



BIBLE CONNECTION

Matthew 1:18-25 (page 1024)
Luke 1:26-38 (pages 1101-1102)

CHARACTER WORD

Obedience - Doing what I am told to do with a happy submissive spirit

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can obey God even when I can't understand His plans.

MEMORY LINK

Luke 1:37

"For with God nothing will be impossible."

(KBC Study Bible, page 1101)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Paper, music

Option 2: Sticky notes

BIBLE CONNECTION

Cup of ice cubes, thin string, salt, tray or cookie sheet

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Resource item

Option 2: Ball or beanbag

Angels Appear to Joseph & Mary

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Think about a time God asked you to do something that seemed impossible. You probably experienced fear or doubt and may have even refused to obey. Imagine how Joseph and Mary felt when God chose them to walk down a road they did not choose and probably did not want to travel. They likely had fears and doubts, too. But they chose obedience over their fear and God used them to accomplish His purpose.

Thoughtfully consider the following questions. What is it that God has placed before you? How does God want you to obey Him today? What's getting in the way? How can you set aside your fears and doubts and choose to trust God by walking obediently? God is able to do the impossible. Step out in faith. Trust and obey.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

- When you have something exciting to share, who do you tell first?
- Today's Character Word is obedience. What does obedience mean to you?
- Name someone besides your parents and teachers to whom you should be obedient.
- When is it hard to be obedient?



Guide students to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles, if they brought one, so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



Use traditional Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger" as a way to teach the truths of Jesus' birth to kids. Many unchurched young people will be unfamiliar with traditional Christmas carols. Don't assume students know or understand the words. Take time to talk about the carols and explain what the songs mean.

Consider these song choices: "Silent Night", by Hillsong; "Away in A Manger", Kid's version; "Sing for Joy" (Psalm 95:1-4), by Seeds Family Worship

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students
8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



CHRISTMAS “OBEDIENCE” (page 2)

No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

Today’s character word is obedience. When we obey our parents and teachers, we are obeying God as well. Even when we do not understand God’s plans, we can obey Him. What can we read to know how to obey God? Shout out your answers. (The Bible!) Ask students to raise their Bibles in the air. Praise them for remembering to bring God’s word to Beach Club today.

Focus on today’s Memory Link

Today’s story is about Jesus’ parents. It is actually told in two separate books of the New Testament. The book of Matthew tells about how Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father was told to expect a son. The book of Luke tells how Mary, Jesus’ mother found out she would have a son.

Open your Bible to the book of Luke, which is the third book of the New Testament, one of the Gospels (page 1100). Today’s Memory Link, Luke 1:37 is on the right-hand page (page 1101). Let’s read this verse together.

God asked Joseph and Mary to obey when they could not see the end result. To Mary it seemed impossible, but she trusted God and obeyed because she knew that nothing is impossible for God.

Option 1 - HOT POTATO

Paper for each surf team, music

Prepare: Write the memory verse on a piece of paper and then fold it up.

Instruct students to sit in a circle and then play this game like “Hot Potato”. Play some music and stop it randomly while the students pass around the paper (ball) with the Bible verse written on it. Whoever is holding the verse when the music stops has to read it. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Variation: Write all the words on pieces of paper or other objects, and have the students pass all the cards at once. When the music stops, call out a word from the verse. The person who is holding that word, gets to tape it to the board. Keep playing until all the cards are taped to the board.

Option 2 - SILENCE IS GOLDEN

Sticky notes for each surf team

Prepare: Write one word of the Memory Link on each sticky note for each surf team including the Bible reference.

Place a word sticky note on the back of each student. Tell them that they cannot tell the others the word on anyone’s back. When the leader signals go, the students should try to put themselves in order to spell out the verse. They cannot say anything during the game, but only use hand gestures and other non-verbal cues. The first team to put their verse in order wins the game.

Luke 1:37

“For with God nothing will be impossible.”

(KBC Study Bible, page 1101)

Teaching Tip

As you plan your snack for this club, you may want to choose something special to celebrate Christmas. It could be birthday cupcakes (Happy Birthday, Jesus!) or something else that feels festive for Christmas.

BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today’s character word through gospel-centered Bible story

Cup of ice cubes, thin string, salt, tray or cookie sheet

CHRISTMAS “OBEDIENCE” (page 3)

Set the Stage

Place an ice cube on the tray. Ask students if they think the ice cube can be picked up with the string. Ask a volunteer to come and pick up the ice cube with the string, without tying the string. Talk about how it seems impossible. Now ask the volunteer to lay the end of the string on the ice cube, and then sprinkle some salt on the cube. Wait a few seconds. Instruct the volunteer to pick up the ice cube, using the opposite end of the string.

Ask students if they knew why you wanted the volunteer to sprinkle salt on the ice. *We will not always understand why God asks us to do something, but we should obey anyway. It was impossible to pick up the ice cube with just the string alone, but we could pick up the ice cube with the string and the salt. Many things are impossible for us to do on our own. When God asks us to do something, He will make what seems impossible, possible. It is important to obey God, even when we do not understand.*

Tell the Story

Invite students to open their KBC Study Bibles to Luke 1:26-38 (page 1101) and follow along as you tell the story.

Today’s character word is obedience. In today’s story, both Mary and Joseph received very surprising news that they did not understand. However, they both chose to obey God.

Mary was “betrothed” to Joseph; we would use the word “engaged” to describe their relationship. They were not married yet. An angel came to visit her, and to tell her “the Lord is with you.” When Mary saw the angel, she was troubled. In fact, the angel had to tell her, “Do not be afraid.” Invite students to make an “afraid face.” Imagine what Mary must have felt like, to be suddenly visited by an angel! The news the angel brought must have been very surprising to Mary, too! The angel told her she would become pregnant and have a son, whom she would name Jesus. The angel also told her that her son would be great, people would call Him the Son of the Highest and that God would give Him a throne!

Do you think that Mary may have been confused about how this could be? Ask students to make a confused face. When Mary lived, many kings became kings because their fathers had been kings or were powerful. Neither Mary nor Joseph were powerful. Neither was a ruler, or a king or queen. Neither was a member of a powerful family. Do you think she wondered how or why God would give her son a throne? Mary chose to obey God, even though she did not understand. The angel told her “For with God, nothing will be impossible.”

Now let’s turn in your KBC Study Bible to page 1024 and find Matthew 1:18-25 to learn about Joseph’s visit from the angel of the Lord.

While sleeping, an angel came to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph, “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.” Instruct students to make an afraid face again. The angel told Joseph that the baby Mary was going to have was from God. The angel also told Joseph to name the son Jesus, and that Jesus would save people from their sins.

Teaching Tip

When teaching object lessons always practice ahead of time. This is especially important for those lessons involving science experiments, like today’s lesson. Practicing will help the illustration to enhance the lesson rather than distract from it.

Do you think Joseph was confused about what the angel told him? Ask the students to show a confused face again. Joseph probably did not understand how Mary could be having a baby, or how Jesus would save people from their sins. However, even though Joseph did not understand everything, he obeyed what God told him to do and married Mary. When Mary gave birth to her son, they named him Jesus just as they were told. Even though Mary and Joseph did not understand God’s plan, they obeyed Him.

The rest of the story is found in Luke 2. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. While they were there it was time for the baby to be born.

Mary gave birth to the baby in a stable and laid Him in a manger. Joseph obeyed and named the baby Jesus just like the angel told them to do. Many wonderful things happened. A bright star shone in the sky. Angels sang to announce Jesus’ birth. Shepherds came and worshipped the baby in the stable. Jesus was God who came to earth and took on human form. God did the impossible!

Application

When Jesus is Lord of your life, you will want to obey Him. Sometimes, just like Joseph and Mary, that means obeying God even when you do not understand His plan. Sometimes obeying God will mean doing what He says even when you feel afraid or confused.

Gospel Connection

Mary and Joseph chose to obey God. One way that you can obey God is to ADMIT that you were born as a sinner and have failed to obey all of God’s rules and directions. You can turn away from your sin and ASK Jesus to forgive your sins. BELIEVE that Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price for your sin. He will forgive you for your sins when you ask. Then you can CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus by obeying Him and making Him your Forever Friend.

