

**Bible Point**

# God wants children to obey their parents.

## Bible Verse

“Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do” (Ephesians 6:1).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ talk about why obedience is so hard;

■ find that parents are obeying God when they set rules for their children;

■ discover that parents set rules to make children’s lives fun, safe, and healthy; and

■ learn that God’s rules help us please him.

## Teacher Enrichment

### The Bible Basis

■ Timothy obeys Lois, Eunice, and Paul.

**Ephesians 6:1-3;  
1 Timothy 4:7b,  
12, 13, 16;  
2 Timothy 2:16,  
23; 4:2, 5**

All of the verses in today’s passages are exhortations toward right living and effective witness, and all are worthy of our obedience. The first one particularly stands out as one to be passing along to the children in your class. Prior to this passage, Paul has been addressing the relationship between husband and wife. There he uses the idea of submitting to one another. But in Ephesians 6:1-3, Paul focuses specifically on children obeying their parents, and he refers back to the Ten Commandments. There, in Exodus 20:12, God says obedience to parents will result in long life.

The further exhortations from Paul in today’s passages were given to Timothy, a young man who Paul considered to be his son in the faith. And each of the exhortations addresses specific areas in which to be obedient. These are like golden nuggets of wisdom from the old, mature apostle to the young man who would soon be taking his place in ministry.

In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul admonishes us to be prepared to share the Word—at all times. This admonition might be especially key for you as a teacher of first- and second-graders. These children are at a stage where they may be able to really comprehend what God has done for them through Jesus, and they may be ready to make a real faith commitment to God. So take Paul’s admonition seriously—don’t just teach it to your children, but make sure God’s plan of salvation is clear in your own mind and that you’re ready to share it when one of your children is ready.







## Prayer

- Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
- How do you feel you’re doing on fighting the good fight, keeping the faith?
- Pray: God, help me keep the faith, and help me pass it along to...

## Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.	“Family Name Tags” (p. 128), markers, scissors, tape or safety pins	
<b>Attention Grabber</b>	<b>Made to Obey</b> —Obey a sound during a fast-paced game, and talk about why obedience is important.		
<b>Bible Exploration &amp; Application</b>	<b>Timothy</b> —Listen to several Scriptures that Paul wrote to Timothy, and talk about how many times Timothy is given a command to obey.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Blind Obedience</b> —Follow partners’ directions to draw pictures, and talk about why it’s hard to obey; then listen to Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and find out that parents set rules out of obedience to God.	Bible, newsprint, tape, marker, paper, pencils	
	<b>Heavenly Obedience</b> —Learn what it means to obey wholeheartedly, and create an art project to learn Psalm 119:2, 11a.	Bible, scissors, markers, construction paper, glue, newsprint or whiteboard, “Heavenly Heart” (p. 150), colored paper	
<b>Closing</b> 	<b>Quick Obedience</b> —Learn that quick obedience is pleasing to God, and sing a song as a promise to obey their parents.	Bibles, CD player	

## Welcome

**SUPPLIES:** “Family Name Tags” (p. 128), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins



- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson and “Growing Together” discussion. Use questions such as “How did you show forgiveness to someone this week?” and “How did you feel when you forgave someone? How did it feel when someone forgave you?”
- Say: **Today we’ll learn that ► God wants children to obey their parents.**
- Help children attach the name tags they made during Lesson 10 to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged, or if children weren’t in class previously, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Tell children that the attention-getting signal you’ll use during this lesson is clicking the *creature clicker* three times. Ask children to respond to the signal by snapping their fingers as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so you’ll have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.



**BIBLE POINT**

## Attention Grabber

### ■ Made to Obey

**SUPPLIES:** none



Have kids form two teams, the Shakers and the Clickers. Have the Shakers and Clickers mingle together and crouch down. Choose one person to be “It,” and give him or her the *large maraca* and the *creature clicker*.

Say: **This game will test your listening skills.**

**When “It” shakes the *large maraca*, all of the Shakers will jump up, do one jumping jack, and then crouch down again. When “It” clicks the *creature clicker*, all of the Clickers will jump up, spin around in a circle, and crouch down again. Ready?**

Have “It” shake the maraca and click the clicker in a fast-paced, random pattern for a couple of minutes. Make sure “It” includes a brief pause after each noise to allow children to do their actions. Every so often, change the actions that the Shakers and the Clickers do. For example, the Shakers might jump up and shout “Hooray!” while the Clickers might jump up and shout “Uh-huh!” Give several children a chance to be “It.”

