



OBEDIENCE

Don't Forget

- Bible
- Blindfold



TEACHER ENRICHMENT

Read Acts:9

Commandment comes from a Latin word which means “to entrust” or “to put into ones charge.”

When we receive a commandment, it becomes our responsibility. A command is given, and we are entrusted to carry it out.

Centurions were officials in the Roman army. There were over eighty soldiers that were separated into ten groups of eight men (some say that the centurion was over one hundred men, but history indicates the number was eighty).

The centurion carried a walking stick that was made from a dried vine branch. This walking stick was a sign of the centurion's status, and a tool used to discipline the legionnaires under his charge. If a Roman soldier disobeyed a command, the centurion would beat the soldier with his stick as a form of discipline.

What makes Cornelius' story so impressive is that he recognized the authority of Peter to give him the Commandments of God. In **Acts 10:33** he said, *“Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”*

In other words, he was saying, “We are all here to be commanded. Tell us. Entrust us with what God wants for us.”

This man of great authority is telling Peter, a former fisherman, to entrust him with the commandments of God. AMAZING! Cornelius had the right attitude when it came to the commandments in God's Word. He had a “just tell me” spirit.



WELCOME

Greet students as they come to class.

Have students work independently on word search while you wait for others to show up.



OFFERING

You will want to take up offering early to get the money out of the children's hands.



PRAYER REQUESTS

It is important to listen to the kids and see what their needs are.



MEMORY WORK

Memory Verse Card to take home

Offer an incentive for memorizing their memory verse and saying it the following week.

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” 1 Peter 1:22

Memory Activity:

Play Echo Mountain - Divide everyone into three teams. One group starts by saying the first word phrase of the memory verse, the next group provides an echo to mimic the first group. Next, the final group echoes the phrase. Continue several times using shouting, squeaking, bird voices, whispering or using a macho voice until they have it memorized.



SONGS

“Jesus on the Mainline”



LESSON

(Show *OBEY GOD'S COMMANDMENT* flag each time the phrase **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS** is used in the lesson.)

Ask: What is a commandment? (Let children brainstorm)

Answer: A Commandment can be an order, or a direct request from one in authority; for example, a request from a teacher or police officer. A commandment is a very **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTION**.

Ask: In your home or at school, can you think of some **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**?

Ask: Why are these commandments important?

Answer: Rules or commandments are important, and given for your good or safety, and for the good or safety of others. It is important to listen, and to do the commandments from the Bible. Even for our lives today, the Bible has **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**.

In the Bible there were two men. One was Peter the Apostle, a close follower of Jesus, and the other was Cornelius, a Roman Soldier. These men do not know each other...yet.

Let's talk about Peter. When Peter first started preaching to people about Jesus, the way to live our lives, and the way to go to heaven, he thought that the commandments Jesus gave were only for a certain group of people. Peter was Jewish, and the Jewish people were called God's Chosen People. Anyone who was not Jewish was called a Gentile. Jewish people did not think that a Gentile had a place in God's plan. They thought Gentiles were unclean. There was even a law that said a Jewish person could not go to a Gentile's home.

(Do Object Lesson)



OBJECT LESSON

Take two glasses of clear water. Add dirt, oil, hair, etc. to one of the glasses. Then ask a student to choose which one he or she would like to drink. If they choose the clean water, say “no, take this one.” To really make the point, spit in the unclean glass. (I know it is gross, but it conveys the message of how Peter felt.)

Drinking the unclean water would be disgusting, but that is how Peter felt about Gentile people. He wouldn’t think about visiting the home of a Gentile.

Now let’s talk about Cornelius. He was fair and honest, gave money to those in need, was devoted to God, and he prayed all the time. He was a Roman soldier in charge of many other soldiers. He also happened to be a Gentile...unclean. He was still an outsider. Cornelius didn’t really fit in, but the way he lived got God’s attention. God sent his angel to visit Cornelius. The angel told Cornelius to send servants to Joppa, where Peter lived, and to ask him to come. How do you think Peter felt about this idea? He probably didn’t like the idea of going to an “unclean” home, did he?

While the servants were on their way, something was happening to Peter; God was preparing Peter for a visit from the Gentiles. He gave Peter a vision that had all sorts of unclean food in it. The unclean things he saw in the vision were just as gross to him as our unclean water was to us. Do you know what God did? He told Peter, “Eat this stuff!”

What do you think Peter did? He said, “No Way!”

God showed Peter the vision again, and then God told him that if He (God) said something was clean; it was clean. At that very moment, the servants of the “unclean” Roman soldier knocked on Peter’s door and asked him to come to Cornelius’ house. So Peter went with them and started the journey back. Peter knew that God was telling him that Cornelius wasn’t “unclean” after all. Cornelius needed to hear God’s **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**.

