



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Start each day by spending time with God, giving each new day to him.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the value of giving God the first portion of their day.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 13:20-22

MEMORY VERSE:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

You can't run a computer if it doesn't have power. You can't take a trip without a map. So why do we start our days without the thing that's most important? Start your morning spending time with God, and let God lead the way into your day.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for your love, and for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to start each day of this school year with you so this can be the best year ever.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

“But put God’s kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you.” - Matthew 6:33 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Put the verse on the big screen and read it aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.



SKIT

CONNECT TO POWER

ITEMS NEEDED:

- A table
- A laptop computer with a power cord

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

- Dave- A dad
- Lindy- Dave's daughter

Lindy is sitting at the table with her laptop when Dave enters. The power cord is rolled up on the table by the laptop.

LINDY: Come on! Why won't you work?

DAVE: What's the matter, Lindy?

LINDY: I'm trying to make a movie.

DAVE: A movie?

LINDY: I want to make a movie for my friends to show them how to have the best school year ever.

DAVE: Really?

LINDY: I think the best way to get ready for my day is to spend time with God, so I want to show my friends how they can do that.

DAVE: Sounds cool.

SKIT

LINDY: I have everything I need on here to do it. I can write my script using Final Draft. I can print to our printer over the wireless network. I can upload the footage for the movie that I shoot on your iPhone.

DAVE: My iPhone?

LINDY: Well you won't give me one yet!

DAVE: You're ten.

LINDY: Then I can edit the movie in iMovie, add music with Garage Band, and play it back using QuickTime.

DAVE: Sounds like you have it all planned out.

LINDY: If I can get the computer working!

DAVE: Let me take a look for you.

Lindy gets up. Dave sits.

LINDY: It's gonna be so great, Dad. Picture it. A girl in her room gets dressed, gathers her books, and then... she gets on her knees and prays, asking God to be with her. She pulls out her Bible. She reads an inspirational passage like... like...

DAVE: Seek first the kingdom of God?

LINDY: I was thinking "Jesus wept," but I like yours better.

DAVE: Happy to help.

LINDY: I just need a title for it. Let me see. "Rise and Bow?" No, too stuffy. "Get Up With God?" Kinda sounds like a goofy morning show. "

Dave picks up the power supply.

DAVE: Connect to power.

LINDY: Say, that's a good one! "Connect to God's Power." That's kind of what you're doing, right?

DAVE: That's what you need to do.

SKIT

LINDY: It's what we all need to do, every morning.

DAVE: And every time we use the computer.

LINDY: What?

DAVE: The power. You need to plug in your laptop, kiddo. If you don't connect to the power, you can't write your script, upload your video, or finish your movie.

LINDY: Oh. Seems so obvious now.

DAVE: So does your idea. Connecting to God's power each morning is the obvious choice!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A backpack
Pencils
Folders
School books

Set all of the items out on the table. Ask the kids what they think is the most important thing they need for school on day one - the one thing they should grab first. See who picks each item, and ask them why they chose those items.

All of these items are important for a good day of school. We need textbooks to help us learn math, reading, history, and science. We need pencils to help us do our work. And we need folders to help us keep that work together and organized. But before we grab any of those supplies, we need to grab our backpacks.

Pick up the backpack.

Backpacks help us keep things all together. They give us a place to carry and store all our other school supplies. Yes, you can go to school without a backpack. You can carry your books, papers, folders, and pencils in your arms. But it's much easier to pack them all in your backpack, isn't it?

When you start your day with God, you'll find it's a lot like carrying that backpack. God can help you carry whatever problems or worries you have. He can take those worries from you so that you can focus on your day. He will show you opportunities to love others and do the right thing.

You can face a school day without God. You can have good days without God. But just like this backpack, all our days go better when we start with God. He helps us keep everything where it belongs. Let's make a commitment to begin each day of this school year with the Lord, so he can make all our days - and this entire year - the best they can be!



LARGE GROUP GAME

PACK IT UP

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two backpacks
Four pairs of different colored balls

INSTRUCTIONS:

Set up five stations around the room. Four stations will have a different colored ball, and the fifth will have the two backpacks.

Choose two kids for this game and have them stand at a start/finish line. Tell the kids they need to race to all five stations and gather one of each colored ball along with a backpack. Do not give the kids a set route or order to get these things. Let the kids race and see who can get all five objects and return to the finish the fastest.

VARIATION:

You can use more or fewer balls depending on the size of the room and the age range of the racers.