After a few minutes of play, collect the items, and return them to the Learning Lab. Gather all the children, and congratulate them on their quick reflexes.

Say: **In this game, you had to be quick to obey the sounds you heard.**

Ask: • **What was easy or hard about obeying the sounds?** (It was easy because I could tell when she was about to shake the maraca; it was hard because I kept thinking he would click the clicker instead of shaking the maraca; it was hard because I kept following what the person next to me did, but he was in the other group.)



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

• **What did you think when you jumped up at the wrong time?** (I was embarrassed; I was mad at myself; I felt silly; I decided to try harder.)

Say: **Today we're going to talk about obeying. You were obeying when you responded to the sounds that you heard. You jumped up and did the action quickly, just as I asked you to.**

Ask: • **What do your parents ask you to do?** (Clean my room; be nice to my sister; help with the yardwork; stop watching TV; finish my homework; finish my dinner.)

• **Do you always obey your parents as quickly as you obeyed in this game? Why or why not?** (No, because they ask me to do things that aren't fun; no, because I'd rather do what I want; yes, I know that I'm supposed to obey my parents.)

• **Why is it important to obey?** (Because God tells us to; because you get into trouble if you don't; you might get hurt if you don't follow the rules.)

Say: **It's hard to obey all the time. Sometimes we forget what the rules are. Sometimes we don't agree with what we're told to do, and we disobey on purpose. Sometimes we just get confused, and we mess up by mistake, just as many of us did during this game. But ► God wants children to obey their parents. So today we're going to find out about someone who obeyed his parents. He also obeyed someone else who was like a parent to him. Let's find out what happened to him.**



### BIBLE POINT ►

#### Bible Insight

First Timothy was written from Macedonia, or northern Greece, while Timothy was in Ephesus (western Turkey). Second Timothy was written during Paul's second imprisonment in Rome. Asked by Paul to come to Rome during his last days, Timothy did set out for Rome, but it is unknown whether he reached the city before Paul's death.

## Bible Exploration & Application

### ■ Timothy

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player



track 14

Cue the CD to track 14, "Timothy." Say: **Paul wrote several letters to his young friend Timothy. Show kids 1 and 2 Timothy in your Bible. Let's listen to this CD to learn more about Paul and Timothy's friendship. In this story, Paul tells about his relationship with Timothy and reads parts of his letters to Timothy.**

Gather the children, and have them get in a good position to listen. Tell them to count the number of times Paul says something that Timothy should obey. After the story ends, turn off the CD player and ask:

• **Why was Paul so proud of Timothy?** (Timothy listened to Paul; Timothy obeyed; Timothy spread the news about Jesus.)

• **How many things did Paul say for Timothy to obey? Do you have that many rules to follow?** (I counted 14 commands; I have that many rules, but they're easier to follow; I don't have that many rules to follow.)

• **What kinds of good things happened to Timothy because he obeyed?** (He became a good teacher; he made his mom proud; he made Paul proud; he taught many people about God.)

• **What kinds of good things might happen when you obey?** (Maybe I can teach others about God; I'll make God proud of me; my parents will give me a reward for cleaning my room right away when they ask.)

Say: Timothy knew it was wise to obey his mom and his grandmother. He also obeyed Paul because Paul was teaching him how to please God. Because Timothy obeyed, many people came to know about God. ► God wants children to obey their parents because good things happen when we obey.



## HANDS-ON BIBLE

You'll need a small, smooth stone for each child and colorful markers. Say: **We're going to make something to help us remember to trust God, even when it's really hard to have faith.**

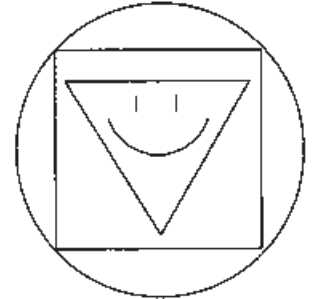
Help kids find "Do You Really Trust Me?" in **Genesis 22** of their *Hands-On Bibles*. Have kids form pairs, and direct partners to take turns reading **Genesis 22:1-19**. When kids have finished reading, help them follow the directions for the activity.

