

A Character study:

Obedience

“And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17

This character study is designed to illustrate this character trait using verses, stories, consequences of sin and blessings of obedience found through out the Bible.

Each day you will learn a verse, read a story where this sin is illustrated, then discuss the consequences of this sin followed up by the blessings of obedience. I encourage discussion with your children on ways they can help one another to stay free from this sin.

Resources: This study was created using references from the Bible and the book “For Instruction in Righteousness” by Pam Forster

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Obedience

Memory Verse:

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Day 1

What is Obedience? A willful submission to authority.

What does willful mean? The desire to perform an act.

What kind of attitude does God want from us in regards to obedience? When we're obeying God's Word, we do it out of desire to please God. Therefore our attitude is to be positive!

Story:

Daniel 3: Read the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Blessings of Obedience:

Daniel 3:25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Daniel 3: 28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Daniel 3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Consequences of sin:

What do you think would have happened if Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had disobeyed God in this situation?

Questions:

1. Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the idol?
2. Do you think they were afraid to stand up to the king?
3. Do you think we should choose to obey even when it's hard?

Challenge:

We have a choice between blessing and cursing, reward and discipline. We can choose to obey or disobey. Today our challenge is to obey even when it's hard and even when someone else is not choosing to obey. We are responsible for our own actions, not those of others.

Activities for the week:

1. Write the word "Obedience" on a few 3x5 cards and decorate. Then tape them in areas of your home where you will see them and be reminded to obey.
2. Daily Quiet Time: Take time out each morning when you wake, at lunch and before dinner to go up to your room and have quiet time with God...asking Him to continue helping you to obey.
3. Take a sheet of colorful construction paper and write the word Obedience on it. When your child is caught being obedient, give them a sticker for their sticker sheet...reward them at the end of the week

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Day 2

Story:

Genesis 6-8 Noah chooses to obey God, he and his family are spared

Blessings of Obedience:

Genesis 8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

Genesis 8:21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans..."

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 8:21-23 Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth.

Questions:

1. What do you think other people thought of Noah as he built the ark?
2. What do you think would have happened to Noah if he had disobeyed God's command to build the ark?
3. Would Noah's disobedience have had any consequences on his family?
4. How would Noah's disobedience have affected his relationship with God?

God Loves You:

Heb 12:5-6 My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

We Love You:

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him

Challenge:

Today's challenge is to be obedient even if others are choosing not to. Remember, we are responsible for our own actions, not those of others. However, we can also choose to help our brothers/sisters by advising them to obey as well.

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Day 3

Story:

Genesis 22: Abraham told to sacrifice Isaac

Blessings of Obedience:

Genesis 22:12 Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." *(Isaac was spared)*

Genesis 22:16-18 "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me."

James 2:1-24: Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought his works, and by works was faith made perfect? Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. *(Abraham's faith was perfected when he obeyed God.)*

Other instances of Abraham's obedience:

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Acts 7:3-8 The Lord commanded Abraham to go to the land he would show him.

Questions:

1. What do you think would have happened if Abraham had chosen to disobey God?
2. Did you notice that Isaac was also obedient to his father's commands?
3. Considering the blessing given to Abraham's descendants, would his disobedience to God in this situation have affected anyone else?

Challenge:

Today's challenge is to be obedient even if others are choosing not to. Remember, we are responsible for our own actions, not those of others. However, we can also choose to help our brothers/sisters by advising them to obey as well.

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Day 4

Story:

Daniel 1 Daniel resolves to be undefiled.

Blessings of Obedience:

Daniel 1:9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel

Daniel 1:17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Consequences of sin:

What do you think would have happened if Daniel had defiled himself with drink and food?

Questions:

1. Have you noticed that in each instance of obedience to God, He is glorified, and unbelievers are turned towards God.
2. Do you think that our obedience to God gives Him glory? How? (*We are a light in this world, people will judge God by observing our actions*)

Activity:

How do we continue in obedience? Stay in the Word daily.

Psalms 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Give your child a tree or plant to take care of, place this verse on it!

Obedience Card: Add the obedience apple to your character tree! (*If you haven't already, put up a tree using brown and green construction paper. Each week you will add a new apple to the tree*)

Review Questions:

1. How does our obedience effect others?
2. How would our disobedience effect others?
3. How does disobedience effect our relationship with God and with our parents?

Application:

1. What does obedience look like in our home?
2. How can we practice obedience?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Please help me to have a heart of obedience. I ask that you would give me the strength to obey joyfully and willingly so that I can glorify You. I thank you and praise you for all you've done for me. Amen.



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Additional Verses

Parents are called to discipline: Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Romans 1:30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

John 13:17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Proverbs 2:22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

Isaiah 1:20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

Proverbs 1:8-9 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Proverbs 28:9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable. (Teach child to confess and repent of sin so that his fellowship with God will not be interrupted.)

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.