

# Let's Do It God's Way

**Lesson 22a — Cain and Abel**

**Lesson 22b — Jonah**

**Lesson 22c — Honoring Our Fathers**

**Lesson 22d — Naaman**

## OVERVIEW

The title of this unit — “Let's Do It God's Way” — is an excellent summary of the concept we would like to impress upon the children in our Sunday school this month. In each of the four lessons studied, the importance and the positive benefits of obeying God's instructions will be emphasized.

By carefully studying the examples of the first two Bible stories used as text, the children should be able to see that following our own way, no matter how logical it seems, will only spell disaster if it is contrary to what God has commanded. Disobedience to God always brings trouble, and this should be clearly brought out in the stories of Cain and of Jonah.

The first lesson, that of Cain and Abel, contrasts the way the two brothers responded to God's instructions concerning bringing an offering. In this lesson, we will not go into murder, anger, envy, or any of the other aspects of this story, but will focus on the importance of doing things exactly as God says to do them. Cain's offering was unacceptable because it was not done according to God's command.

The story of Jonah, our second lesson of the month, is a familiar one to many children, and it is an exciting narrative which is sure to appeal to the imaginations of your little ones. Be careful, however, not to get so absorbed in the dramatics of the story that the main point

is lost — that all this trouble came upon Jonah because he disobeyed God. It would be good to focus on the fact that when Jonah **did** repent and do as God had instructed, the blessing of the Lord was on his ministry.

The third Sunday of this month is Father's Day, and this gives us a good opportunity to bring the thought of obedience down on a level your students can easily identify with. Though they have never offered sacrifices like Cain did, or been commanded to preach to a city of heathens as Jonah was, they have been commanded to obey their parents. While speaking of ways we can honor our fathers, obedience is a natural inclusion.

Our final lesson in this unit is another familiar story, but again with a slightly different approach than the one that is often taken. As you tell the story of Naaman, the major emphasis will not be on the witness of the little maid, as it often is. Rather, we will be zeroing in on the importance of obeying God's command even if we don't understand it. Naaman did not understand what good it would do him to wash in the muddy waters of the Jordan, but he obeyed, and because he did he received healing for the terrible disease on his body.

The memory verses for this unit tie directly with the overall theme. Encourage your students to learn them and review them week by week as you go through the unit.

## GAMES FOR REVIEW

Cut out a series of footprints. On each print, write one word from the verse, making a print for each word. Place the footprint on the ground, slightly scrambled and not too far apart. Let each child have a chance to work his way through the verses. For extra interest, time the children and note how quickly they make it through all four verses.

Use the game board for “God's Way Concentration” (see Patterns). Two children or two teams may play the game. Cover each square with a piece of construction paper exactly the size of the square. Children take turns removing two squares to reveal two spaces. If the two match, the child keeps the two pieces of paper and the next player takes a turn. The game continues until all the squares are revealed. The child or team holding the most squares of paper is the winner.

Cut a sheet of butcher paper approximately 4 feet long. Select several questions from each of the lessons in this unit and write them in circles which you have drawn on the butcher paper — one question per circle. Tape the paper on the floor and let the children take turns tossing a bean bag into a circle. They must answer the question in the circle where their bean bag lands. If they answer correctly, draw a red X through that circle. When all the circles are marked the game is over.

## CONTEST IDEAS

Start a paper chain contest between the classes or individual students. Use a different color for each lesson in the unit. Each link of the chain represents a different thing; attendance, memory verse, missionary, etc. The winner is the class or student who has the most links at the end of the unit.

Use the obedience puzzle for your unit contest (see Patterns) — one puzzle per student. Decide which areas you want involved in the contest — attendance, memory verse, missionary, etc., and cut each puzzle into the correct number of pieces. If you decide to use two areas cut the puzzle in eight pieces; if you decide to use three areas cut the puzzle into twelve pieces, etc. (Keep each child's puzzle pieces in a separate envelope.) Each week give the students the amount of puzzle pieces they earned for that Sunday. See how many students can complete their puzzle.

Each week, before class time, give the children a set of cards that have a different word of the memory verse on each card — eight cards the first week, ten cards the second week, seven cards the third week, and eleven cards the fourth week. (If you want to include the reference add one more card to each week.) At the end of your class time on the last week, give the children their four complete sets, give them a designated time (perhaps 3-5 minutes), and let them assemble all four verses. You will probably have more than one winner so be prepared.

## BULLETIN BOARDS

Title your board **PACKING FOR VACATION? DON'T FORGET TO TAKE. . . .** Add to the board pictures or cutouts of things the students will use during the summer. Also pin up things such as a picture of Jesus, Sunday school lesson sheets, and Bible.

Title your board **SAILING INTO SUMMER WITH**

**JESUS.** Make waves out of blue paper, boat out of butcher paper, and sails out of white paper. Don't forget to name your boat; for example, SS Heaven Bound.

Feature a train engine with four cars on your bulletin board. (See Patterns.) Across the top, put the words "This Train Is Bound for Heaven!" On the engine, write the words "Obedience Train." On each car write the memory verse for the week.

For this bulletin board you will need the help of your class. Using any color for a background, title your board, "Let's Do It God's Way — Together!" Make an outline of the church (see Patterns). Write the names of your students on different parts of the church. Then cut the church into pieces — one name per piece. Mail one piece to each student and stress the importance of bringing it back with them the next Sunday. When all pieces are accounted for and the church is put together on the board it will give a feeling of completeness — unity. That is doing it God's way — with unity.

## UNIT SONGS

"Wise Man and Foolish Man"

"The Lord's Army"

"Trust and Obey"

"Faith of Our Fathers"

## CHART IDEAS

To go along with the "sailing" board you could use sailboats for charts. Write the memory verse across the top of the charts. You could decorate the department with anchors and other boating paraphernalia. Make sunglasses out of brightly colored paper.

Use the poem chart for this unit (see Patterns). Each Sunday the children add the appropriate symbol to their chart.

Let each child make a symbols mobile (see Patterns). Thread a 20-inch piece of yarn into one straw and a 24-inch piece into another straw. Stagger the yarn so there is a different length at each end. Put the two straws together in an X and staple them in the center. Each week tie a different symbol on one of the pieces of yarn.

## UNIT SUPPORT MATERIAL

Miracles of the Old Testament — Classroom Activity Book, 8 each of 6 pictures, Standard Publishing