Ask: • **Why might it have been hard for Abraham to trust God?** (He had to do something really hard; he didn't want to hurt his son.)

• **Why was obeying such a good thing for Abraham?** (His son was saved; he didn't have to hurt his son; God sent a lamb.)

• **When is it hard for you to obey?** (When I have to do something I don't want to do; if someone tells me to do something that's scary or dangerous.)

Say: **Whenever God asks us to do something, we should always obey. God knows what is good for us, and he will make good come out of obeying him. Abraham obeyed God, and Isaac obeyed his father. God rewarded them both for their obedience.**



Give this activity a twist to show how it is impossible to follow different directions at the same time. Draw another design on a sheet of paper, and keep that paper out of sight. Hang a blank sheet of newsprint and have a volunteer or two stand near it. Show your secret design to the rest of the class, keeping it out of the sight of your volunteer. Tell the class to give verbal directions to the volunteer, instructing him or her to draw the design you showed to the class. Ask:

• **What made it hard to draw?** (Everyone was yelling directions; no one told me the same thing at the same time.)

• **How is that like trying to obey your parents when others are telling you other things?** (It's hard to obey when my friends want me to come over to their house; I don't want to obey when what others are telling me is more fun.)

## Blind Obedience

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, newsprint, tape, marker, paper, pencils

Before class, tape a sheet of newsprint to the wall and draw the illustration that appears in the margin. Cover it with another sheet of newsprint so none of the children can see the drawing.

Help kids form pairs, and have partners decide who will be the artist and who will be the art teacher. Have the pairs sit back to back, with art teachers facing the newsprint and artists facing the opposite wall. Give each artist a sheet of paper and a pencil.

Say: **Art teachers, under this newsprint is a drawing that you'll describe to the artists. Describe the picture to your artist partner so he or she can draw it. You can talk to your artist partner as much as you want, but you can't look at your partner's drawing. The artists can't talk at all or look at my drawing—all they can do is follow your instructions. You'll have two minutes.**

Remove the top sheet of newsprint, and have the art teachers describe the drawing to the artists. After two minutes, call time by clicking the *creature clicker*. Wait until the children have snapped their fingers and turned their attention to you. Then have the pairs compare their drawings to the one on the wall.

Ask: • **What was it like to draw a picture of something you couldn't see?** (It was hard, but my partner helped a lot; it wasn't very hard because I got good directions; it was hard because I couldn't talk to my partner at all; it was easy because I followed the good directions my partner gave.)



• **What was it like to explain the drawing to the artist?** (It was really hard because I couldn't look at what my partner was drawing; my partner tried to follow my directions, but she didn't understand.)

• **What would have made this project easier?** (It would have been easier if I could have asked questions; it would've been easier if I could have seen the drawing on the wall; it would've been easier if I could've seen what my partner was drawing.)

Say: **It's hard to teach someone what to do. And it's hard to follow instructions exactly. Sometimes it's hard to obey the instructions that parents give us.**

Ask: • **What makes it hard to obey your parents?** (Sometimes my dad doesn't make sense; sometimes they ask me to do things I don't know how to do; sometimes I don't feel like listening to my mom; I sometimes don't like what my parents are telling me to do.)

• **What can you do to make it easier to obey?** (I can listen more carefully; I can ask questions; I can pay attention; I can follow their directions right away so I don't forget; I can do what they say when they say it to get it out of the way.)

Say: **Our parents' job is to teach us how to live so we stay healthy and so we please God. In fact, they're obeying God when they set rules for us. Listen to what the Bible says about that. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9.**

Ask: • **What does this Scripture tell parents to do?** (To teach kids to obey God; to make children obey; to always remember God's commands.)

• **What would happen if parents didn't do what God tells them to do?** (Children wouldn't know how to please God; we wouldn't know how to obey.)

Say: **Parents work hard to teach us what to do—how to follow God. Sometimes it's a hard job because we don't understand what they ask us to do. But it's important to do the best we can to obey because ► God wants children to obey their parents. When we obey our parents, we please them and we please God. Let's find out more about how we can please God by obeying parents.**



## ■ Heavenly Obedience

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors, markers, construction paper, glue, newsprint or whiteboard, "Heavenly Heart" (p. 150), colored paper



Before class, photocopy the "Heavenly Heart" onto different colors of paper, and cut out the heart patterns. You'll need two hearts for each child. Also cut pieces of construction paper into eighths, so you have one rectangle for each child. Also cut out one 6x1-inch strip of construction paper for each child.

