

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 4 • Unit 4 • Week 3

### HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

**OBJECTIVE:**

To show that obedience starts with being a good listener and that God requires action as proof of our obedience.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Prepare in Advance: Make copies of all seven listening roadblocks—one set of copies for each child to take home after the lesson. (Use a partial set if time is limited.)

Say: One way of honoring your father and mother is by listening. This is the first step in obeying God and your parents. Listening is one of the most important skills you'll ever learn in life. Becoming a good listener requires work. You have been given seven sheets of paper. Each one shows a listening roadblock character. Let's look at them.

Read: "Dan Daydreamer" sheet and as many of the other characters which fit into the time frame of this lesson.

Ask: Has anyone known people who have had some of these roadblocks to listening? Do you think some of these characters might be like you? [Let kids express their thoughts.]

Say: When you talk to your parents, teachers or friends, try to think about how you listen and notice how other people listen too.

Say: The Bible has many examples of good and bad listeners, but today we are going to read about Abraham and Isaac who were both very good listeners. Being a good listener helps us to be more obedient to our parents as well as to God. It was helpful for Abraham and Isaac to be good listeners since they were going to receive a great blessing. Let's read our lesson about these two people whose listening skills helped them to obey God in an excellent way.

## **BIBLE LESSON:**

### **ABRAHAM LISTENS**

"Abraham!" Abraham's spiritual Father was calling. He said his name only once. Abraham had learned to be a very good listener; so he listened and replied immediately by saying, "Here I am" (Genesis 22:1).

Abraham's spiritual Father was the Lord of the Old Testament. The Lord of the Old Testament later became the Lord of the New Testament, Jesus Christ. The Lord had already made a promise to Abraham that Abraham would become the father of many children. God wanted to be sure he was giving this huge blessing to the right person. God needed to know that Abraham would listen and obey God's instructions. The future blessings of the whole world depended on Abraham's obedience (Genesis 22:1).

**Say:** Being a good listener is only part of being obedient. You must also act on the instructions you are given. It takes action to obey and please God in addition to listening carefully.

**Ask:** Where in the Bible does it tell us this?

**Read:** Luke 11:28.

### **GOD TESTS ABRAHAM**

God continued talking with Abraham. "I want you to leave Beer-Sheba and go to the land called Moriah. Take your son, your dearly loved son, Isaac, and go to one of the mountains over there which I will show you. I want you to offer your son as a sacrifice to me upon an altar." Abraham had known and learned to trust God many years before. Remember how old Abraham was when Isaac was born?

Maybe Abraham didn't understand exactly why God wanted him to kill Isaac. Abraham had great respect for The Lord, so he didn't hesitate to follow God's instructions. He immediately started planning his trip. He had not set up any listening roadblocks for God to break through. There were no arguments, no hesitations and no excuses. Abraham just listened and took action.

### **ABRAHAM SETS OUT ON HIS JOURNEY**

Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, rounded up two of his ranch hands and called for Isaac. After gathering and splitting some firewood he loaded the donkey and began his trip. Many thoughts ran through his mind as they traveled. God had told him that his descendants would be blessed, but how could this be if his son was going to die? Would God resurrect Isaac on the spot? Why would God ask for a child sacrifice? God hated the pagan practices of other nations that sacrificed their children in fires to their gods. Abraham had some questions, but that didn't stop him from being obedient. He continued on his trip. On the third day of the journey, Abraham and his party came to the land of Moriah. Abraham could see the mountain God had described off in the distance.

### **ABRAHAM AND ISAAC GO TO SACRIFICE**

Abraham told his servants, "You two men stay here with the donkey and set up a temporary camp. My son and I will go a bit farther up the hill to worship God and we'll be back shortly."

Then Abraham gave the pieces of split firewood to Isaac to carry on his shoulders. Abraham took a knife and the firepot in his own hands and off they went up the hill. Up until this time Isaac had not questioned his dad. Isaac had listened and obeyed every word which Abraham had spoken. Isaac was a little puzzled and had to ask some questions.

"Dad," he started.

Abraham didn't ignore his son's words, so he replied, "Yes son, I'm listening."