While his servants were traveling to get Peter, Cornelius was busy telling his friends and family that an Angel of God had visited him, and that a man was coming that would tell them more about God and His commandments. He understood that Peter was the one to share God’s **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**.

Cornelius also wanted everyone he knew to hear God’s **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS** too.

When Peter arrived at Cornelius’ house, he told them God’s commandments. While he was telling them, God did a miraculous thing. He filled Cornelius and all of his family and friends with the Holy Ghost! Next, Peter commanded them all to be baptized. Everyone Peter was speaking to realized how important the commandments were. They knew that the commandments they were hearing were true, and they all did as they were commanded. They all followed God’s **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**.

Cornelius was ready to follow God’s commands.



APPLY THE WORD

Ask: How did Cornelius hear the commandments?

Answer: He heard God's commandments when a man, called by God, preached to him.

Ask: How do we hear God's IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS today?

Answer: The same way Cornelius did, through a preacher or teacher. We must all listen to God's commandments, and not only listen to them, but do them.

Ask: Where do we find God's IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS today?

Answer: In God's Word, His instruction manual, the Bible. A Man of God will be the one to preach God's commandments to us, just like Peter preached them to Cornelius and his friends and family.

Ask: *Who* is the Man of God that tells you God's IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS?

Answer: Your Pastor, and your Pastor gives others in your church the authority to teach you the commandments God gave us. We hear God's commandments as they are taught in Sunday school or during other church times.

Let's all bow our heads and pray together that God would help us to listen and obey the commandments that God gives us through our pastors and teachers.

Example: "Jesus, help us to be willing to listen, and to do your commandments like Cornelius. Help us to be like Peter, willing to change, and share God's commandments with others."



PRAISE & WORSHIP

Let's all lift up our hands and thank God for making a place for us in His plan. Let's praise Him because He has made a way to include us. Clap your hands and thank God for giving us a man of God, a Pastor who is not afraid to tell us what God commands for our life.



APPENDIX

Word Search

Word Search Answers

Commandments Flag

L L C B S J P F G C G B T T O Z N V R C
 J X S U O W E G H A O Y W C Z A K I R E
 K E S Q V T X W G S D M C N E E Z S N N
 L E G I O N N A I R E S M L A L R I A T
 J W C N A M R E H S I F C A Y M Q O Z U
 I V S A N O R Y O F H N J Q N C O N L R
 D E V O T E D E C C U A V O O D I R Y I
 D T X K B B Y R W N L Z E R P H M T U O
 B I B L E V E A O J L W N L Z P W E B N
 L E G N A Q Q D R Y L E P J T T A R N S
 O I G K W W E A D G L E P T E S K C F T
 O J K Z O N R I L I T K M N L B O C C Y
 F S I G Q O P C U E I F O T I B A P L M
 B U E P D S K S R E U Q Y W T A L J A Y
 R W A R X H X W E B B J R K N W N T X N
 G M C Y I R M D S U G Z Y O E M T O L F
 C M B O J V V L R Z U T P D G O Z K H N
 B T B Y A I U J E B L Y T Y D I M G A H
 S E G A P I H P V B U Q O M S K A X F Y
 Y Q U W G X T X T B N E J W Z D U A P K

ANGEL
 APOSTLE
 BIBLE
 CENTURIONS
 COMMANDMENT
 CORNELIUS
 DEVOTED
 FISHERMAN
 GENTILE
 JESUS
 JEWISH

JOPPA
 LEGIONNAIRES
 OBEY
 PETER
 ROMAN
 UNCLEAN
 VERSE
 VISION
 WORD
 GOD

L L C B S J P F G C G B T T O Z N V R C
J X S U O W E G H A O Y W C Z A K I R E
K E S Q V T X W G S D M C N E E Z S N N
L E G I O N N A I R E S M L A L R I A T
J W C N A M R E H S I F C A Y M Q O Z U
I V S A N O R Y O F H N J Q N C O N L R
D E V O T E D E C C U A V O O D I R Y I
D T X K B B Y R W N L Z E R P H M T U O
B I B L E V E A O J L W N L Z P W E B N
L E G N A Q Q D R Y L E P J T T A R N S
O I G K W W E A D G L E P T E S K C F T
O J K Z O N R I L I T K M N L B O C C Y
F S I G Q O P C U E I F O T I B A P L M
B U E P D S K S R E U Q Y W T A L J A Y
R W A R X H X W E B B J R K N W N T X N
G M C Y I R M D S U G Z Y O E M T O L F
C M B O J V V L R Z U T P D G O Z K H N
B T B Y A I U J E B L Y T Y D I M G A H
S E G A P I H P V B U Q O M S K A X F Y
Y Q U W G X T X T B N E J W Z D U A P K

