

Lesson Overview

✝️Sermon Title

The Great "Yes, God!" Adventure

Main Theme

Even when things are hard or don't make sense, we can follow God's plan with faith and obedience.

Bible Verse

For we live by faith, not by sight.”

2 Corinthians 5:7



Opening Questions

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1. **Have you ever had to go on a really long trip, like in the car or on an airplane, that felt super boring or uncomfortable? What made it hard?**
2. **Imagine your parents ask you to do a chore right when you are about to win a video game. What voice inside your head tries to complain, and what voice says, "Okay, I'll obey"?**
3. **When you can't see the full plan for your life, do you worry, or do you trust God to lead you one step at a time?**



Modern Parable

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The Last-Minute Trip to Grandma's

The summer was perfect. Ten-year-old Maya had her entire week planned: two days of swimming, an all-day video game marathon with her best friend Chloe, and a sleepover. Then, an hour before Chloe was due to arrive, her mom walked into the room with a calm but firm expression. "Maya, we have to leave in thirty minutes. We're driving to Grandma's house for a quick family emergency," she said. Maya's perfect week was shattered. Grandma's house was a long, boring, thirteen-hour drive away, and her room didn't even have Wi-Fi! "But, Mom!" Maya whined, "I had everything planned! This is so unfair, and it doesn't make any sense!"

As they packed the car, Maya's dad sat next to her and noticed her grumpy face. "Look, I know this trip is a big inconvenience," he said, "but we are going because your Aunt Lisa needs us, and family is more important than our plans. Sometimes, the most important journeys are the ones we didn't plan for. We just have to say 'Yes' to the messy journey and trust that something good will come out of it." Maya sighed, thinking of her lost video game victory. She finally nodded and mumbled, "Okay... Yes, Dad."

Three days later, Maya wasn't just sitting. She was running errands, playing cards, and telling jokes with her cousin Leo, who had been lonely before she arrived. Her aunt pulled her aside and hugged her tightly. "Thank you for coming, Maya," she whispered. "You brought so much light and laughter when we really needed it." Maya realized her inconvenience had become someone else's comfort. The trip was hard, but following her parents' voice, even when she didn't understand the full reason, had led to a bigger blessing than she could have ever planned. That "Yes" to the hard thing was the right choice.



Object Lesson

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What Would You Pack?

Purpose: To show that obedience to God is more important than comfort, even when we don't know the destination.

Supplies:
-One regular backpack or duffel bag.
-Random items: a heavy dictionary (representing the weight of the journey), a cozy blanket or pillow (representing comfort), a toothbrush, and a piece of paper with "God's Plan" written on it.

How to Do It:

Ask for a volunteer. Hand them the bag and say, "You and your family have to go on a very long, unexpected journey, and you can only take 3 things. What would you choose to pack for comfort?"

Let the child put items like the blanket, pillow, or toothbrush in the bag.

Next, say: "Mary and Joseph couldn't pack much either on their long journey to Bethlehem. But the most important thing they had wasn't even a thing—it was obedience and faith in God."

Remove the comfortable items and replace them with the heavy dictionary and the paper that says "God's Plan."

1. Point: Show the bag. "This bag is heavy and uncomfortable, but the most important thing inside is 'God's Plan.' Mary and Joseph didn't complain about the difficult journey or the full inn; they trusted God's promise. When you obey God's plan, even when it's heavy or uncomfortable, you're carrying the only thing you truly need!"



Sermon

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The Great "Yes, God!" Adventure

Imagine being Mary. You're getting ready to have a baby, and you need to rest. Then, suddenly, an announcement comes out: everyone has to travel back to the city where their family is from. You have to go on a long, hard journey—on a donkey, no less—and you have to go right now! This journey was a huge inconvenience, and it probably felt chaotic and confusing to her and Joseph. But here's the amazing thing: they said, "Yes, God." They packed up and started walking toward Bethlehem, a place where a census was taking place, all because they chose obedience over comfort.

This incredible journey story is found in the Bible in Luke 2:1-7. Mary and Joseph faced one roadblock after another. After all that traveling, when they finally got to Bethlehem, the innkeeper said, "Sorry, no room!" They literally had nowhere comfortable to go. That would make most of us complain or even give up. But they didn't. They kept going, and because they said "Yes, God" to the hard journey and the uncomfortable stable, they were in the exact spot God needed them to be for Jesus to be born. God had a plan for the whole world, and Mary and Joseph's simple obedience was the key.

Lessons For Us

The lesson for us is simple but powerful: God is a master planner, and He uses our obedience—even to the small, inconvenient things—to complete His big plan. We live by faith, not by seeing the whole map. Every time you obey your parents, help a sibling, or choose kindness at school when it's hard, you're walking in faith, just like Mary and Joseph walked to Bethlehem. Don't let the "no room" signs of life stop you from your journey; God is still leading you!



Sermon Continued...

Lessons For Us

You might face a wilderness where things are confusing, a problem that feels like a fiery furnace, or a challenge that feels backward. But your job is just one word: Follow. Say "Yes, God" to the hard step you need to take today. When you choose to trust and obey Him, you open the door for God to turn the chaotic, confusing parts of your life into a masterpiece—the story of how He used you for His great purpose.

