



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Series: Building Christian Character  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 39

# Being Obedient

**Primary Scripture:** Ephesians 6:1-4 and Matthew 21:28-32

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 6:1, “Children, obey your parents because you are Christians. This is the right thing to do.”

## How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to learn to obey God, but also their parents, teachers, and other authority figures. It is essential to Christian character. However, obedience is hard anytime we want to do something other than what has been asked of us. It is at such times that each individual needs to be aware of how important simple obedience is. Yet, the essence of a Christian's obedience is that it is a response prompted by Christ's love and forgiveness. That is how God empowers us to obey him.

## How does Jesus fill this need?

**Jesus for us:** Jesus is obedient even to the point of death on the cross. Our obedience could never earn our salvation. Jesus' obedience already has.

**Jesus in us:** Because Jesus has been completely obedient to the Father, he gives us that same power when we are in a relationship with him. We can obey God because of the love he poured out to us.

**Jesus through us:** We are called to be a light to the world. We are to be distinctively different from the worldly values around us. As we obey God (and godly authority), our lives testify to God's glory.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

Read Matthew 4:10b:

**Jesus says, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him."**

Ask the kids if they have ever said, "We're number one" and held up their hand, pointing "number one." Demonstrate. (Optional, hold up a large foam hand pointing out number one or a similar prop.)

Regardless of the prop, make this point.

**We often refer to certain teams or people as number one. God wants us to know, though, that there is one who is above everyone else. There is only one above all number ones. Who is that? Right. It is God. He commands us to worship him as the highest and best in the whole universe. He is the highest and best because he is God, the Father, who made us... God, the Son who gave his life for us... and God, the Holy Spirit who comes to live in our lives. Let's obey Jesus' words and worship him.**

Ask the kids what it means to obey. A typical answer is, "To do what someone else tells you." Then pursue the question,

**Who gets to tell you what to do? Can another friend or a younger brother tell you what to do? No. We are called to obey people that God has placed over us, like our parents, our teachers, or our**

**pastors. Most important, we are to obey God and obey what he tells us in his word.**

**Here is what God's word says about obeying him by obeying our parents.**

Read Ephesians 6:1-4. Then say:

**Since we are talking about obeying today, let's obey God by doing something right now that he would want us to do. What do you think God would want us to do right now?** (*Worship, remember what Jesus has done for us, pray, remember the Sabbath to keep it holy, etc.*)

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

Invite a child up for an interview. Ask the child to name one thing that he does not like doing, but that his parents tell him he must do. Help all the children relate to the challenge of obeying when we want to do something different than what we are asked to do.

**Sometimes when we don't like to do what is asked of us, we will disobey. That is wrong. How does God help us to obey our parents or to obey him?**

Take the child and pretend to force the child to do what you have told him/her. For example, you could feign an arm-twisting behind the back. (Be sure to do it very gently so there is no possible way the child could be injured.) Or you could physically hold and move the child to do what he/she has been asked to do. (Again, this is just pretend.)

**The truth is that God does not try to force us to obey in this way. If this were so, we would only be obeying on the outside. On the inside, in our hearts, we would be very angry.**

**God is interested in more than our obedience on the outside. He wants us to be obedient in our attitudes as well. Do you know how God helps us obey? He helps us want to obey him by giving us Jesus, who can live in our lives. He changes our hearts by forgiving us so that we want to obey him, and so that we want to not sin again.**

**God says this, “If you love me you will keep my commandments. You will obey me.” He helps us love him by first loving us. Let’s pray.**

Confess the types of sins that kids might have recently referred to as areas of disobedience. Thank God for the obedience of Jesus, who went to the cross to die for our sins so we could be forgiven. Because of this forgiveness, ask God to help us better obey him and the people he has given authority over us.

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Have kids come forward and put their offerings in the basket. Then, show a ticket, or something similar to a ticket, that might be used to gain admission to a movie. Say:

**To go to a movie, one must purchase a ticket. That is the rule, and one must obey the rules to get into the movie. But, we want to go somewhere greater than a movie. We want to go to heaven after we die. Let’s imagine this ticket as a ticket to get into heaven. How much does this ticket cost? Should we take today’s offering and see if we can pay for this ticket?**

Briefly count the offering, and ask the children if that is enough to pay for the ticket into heaven. Obviously, it is not.

**The blood of Jesus purchased our ticket to heaven. That means we have the ticket given to us for free if we believe in Jesus.**

**Why then do we give our offering? Because it is a way to say thank you to Jesus for paying such a high price for our admission into his heavenly home.**

Review your current offering/mission project and how close you are to reaching your goal.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### Play “Simon Says.”

*This can be a very challenging game if the person up front does something different than what he tells the kids to do. Also, the faster the leader speaks and moves, the more difficult the game can become. This is especially fun for kids when the game is made challenging in these ways.*

Teach the learning point of this game:

**God asks us to obey him. The perfect example of how to obey him is seen in the life of Jesus. If we cannot keep up with showing the kind of love that he shows, we have forgiveness so that we can start over and try again.**

## Bible Reading:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

### Part 1

*Props needed: funny glasses/nose, a farmer’s hat and gardening tool or water sprinkler*

Read Matthew 21:28-32 while having two kids act out the parts of the two sons. As the first son says he won’t go, put some kind of funny face on him to communicate disobedience and foolishness. As the other son says he will go, put a farmer’s hat on him and give him a gardening tool or water sprinkler. As the reading progresses, change props from one brother to the other. Ask the question as Jesus did:

**Which of the two did what the father wanted?**

**Obedience is not just saying you will do the right thing, but doing it. Sometimes people go to church just to try to make it look like they do the right things to follow God. Obedience is following Jesus every day because you love him, not just trying to look good on Sundays.**

Part 2

Show the video from Focus on the Family: *McGee and Me*, “*Do the Bright Thing*” (25 minutes)—order from: <http://www.visionvideo.com/111-11111111-1111111 393.vhtml>



## **Witness and Tell:**

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Have kids tell about times they obeyed their parents or teachers even when they didn't want to. How did they feel when they did the God pleasing thing?

## **Prayer:**

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- a flag with “We’re number one” on it or a large foam hand pointing out number one

## *Offering:*

- a ticket, or something similar to a ticket, that might be used to gain admission to a movie

## *Bible Reading:*

- funny glasses/nose
- a farmer’s hat and gardening tool or water sprinkler
- a video from Focus on the Family: *McGee and Me*, “*Do the Bright Thing*” (25 minutes)—order from: [http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111\\_393.vhtml](http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_393.vhtml)

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