

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Always choose obedience to God.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that we can't just obey God when it's easy or convenient; we should obey Him always.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

1 Samuel 15:1-29, God Rejects Saul as King

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)*

**SUMMARY:**

A good explorer knows there are many dangerous things in the jungle and you must always be careful and stay on your guard. You can't decide to just ignore the rules of the jungle when you feel like it and expect nothing bad to happen. God had ordered King Saul to defeat the Amalekites and destroy everything they possessed. Saul did defeat the Amalekites, but disobeyed God by keeping their stuff for himself. Because of Saul's sin, God rejected Saul as king of Israel.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Teach us to trust Your word and always obey You.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:5 (NIV)*

*“Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long.” Psalm 25:5 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls third, etc.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

## SKIT

### RULES OF THE JUNGLE

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Two jungle explorers outfits; Gilbert wears shorts in this scene, but Austin has pants

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

#### CHARACTERS:

Gilbert - An experienced explorer

Austin - A reluctant explorer

*Gilbert and Austin enter.*

GILBERT: Well, Austin, it's time to start exploring the jungle. Are you ready?

AUSTIN: I don't know, Gilbert. We just barely survived the rapids. I thought that last waterfall had us for sure.

GILBERT: Trust me, buddy, if you can handle the rapids, you can handle the jungle. You just have to remember the rules.

AUSTIN: Rules? There are rules in the jungle?

GILBERT: Just a few simple rules that will help you survive.

AUSTIN: What are these rules?

*Gilbert starts scratching his legs.*

GILBERT: Rule number one, look before you grab. That thing you think is a vine, it might not be a vine. It might be a snake.

AUSTIN: I want to go home right now.

GILBERT: Rule number two, if something is purring, don't pet it. It's not a kitten, it's a jaguar.

# SKIT

AUSTIN: I want to watch Netflix and sit on my couch and not be here.

GILBERT: Rule number three: wear long pants so you don't get poison ivy.

AUSTIN: Long pants?

GILBERT: That's right, Austin, no shorts in the jungle. And wear good hiking boots, too. No matter how hot it is, you must protect your bare skin!

AUSTIN: But Gilbert—

GILBERT: No buts Ausin! The jungle is a dangerous place!

AUSTIN: I know, but Gil—

GILBERT: You must follow the rules at all times!

AUSTIN: But Gil—

GILBERT: Austin, I didn't write the rules of the jungle, but I will enforce them!

AUSTIN: Gilbert, you're breaking the rules!

GILBERT: I am?

AUSTIN: You're wearing shorts!

GILBERT: Wow, look at that? No wonder I'm all itchy. I bet it's the poison ivy.

AUSTIN: You said it yourself, Gilbert. We have to follow the rules. Just like we need to follow God's rules at all times.

GILBERT: You're right, Austin. If we don't follow God's rules, we will get in trouble, just the same as I am now in big trouble here in the jungle because I didn't follow the rules.

AUSTIN: Gilbert, how could you forget? How could you break a simple rule like that?

GILBERT: Would you believe me if I told you that I did it to teach you a lesson about following the rules?

AUSTIN: No.

# SKIT

GILBERT: Well, it was worth a try. Come on, let's see if we can find some calamine lotion.

AUSTIN: In the middle of the jungle?

GILBERT: There's a Walmart on every corner all around the globe!

AUSTIN: Oh brother.

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Six Essential items for a hike, according to the Boy Scouts of America:

First Aid Kit

Water Bottle

Flashlight

Trail Food

Sunscreen

Whistle

*Put the six essentials for hiking, according to the Boy Scouts, into the backpack. As the kids name them, pull them out.*

Do we have any Boy Scouts here this morning? When you were just Cub Scouts, one of the first things you learned was that there are six essentials you need if you're going for a hike in the woods. Can someone tell me what those are?

There are no rules posted at the edge of the forest or the jungle, but the unwritten rules like these five essentials are critical to survival. If you go into the jungle without finding out the rules of survival, your odds of walking back out in one piece are not very good.

The Bible teaches us how to live life by God's rules. Those rules aren't there to hold us back, but to protect us and others. If we follow the rules, we will stay safe from the harm sin can cause. If we disobey the rules, we can bring harm to others, and we will face the consequences of our actions.

God is a good God. He loves us, and He wants to protect us. Let's follow God's rules closely so we can survive each day in this jungle.