Have the children sit in a circle. Toss the *plush heart* around the circle for a minute or two. Then retrieve it. Pull out a pair of scissors, and pretend that you're going to cut the *plush heart* into pieces. Say: **This plush heart is lots of fun, so I'd like each of you to have a piece of it.**

Ask: • **If I gave you each a piece of this heart, what would you do with it?** (I could keep it for my own; I don't know; nothing because it wouldn't be good for anything; I'd throw it away after class.)

Say: **If I cut up this heart and gave you each a piece of it, we couldn't use it anymore. It wouldn't be as much fun to play with as it was when it was**

**whole. Plush hearts are best when they're whole. Listen to what the Bible says you should do with a whole heart.** Read **Psalm 119:2**.

Ask: • **How do you obey and search for God with your whole heart?** (You do everything for God; you follow God all the time because you want to; you obey everything he asks; you follow all the rules.)



Say: ► **God wants children to obey their parents.** Sometimes we call God our heavenly Father. God, the Father, sent his Son, Jesus, to show us how to obey. Sometimes God asked Jesus to do some things that didn't seem very fun.

Ask: • **How did Jesus obey his Father?** (He always did what was right; he died on the cross; he forgave everybody who hurt him.)

• **How is God like a parent to us?** (He takes care of us; he loves us; we should obey him like a parent.)

Say: **We should always obey our parents, whether they're our earthly parents or our heavenly Parent. And we should do it wholeheartedly instead of halfheartedly or grudgingly.**

Ask: • **What does it mean to do something halfheartedly?** (It means you do something but you whine about it; it means you don't really want to do it.)

Say: **Let's make something that'll remind you to follow God and your parents with your whole heart.**

Write out these versions of **Psalm 119:11a** and **Psalm 119:2** on a sheet of newsprint or whiteboard: "I have hidden your word in my heart" (Psalm 119:11a) and "Joyful are those who obey [God's] laws and search for him with all their hearts" (Psalm 119:2).

Have each child choose two construction paper hearts and a paper rectangle. Help each child use markers to write out **Psalm 119:11a** on one of the hearts. Tell kids that they can look at the newsprint or whiteboard for help with spelling.

Help the children fold the paper rectangles into loops and glue the ends together. Then have kids glue one of their hearts to the front of the loop and one to the back of the loop so that the openings of the loop are at the sides of the hearts. See the margin illustration.

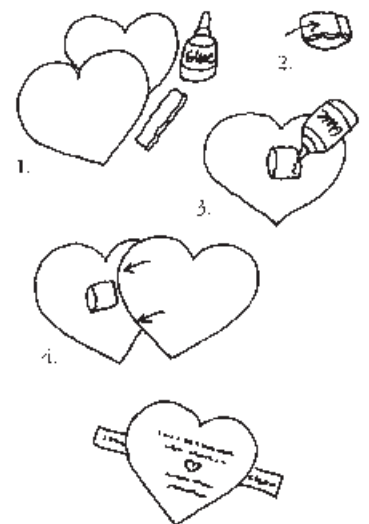
Then help each child write **Psalm 119:2** on one of the strips of construction paper. Tell kids to look at the newsprint or whiteboard for help with spelling. Have the children think of one way they'll obey God or their parents this week and write it on the other side of their paper strips. Then have them fold or roll up the paper slips and "hide" them inside the hearts.

While the children are working, ask:

• **What do you think it means to hide God's Word in your heart?** (It means to memorize the Bible so you obey it; it means to keep it in a special place inside you; it means to remember it all the time.)

Have the children each tell the person sitting next to them how they'll obey God or their parents this week.

When the children have finished, say: **Take these hearts home as reminders to obey your parents and God wholeheartedly. When you obey your parents**



this week, you can write down what your parents ask you to do and hide the paper inside the hearts, just as we hid one Bible verse inside the hearts during class.

## Closing

### ■ Quick Obedience

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, CD player



Cue the CD to track 15, “Obey Your Parents” (Ephesians 6:1), and have kids find a friend to discuss the next question with. Try to pair readers with nonreaders for this activity.