Lead students in a prayer thanking God for His Son Jesus.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Teaching Tip

This is your last week of club before the Christmas break, so make every effort to invite students and their families to your church. Send home information about your church service times. Also send home a flyer with your Beach Club start date for the spring semester. Be sure that as you celebrate Christmas with your students, that Jesus is always the focus!

Gospel Tip

Christmas is a wonderful season to help young people understand why Jesus came to Earth and became a human. Help them see how Jesus obeyed God all the way to the cross. Take time to explain that Jesus’ birth was just the beginning. He lived a perfect life of obedience to God. He willingly died on the cross, taking the punishment we deserve. Then, He triumphantly resurrected from the dead and is on the throne of heaven today. Jesus’ humble sacrifice is the reason we celebrate Christmas.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups;
applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



CHRISTMAS "OBEDIENCE" (page 5)

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- *What did Mary do that was obedient?*
- *What did Joseph do that was obedient?*
- *What kind of attitude did Mary and Joseph have about obeying God's instructions?*
- *What kind of attitude can you have about obeying God's instructions?*

Use the Bible

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles and highlight today's Memory Link if they have not already done so.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge them to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

Let's look at our Hang 10 and see what the Weekly Challenge is this week. Who would like to read it out loud for us? Do any of your families have a practice or tradition of reading the Christmas story from the Bible before you open gifts? How many of you would be willing to ask your parents if you could read the Christmas story from the Bible before opening your presents this year? Who will suggest you start this new family tradition?

Pray

Encourage students to bow their heads as they quietly finish these sentences in prayer, pausing between each one. Close the prayer yourself.

- *Thank you, God, for...*
- *God, I'm sorry for...*
- *God, please help me to...*

Teaching Tip
Talk with the school counselor about ways your Beach Club team or partnering church might be able to help families at your school in need during the holiday season. You can best help families in need by facilitating a coordinated effort between the school and your church working together.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word



CHRISTMAS "OBEDIENCE" (page 6)

Option 1 - HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF...

Printed Faces (Resource item) per surf team

Place the three faces (confused, afraid, happy) on the floor near your surf team. Instruct surf team members to spread out in a circle around faces. When you call out a scenario, tell them to place a foot on the face that describes how they would feel in that scenario. Each student may only choose one emotion face at a time. Call out an emotion and have all students whose feet are on that face, answer a review question. They may discuss the answer before answering. Then continue with new scenarios and questions.

Scenarios:

- 1. You find out that your family is taking a trip to the beach.
- 2. You hear a noise coming from another part of the house, and you do not know what it is.
- 3. Your friend seems to be angry with you, and you do not know why.
- 4. Your teacher gave instructions, but you could not hear her.
- 5. You want to buy a toy in the store, but it does not have a price tag.
- 6. There is a tornado warning, and you must sit in the closet until it is over.

Option 2 - KEEP AWAY

Ball or beanbag

The Surf Team Leader chooses a player to stand while everyone makes a large circle around him or her. One of the players in the circle holds the ball. On "go", the player throws the ball to another person in the circle, (but not a neighbor) while the person in the middle tries to intercept it. If the player catches the ball and then correctly answers a review question, the person who threw the ball gets to trade places with the person in the middle.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. *What is today's character word? (obedience)*
- 2. *To whom was Mary betrothed (engaged)? (Joseph)*
- 3. *What was Mary's reaction when she saw the angel, Gabriel? (afraid or troubled)*
- 4. *How did the angel visit Joseph? (in a dream)*
- 5. *The angel told Joseph, "Do not be _____." (afraid)*
- 6. *When Joseph woke up, what did he do? (obeyed the angel; married Mary)*
- 7. *What did the angel tell Joseph that Jesus would do? (save the people from their sins)*
- 8. *What did Mary and Joseph name their Son? (Jesus)*
- 9. *What do people celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus's birth)*
- 10. *Name one way you can obey God. (Answers will vary)*

Teaching Tip

Everyone loves Christmas! If the students in your group are mostly unchurched, they may only associate Christmas with Santa, Frosty and Rudolph. It is not our place to straighten out their views about those characters, but IT IS our responsibility to point them to Jesus as the reason for the Christmas season.

Blank lines for writing answers to the review questions.



***“For with God
nothing will be
impossible.”***

Luke 1:37

KBC Study Bible, page 1101