Isaac continued, "I've got the firewood and you've got the fire, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham replied with a very wise answer. "My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the offering. Be patient, my son, God will provide this at the right time." The father and son continued on their mission until they came to a place which seemed suitable for an altar location.

#### ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE

Abraham and Isaac gathered rocks to build the altar. Some of the rocks had flat surfaces and Abraham used them to make a nice flat area large enough for a person to lie on. Then he took the firewood and laid it neatly in place. Abraham took the rope and tied up his son. Isaac was obedient. He did not put up a fight or rebel. Abraham then put Isaac upon the firewood and altar. Abraham reached for his knife with the intent of killing his son (Genesis 22:2-9).

Say: At that point in time Isaac realized the seriousness of the situation. His life was in his father's hands. He could have struggled to get away and rebelled at the thought of being killed by his father. But he too trusted God and knew that somehow everything would turn out all right. He understood that God expected him to be obedient to his parents and that God had placed a father in authority over his children.

Read: Ephesians 6: 1-3. Have the children read this out loud together or pick one person to read it.

Say: The blessing of a long life goes along with being obedient to your parents. Did Isaac live a long time?

Read: Genesis 35:28.

Say: Isaac was 180 years old when he died. That is a good long lifetime. It is important to obey our physical fathers and mothers, but Abraham was tested on obedience to his heavenly Father, which is even more important. Abraham too lived to the ripe old age of 175 years.

Ask: Does God sometimes require that we give up something we truly love in order to test our loyalty to Him?

Read: Matthew 10:37.

Say: God wanted to know Abraham's heart and mind. Abraham had waited a lifetime to have a son and he loved that son very deeply. God wanted to know if Abraham loved God more than even his own special son. Abraham was obeying the Second Commandment... "You shall have no other gods before Me." God also found out a lot about Isaac. He found out that Isaac was truly keeping the Fifth Commandment, "Honor your father and your mother," which was very pleasing to God.

#### GOD STOPS ABRAHAM

Abraham was ready to kill his son as God had commanded. Abraham loved Isaac with his whole heart. As he lifted his powerful arm to slay his son, a voice firmly spoke his name twice. "Abraham, Abraham."

Abraham was startled as he listened and stopped the knife. "I am here," he responded.

The voice of the angel of the Lord continued to speak. "Don't lay a hand on the boy. Don't do anything to him. Now I know that you deeply fear, love, honor and respect God. You were freely willing to give your only son to me and you didn't hesitate or begrudgingly hold him back" (Genesis 22:10-12).

Say: If Abraham had not been a good listener he may have ignored the voice of the Angel of the Lord and went right on to kill his son. It pays to listen carefully. Abraham's son was saved because Abraham listened and responded quickly. God did not know if Abraham would truly be willing to give up something that he valued so much. After this serious test, God knew Abraham's heart belonged to Him and that Isaac would follow in his father's footsteps of obedience and great faith. Not only was this a test of Abraham's obedience, but God also wanted to know if there was faith in his heart. Abraham passed the test and became known as the father of the faithful.

#### GOD PROVIDES A SACRIFICE

Suddenly there was a noise coming from the bushes behind Abraham. He turned around and caught sight of a ram that was caught by his horns on a branch in the thickest part of the brush. He took the ropes off his son and tied the ram. He said to Isaac, "Didn't I tell you, the Lord would provide the sacrifice."

Abraham and his son stood by the altar as they finished watching the sacrificial ram burn away. They were so thankful for the ram, which was provided for them, that Abraham renamed the mountain area "The-Lord-Will-Provide."

#### GOD BLESSES ABRAHAM

Once again Abraham heard the angel's voice, "By myself have I sworn," He said, "since you have done this and have been willing to give and have not held back the precious gift of your son, your only son, I will bless you and I will multiply your descendants like the stars of the heavens and like the

sand of the seashore. Your offspring will possess the gates of your enemies and through your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed" (Genesis 22:15-18).

Say: This was a great blessing and prophecy for the future of the world. Today the descendants of Abraham upon the earth are numbered in the millions. Sadly most of them don't know why they are so abundantly blessed. Most of them don't even know the value of Abraham's greatest descendant, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the greatest friend anyone could ever have.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Prepare in Advance: Make copies of "Coupons for Parents" on colored card stock paper, enough for each child to have at least one sheet. If possible and time permits, a second sheet per child should be available. Bring scissors or ask kids to bring scissors. Also have crayons, colored pencils, pens or markers available for the children to write on the coupons.