Ask: • **What did you learn today?** (I learned to obey my parents; I learned that my parents are obeying God, too; I learned to hide God’s Word in my heart.)

While kids are discussing, make sure each pair has a Bible.

Then say: **God loves each of you so much that he’s made a special promise to you. In your pairs, help each other find Ephesians 6:1-3.** When kids have found the verse, have the partner in each pair with the next birthday read the passage aloud. Then have children repeat today’s Bible verse: ► **“Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do” (Ephesians 6:1).**

Say: **Tell your partner how your life will be better if you obey.** (I’ll live a long life; I won’t get in trouble as much; I’ll be happy because I’m pleasing God and my parents; my room will get cleaned faster.)

**I’ll show you a trick with a popper to remind you of God’s promise. When the popper jumps up, think of yourself obeying quickly to please God. When it falls back down, think of God sending good things to you from heaven.**

Show the children how the *popper* works. Turn one inside out. Squeeze the sides together. Set it on a table top, and let go. It’ll spring into the air. Give all the children a chance to try it several times. Tell them to say one way they will obey quickly this week as the *popper* pops up. It works best if you squeeze tightly and make sure it touches the table top so it has something to push off of.

Say: **This popper is obeying your instructions by jumping up quickly, just as you did in our first activity. ► God wants children to obey their parents. And it’s best when we obey quickly, as quickly as this popper pops in the air.**

**Let’s sing a song to remind us of our Bible verse and to obey God by obeying our parents this week.**

Sing “Obey Your Parents” (Ephesians 6:1). Lyrics are at the back of this book.

When the song ends, turn off the CD player, and have the children crouch down while you pray: **God, thank you for giving us rules to keep us safe and healthy. Thank you for giving us parents who love us. Help us remember to obey our parents so that we please you.**

Have the children pop up and call out, “Amen!”

Collect name tags for next week’s use, and remind children to take home any crafts they made today.

### BIBLE VERSE ►

### BIBLE POINT ►



### teacher tips

It’s important to encourage children to find passages and read the Bible themselves as well as with a friend. This relational experience is a good way for children to discover the truth in God’s Word.



