



# Noah Builds the Ark

Genesis 6:5-22


Preteens can be notorious for analyzing all rules and requests for obedience before they'll obey. They evaluate rules to make sure they're fair and scrutinize them to see if there might be some loopholes that will render rules invalid. The good news is, fifth- and sixth-graders can begin to understand the larger biblical concept of God's requirement that God's people obey. They can also begin to incorporate that concept into their own lives. Use this lesson to guide kids' discovery of how obeying God brings about the greatest good.



► **Bible Point**  
God wants us to obey.

**Key Verse**  
"Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!' " (Acts 5:29).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Preteens will consider the importance of obedience to God despite obstacles.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Three-Minute Clown College</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Parade around as clowns, and discuss their experience in obeying instructions.</p>	<p>CD player, a selection of old clothing, various art supplies, items from around the room <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Read All About It</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Become reporters who examine and write about Noah.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, CD player, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Reporter Assignment" cards, Bible Timeline</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.</p>

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>God, Not Men</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Consider the difference between obeying men and obeying God.	Bible Buzz, paper, markers	
	<b>Count the Cost</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Identify what they want, and count the cost of obedience.	Bible Buzz, pens	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.***





### Three-Minute Clown College Supplies

CD player  
a selection of old clothing  
various art supplies  
items from around the room

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Clown College" (track 8)

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

# Three-Minute Clown College

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Set out the old clothing and the art supplies.

Say: **Today you have the opportunity to gain a valuable life skill that'll not only make you popular at school and at parties, but will also provide a valuable income if you choose to run off and join the circus. You're about to become a certified clown!**

**You'll have three minutes to create clown costumes and other props using the old clothing, art supplies, and any items from around the room. You'll need to be very creative and work very quickly. Ready? Go!**

Play "Clown College" (track 8 on the CD) as kids prepare. After the track, gather everyone around you.

Say: **Congratulations! You're all graduates of the Three-Minute Clown College. As part of the graduation ceremony, you'll have a chance to clown around in front of everyone here. Each person can take 30 seconds to stand up and perform a clown task I tell you to do. You won't know what the task is until you're up here. So who's ready to step right up?** Invite a willing child to begin the brief clown talent show, and give a command such as honking your nose, miming, doing cartwheels, performing a balancing act, juggling, or any other clown ideas you can think of. Make sure you ask everyone to participate, but don't force anyone to do so.

After everyone who would like to clown around has had a chance, have kids sit in a circle.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What about this experience was uncomfortable or embarrassing?**
- **What portions of my directions did you not want to obey? Why?**
- **If you dropped out of the clown talent show, why did you drop out?**

Say: **It's not always easy, comfortable, or fun to follow directions. Sometimes we can feel singled out or embarrassed for obeying directions. Even when it's not what we want to do, ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY. Let's look in the Bible at a big task God had for a man named Noah and how Noah obeyed.**



**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Read All About It

### What You'll Do

Have kids form six groups.

Say: **Congratulations! You've gone from Clown College to reporters on the staff of the Daily News Gazette! Each group will be responsible for one section of our newspaper. Before you research your section, let's listen to this summary of Genesis 6:5-22.** Show kids the Bible Timeline, and point to the picture of Noah. **It's about what God asked Noah to do.**

Play the "Noah Briefing" segment (track 9 on the CD).

When the briefing is finished, distribute this week's Bible Buzz page, Bibles, pens, and one "Reporter Assignment" card to each group. Ask groups to select the following roles (depending on the size of the groups): a scribe, who will write the article; a researcher, who will dig out facts from the Bible and make sure the article matches up with those facts; and a reader, who will read the article to the larger group. Have groups find the "Daily News Gazette" section on their Bible Buzz page.

Say: **A good news story reports the facts as accurately and thoroughly as possible. And our Daily News Gazette readers want to read a good report of what happened to Noah. As chief editor, I'm assigning all you reporters investigations based on the briefing we heard. Each group is responsible for a different section of our paper. You'll find your group's assignment on the card I gave your group. You'll need to use Genesis 6:5-22 to research your subject.** Allow kids time to look at their cards and ask any questions they have. **Follow the directions, and everyone but scribes should write your reports on your Bible Buzz page. Scribes, you'll use the research from others in the group and write on your cards to turn in for the newspaper report. The deadline to get the paper ready for the printer is in 12 minutes! Work on your articles now.**

Circulate among the groups to offer encouragement and guidance as needed.

When time is up, invite a willing child from each team to read the article. If a team hasn't completed its article, ask the group to describe what they wanted to say in their article. Encourage all efforts. The goal is to have groups dig into the passage, not to create polished publication-worthy articles.



### Read All About It Supplies

- .....
- Bibles
  - Bible Buzz
  - CD player
  - pens
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Noah Briefing" (track 9)
  - "Reporter Assignment" cards
  - Bible Timeline

### Read All About It Easy Prep

- .....
- Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.





## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What stood out to you as you researched the details of Noah’s task of building the ark?
- In your opinion, was Noah’s task easy or difficult? Explain.
- As Noah worked for years building the ark, he probably faced some hardships along the way. What makes Noah’s obedience over so many years amazing?
- Tell about a time you obeyed even when it meant a lot of work.

Say: **One thing is clear: God wanted Noah to obey, and that’s just what Noah did. God’s orders probably didn’t make a great deal of sense to anyone who saw Noah building an ark—until it started to rain! When God tells us what to do, it’s for our own good. That’s one reason ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY.**

### 3

## WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# God, Not Men

### God, Not Men Supplies

Bible Buzz  
paper  
markers

## What You’ll Do

Have kids form groups of four, and give each group a sheet of paper and a marker.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY. God commands us to obey our parents and authorities, but the ultimate obedience is when we do what God tells us to do—especially if it conflicts with what people are telling us to do. We’re going to think of some examples of when that might happen.**

Have kids find the Key Verse on their Bible Buzz page.

Say: **When Peter and the other apostles taught about Jesus, the religious leaders arrested them and tried to force them to stop. Let’s see how they responded.**

Invite a willing child to read aloud the Key Verse, Acts 5:29: “Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’ ”

Ask:

- Do you think many people obey God above anyone else? Why do you think that’s difficult to do?
- Why do you or don’t you think it’s worth it to obey God above anyone else?





Say: **Sometimes people follow God’s commands and get into trouble for it. This usually happens in other cultures more than in ours, but it’s still a problem people here can face. With your group, list on your paper as many situations as you can think of when obeying God may conflict with obeying man. You’ll have three minutes to work, and you can include issues in other countries as well as scenarios in your town. Allow time.**

### Talk With Kids

When groups finish making their lists, lead everyone in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about the things you listed that could get people in trouble for obeying God before man.**
- **In those situations, what would make it a challenge for you to obey God?**

Say: **We know that ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY him. But that can be really hard at times, especially if our lives are being threatened or our reputations are being destroyed. Next to each of the scenarios on your lists, write some words of encouragement that might help someone experiencing those issues to obey God rather than man. Maybe a person in that situation can have hope that God will protect him or her.**

Give groups another three minutes to work, and then ask for a few examples of what kids wrote.

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY, because God loves us and wants what’s best for us. God would never ask us to do something we can’t handle. When God asked Noah to build the ark, God knew Noah could do it. That doesn’t mean we’ll never struggle with the things God asks us to do, but God knows even better than we do what we’re able to do. And obeying God is always worth it.**

## Count the Cost

### What You’ll Do

Say: **Some things are worth the work that it takes to get them. We’re going to identify a few of them.**

Make sure everyone has a pen, and have kids form pairs and find the “Count the Cost 1” section on their Bible Buzz page. Say: **List accomplishments or things worth having under the “Things Worth Having” heading and the cost of obtaining or gaining those things under the “Cost of Getting Them” heading. For example, you might list a brand-new bike as something worth having. Then list the costs of having that bike, such as the money it cost to buy it and the effort it takes to keep it maintained and running well. You’ll have two minutes to complete this part of your Bible Buzz page. After kids finish, invite each pair to select a presenter to share their findings.**



### Count the Cost Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens





Say: **Now you're going to make another list like the one you just made. This time you're going to think about things God might want you to do. For example, maybe God is asking you to be kind to a person at school who's often picked on. One cost of doing that might be having other people make fun of you for being nice to that person. Think to yourself about what God is asking you to do now.**

Direct kids to work individually on the "Count the Cost 2" section of their Bible Buzz page. Allow three minutes.

When kids have finished, invite willing kids to share their lists.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- After all we've talked about today, what do you think are the most common good things that come from obeying God?
- What makes those things worth pushing past the obstacles to obeying God?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY.** Even when there's a price for obedience, the benefits far outweigh the cost. We can have the attitude Noah had when faced with these choices, knowing that obeying God is worth any cost. Let's look at some ways we can obey God this week.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Learning more about obedience and practicing obedience this week can help us remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz page and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Pick something you wrote in the "Counting the Cost 2" section of your Bible Buzz page, and do it.
- Ask God to give you direction in obeying him.
- Practice obeying by immediately doing something your parents ask you to do.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz





## Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

Say: **You all can do a great job obeying this week. After all, God doesn't ask us to do things we can't do. Even Noah's task of building the ark was doable for Noah! Remembering that can help us obey the way ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about obeying God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Have kids form pairs and share with their partners one thing they think will be their biggest obstacle to obeying God this week. Then have kids pray for each other to get past the obstacle with God's help. Close your time together by praying, **"God, thank you for your help as we do our best to obey you. In Jesus' name, amen."**