🙏 Closing Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for inviting us on Your great adventure. Help us to have the courage of Mary and Joseph to say 'Yes, God!' even when the journey is long or confusing. Give us the faith to know that Your plan is always perfect. Help us to follow You today. In Jesus' name, Amen."



Q & A

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? Test your knowledge!

1. What big event required Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem?
    a. A census (enrollment/taxation)
2. What Bible verse is the key to this sermon's theme?
    a. 2 Corinthians 5:7 ("For we live by faith, not by sight.")
3. How did the journey to Bethlehem feel for Mary and Joseph?
    a. Hard, inconvenient, long, and confusing.
4. What was Mary and Joseph’s greatest strength on the journey?
    a. Their faith and obedience to God’s plan.
5. What did the innkeeper tell them?
    a. There was no room.
6. Where was Jesus finally born?
    a. In a stable (or manger/shelter for animals).
7. What does the phrase "The Great 'Yes, God!' Adventure" mean?
    a. Choosing to obey God even when it is hard or makes no sense.
8. What is one confusing thing in your life that you need to give to God?
    a. Worry, fear, a big problem, or an unexpected setback.
9. When we can't see the full plan, what does our memory verse say we should live by?
    a. Faith, not by sight.
10. What can you do today to follow God's plan, even when it's inconvenient?
    a. Obey parents, choose kindness, help a sibling, or pray.



Game Ideas

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🤸 The Obstacle Journey

Goal: To complete a journey through chaos without complaining**.**

Instructions: Create a simple, silly, indoor obstacle course using chairs to crawl under, blankets to step over, and pillows as stepping stones. The twist: have distracting elements like noisy toys, leaders giving conflicting directions, or people gently cheering the child on. The child must complete the course following only the designated leader's clear voice (like God's voice) and must not complain. If they complain, they start the obstacle over.

The Great "Yes, God!" Freeze

Goal: Practice quick obedience and listening to the right voice.

Instructions: Play music and have the kids dance (the chaos/our own plans). The leader (The Voice) shouts random, funny commands, but only commands preceded by "Yes, God!" must be obeyed instantly. For example, "Touch your nose." (Ignore). Then, "Yes, God! Touch your toes!" (Obey quickly). Anyone who obeys a command without "Yes, God!" or is slow to obey an official command sits out.

Backwards Kindness Relay

Goal: To show that even when things are backward, we can still choose good.

Instructions: Two teams line up. The first player must walk backward to a designated spot and drop a small, soft item (like a cotton ball or a paper heart) into a bucket labeled "Kindness." Then they run normally back to tag the next player. The team that successfully deposits the most "kindness" items in the bucket wins, emphasizing that choosing kindness (obedience) can happen even in a silly, backward world.



Craft Ideas

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My Faith Map

Purpose: To create a visual reminder that God leads us step-by-step and that we should trust the journey, not just the destination.

Supplies:

- Index cards or small pieces of cardstock
- Hole punch
- Markers or crayons
- String or yarn
- Small heart stickers or star stickers

Instructions:

1. Give each child 3-5 small cards (their "Map Points").
2. On the first card, write or draw a picture of a past hard moment (e.g., "Moving," "A Big Fight," "Sick Day").
3. On the middle cards, write "Trust," "Obey," or "Pray."
4. On the final card, write or draw a picture of a good future thing (e.g., "Be Brave," "Forgiveness," "Love God").
5. Punch a hole at the top of each card and string them together in order to make a small hanging map.
6. Kids can put a heart or star sticker next to any card where they said "Yes, God."
7. Takeaway: This mobile is a reminder that God connects the hard parts, the "Trust" parts, and the good parts into a beautiful journey!



At Home Connection

The At-Home Connection

Parenting is a marathon, and we know your time is limited! But connecting your child's Sunday lesson to their everyday world doesn't have to be complicated. Use these simple prompts to start a conversation around the dinner table this week.

Discussion Questions:

1. Mary and Joseph had to travel when it was super inconvenient. When did you have to obey a teacher or me, even though it was a hard or annoying task? How did it feel after you said, "Yes, God" (or "Yes, Mom/Dad")?
2. Mary and Joseph couldn't see the full plan. When is it hardest for you to have faith in God (or us) when you can't see the full outcome of a situation?
3. What is one small thing you can choose to do with a good attitude this week to show God you are trusting His plan? (e.g., Do your homework right away, or say a kind word to a difficult person.)

Family Activity: The "Yes, God!" Stone

This simple activity creates a tactile reminder to choose obedience in moments of stress or inconvenience.

1. Find several small, smooth rocks or stones outside, or use a few large beans (one for each family member).
2. Have each person use a marker to write the words "YES, GOD!" on their stone.
3. Place the stones in a visible, easily accessible spot, like on each person's nightstand or by the kitchen sink.
4. Family Challenge: Encourage everyone to pick up their "Yes, God!" stone when they feel overwhelmed, confused, or asked to do something that seems inconvenient. Holding the stone should remind them of Mary and Joseph's faithful obedience and prompt them to say "Yes, God" out loud or quietly in their heart, trusting God's big plan.