

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 15:40-41; 16:1-12

LIFE POINT

God wants people to follow and obey Him.

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus is the Savior.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

People can learn about and recognize God's authority.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: August 20**BIBLE VERSE**

It is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.
Philippians 2:13 (CSB)

It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (KJV)

It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS**Huddle Ups (optional)**

Supplies (for each small group):

- “Seek and Find”—blindfold
- “Pull It”—12 plastic cups, heavyweight paper, scissors, pencils or markers

Countdown Video (3 minutes)

Props: none

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)

Props: none

True2Life Drama (or Mooseberry video) (3-5 minutes)

Props: chair, backpack

Connection Point Game (10 minutes)

Props: 1 paper plate, 3 beanbags

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Bible Story (10 minutes)

Props: Bible, 3 cups, marker, 3 index cards, handful of pom-poms, water, confetti, table

Worship Song and Offering (3 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Missions (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Real Life Connections (3-5 minutes)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“Holy God (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and *Bible Verse* slides
- **True2Life Drama:**
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“Amazing Power”
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and *Christ Focus* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and *Connect to Missions* slides; “Anne Bagby” missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies *(for each small group)*:
 - “Seek and Find”—blindfold
 - “Pull It”—12 plastic cups, heavyweight paper, scissors, pencils or markers

HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION

“SEEK AND FIND”

Prep: none

- Guide kids to stand in a circle.
- Blindfold a volunteer and tell him to stand in the middle of the circle.
- Explain that you will join the circle and call the child's name.
- Challenge the blindfolded child to find you by listening for your voice.
- Try the game one time and instruct other kids to remain silent.
- Play the game a second time and invite the other children to speak his name as well.
- Challenge the child in the middle to listen only for your voice and to follow it.
- Choose a different child and play again.
- Ask: “How did the players know where to find me?”
- Agree that each player listened to your voice and followed it.
- Explain that God wants people to listen to His commands and obey them.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.

HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION

“PULL IT”

Prep: Cut the paper into nine 5-by-5-inch squares.

- Review the Life Point: **God wants people to follow and obey Him.**
- Form three groups.
- Give each group four cups and three squares of paper.
- Invite each group to create a tower by stacking four cups on top of each other with paper pieces between each cup.
- Explain that on your signal one person from each group will start from the top and pull out each paper.
- Mention that kids must keep the cups from falling and destroying the tower. *(The top cup will fall onto the second cup, the third cup, and so on until kids stack the cups and collect the papers.)*
- Play one round. When play stops, assign a task to each group:
 - Group 1—On each paper write one place where kids can choose to obey God.
 - Group 2—On each paper write a time when kids need to remember to obey God
 - Group 3—On each paper write something kids can do to help them obey God.
- Instruct groups to move to a new stack.
- Lead groups to make the towers again, allowing a second person from each group to pull the papers and stack the cups.
- Lead kids to write on the papers after the round.
- Instruct each group to move to the third stack and complete the steps.
- Talk about the answers written on each paper.
- Say: “People can learn about and recognize God's authority. Remember, obedience is a choice! You can choose to obey God's commands, even when it is difficult.”

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Countdown Video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Holy God *(Holy, Holy, Holy)*” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Hi, kids! Each of you find three friends and give them a high-five. *(Allow kids to respond.)* It makes me excited to be here with my friends to worship Jesus! Stand and sing with me.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Hi, everyone! I need some help as we get things started. I need a volunteer who is willing to do anything I ask, even if it’s silly. *(Choose a child to join you and introduce her to the group.)*

(Name of child), thanks for helping me out! Are you willing to do anything I ask you to do? *(Allow for response.)* OK, then let’s get started! Listen to my instructions and obey them.

(Give each of the following silly instructions or make up your own.)

- Dance like a chicken.
- Sing a happy birthday song.
- Pretend you just won a million dollars.

Thank you, *(name of child)*! Even though I had very silly instructions, *(name of child)* did what I said to do. Today we will hear that God’s wants us to obey His commands, too.

(Show Life Point slide.)

God wants people to follow and obey Him. Say that with me: **“God wants people to follow and obey Him.”**

Our Bible verse explains that God works in us. He helps us obey Him and follow His good plans. Let’s read aloud Philippians 2:13.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- It is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 *(CSB)*
- It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 *(KJV)*
- It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 *(NIV)*
- It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 *(ESV)*
- It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 *(NKJV)*

We can choose to respect God and obey His commands. Let’s pray and ask God for His help. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team *(or the Mooseberry kids)*.

God, thank You for Your good plans. Please help us obey You. Lead us to do what You want. Teach us to honor You with our choices, words, and actions. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

TRUE2LIFE DRAMA

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video (optional)
- ➔ People:
 - Lucy: a preteen Christian
 - Ava: Lucy’s little sister
- ➔ Props: backpack, chair

Lucy sits in a chair. Ava enters and throws her backpack on the floor. She is upset.

Lucy: Maybe I’m wrong, but you seem like you might be kind of upset.

Ava: I’m not upset. Why would you say that?

Lucy: Well, you walked in, threw your backpack on the floor, and ...

