

The Writing on the Wall

Lesson 46

Bible Story

Daniel 5

Teacher Challenge

Throughout his years in Babylon, Daniel lived with integrity and continued to love and obey God in the place where God had put him. God was mightily at work and intimately involved in every facet of Daniel's life. God worked through Daniel to interpret dreams, give prophecies and maintain a strong, sure testimony to the power of the God of Israel. So when Daniel was summoned because of a cryptic message left on the wall of the royal banquet hall, God again used Daniel.

- ➔ How has God used you in the lives of others who didn't know Him?
- ➔ When have you had opportunities to show that you are dedicated to God?

God is looking for people who are willing to be used by Him. He is looking for those who are living with integrity, based on His Word. Ask Him to show you where you can grow in faith and obedience. Believe that God desires to continue to work in your life and to use you in the lives of others, including the children you teach.



Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Play to Learn

Lesson 46

Active Game Center: Hopscotch

Collect

Bible, masking tape, beanbag; optional—sidewalk chalk.

Prepare

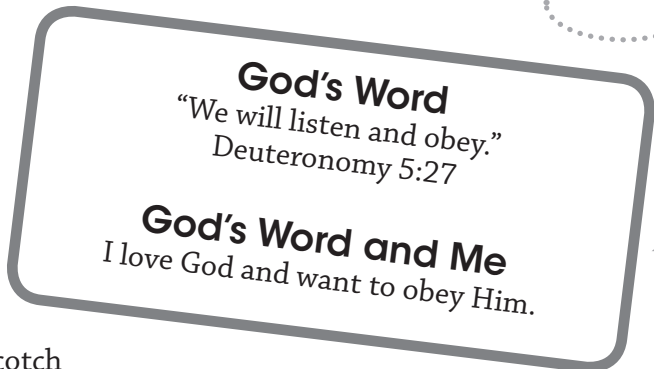
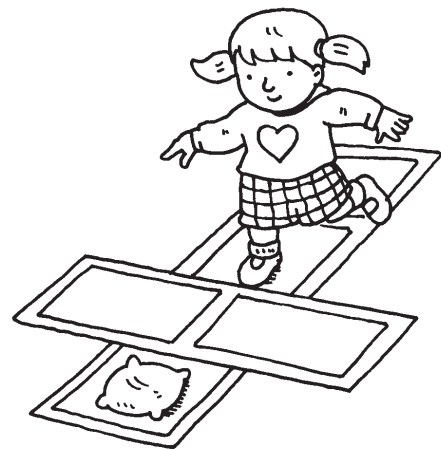
Use masking tape to outline a simple Hopscotch grid on the floor (see sketch). (Optional: Draw Hopscotch grid outdoors using sidewalk chalk on a paved area.)

Do

1. Place the beanbag in the end section. Tell and demonstrate to children how to hop on one leg through the two single sections, land on both feet in the double section, hop into the last section, pick up the beanbag, turn around and return in the same manner.
2. Children take turns completing the Hopscotch in the manner described above.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “We will listen and obey.” Let’s play a game to practice listening and obeying.**
- ➔ **Ella, you listened to what I said and hopped through the course correctly. You did a good job listening and obeying! In the Bible, God tells us to obey our parents. What can you do to obey your parents when it is bedtime?** (Put toys away. Put clothes away. Brush teeth.)
- ➔ **Because we love God, we want to obey Him. In the Bible God tells us to be kind to everyone. Tiffany, how can you obey God and be kind when you play with your sister?** (Share a toy. Use kind words.)



For Younger Children

Children step or hop on two feet into each section, retrieve the beanbag and return to the start in the same manner.

For Older Children

If children have mastered following the instructions above, challenge them by playing according to the proper rules of Hopscotch. Child throws the beanbag into the first section, jumps over that section into the next section, proceeds through the course and picks up the beanbag on his or her return. Child then throws beanbag into second section and continues in same manner.

Play to Learn

Lesson 46

Art Center: Surprise Rubbings

Collect

Bible, cardboard or thick poster board, scissors, tape, butcher paper, crayons; optional—nature items such as leaves, bark, etc.

Prepare

From cardboard or poster board, cut a number of heart shapes, plus additional shapes of your own choosing. Tape shapes to tabletop, then cover table with butcher paper. (Optional: Tape nature items to tabletop.)

Do

1. Children color with crayons on butcher paper to reveal the shapes of items hidden under the butcher paper.
2. Encourage children to move around table, coloring to discover all the shapes.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, a king saw writing appear on a wall! The writing was a special message for the king. Let's color on this paper and see what appears.**
- ➔ **What do you see on the paper? A heart shape! We can be happy because God loves us and we love Him! When we love God, we want to obey Him. The Bible says, "We will listen and obey."**
- ➔ **One way to obey God is to be kind. Christopher, what can you do to be kind to your friends?**
(Share a snack with them. Help them pick up toys. Play games with them.)
- ➔ Pray briefly, **Dear God, We love You. Help us to obey You.**



For Younger Children

Cut sheets of construction paper in half. Children draw happy faces on a sheet of butcher paper taped to table. Cover happy faces with paper flaps taped to butcher paper. Children lift flaps to see happy faces.