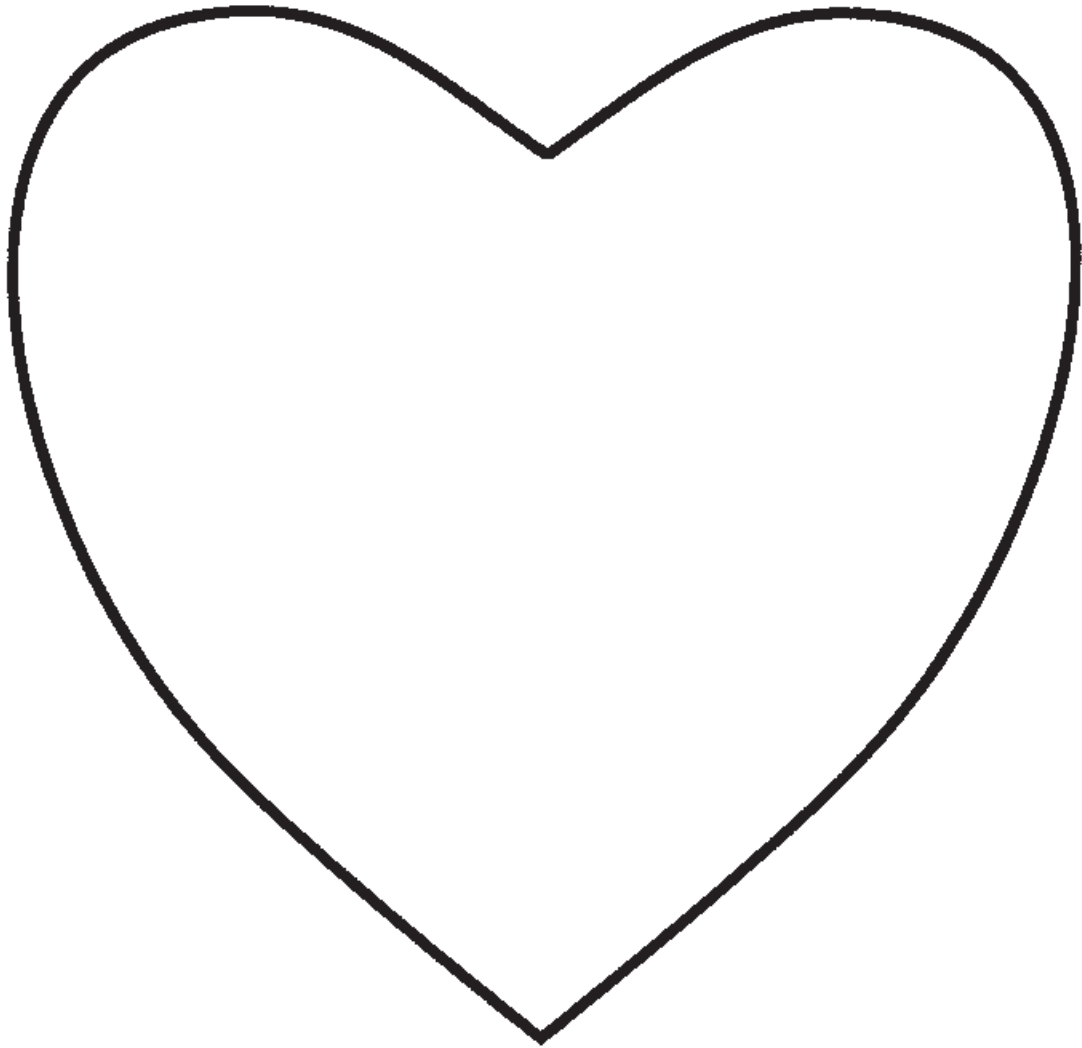


### **Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week's topic. Follow up the "Growing Together" activities next week by asking children what their families did together.

# Heavenly Heart

Photocopy this page onto different colors of paper, and cut out the hearts.  
You'll need two hearts for each child.



# Growing Together

**Families 12:**  
God wants children to obey their parents.

## Bible Story

Timothy obeys Lois, Eunice, and Paul  
(Ephesians 6:1-3;  
1 Timothy 4:7b, 12, 13, 16;  
2 Timothy 2:16, 23; 4:2, 5).

## Bible Verse

"Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do" (Ephesians 6:1).

## In Touch

### Obedience Caps

Bring Deuteronomy 6:8 alive to your child. Purchase a plain baseball cap and puffy fabric paint at a craft store. (You could also use a cap that you already have.) Read the verse with your child, and have him or her paint the hat with symbols that will remind him or her to obey God's Word. Encourage your child to wear the hat often.

### List of Rules

Have your child talk with older people in your family, church, or neighborhood about the rules they remember from their youth. See how many different rules your child can collect. Have your child write them on a large piece of paper. Write down rules your child follows on another sheet of paper. Ask your child these questions: How are the lists of rules similar? different? Were others' rules stricter? What would it be like to grow up following the rules the older people followed?

### Dessert Directions

With your child, stir up a batch of blueberry muffins from a mix that includes a can of blueberries. Before you add the blueberries, divide the batter

Today your child learned that God wants children to obey their parents. The children learned that obedience will help them have happy lives. The children also learned that sometimes obeying is hard but the rewards are great. Use these activities to encourage your child to obey.

into two bowls. Point out that the directions say to rinse the blueberries. Spoon half the blueberries into a strainer, and rinse them well. Gently fold them into one bowl of batter. Spoon off most of the juice from the rest of the blueberries, but don't rinse them. Stir them into the other bowl of batter. Fill the muffin tins with batter, and bake according to the package's directions. Compare the color of the muffins. The muffins with unrinsed blueberries will be grayish blue. Talk about how important it is to obey and to follow directions. Split the gray muffins, and put them in dessert bowls. Top them with whipped cream and frozen strawberries or cherry-pie filling. Explain that God—and parents!—still loves us and will forgive us when we disobey and that when we say we're sorry, God is still willing to include us in his exciting plan. Enjoy the dessert while you talk about God's love.

### Scavenger Rules

Take a walk through your neighborhood, and make a list of all the rules you find. Include stop signs, traffic lights, keep-off-the-grass signs, and other rules. Talk about why there are rules to follow. What would life be like in your town if there were no rules? Thank God for keeping your family safe with rules.

