

DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 6

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 6: Empowered To Obey

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>“Great Grief in the Garden” <i>Matthew 26:36-46</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“...When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.” <i>Philippians 2:7b-8, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>I am empowered to obey God even when it's hard.</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

Ask for student volunteers to participate in a skit exploring today's Bible story, with the large group leader narrating.

You will need to fill:

- two speaking roles: Jesus and Peter

- seven or eight non-speaking roles: James, John, Judas, an angel and a crowd (three to four people)

Leader: **And Jesus came out to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed him.** (Instruct Peter, James and John to walk behind Jesus.) **When he arrived at the place, he said to them,**

Jesus: “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Leader: **And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying,**

Jesus: “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; however, not my will, but yours be done.”

Leader: **When Jesus says, “Remove this cup from me,” he is asking the Father if he could not experience the torturous death on the cross and the separation from his Father, experiences which would make Jesus face the fierce anger of God toward sin and the consequences of sin.** (The angel appears.)

Now an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. (Instruct the angel to come and lay a hand on Jesus.) **And being in agony and distress, knowing the cross was before him, he was praying very passionately; and his sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.** (Instruct the disciples to pretend to fall asleep.) **When He rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, and said to them,**

Jesus: “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Leader: **While he was still speaking, behold, a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss him.** (Instruct Judas and the crowd to come before Jesus) **But Jesus said to him,**

Jesus: “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Leader: **When the disciples saw what was going to happen, they said,**

Peter: “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”

And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. (Ask Peter to pretend to cut off the ear of someone in the crowd.) **But Jesus said,**

Jesus: “Stop! No more of this!”

Leader: **And Jesus touched his ear and healed him.** (Instruct Jesus to pretend to touch the person’s ear.) **Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him,**

Jesus: “Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on me; but at this hour, the powers of darkness are yours. Only at this time is it possible for you to do this.”

Review the Bible verse:

“...When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.”
(Philippians 2:7b-8, NLT).

Ask the students the following questions:

- **What was God the Father asking Jesus to do? Do you think that it was easy for Jesus to obey God?** (God the Father was calling Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, and that would not be an easy thing to do! Jesus was not forced to do so, but he chose to obey.)
- **How did Jesus get the strength to obey such a hard thing that God was asking him to do?** (He prayed and looked to God the Father for the strength to obey.)
- **What are some rules or commands at home or at school that are difficult or challenging to obey? What does today’s story tell us about who Jesus is in us?** (Answers may vary. Emphasize that Jesus empowers us to obey God even when it’s hard. We can pray and turn to Jesus for strength, and he will help us walk in obedience because he knows how to obey even when it’s hard!)

In our small groups today, we’re going to talk more about how Jesus’s leadership in our lives can empower us to obey even when it’s hard.

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.