

What's In Your Backpack?



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Follow God, and God will make your paths straight.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn about the narrow way and God's desire for us to walk that road.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 3:5-6

MEMORY VERSE:

"Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you." Jeremiah 7:23b (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Just like a ruler gives you a guide in centimeters or inches, the Bible gives you a guide for knowing God. A ruler lets you make a straight line. The Bible helps you live your life down a straight path.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to lean on you so we won't go astray, and show us the straight path so we may stay close to you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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MEMORY VERSE

"Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you." Jeremiah 7:23b (NIV)

"I said, 'Obey me. Then I will be your God. And you will be my people. Live the way I command you to live. Then things will go well with you.'" Jeremiah 7:23b (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Split the main group in two. See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest.

SMALL GROUP:

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

What's In Your Backpack?



SKIT

STRAIGHT AHEAD

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

Ted - A mall greeter

Elaine - Ted's boss.

Ted stands at center stage in a suit. He gives directions to imaginary, unseen shoppers.

TED: Welcome to Coral Ridge Mall, can I help you?... Baskin Robbins? Straight ahead, please. Thank you. *(next shopper)* Hello, welcome to Coral Ridge Mall... The Candy Barrel? Straight ahead, please. Thank you! *(next shopper)* Hello, welcome to Coral Ridge Mall, how can I help? Movie theater? How exciting. What are you here to see?... Oh, I want to see that one myself. Just go straight ahead to ticketing, then straight ahead to concessions and straight in to your theater. Don't forget the Junior Mints!

Elaine enters.

ELAINE: Afternoon, Ted.

TED: Good afternoon, Elaine.

ELAINE: Ms. Douglas, please.

TED: Ms. Douglas. *(to next customer)* I'm sorry, what was that? Stride Rite shoes? Straight ahead.

SKIT

ELAINE: Ted, have you been telling everyone who needs directions to go straight that way, down the West Wing?

TED: Yes, I have.

ELAINE: Ted, you do know we have four wings to the mall, right?

TED: Certainly.

ELAINE: And not everything is straight ahead.

TED: Ah, but you know what they say?

ELAINE: What do they say?

TED: *(to next customer)* Hello, welcome to Coral Ridge Mall... Radio Shack? Straight ahead, please.

ELAINE: No, it's not straight ahead!

TED: Yes, it is!

ELAINE: It's in the South Wing, to the left of the escalators.

TED: Pay no attention to the worldly voices behind me. It's straight ahead.

ELAINE: It is not straight ahead!

TED: Yes it is!

ELAINE: Ted, you're sending everyone to Kentucky Fried Chicken!

TED: Am I?

ELAINE: Yes!

TED: *(looks off stage)* Oh my. That's not good.

ELAINE: You got a good reason why you're telling people to go straight?

TED: Sure I do. The straight and narrow is the road to Heaven, and if we trust in the Lord, he'll make all our paths straight.

SKIT

ELAINE: He will?

TED: That's what my pastor said just this morning.

ELAINE: That's beautiful, Ted.

TED: Thank you.

ELAINE: If anyone comes up here and asks for direction in life, that's exactly what you should tell them. But if they ask directions to the Orange Julius...

TED: Straight ahead?

ELAINE: North wing next to Cinnabon!

TED: Dadgummit!

What's In Your Backpack?



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Yardstick
Markerboard
Colored markers

Choose one kid to help with the lesson. Give him the blue marker and ask him to draw a straight line. Examine the line closely and look for where it's not so straight. Give him the red marker and have him try again. Then give him the green marker to try a third time. Finally, let him use the yardstick to draw with the black marker.

You can draw and draw and draw free hand, and you'll never make a line as straight as you do with a yardstick. The yardstick keeps your hand steady and keeps your marker from wavering. With a yardstick, you can draw straight and true every time.

God has a path he wants us all to take, and like this line, it's straight and narrow. But on every side of this path are distractions and temptations designed to pull us off on a different path. God wants us to lean on him, just as we leaned on the yardstick with this marker, so He can make our path straight.

Spend time with God every day. Pray at all times. Remember what God has done for you, and lean on Him. He will make sure you stay on a straight path.

What's In Your Backpack?



LARGE GROUP GAME

WALK THE LINE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Blindfolds

Duct tape

INSTRUCTIONS:

Mark three 12' lines on stage, 4' apart.