Ava: *(interrupting)* I’m so mad!

Lucy: I thought so.

Ava: Don’t even ask me what happened.

Lucy: OK.

Ava: Because I don’t want to talk about it.

Lucy: OK.

Ava: Because it will just make me more mad.

Lucy: OK.

Ava: OK fine, I’ll tell you! I wanted to be partners with Bella for the big project, but I’m not.

Lucy: You’re still friends, right?

Ava: *(interrupting)* And I wanted to be chosen for the A team for the volleyball unit in PE.

Lucy: I’m sure B is fine ...

Ava: *(interrupting)* And I wanted to be chosen as class leader, but I wasn’t!

Lucy: That’s tough, but ...

Ava: *(interrupting)* I wanted to sit at the front of the room, but the teacher moved me to the back. I wanted to eat with my friends in the lunch room, but the table was full.

Lucy: You’ve said the words “I wanted” a lot in the last few minutes.

Ava: Nothing I wanted happened today!

Lucy: I’m really sorry that you’ve had a rough day. Have you stopped to think that maybe what YOU wanted and what GOD wanted weren’t the same thing?

Ava: Why would God care if I was at the back of the room or the front? Or if I was chosen for the B team instead of the A team?

Lucy: I honestly don’t know, but I do know that God has authority in our lives. He has a plan, and even the small details matter to Him.

Ava: So GOD wanted me to have a bad day?

Lucy: No, Ava. God’s plans for us are good, but He does want us to obey and follow Him. Can you think of any reason that God wanted you to NOT get what you wanted?

Ava: *(thinking)* There’s a friend who sits in the back of the room who doesn’t go to church. Maybe God wants me to invite her ... or, maybe I was supposed to sit with the girl who is always by herself at lunch.

Lucy: See? Instead of being so concerned about what YOU want, you can consider what God wants. There are a lot of people who need to know about God. He may want to use you to be the person who tells other people about His Son, Jesus.

Ava: *(sighs)* You’re right ... and there’s one more thing that went wrong today.

Lucy: What do you mean?

Ava: *(smiling)* Lucy, nobody wants to admit that her older sister is right!

(The girls laugh and exit.)

(END SCENE)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 4 kids
- ➔ Props: 1 paper plate, 3 beanbags

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- Choose 4 kids.
- Give 1 player a paper plate and each remaining player a beanbag.
- Tell the player with the plate to stand anywhere he would like and toss the plate.
- Observe where the plate lands.
- Challenge each remaining player to stand in the same place as the first player and toss his beanbag toward the paper plate.
- Award a point to any player who lands his beanbag on the plate.
- Choose a different player to toss the plate and play again.
- Continue until each player tosses the plate or as your time allows.
- Tally the points and name a winner.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show *Connection Point Game* slide.)

Today's game takes skill! Who would like to play a tossing game? (Choose four kids. Distribute the plate and beanbags.)

(Name of child with plate), you will go first. You may stand anywhere you'd like and toss the plate. You can toss the plate close to you or far away. It is your choice!

After (name of child) tosses the plate, each player will stand in the same place and toss his beanbag toward the plate. The players who toss their beanbags on the plate will earn a point.

We will take turns until everyone tosses the plate. Then we will tally the points and name a winner.

Do all of you understand how to play? (Answer any questions and play the game.)

That became competitive! Did the players need to land their beanbags on the plate to earn a point? (Allow for responses.) Yes, they did! Players only earned points if they hit the target. Getting close did not count.

Do you think God expects people to obey Him exactly or just get close? (Allow for responses.) God doesn't want people just to come close to obeying Him. God expects people to obey Him completely. That means obeying God every time, even if you don't feel like it.

Today's Bible story is about a man who listened to God and did what He said to do. Let's sing another song, and then we will hear what happened.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➔ Music: "Amazing Power" (lead sheet available on DVD-ROM) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

John 14:15 says that we show love to God by obeying His commands. I want to do my best to obey Him and follow His plans for me. Let's sing, and then we will hear our Bible story.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus and Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader, 1 child
- ➔ Props: Bible, 3 cups, marker, 3 index cards, handful of pom-poms, water, confetti, table

Option 1: Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story. Number the cups, 1–3. Set the

cups on a table. Drop a handful of pom-poms in the first cup. Pour water in the second cup, and put a tablespoon of confetti in the third cup. Lay an index card on top of each cup to hide the contents.

Option 2: Play the Notebook Bible Story video.

Option 3: Tell the Optional Bible Story available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "Ananias Helped Saul," Acts 9:1-18.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

Earlier, I had a lot of volunteers who were willing to obey my instructions. Let's give another person a turn! Who is willing to do whatever I ask you to do? *(Invite a child to join you and introduce him to the group.)*

(Name of child), I have three cups on the table. Each cup has something different inside. I will tell you which cup to pick up. You must hold the cup over your head and pour out whatever is inside. Are you ready? (Lead the volunteer to pick up the cups with pom-poms and confetti and pour each of them over his head. Make the game playful and suspenseful. Do not allow the child to see the contents of the cups before he pours them over his head.)