WHAT'S THE POINT? –

This game ties in with the object lesson about the backpack. You can run the race by gathering the balls and then the backpack, but it's easier to grab the backpack first. It's a good reminder to start our day with first things first - spending time with God! Close the game by saying, "Grabbing the backpack first was a good choice, because it gave the contestants a place to put everything. Choosing God first each morning is also a good choice, because He will help us organize our day."



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Start each day by spending time with God, giving each new day to him.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the value of giving God the first portion of their day.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 13:20-22

INTRO

Summer is now over, and a new school year is upon us. How many of you have been anxiously counting down the days until school begins?

How many of you are already anxiously counting the days until Christmas break? Anyone know how many days we have until then?

Whether you love or dread the start of school, we want you to have the best school year ever. School is a great place to make friends, learn about the world God made, discover new interests and talents, and begin dreaming about our futures. But school is also a challenging place. There are tough subjects, tough tests, and tough assignments ahead. There's also peer pressure, pressure to fit in with other kids, and sometimes pressure to make bad choices.

We want all of you to be ready to navigate these challenges, inside the classroom and out. The next four weeks, we're going to talk about how to have the best year ever, and we're going to start with first things first - spending time with God.

God wants us to take time daily to meet with Him, and if we are wise, we will make that the first thing we do in the morning. I know that there are lots of things to do in the morning before school: get dressed, eat breakfast, brush your hair and teeth, make your bed, the list goes on. This school year consider getting up just a few minutes earlier, so you can add spending time with God to your morning routine.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The Israelites had a constant reminder that they needed to seek God. When they made their journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land of Canaan, they had a visual reminder of whom they were to follow.

READ Exodus 13:20-22

I doubt if any of us will ever know what it's like to follow God in a pillar of cloud or fire, but that doesn't mean we can't let God take the lead. Jesus told his followers to seek God before everything and let God put the rest of our lives in order.

READ Matthew 6:33

MAIN POINT

Our memory verse for this series tells us that we need to seek God first and let God give us everything else we need. When you wake up on a school day, many thoughts come to mind - What assignments are due? What tests will I have? What will happen with my friends? Jesus tells us in this passage to put all that aside and begin the day by seeking Him.

DRIVE IT HOME

You may not realize this, but even your teachers understand the importance of putting first things first. When you started school, your teacher didn't hand you a book and tell you to read. She showed you a letter - one letter - and told you what sound it made. Bit by bit, letter by letter, you learned how to read until one day, you were able to read whole sentences.

Teachers do this in every subject. In math you learned your numbers first. You learned to count, and then add, and then subtract. Some of you may be up to multiplication and division, and as you get older, you'll get into even bigger challenges like algebra, geometry, and calculus.

Learning happens best when you put first things first. So does life. When we make the choice to put God first, every day will be the very best it can be.

I want to challenge you to put God first every day of this school year. Set your alarm, and make sure you get up when the alarm goes off. Spend some time in the same place every day praying. Read the Bible, or have someone read for you. Think about what you read, and ask God to help you learn from that passage.

Will going to school without putting God first give you bad days? Maybe not. But putting God first will make your bad days good and your good days even greater.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

You'll learn to put God first, to see the world through his eyes, and to treat others the way God wants you to treat them.

I don't know what your school is like, or how your past school years have been, but I do know that if you give God the first part of every day, this can be the best year ever. Seek God first. Do it every morning. God will meet you there, and he will not leave you - no matter what kind of day you're having.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for your love, and for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to start each day of this school year with you so this can be the best year ever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite school subject?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Ask for some volunteers to stand up and act out their morning routine on typical school day. Give each kid 30 seconds to show everybody everything thing they do from the time the alarm goes off until they get to school.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Exodus 13:20-22

Where were the Israelites going?

How did the Israelites follow God?

Why was it important for the Israelites to follow the cloud/fire?

Read Matthew 6:33

What is Jesus telling us in this verse?

What would be a good time, in your morning routine, to spend with God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Lead us at school the way you led the nation of Israel, and help us to have a great school year.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite school subject?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Ask for some volunteers to stand up and act out their morning routine on typical school day. Give each kid 30 seconds to show everybody everything thing they do from the time the alarm goes off until they get to school. Challenge all of them to think of a place and time where they can spend time with God each day. Get some answers from the kids on when that might be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Exodus 13:20-22

How did the Israelites follow God?

Why was it important for the Israelites to follow the cloud/fire?

What might have happened if the Israelites didn't follow God?

Why do we need to start each day with God?

