

“Family Mechanics” - Lesson 1

“God In The Driver’s Seat”

Main Focus:

We must put God first in every part of our families!



Power Verse:

“...But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

- Joshua 24:15



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Put God FIRST In My Family!”

LEADER’S INFO

Keeping God in the driver’s seat of our family is the only way to stay on the right road. Too many families today are steering through life without a map, making decisions based on feelings, culture, or convenience. That always leads to a dead end.

In this lesson, kids will discover that just like a car needs a skilled driver to stay safe, every family needs God leading the way. Through the story of Joshua’s bold declaration — “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!” — children will see that making a decision to put God first is a family’s most important choice.

It’s not about having a perfect family, it’s about having a family that follows God together, no matter what. By choosing to trust God and follow His plan — we will keep Him in the driver’s seat for the journey ahead!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Master Mechanic”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Disco Dave teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Otto Mobile”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Potato Head Race”



Bible Story

“Joshua Leads His Family For God”



Power Verse Video

“...But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

- Joshua 24:15



Call To Action

“God In The Driver’s Seat”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must put God first in every part of our families!



Power Verse:

“...But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

- Joshua 24:15



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Put God FIRST In My Family!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Otto Mobile” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Poato Head Race” Graphic
- Two Potato Heads
- A Table
- Two Small Containers

Bible Story

- “Joshua Leads His Family For God” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “God In The Driver’s Seat” Graphics
- Remote Control Car
- Two Similar Sized Potted Plants (*One Healthy, One Wilted*)

Rewind!

- “Rewind!” Bumper Video
- “Rewind!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Family Flag Print Piece
- Crayons Or Markers
- Various Craft Items To Decorate
- Dry-Erase Board
- Dry-Erase Markers
- Dry-Erase Eraser

“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Master Mechanic”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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Offering Time

Game Time!

“Potato Head Race”

Bible Story

“Joshua Leads His Family For God”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

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Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a brand-new series called “Family Mechanics!” We’re going to learn some really important lessons about how to keep our families strong and running the way God designed them to!

I have a question for you. How many of you really wish you were allowed to drive? (allow response) I’m sure most of you feel that driving would be fun! You could choose wherever *you* wanted to go, and you wouldn’t have to wait on someone else to take you. *But* driving is not as easy as it seems. It takes a lot of studying and practice to learn how to drive a car safely.

When a car is driving down the road, it’s really important who’s sitting behind the wheel. If the wrong person is driving — it can lead to disaster! Well, the same thing is true for our families. We have to make sure that God is the one driving our lives and leading our families every single day.

Let’s check out this video to learn more...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: God doesn’t want us to try and steer our family all by ourselves. He wants to be right in the center — leading us, guiding us, and helping us stay on the right road. When we put Him first, our family is set up for an amazing journey!

You’re going to learn a lot more, today, about putting God in the driver’s seat. Right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow!”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Otto Mobile” *(He is a passionate car enthusiast! He loves ALL things cars and can’t stop talking about them. He is dressed in loud colors, a hat, and sunglasses.)*

Otto: *(Enters running around, making car sounds; holds up a toy car)* Look at this beauty! The only thing faster than my heart when I see this car is a cheetah on a racetrack! Vroom-vroom! Oh, I can’t wait for the sweet day when I am truly behind the wheel of this baby!

Leader: Hey there! It looks like you’re having a wheelie good time with your car! Who are you?

Otto: *(Spinning around)* Oh, I am Otto. Otto Mobile. Before I was born, my parents knew I would love cars, and they were right! Cars are the best! I have a super huge collection. They zoom, vroom, and make my life go into overdrive! Did you hear about the race last weekend? It was tire-ific!

Leader: I did! But you know, Otto, as great as cars are, I was thinking about something important today.

Otto: Important? Is it about turbocharging my engine? Because if it is, I’m all ears! And what can be more important than cars? I would say... NOTHING!

Leader: No, I want to talk about putting God first in our lives. This is more important than cars - more important than anything, actually! This is what we are learning today.

Otto: Putting God first? But I’ve got engine oil to change and tires to polish! How can I even think about that when I’ve got a busy schedule of car shows and collecting?

Leader: Well, let me ask you this: when you’re out in your cars, what’s the one thing that keeps you on track and helps you avoid the detours?