For Older Children

Cut out shapes of letters of the alphabet from cardboard. Children identify letters of the alphabet as they color over them.

Play to Learn

Lesson 46

Block Center: Road Rules

Collect

Bible, blocks, toy cars; optional—Lesson 46 Road Sign Patterns from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare

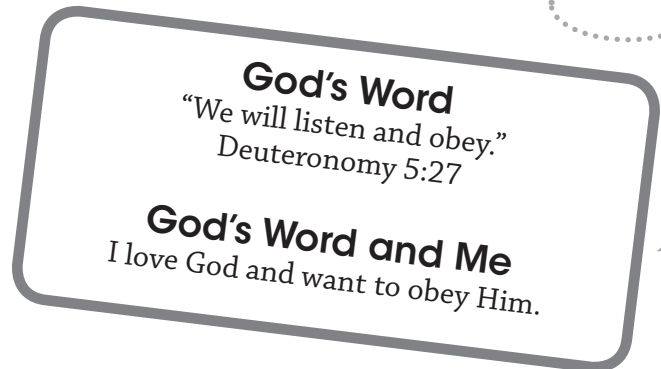
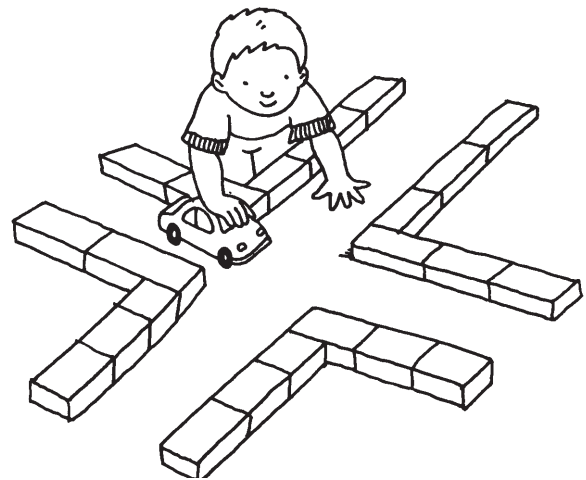
Optional: Cut apart Road Sign Patterns.

Do

1. Children build roads and play with cars.
2. Play a game like Red Light, Green Light. **When I say “red light,” stop your cars! When I say “green light,” you can make your cars go again.** (Optional: Hold up the Stop and Go signs from CD-ROM.)

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “We will listen and obey.” We listen to God and obey Him because we love God. Let’s build roads for our cars to drive on. We can practice obeying rules for driving cars.**
- ➔ **People who drive cars must obey rules. When everyone obeys, people in cars are safe. God loves us and wants us to obey. Obeying God can help us be safe.**
- ➔ **One way to obey God is to obey our parents. Katelyn, what can you do to obey your parents when you are riding in the car? (Wear a seat belt. Don’t make a lot of noise.) Obeying these rules can help us stay safe in a car.**
- ➔ **God loves us! And we love Him. We can obey God because we love Him.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You. We want to obey You. Please help us.**



For Younger Children

Bring enough toy cars so that each child can have one. Children play with cars. Talk with children about obeying stop and go signs.

For Older Children

Give each child a Road Sign Pattern. Children cut out and color signs. Children place signs on the road and obey signs while playing with cars.

Play to Learn

Lesson 46

Science Center: Squishy Writing

Collect

Bible, resealable plastic bags, shaving cream; optional—transparent tape.

Prepare

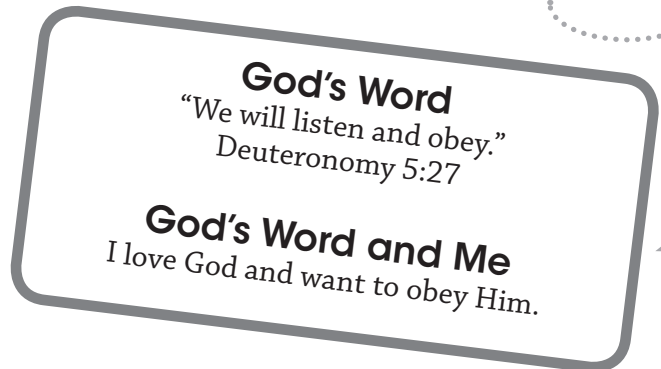
Fill each bag about one-quarter full of shaving cream. Push out air. Firmly seal bag. (Optional: Secure bags to table with tape.)