Have kids fill in coupons by writing "I will honor you today by..."

Let them be creative as to what they want to do for their parents.

Some examples:     Cleaning my room.  
                          Taking out the trash.  
                          Loading the dishwasher.  
                          Folding the clothes, etc.

Cut out coupons.

Option #1: Buy self-adhesive magnetic strips and cut in small pieces. Glue on back of coupon. Coupons could be put on refrigerator and parents can have the option to choose one per day or per week.

Option #2: Buy mini gift bags and put coupons into gift bag. Let kids present this to their parents who can choose one coupon per day or week. You could also add a magnetic strip to the back of the gift bag and attach it to the refrigerator this way.

Remind the children that they must follow through with the chore that is written on the coupon. This is to be a lesson in obeying their parents even though they have chosen the job themselves.

### **MUSIC:**

Sing "Blest and Happy Is He," page 45 of the United Church of God hymnal.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

Say: In keeping the Ten Commandments we reap blessings in our life. This Fifth Commandment has a special blessing attached to it.

Ask: Does anyone know what the special blessing is? [Discuss.]

Say: A long life can be a great blessing. Just think about all the wonderful experiences you will have and all the great things you'll get to do.

Ask: What are some ways that we can show honor to our parents? [Discuss.]

Say: Being a good listener and doing the things our parents ask us to do are some ways to show honor too. Listening is essential to the success of the family and for your own success in life as well as the success of our relationship with God.

No Expiration Date

**Kids: Fill this coupon out and give to your parents**

**I honored you today by...**

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No Expiration Date

**Kids: Fill this coupon out and give to your parents**

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# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

Listening is a gift you can give your parents. It is the first step in obeying them.

## **ASK ME...**

After finishing the sheet "A Promise in the Stars" discuss the other blessings God promises to give to his obedient children. Look in Deuteronomy 28:1-13 or Leviticus 26:1-12 if you need help thinking of more blessings.

In contrast, what does God say will be the punishment for disobedient children? Look in Leviticus 26:16-39 and Deuteronomy 28:16-43 if you need help thinking of punishments.

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Use the "Ladder to Successful Listening" this week. Practice the six rules everyday in your conversations with your parents. Not only will you be pleasing and honoring God and your parents by listening, you will also become very smart because when you are listening you are learning.

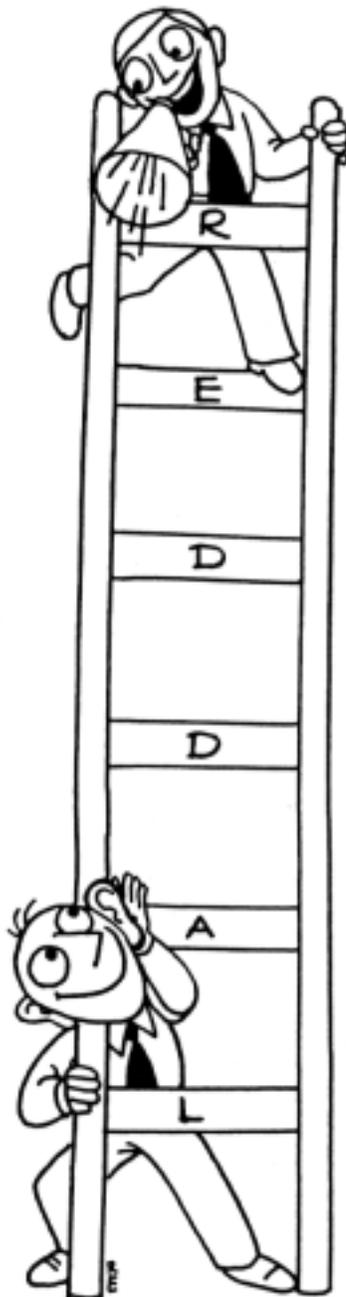
Do the activity "A Promise in the Stars."

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

## USE THE LADDER TO SUCCESSFUL LISTENING

All six rungs of the LADDER are positive steps that will help you concentrate on the person who is speaking to you. Your parents and friends will soon be complimenting you on your ability to listen attentively to them.