How can God help us to have a better school day and school year?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Lead us at school the way you led the nation of Israel, and help us to have a great school year.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Where were the Israelites going? (Promised Land)
2. Who led Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt? (God)
3. What did God appear as while he lead the Israelites? (Pillar of cloud and fire)
4. How can we ask God to lead us through our school days? (Prayer and Bible reading)
5. When should we spend time with God to make this the best year ever? (First thing in the morning)

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: START WITH GOD



IN THE CAR:

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

Today we talked about starting the school year and our school days right by spending time with God. God will help us through good days and bad when we put him first, by starting our day with prayer and Bible reading.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids at breakfast if they've spent time with God. Offer to spend time praying and reading the Bible with them, too!



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How did God lead the Israelites to the Promised Land?
- Why is morning a great time to spend time with God?
- What are some things we can do to help you start your day with God?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

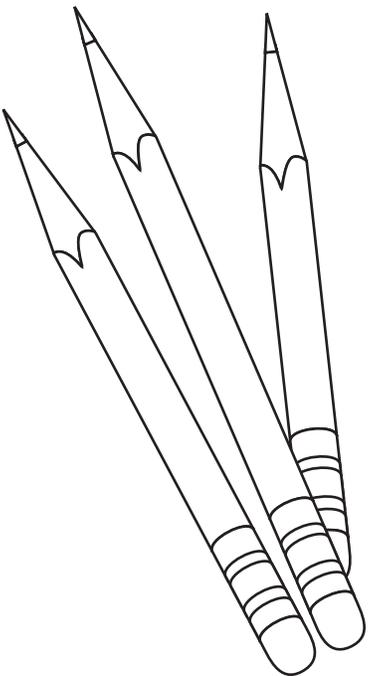
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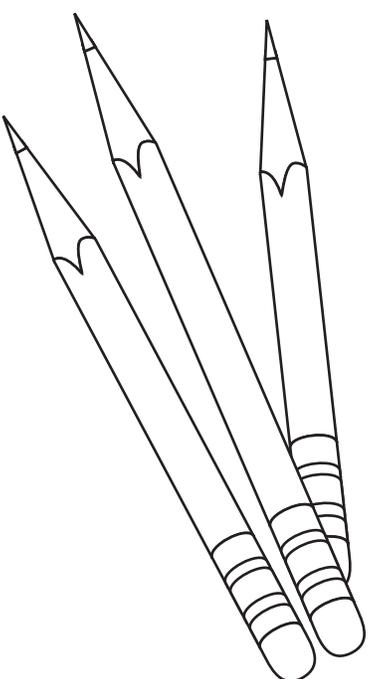
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

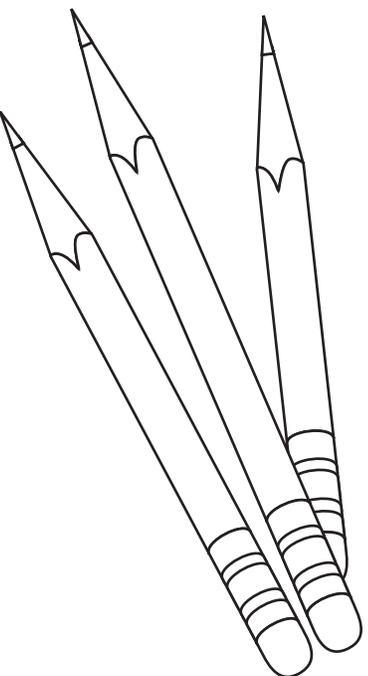
Why not spend time with God and your kids in the morning this week? Family devotions help a family to not only draw closer to God, but to each other. Ask God to make this a great school year for the kids and you too.



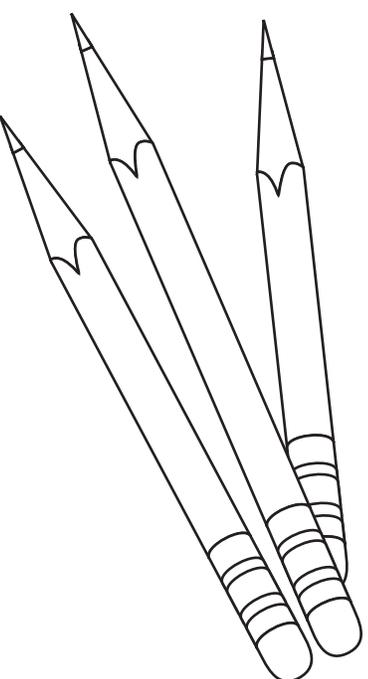
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CRAFT PROJECT

Supplies:

Beads

Plastic ties/Shoelaces

See an example on Pinterest <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/268597565248886126/>

Have the kids make a cross with shoe laces (or another type of strand) and beads that they can fasten to their backpacks, as a reminder to follow God and put him first during their school days.