Do

1. Demonstrate to children how to draw on bag of shaving cream with fingers and erase by smoothing bag with hand.
2. Children use fingers to draw patterns, numbers, letters, etc.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Daniel helped a king know what a message from God said. Let's pretend to write messages.**
- ➔ **Lauren, you made a straight line on your drawing bag. What message are you pretending to write?**
- ➔ **Because we love God, we want to obey Him. The Bible says, "We will listen and obey." Erik, how can you obey God and help others in your family at home? (Help Dad wash the car. Help baby sister by playing with her.)**



For Younger Children

Add a few drops of food coloring to each bag of shaving cream before distributing the bags to children. Children follow your directions to gently rub bags to mix in color. Comment on the way children obey and the patterns the color makes in the shaving cream.

For Older Children

Print the words "listen" and "obey" on a large sheet of paper. Children copy one or both words, one letter at a time, on their drawing bags.

Listen to Learn

Daniel 5

Lesson 46

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 24 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, beanbag.

Greet Each Other

Lead children in saying the following rhyme:

Hello, good friends, and how are you?

Say your name, and we'll clap for you.

Toss a beanbag to a child. Child says his or her name and then the group claps.

Child tosses beanbag to another child. Repeat the activity. Continue game until all have had a turn to say their name.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Daniel 5. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 24 pictures.

When have you been to a party? What kinds of things did you do at the party? Listen to hear what happened at a king's party.



King Belshazzar (behl-SHAHZ-uhr), the king of Babylon, liked to have lots of parties. One night, King Belshazzar brought out some beautiful gold **cups**. The cups had been stolen from God's Temple in Jerusalem. The king did not care that these things belonged to God. King Belshazzar did not love or obey God. He and his friends drank from the gold cups from God's Temple.



Suddenly, something very strange happened. A big **hand** appeared out of nowhere! The finger of the hand began to write on the wall! King Belshazzar watched the hand. He grew very scared! No one could tell what the writing meant. The king called his wise helpers. None of them knew what the writing meant.

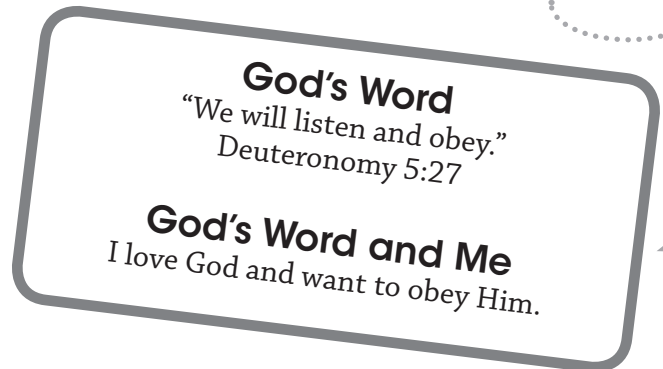


Then the queen told King Belshazzar that Daniel was very **wise**. Daniel was a man who loved God and obeyed God. The queen told Belshazzar to call for Daniel. The king asked Daniel to tell him what the writing meant. Daniel said that the words meant God had seen the ways King Belshazzar had not obeyed God.



"Now," said Daniel, "God is going to **END** your time as **king**. Other people will take your place."

That very same night, God's warning came true. Another king came and took over the city. And Daniel was given a new job by the new king!



Talk About the Story

What did Daniel tell the king? (There was going to be a new king.) **Daniel loved and obeyed God. We love God and want to obey Him, too. One way to obey God is to do the things our parents tell us to do. How can you obey your parents at dinnertime?** (Help set the table. Share food.) **When you play with your brother or sister?** (Be kind. Share toys.)

Sing to God

Let's sing about the different times we can talk to God. Lead children in singing "I Can Talk to God" (track 12 on CD). **When we talk to God, we can tell Him we love Him and want to obey Him!**

Option: Provide rhythm instruments for children to use while singing "I Can Talk to God."

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Deuteronomy 5:27, say verse aloud. **We want to listen to God and obey Him because we love Him. Let's sing the words of this verse and tell God what we want to do!** Lead children in singing the words of the verse to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?":

We will listen. We will listen.

And obey. And obey.

We will listen. We will listen.

And obey. And obey.

Pray to God

Say the following prayer, inserting the name of a child into the prayer: **Dear God, thank You for loving _____.** **Help (him/her) love and obey You.** Repeat once for each child in your class. If you have a large class, name more than one child each time you repeat the prayer.

Praise to God

Children stand in a circle. **Listen and do what I say as quickly as you can!** Instruct children to complete a variety of tasks. **Put your hands on your head. Turn around. Pat your knees. Jump three times.** Continue with other instructions. **You are obeying my instructions! You can obey God, too.**

Talk to Learn

Lesson 46

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 24 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—small fabric pieces and glue.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue fabric pieces to tablecloth on page.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 91 and 92 (p. 189 and p. 191 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect

A copy of Story Picture 46 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

