Discussion Questions

1. Why did Moses’ mother put him in a basket? (Pharaoh wanted to kill all the baby boys.)

2. Who watched over the basket as it floated down the river? (Moses’ sister, Miriam.)

3. What did we learn about Moses’ mom? (She didn’t give up, even when things were scary.)

4. What happened to Moses? (Pharaoh’s daughter found him, took him to the palace, and made him her son.)

5. What are some hard things that God has helped you with? (Allow responses.)

God Encounter

Materials: Broken toy, can of vegetables.

(Show the toy.) Have you ever broken one of your toys or found it had been broken by someone else? (Allow responses.) Sometimes it’s hard not to have a bad attitude when this happens. (Show the can of vegetables.) Have you ever been told to eat something you didn’t want to eat? (Allow responses.) It’s hard not to have a bad attitude when you are told you must eat your green beans. These attitudes don’t help us. They usually make our situation more difficult.

Let’s remember that we can ask God to help us have a good attitude when we face obstacles or things we don’t want to do. For instance, we could ask someone to help us fix the broken toy and we could choose to obey and eat our vegetables. God is happy when we have a good attitude and obey Him. Let’s pray and ask God to help us have a good attitude in every kind of situation. Let’s also ask Him to help us overcome obstacles we face in life. God loves us and wants to help us. (Lead children in prayer, asking God to help them have good attitudes and overcome obstacles. Allow volunteers to pray aloud for specific situations.)
The Jesus Factor

When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied, “My time has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

—John 2:3-5

Materials: Band-Aids, children’s aspirin, sunscreen, cold pack.

Sometimes we face things that we can’t fix on our own, even with a good attitude. We need Band-Aids (show Band-Aids) to cover cuts and scratches. We take some medicine (show children’s aspirin) when we don’t feel good. We put sunscreen on (show sunscreen), so we don’t get sunburned. We put a cold pack on top of a bump (show cold pack), so it won’t swell.

When we are faced with a bad situation or a situation we can’t do anything about, it’s important to look at it as Mary did. She was at a wedding where they were serving wine to drink. A problem arose when there was not enough wine for all of the guests. In those days it was considered bad manners to run out of food or drink for your guests. But Mary didn’t panic or get angry. She knew that Jesus would be able to overcome what seemed like a bad situation. She trusted Jesus, and the Bible says that Jesus actually turned water into wine at the wedding! This is a great example of overcoming an obstacle. When we face obstacles we know that, the same way Jesus helped turn something bad into something good, **God will help us overcome any obstacles in our lives** because He loves us.

Small Group Activity

Puzzle

Materials: Several puzzles for kids to put together in small groups.

Have you ever needed help to put a puzzle together? Today we are going to form teams and put puzzles together. As you work on the puzzle, remember to treat each other kindly. *(Help kids form teams of three or four. Kids put puzzles together.)*

Was it hard to work together and put your puzzles together? Did you sometimes want to put a piece in a place where your teammates didn’t want you to put it? It is difficult to work as a team and still see opportunities to be kind.

When others don’t see things our way or don’t want to do things our way, we sometimes get angry or frustrated. But God wants us to know that when we are faced with a challenge or problem, we can choose to have a good attitude. We don’t have to let our feelings tell us how to act. We can make a bad situation better if we ask God to show us ways to work through hard situations. God loves us and wants us **help us overcome obstacles in life**.

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 7 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from Take-Home Challenges CD-ROM.

Hand out this week’s Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind them that you’ll ask for responses during next week’s K.I.D.S. Church service.
Discussion Questions

1. Why were the Hebrew baby boys to be killed? (Pharaoh feared the boys would grow up and the Hebrew army would grow stronger and kill the Egyptians.)

2. Why didn’t the midwives kill the babies as told? (They feared God more than Pharaoh.)

3. What did Moses’ mother do with Moses? (Put him in a basket in the river.)

4. Who watched after him? (Miriam, his sister.)

5. Who found him in the river? (The princess.)

6. Moses’ mother chose to look for a way to save him rather than give up and see him be killed. Have you ever been tempted to give up, but instead kept going? Did things work out? What happened? (Allow responses.)

God Encounter

Materials: Calendar, marker, 16-oz. bottle of soda that is half full.

_Show calendar._ How many of you like it when you have a vacation at school? Let’s pretend you have a week of vacation from school. I always loved it when I could see the whole week ahead of me! It’s easy to be excited and positive at the beginning of the week, isn’t it? _Put an X on Monday through Thursday._ Okay, now how do you feel? Four days of our vacation are over. _Allow responses._ You can either be bummed out and think your vacation is more than half over, or you can say wow, I still have a long weekend left! It’s all about your attitude.

_Show the soda bottle._ What do you see here? _Allow responses._ You either see this bottle half empty or half full, it’s up to you. If you see it half full, you are looking at the bottle in a positive way. Let’s take some time right now to pray and ask God to help us keep a good attitude in every kind of situation, big or small. Remember that God will help you overcome every obstacle in life, even when the obstacle is your own attitude!
The Jesus Factor

When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied, “My time has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” —John 2:3-5

Materials: Instruction booklets for various toys, electronic gadgets, or games.

Jesus, His mother, Mary, and His disciples attended a wedding party. The hosts of the party ran out of wine. In Bible times it was considered very bad manners to run out of food or drinks for your guests. Mary looked beyond this obstacle and saw an opportunity to show how much she trusted Jesus. She was so confident in Jesus and His ability that she told the servants to do whatever He told them to do. Jesus ended up turning some water into wine. And it was the best they had ever had!