Otto *(Thinking)* Hmmm... my GPS? Without it, I’d be lost in the carpool lane!

Leader: *(Nodding)* Exactly! Just like a GPS guides you on the road, God guides you in life.

Otto: *(Confused)* But I can’t see God like I see the arrow on the map! How does that work?

Leader: *(Smiling)* It’s about faith, Otto. Just like you believe your car will get you where you need to go, you can believe that God will lead you in the right direction.

Otto: *(Scratching his head)* So you’re saying I should rev up my faith engine?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Leader: *(Laughs)* That’s one way to put it! When you put God first, everything else falls into place—like gears in an engine!

Otto: *(Nodding slowly)* Okay, I see your point, but how can I fit that into my car full of fun?

Leader: Think of it like this: your car is amazing, but you wouldn’t forget to put gas in it, right?

Otto: Never! Or it would stall!

Leader: Exactly! Spending time in prayer and reading the Bible is like putting gas in your car. Without it, you can’t go anywhere important.

Otto: So, I need to fuel my faith? Like premium gas for the soul?

Leader: You’ve got it! And just like you can’t rush a fine-tune-up, sometimes it takes time to understand what it means to put God first.

Otto: *(Excitedly)* I see! I can keep talking about cars and still put God first! It’s like a pit stop for my soul!

Leader: *(Smiling)* Exactly! And remember, when you put God first, your life becomes the best ride ever!

Otto: *(Raising his toy car)* Let’s take this journey together! God, cars, and a whole lot of fun!

Leader: That’s the spirit, Otto!

Otto: I need to va-roooooom on outta here! Until next time, I am Otto Mobile! Always use your blinker! Bye now!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Potato Head Race”

Items Needed For Game:

Two “Potato Heads” (*Copyright of The Hasbro Corporation www.hasbro.com*) toys with matching pieces/parts; a table; two small containers (*to hold the pieces/parts*)

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Preparation:

Choose an equal number of boys and girls to play the game. Place the Potato Head heads on the table and place the table on the other side of the room. Give each team a container with the same pieces/parts.

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How To Play:

This is a relay race. When you say, “Go,” each team member must grab a piece/part out of the container, run to the other side of the room, while squatted down so they walk like a Potato Head, place the body part in the correct spot, and then come back and tag the next player. The next person in line will then repeat these steps. This will continue until a team finishes putting their Potato Head together correctly and wins!



Bible Story

“Joshua Leads His Family For God”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Joshua 24:1-24; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is about a man named Joshua. You might remember him as the leader of the nation of Israel who led them in the Battle of Jericho. At the point of our story, Joshua was much older. He knew he needed to give God’s people a very important message. So, he called for a big meeting of all the leaders in Israel.



(*show pic*) The people gathered, but they weren’t sure exactly what Joshua had planned. You can imagine them turning to one another - wondering and guessing what this meeting was all about:



(*show pic*) “Why are we here?” one said. “Maybe Joshua’s about to retire!” another guessed. “I bet he wants to make a new rule!” someone else complained. We don’t know exactly what they said to each other, but I’m sure they wondered what was about to happen.



Joshua stood tall before them - full of passion. In his hand, he held his mighty sword, the one he had carried into many battles. Suddenly, he lifted it high above his head! The leaders immediately grew silent. Everyone stared at Joshua, waiting to hear what he would say.



(*show pic*) Joshua’s voice rang out over the crowd: “Choose today who you will serve! But as for me and my family — **WE WILL SERVE THE LORD!**”

The leaders froze for a moment. You could almost feel the weight of Joshua’s words pressing on their hearts. Slowly, their faces changed. Excitement filled their hearts as they remembered all the great things God had done for them. (*show pic*) One by one, they began to shout: “We, too, will serve the Lord, for He alone is our God!”

The whole group erupted with cheers! It was a powerful moment — a decision that would shape their families, their futures, and their faith. They chose to make GOD the center of their family’s lives.

Every family must make the same decision Joshua and the leaders of Israel made. We must choose to put God in the driver’s seat of our families and say, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!”