*Responsively listen.*

*Express emotion with control.*

*Don't change the subject.*

*Don't interrupt.*

*Ask questions.*

*Look at the other person.*

# A Promise in the Stars

## God's Promise to Abraham

In the book of Genesis we can read about Abraham. God said to Abraham, "I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation" (Genesis 12:2). On the lines below, write the words in the stars in order by number. Then read a wonderful promise God made to Abraham.



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## LISTENING ROADBLOCKS

### ROADBLOCK #1

#### DAN DAYDREAMER

**You'll recognize Dan Daydreamer by his wandering eyes and turning head. Sometimes he will polish or clean his fingernails while someone is speaking to him. Or he will nervously tap a pencil, snap gum, drum his fingers or just let his eyes and mind wander aimlessly around the room. Daydreamers don't get the message, but they do lose friends. Daydreaming blocks communications. Don't be a Dan Daydreamer. Focus your attention on the speaker, especially if they are your parents.**



## LISTENING ROADBLOCKS

### ROADBLOCK #2

#### EDDIE EMOTIONS

**Eddie Emotions is a poor listener. Sometimes he jumps to conclusions before his parents or another speaker has a chance to finish speaking. His emotions get out of control because he thinks Dad or Mom said something he didn't want to hear. He often gets angry or throws temper tantrums. These tantrums won't help communications at all. Keep your cool. Listen with both ears. Resist the urge to overreact to words you don't like. High emotions block listening, another roadblock trap. Try to listen to your parents without getting angry or overly emotional.**



## LISTENING ROADBLOCKS

### ROADBLOCK #3

#### FREDDIE FAKER

Listening is a key to learning, yet many children fake paying attention to their parents or teachers. They pretend to be getting the message, but their minds are on other things. Active listening is hard work, and it takes concentration. Freddie Faker smiles and nods his head. He looks attentive and even looks in his parent's eyes, but his mind is miles away. When the parent asks a question about what was just said, he hasn't heard a word of the instructions. Faking is a waste of time. Avoid this listening roadblock. Pay attention and don't be a faker.



## LISTENING ROADBLOCKS

### ROADBLOCK #4

#### ROGER RAMBLER

**Roger doesn't listen at all. He rambles on and on and on, even while his parents are talking. No one can get a word in when Roger's mouth is constantly open and his ears are stuffed shut. When Dad or Mom finally manage to get a word into the conversation, he changes the subject and keeps rambling on. Roger specializes in one-way communication. He is not interested in anyone but himself, because he never even asks a question. His one-way communication thwarts and blocks the flow of good communication. Stop talking long enough to listen. You can only learn when you are listening. When you are talking, you are not learning. So listen.**



## LISTENING ROADBLOCKS

### ROADBLOCK #5

#### SAM SHIFTY-EYES

**Sam's shifty eyes cause others to doubt if he is honest and sincere. His parents and friends aren't sure they can trust Sam. He never looks people in the eyes when he's talking to them. His eyes shift from side to side and dart around. Most people don't feel like he is listening. Be sure you look into your parents' eyes when they are talking to you or when you are listening to them. Don't let this roadblock stop your friendships with others.**



## LISTENING ROADBLOCKS

### ROADBLOCK #6

STEWART SLOUCH

**Stewart Slouch makes good listening difficult, if not impossible by slouching in his chair or over a table or counter as though he lacks vitamins or sleep. The good listener's posture is alert, whether the listener is seated or standing, and his eyes are concentrated on whoever is speaking, including Dad or Mom. An erect posture communicates interest, aliveness and awareness. So focus on the other person's ideas. Be alert when your father or mother speaks to you and don't slouch.**



## LISTENING ROADBLOCKS

### ROADBLOCK #7

#### TED TIMEWASTER

**Ted just wastes time by letting words go in one ear and out the other. He acts like he is listening to his parents, but since words go right through his head, he never gets the information. You must work at listening. Destroy bad listening habits by being alert and working on developing good listening habits. Concentrate on what the other person is saying to you. Don't waste your time and everyone else's by letting the words in one ear and out the other. This will block your ability to communicate.**

