's right! God told Adam and Eve they must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Did they obey?
    - No.
- What were their consequences?
    - Sin entered the world through their disobedience. They were banished from the garden and were separated from God.

Bringing God's Word to Life

Directions: For this lesson, let's take this time to bring the gospel message of Jesus Christ to the children. Pray about how God would have you present these truths. You might already have a way that you present the gospel. If so, use that. If not, feel free to use the dialogue below. But most importantly, allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you.

Having a Gospel Conversation:

God is holy and perfect. He never sins!

Who can tell me what sin is? That's right. Sin is the wrong things that you and I do. Talking back to our parents. Being mean to our friends. Stealing. These are all examples of sin, which makes us imperfect. And because we sin, we are separated from God just like Adam and Eve were.

But God loves us so much that He did not want to be separated from us. He wants us to be with Him forever and to forgive our sins. God sent His one and only son to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus was perfect. He never sinned, so Jesus was the perfect person to be the sacrifice for everyone's sins. Jesus didn't stay dead. Three days later, He rose again defeating death and sin FOREVER! He lives in heaven with God.

Jesus wants to save you from your sins to so that you can have a relationship with God.

To begin, admit to God you are a sinner and that your sin is what separates you from God.

Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins. That Jesus took your place so that your sins could be forgiven. That it is through His sacrifice that you are forgiven and restored to God.

Confess your sins to God, ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Ask God to be your Savior, to be the Lord of your Life. Once you do that, God promises to forgive your sins and be with you always. God's word says in Hebrews 13:5 that God will never leave us or forsake us.

At this point, pray with the children to have open hearts to Jesus.

Let's Play A Game

Where is Adam and Eve?

Directions: This game is played like the game HOT and COLD. The step by step instructions are below. Before playing the game, you will need to create an Adam and Eve to hide. This could be a drawing on a piece of paper, a couple of rocks, or even a couple of the children.

- Step 1: Choose a Hunter - Choose one player to be the Hunter and have them leave the room or move away from the group.
- Step 2: Hide Adam and Eve - Hide Adam and Eve somewhere in the space where you are playing.
- Step 3: Bring the Hunter back into the room and have them look for the hidden Adam and Eve by moving around the area.
- Step 4: The rest of the children will say "colder" when the Hunter is far from the object - Indicate to the Hunter that they are moving away from the hidden object by saying "colder." If they keep moving in the wrong direction, words that indicate degrees of cold, such as "freezing" or "icy."
- Step 5: Say "hotter" when the Hunter is close to the object – The children will tell the Hunter that they are getting closer to the hidden object by saying "hotter." As they move closer, say "burning" or "scorching."
- Step 6: End the game when the Hunter finds Adam and Eve - Continue giving clues until the Hunter finds the hidden object. Continue playing the game as long as time permits.

Memorizing God's Word

Directions: Teach the motions to the children. As you say the verse out loud, have the children do the motions with you and join you in saying the verse.

In the Bible, God tells us to hide His words in our hearts (Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.") Memorizing God's word is important so that no matter where we go, we have God's words with us. God's words are true! The Bible is true because God wrote the Bible.

I am going to teach you some motions to go with the words to help you learn the verse. Are you ready?

John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Wrapping Up the Lesson

Directions – Read each of these to the children. After each Unwavering Truth, ask the children to give you examples of how they see God in each of these ways in their own lives.

Unwavering Truths about God:

God is Loving – For God so loved the world that He have His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. This verse shouts how much God loves us. His love is unconditional. There is nothing you can say or do that will cause God to stop loving you.

God is Forgiving – Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. God's word says in Psalm 103:12 that He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. There is no sin too great that God can not forgive.

God is With Us – God didn't want our sins to separate us from Him forever. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. This loving act forgave our sins once and for all and restored us into a right relationship with Him. When Jesus rose from the grave and went back to heaven, God did not leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit who lives inside us, guides us, and helps us, if we have made the decision to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.