Call To Action

“God In The Driver’s Seat”

Materials Needed:

The “God In The Driver’s Seat” graphics; remote control car; two similar sized potted plants (*one healthy, one wilted*)

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “God In The Driver’s Seat”



The Message: (*title slide*)

(*Bring out the remote control car and hold it up*) Have any of you ever been in a car with a TERRIBLE driver?! (*begin driving the car erratically as you continue speaking*) Maybe they were swerving all over the road... Maybe they were going WAY too fast... Maybe they were distracted and were looking at their phones instead of the road. Maybe they almost crashed and you were like, ‘I WANT OUTTA HERE!’” (*pretend you’re panicking in the car*)

There’s nothing worse than having a terrible driver behind the wheel. But if you have a GOOD driver - someone who knows what they’re doing - it feels safe. It feels right. You not only don’t mind riding with a good driver...you really *want* to ride with a good driver. (*put the remote control car away*)

It’s the same way with our families. We need to make sure we have the right person in the driver’s seat. Someone who knows the way. Someone who we can trust. Someone who won’t be distracted or take us the wrong direction. Any guesses on who should always be in the driver’s seat of our family? (allow response) That’s right! GOD! Today, we’re talking about how to put GOD in the driver’s seat of our family! If you want God in the driver’s seat of your family, you should...



Pray Together (*slide*)

Have you ever been riding in the car with someone who thought they knew the way - but they didn’t? (*Pretend to be a stubborn driver*) “Oh, I don’t need directions! I know EXACTLY where we’re going!” And then 30 minutes later... you’re LOST in the middle of nowhere! No gas stations. No signs. Just a whole lot of “Oops, maybe it’s the next turn!””

That’s what life is like when we don’t pray! Prayer is like turning on the GPS for your family. It’s how we ask God for directions. It’s how we stay on the right road. It’s how we avoid crashing into problems we could have avoided!

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

Families that pray together are families that stay on the right road. It’s not about using fancy words. It’s just talking to God — anytime, anywhere, about anything. Pray when you’re scared. Pray when you’re thankful. Pray before eating a meal. Pray when you’re getting ready for bed. Prayer keeps us connected to the ultimate Navigator - God! And best of all - He *never* gets lost.

So, pray together...but also...

Grow Together *(slide)*



Let me ask you something - what happens if you have a plant, but you **NEVER** water it? *(allow response, then hold up the wilted plant)* Exactly! It shrivels up! It gets weak! It can’t grow! Plants need water, sunlight, and care to grow strong. And guess what? Our families are just like that.

If we want our families to be strong and healthy, we can’t just *hope* it happens. We have to stay connected to God - and we have to do it **TOGETHER**. One of the biggest ways we grow is by coming to church together. Not just when we feel like it. Not just when it’s easy. Church isn’t just another building - it’s where we worship, where we learn, where we grow closer to God and each other!

(Show the wilted plant.) This is what happens to families who let things keep them away from God’s House. They get weak. They miss out on all the strength, wisdom, and encouragement God wants to give them. *(Show the healthy plant)* But **THIS** is what happens when families say, “No matter what - we’re going to church! We’re growing together!” And it’s not just about Sundays. Families grow stronger when they study the Bible at home, too. It’s like watering your family’s faith roots so they grow deeper and stronger every single day.

So, pray together, grow together, and...

Serve Together *(slide)*



When God is in the driver’s seat of your family, you find ways to serve — at church, in their neighborhood, even at school. It might be helping clean up after a service, visiting someone who’s sick, helping a neighbor with their yard, or even standing up for someone who’s being treated badly at school. Serving together makes your family stronger and shows the world what God’s love looks like. Families who serve together shine God’s love everywhere they go!

If you want to make sure God is in the driver’s seat of your family - choose to pray together, grow together, and serve together. Just like Joshua - you can say with a loud voice, “*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!*”

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Lead the children in a prayer of dedication of their family to God. Pray that God will always be the most important thing in their family and that He will help them pray together, grow together, and serve together!



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Will Put God FIRST In My Family!”

2. Who was the main character in our Bible Story, today?

Answer: Joshua

3. In our Bible Story, what did Joshua ask the leaders to do?

Answer: Gather For A Meeting

4. Who did Joshua declare his family would serve?

Answer: The Lord

5. Did the other leaders agree to do the same?

Answer: Yes

6. According to our lesson today, families should “_____ Together.”

Answer: Pray

7. According to our lesson today, families should “_____ Together.”

Answer: Grow

8. According to our lesson today, families should “_____ Together.”

Answer: Serve

9. True or False: It doesn’t matter who is in the driver’s seat.

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Joshua 24:15