(Pass out the instruction booklets and allow children to browse through them.) What kind of information is in these booklets? (Allow responses.) What if a game, gadget, or toy that you owned wasn’t working? What would you do? (Allow responses.) You could throw it away. Or you could pout and cry because it wasn’t working. Or you could look to see if you had done everything the instruction booklet told you to do to make it work. You could read or ask an adult to help you make sure you had tried everything you could to make it work.

When we are confronted with a bad situation, we can choose to look at it in a positive way as Mary did. We can pray and trust that God will help us overcome obstacles. And one more thing: Be ready, as the servants were, to do all that Jesus tells you to do!

Small Group Activity

Close-Up

Materials: Several magnifying glasses, nature items that have texture and small details, including a leaf.

(Show leaf and ask kids to tell you what they see [color, shape, etc.]. Do the same with the other nature items.) You have described each of these things very well. But did you really see everything about these items? (Put the items on a table and have children take turns looking at them using magnifying glasses.) From far away we could only see the big details on our nature items. But what did you see when you looked at the same items through the magnifying glasses? (Allow responses.) Yes, more details: things you couldn’t see before.

It’s the same with situations in our lives. Sometimes it is difficult to see opportunities when there are a lot of obstacles in the way. We might think there is nothing good to see. The magnifying glass helped us to see things that we couldn’t see from far away. We can apply this to situations in our lives, too. Prayer, like a magnifying glass, can help us see things that we sometimes miss when we are looking at a bad situation. We can ask God to show us opportunities to help ourselves or others each time we face an obstacle. God can reveal things that we might have missed.

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 7 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from Take-Home Challenges CD-ROM.

Hand out this week’s Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind them that you’ll ask for responses during next week’s K.I.D.S. Church service.
Discussion Questions

1. Why did Pharaoh kill only the baby boys? (*The boys would serve in the Hebrew army and might grow up to fight against and kill the Egyptians.*)

2. How long did Moses’ mother hide him before putting him in the river? (*Three months.*)

3. What did Miriam do? (*Watched Moses from a distance while he was in the river.*)

4. Who was allowed to care for Moses until he grew up? (*Moses’ mother.*)

5. Did you ever face an obstacle that you thought you couldn’t overcome, but did? What did you do? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Pencil and paper for each child, clear glass half filled with water.

(*Pass out paper and pencils. Show glass of water.*) I want you to look at this glass of water and write down what you see. Don’t tell anyone what you are writing. (*Children write, then read their descriptions.*) There is a saying that you either see a glass that is half filled with water as half empty or half full. A positive attitude sees it half full and concentrates on what’s there, not what’s missing.

We face obstacles every day, and they defeat us if we let them. It’s up to us to choose to have a good attitude and look for ways to overcome the obstacles. If we focus on the blessings God has given us and not the obstacles that are in our way, *God can help us overcome those obstacles in life.* We must trust that God is working for us in every situation. Let’s pray silently, thanking God for all He has done for us. Ask Him to help you in any hard situation you may be facing, and ask Him to help you to look for opportunities to overcome obstacles.
When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied, “My time has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”
—John 2:3-5

Materials: Container filled with water.

(Show the container of water.) Can anyone make this water become wine? Can you make it become anything but water? In this verse, Jesus, His mother, and His disciples were attending a wedding celebration. During the celebration, it was discovered that all the wine was gone. This was a very bad mistake. In Bible times it was considered bad manners to run out of food or drink at a party. Jesus’ mother told Him about the situation. She was confident that Jesus would and COULD take care of it, so she instructed the servants to do anything He said. Jesus told the servants to fill all the water pots to the top with water. When the water was poured out, the guests discovered the pots were no longer filled with water, but with the finest wine they had ever tasted!

Jesus’ mother did not see an impossible situation. She did not know how Jesus would take care of this obstacle, but she knew He would take care of it and Jesus did not disappoint her. Jesus always hears our problems and He knows what to do, no matter how difficult the situation seems. Don’t see the obstacle as impossible. Wait with expectancy and excitement to see what He will do! One thing though, be ready to do anything He asks you to do.

Situations:

1. There is a big school project. You are assigned to work with someone who has made fun of you because you are a Christian.
2. You are asked to take care of your little brother or sister while your parents go out and you will miss going to a slumber party your friend is having.
3. Your best friend has been hanging out with some other kids who secretly drink beer and smoke cigarettes.
4. A bully has been targeting you and keeps stealing your lunch money. You are afraid to say anything about it.

( Divide kids into four groups and give each group one of the “Attitude Obstacles” situations. Have kids talk about ways they could display good attitudes in their given situation. Then have kids make up skits showing a positive response to their situation. Circulate through the groups and assist kids as needed. Have groups perform their skits.)

Every day we make choices about how we will respond to situations we face. It’s important for us to ask God to help us find ways to overcome obstacles. We can look for opportunities to help others and affect people with a positive attitude. Then they will see that God will help them overcome obstacles in life, too.

**Small Group Activity**

**Attitude Obstacles**

**Materials:** “Attitude Obstacles” handout from Take-Home Challenges CD-ROM, pens.

**Preparation:** Print the “Attitude Obstacles” handout and cut apart the situations.

**Take-Home Challenge**

**Materials:** Lesson 7 Ages 11-12 Take-Home Challenge from Take-Home Challenges CD-ROM.

Hand out this week’s Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind them that you’ll ask for responses during next week’s K.I.D.S. Church service.