Choose three players and have each one stand at the beginning of one of the lines. Blindfold them, and tell them they have 45 seconds to walk the line. Whoever is closest to the finish at the end of 45 seconds, or whoever reaches the end first, is the winner.

Before you send them off, spin them around 4 times to make them dizzy. Again, the winner is the person closest to his finishing point at the end of 45 seconds.

VARIATION:

To make it easier, don't spin the little kids.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Walking the straight line isn't easy, but with God's help, we can stay on the straight and narrow, even when we're walking blind. Or dizzy. Or both.

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LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Follow God, and God will make your paths straight.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn about the narrow way and God's desire for us to walk that road.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 3:5-6

INTRO

Begin the lesson by asking a few questions to the kids.

What's the fastest route from here to the boy's room?

What's the fastest route to the sanctuary/auditorium?

Does anyone know the fastest route to the nearest restaurant after church?

When you and your family hop in the car to go some place, you take the shortest route possible. No one drives ten miles out of the way to go to a place that's only a few blocks over. You take the quickest route possible.

Can anyone tell me what the shortest distance is between two places?

It's a straight line. And what school supply makes the best straight lines?

It's a ruler. Rulers are an important tool in our backpack, especially if we're doing math or art. Rulers help us to measure distance, but they also provide a straight edge that helps us connect two dots in the shortest, most direct route possible.

Rulers are also a great reminder of today's scripture - a verse that tells us how we can find the straightest and best path to live our lives.

WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKPACK: RULER

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ Proverbs 3:5-6

MAIN POINT

Solomon says to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. Instead of leaning on our own wisdom, we need to lean on God - the way our pencils lean against our rulers when we draw straight lines. If we do so, Solomon says God will make our paths straight.

Why is it so important to find that straight path? Because this world is full of temptations and distractions, things that will pull us away from God if we're not careful. God wants us to rely on him so that we will not go astray. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, and stay on the straight path.

DRIVE IT HOME

I'm sure many of you have already encountered some of the things that can pull you off God's path. You may have been tempted by peer pressure to follow the wrong crowd and fit in by doing the wrong thing. Maybe your friends were making fun of someone, and you joined right in. Maybe you cheated on a test, or were tempted to. You've also encountered things in music, TV, and movies that want you to believe that the things the Bible says are wrong aren't really so bad.

Don't be fooled by the world. God's Word is very clear on what's right and wrong. He's given you that word to read, to study, and to remember when you are tempted. He's also given you parents, teachers, and leaders here at church, all of whom would be glad to help you decide what's good and what's bad.

What's more, Jesus says that if we pray in His name, God will hear us. We can pray any time and anywhere, and God will help us to see the straight path. He won't let us go astray if we lean on Him and ask Him for directions.

There's a straight and narrow path that God wants us all to follow, one that will keep us from being tricked, tempted, and distracted by God. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean on him, like a pencil leaning on a ruler. He will make your path straight!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Help us to lean on you so we won't go astray, and show us the straight path so we may stay close to you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What do you use your ruler for in school?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Jeremiah 7:23b

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids line up side by side. Have them close their eyes and walk forward, trying to walk a straight line. After 10 steps, stop the kids and let them see how they did.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

Who does Solomon say we need to trust?

What will God do if we trust him and lean on him?

Where is God leading all of us?

How is leaning on God like using a ruler to draw a line?

What should we do when we are tempted to turn away from God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Please look over all of us, and keep us safe from temptation. Help us to trust in you and stay on the straight path.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What do you use your ruler for in school?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids make up a skit about following God and staying on the straight path in one of the following situations.

- At a friend's house, & your friend wants to watch a movie you're not allowed to watch
- At school, your friends stole the answer sheet to the big test & they're giving them out for free
- At the mall, the Kobe LeBron Jordan basketball shoes are sitting at the front of the store in your size and there are no employees in sight. You're broke & your parents have said they won't buy them for you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

How does Solomon say we can stay on the straight path?

What does Solomon mean by "your own understanding"?

How is leaning on God like using a ruler to draw a line?

What are some of the things that can pull us away from God?

Why is it important that we resist these temptations?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Please look over all of us, and keep us safe from temptation. Help us to trust in you and stay on the straight path.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

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POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

True or False.

The best tool for making a straight line is a calculator.

FALSE - ruler

We need to trust God with all our hearts.

TRUE

We can also rely on our own knowledge or understanding to stay on the straight path.

FALSE

Music, movies, and friends can all lure us away from God's straight path.