Great job, *(name of child)*. He was a little unsure, but everything worked out just fine! Let's see what would have happened if he had not followed my instructions and picked up the last cup. *(Show that water was in the last cup.)*

I knew what was inside each cup, and I led *(name of child)* to stay away from the cup that was full of water. I wanted what was best for him.

God knows all things, and He knows what is best for us. He has good plans for us and wants to keep us away from things that are harmful. It's important that we listen to God's instructions and obey them.

Let's hear a Bible story about a man who chose to listen to God and obey.

(Open Bible to Acts 16.)

Paul and Silas traveled through Syria and Cilicia *(sih-LISH-ih-uh)*. They encouraged and strengthened the churches along their journey.

Paul went on to Derbe *(DUHR-bih)* and then to Lystra. While he was there, he met a young man named Timothy.

(Read Acts 16:2-3.)

The brothers and sisters at Lystra and Iconium spoke highly of [Timothy]. Paul wanted Timothy to go with him.

Paul, Timothy, and Silas traveled to more towns and gave instructions to the believers. The churches were encouraged and grew more every day!

The Holy Spirit guided Paul and the men as they traveled. Instead of going to Asia or Mysia *(MISS-ih-uh)*, God led Paul to Troas. While they were there, Paul saw a vision from God.

(Read Acts 16:9.)

During the night Paul had a vision in which a Macedonian man was standing and pleading with him, "Cross over to Macedonia and help us!"

Paul understood that God wanted them to preach the gospel to the people of Macedonia. Immediately, Paul and the men traveled to several towns in Macedonia and delivered the message of Jesus.

(Close Bible.)

God's Holy Spirit spoke to Paul and told him what to do. After Paul saw the vision, he and his friends immediately set out for Macedonia. God had called them to preach the gospel, and they obeyed!

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

Paul knew that he could trust God, and Paul followed God's instructions. Paul shared the good news that Jesus is the Savior! Jesus lived a perfect life, died, and rose from the dead so that we might have eternal life with Him.

God wants people to follow and obey Him, but obedience is a choice. You can choose to do what is right! Choosing to obey God shows your love for Him and teaches you to be more like Jesus.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Sometimes obedience is difficult. We like to do things our own way, but our way is not always best. God has good plans for us, and He wants us to follow and obey His commands. Let's pray and ask for His help.

God, thank You for Your instructions in the Bible. Thank You that we can know how to live. Please help us do what is right, even when we want to go our own way. Teach us to obey You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps others learn about God and how to obey Him. If you would like to give an offering today,

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Teach kids the following rhythm pattern: snap, snap, clap, clap, pat legs, pat legs.*
- *Practice the pattern a few times.*
- *Lead kids to perform the pattern, saying 1 word of the verse on each movement.*

- *Begin slowly and steadily increase speed with each additional round of play.*
- *Continue as your time allows.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- It is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 (*CSB*)
- It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (*KJV*)
- It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 (*NIV*)
- It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (*ESV*)
- It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13 (*NKJV*)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

It's time to say our Bible verse. Say with me Philippians 2:13.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

This is such a great verse for us to memorize! It says that God is at work in each of our lives, giving us the desire and ability to do what He wants us to do.

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions*; "Anne Bagby" missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

Buck and Anne Bagby were the first Baptist missionaries to Brazil. They arrived in the country in 1881. God used the Bagbys to help many people in Brazil become Christians. Let's watch a video about the Bagbys and their work.

(Show the missions video: “Anne Bagby.”)

(Show Connect to Missions slide.)

The Bagbys helped begin many churches and schools. A report to the Foreign Mission Board after Anne’s death said: “The testimony of those two faithful believers [Buck and Anne Bagby] has been multiplied into 70,000 witnesses. Now 780 Baptist churches stand where there was none, 62 years ago; instead of 1 missionary couple, there are now 102 missionaries; and from 1 Baptist minister, the number has grown to 383.”

The missions work in Brazil has continued to grow even more from the work Buck and Anne Bagby began many years ago. Let’s pray, thanking God for missionaries like the Bagbys.

(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)

God, thank You for missionaries like the Bagbys. Thank You for the work they began in Brazil and for the many people who have come to know Jesus as Savior. We pray for missionaries who work in Brazil today. Please bless their ministries and continue providing opportunities for more people to hear and accept the gospel. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group (*optional*)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

Lead a conversation with your kids about today’s Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Questions slides.)

Today you’ve heard that it is important to listen to God’s instructions and obey Him. Even when it is difficult, we should do what God says to do. Let’s hear what you know about following God’s instructions.

- Is it easier to talk or to listen? Why?
- Why is it important to listen to God’s instructions?
- Tell about a time when you obeyed God.
- What instruction in the Bible do you think is difficult to obey?

(Show Life Point slide.)

God wants people to follow and obey Him. Say that with me: **“God wants people to follow and obey Him.”**

God’s instructions are for our good. He wants what is best for us because He loves us. Obeying God’s commands won’t always be easy, but we can choose to obey, even when it’s difficult.

Thanks for coming to church today. I’m always excited to worship with you! Make plans to come again next time, and remember to follow and obey God!

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*