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### TARZAN SAYS

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

*None*

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose five or six players for a game of Tarzan Says. This is just like Simon Says, except you say Tarzan instead of Simon. Tarzan should have the kids do jungle things like growl like a lion, hoot like a monkey, or yell like Tarzan.

#### VARIATION:

For older kids, have Tarzan bark commands as fast as possible to try and trip them up. Go slower for younger kids.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

We should always obey what God tells us to do.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

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**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that we can't just obey God when it's easy or convenient; we should obey Him always.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

1 Samuel 15:1-29, God Rejects Saul as King

**INTRO:**

The jungle is a wild, untamed place. It is a place where plants grow free and uninhibited by any gardener. It is a place where monkeys, snakes, big cats, and other amazing animals live and roam free, with no fences or borders. It is one of the last untamed, wild, and free places in the world. But just because the jungle is wild and dangerous, that doesn't mean it is completely lawless.

There are rules and laws to be followed, even in the jungle. These laws deal mostly with conservation. You can't just walk into the jungle and take any plant you want. You can't go into the jungle and randomly shoot a jaguar either. Jungles are governed by the laws of the countries where they are located, and if you violate the laws set in place to protect those jungles, you will find yourself in big trouble.

Beyond the written laws of the jungle is a set of rules even more important to know. The unwritten rules of the jungle are all about survival. They are rules crafted and revised over centuries of exploration created to make exploring the jungle not easy, but safe. The jungle is filled with dangers of all kinds, and it's not just the predators that can harm you. If you go into the jungle without the proper equipment, without food and clean water, without some sort of compass or GPS system, and without the proper attire, you may never come back out.

I think we can all agree the rules of the jungle exist for one reason. They were created to keep people safe. There's no way to stay 100% safe in the jungle, but by learning and obeying the rules of the jungle, you will find surviving the jungle to be much less of a challenge than it would be if you ignored the rules.

Many people look at God's Laws in the Bible as a set of unfair rules.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

They read the Ten Commandments, and they envision God as an old school teacher trying to keep them from having fun. But the rules God makes for us to follow in the Bible have the same purpose as the rules of the jungle. If we follow the rules, we will be safe from sin. We will also keep ourselves from harming others with our sin, and we will avoid the negative consequences of sin.

One man who failed to understand the importance of following God's rules was the first king of Israel. Saul had a real problem respecting God's authority. He was the king, and he thought he was above the rules. Saul ignored God's rules one time too many, and his refusal to listen to God cost him dearly.

## **READ 1 SAMUEL 15:1-29**

### **MAIN POINT:**

God gave Saul specific orders when He sent Saul into battle against the Amalekites. Had Saul obeyed God and done everything the Lord commanded, God would have continued to bless Saul's reign as king. But after defeating his enemy, Saul became greedy. He saw the cattle and sheep, both highly valuable in Saul's time, and he saw a chance to make himself richer. He disobeyed a direct order, and he kept all that live-stock for himself.

Samuel put it very bluntly what God wants from us. He wants obedience more than anything. God's Word is good, and it is put in place for our good. Only by obeying God can we live a life that pleases Him and becomes a blessing to others.

If we want to survive this jungle, we need to follow God's rules.

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

God laid out His expectations for us early in the Bible in the Ten Commandments. These ten rules are the foundation for living a godly life. Some people view the Ten Commandments as an out of touch list of rules meant to keep them from living life to the fullest. Just like Saul, those people are more concerned with pleasing themselves than pleasing the Lord. The Ten Commandments teach us how we are to honor God, how we are to honor people, and how we can avoid hurting ourselves and others. As Jesus later said, the Ten Commandments can be summed up into just two: Love the Lord with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.

When we follow the Commandments, we will put God first in everything. Loving God means realizing that everything we have belongs to God. It means we view our possessions and our money as gifts from the Lord and not our own. Saul should have remembered this and trusted God to bless him rather than taking what did not belong to Him.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Obedying the Ten Commandments also teaches us to put others first instead of our self-interest. God wants us to be honest, so we do not hurt people with lies. He wants us to be content and not envious of what other people have. He wants us to keep our hands to ourselves and not to take things that do not belong to us or hurt those who anger us.

There are consequences for disobeying God, just as there are consequences for not heeding the rules of the jungle. Saul found that out the hard way, and he lost the throne for his son and all his descendants. When we obey God's rules, we will not only spare ourselves from that same fate, we will give God the thing he wants most: our obedience.