TRUE

Leaning on God can keep us on the straight path, just like a pencil on a ruler.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: RULER



IN THE CAR:

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

Today we talked about following God and staying on the straight path. There are many things that can lure us away from God. We need to stay close to the Lord so we will not be tempted to stray.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Discuss the music, movies, and other media you encounter with your kids this week. Is this something that honors God? Or is this something that can distract us from God?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What kinds of things can distract us from God?
- What rewards does God offer to those who follow him?
- How can we stay on God's straight path?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

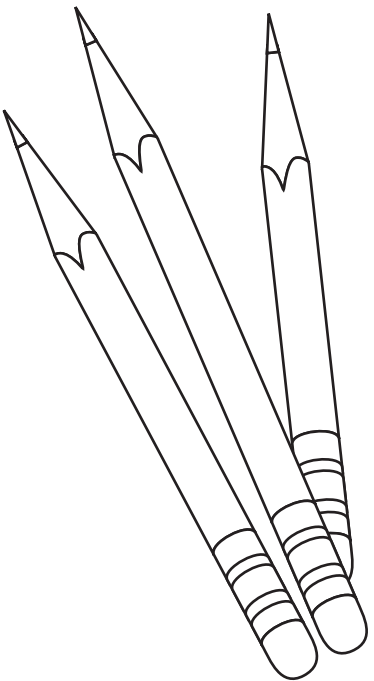
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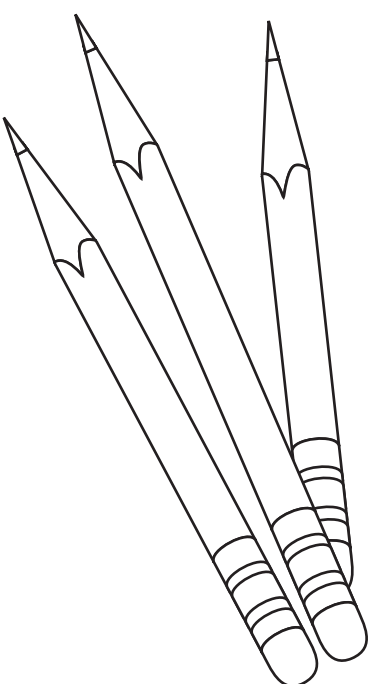
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

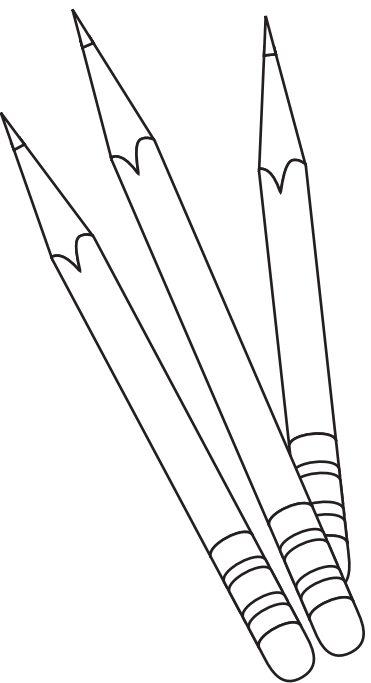
How is your walk with Christ? Examine your own heart this week, and look for ways you may have been sidetracked. Ask God to help you set back on the straight path and/or to help you stay there.



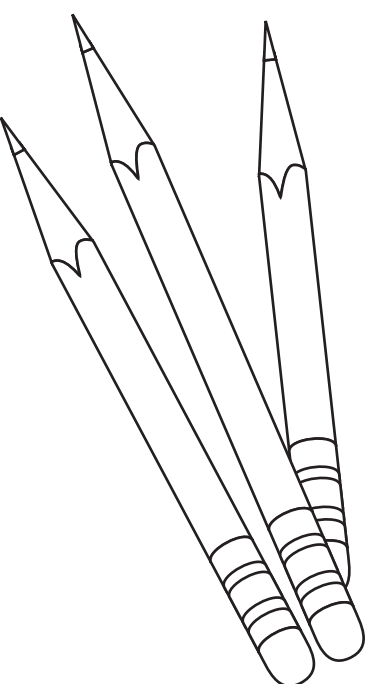
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CRAFT PROJECT

Give each of the kids a wooden ruler - one last reminder to stay on the path with God this school year. Tell them to write the memory verse reference - Jeremiah 7:23b - on one side of the ruler as a reminder to walk in obedience to the Lord.