The Ten Commandments show us how to live a holy life, one that blesses others and gives glory to God. If we follow the Ten Commandments, we will do no harm to others. More importantly, we will survive this jungle we call life. God is the King of this Jungle. Let's dig into the Bible so we can learn His rules of the jungle.

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Teach us to trust Your word and always obey You.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

What are some of the strange rules in your house?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

#### Psalm 25:5

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Go around the group. Have everyone introduce themselves and come up with one rule for living in the jungle. It can be serious or funny.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### Read 1 Samuel 15:1-29

Who was Saul?

What did God command Saul to do when he attacked the Amalekites?

How did Saul disobey God?

What did Samuel tell Saul when he confronted Saul about his disobedience?

Why do we need to follow God's rules?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to learn and obey your rules.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

What are some of the strange rules in your house?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

#### Psalm 25:5

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Go around the group. Have everyone introduce themselves and come up with one rule for living in the jungle. It can be serious or funny.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### Read 1 Samuel 15:1-29

How did Saul disobey God?

What did Samuel tell Saul when he confronted Saul about his disobedience?

Why do we need to follow God's rules?

How do God's rules teach us to love Him and love others?

What can we do each day to remind ourselves to live by God's rules?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Help us to learn and obey your rules.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### FILL IN THE BLANK

God sent the Israelites into battle to fight the \_\_\_\_\_.  
AMALEKITES

King \_\_\_\_\_ disobeyed God and stole the Amalekites' livestock instead of killing them.  
SAUL

God sent the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ to tell Saul that his son would not become king after him.  
SAMUEL

God wants us to live by \_\_\_\_\_ rules.  
HIS

We should \_\_\_\_\_ God's rules all the time.  
OBEY



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Unexplored Bible Stories Lesson 2

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: RULES OF THE JUNGLE



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

A good explorer knows there are many dangerous things in the jungle and you must always be careful and stay on your guard. You can't decide to just ignore the rules of the jungle when you feel like it and expect nothing bad to happen. God had ordered King Saul to defeat the Amalekites and destroy everything they possessed. Saul did defeat the Amalekites, but disobeyed God by keeping their stuff for himself. Because of Saul's sin, God rejected Saul as king of Israel. 1 Samuel 15:1-29, God Rejects Saul as King



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids to make a list of the unwritten rules of your household. Then ask them why it's so important to learn the rules God wants us to live by.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How did Saul disobey God?
- What happened to Saul because of his disobedience?
- Why is it important to live by God's rules?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NIRV)*



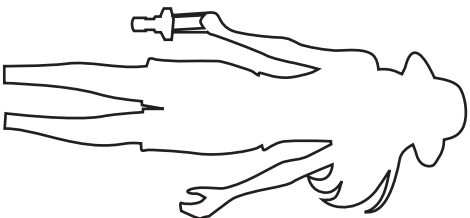
#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

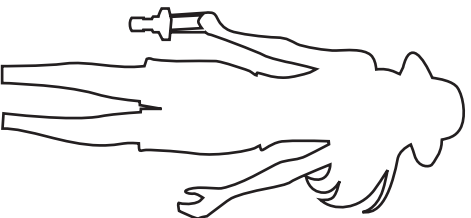
God's rules are not restrictions. They are guidelines that teach us how to love God and love others. Ask God to help you be a good role model, living by God's rules in a way that inspires your kids to do the same.

## CRAFT ACTIVITY

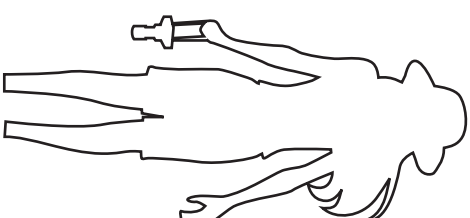
Have the kids make a “Rules of the Jungle” sign to take home. The rules should be boiled down to “Love God” and “Love Others.” You can pre-print the rules and let the kids color the signs, or have them make their own signs from scratch.



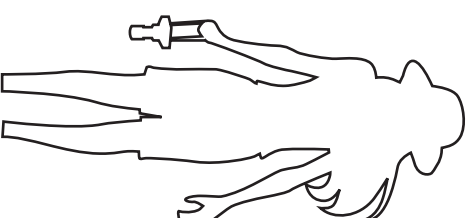
"Guide me in your truth. Teach me.  
You are God my Savior. I put my hope in  
you all day long."  
- Psalm 25:5 (NIRV)



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