

Love and Obedience

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 19:16-22

Bible Truth: Because I love Jesus, I will obey His commands.

Bible Story: Matthew 19:16-22

Bible Verse: “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (John 14:21, NIV 1984)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Obedience,” a puppet play or skit

Preparation

Write the word “OBEDIENCE” in big, red letters on a poster board. Display it where it can be easily seen in the room. Practice the skit with a volunteer using a puppet or ask the volunteer to dress up in a funny costume.

Materials
poster board
red marker
puppet or a person dressed
up in a funny costume

Presentation

Teacher: **Joseph, where are you? I know you are here today!**

Joseph: (Comes out from the back of the stage) **Hello! It’s good to be here!**

(Joseph looks at the poster with the word “OBEDIENCE” on it and points at it while talking.) **What does it say there?**

Teacher: (Looks at the word.) **Oh! You mean the word O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E.**

Joseph: **Yes! That word! What does it mean?**

Teacher: **OBEDIENCE**

Joseph: **I heard you say it, but what does it mean?**

Teacher: **Well, it means that you obey or do what someone asks you to do.**

Joseph: **Oh! So obedience means to listen. Right?**

Teacher: **Obedience means much more than listening with your ears to what someone else is saying. In order to obey, you need to listen and do.**

Joseph: **What?**

Teacher: **It's like when your parents ask you to make your bed or to brush your teeth. If you don't do it, then you DISOBEY your parents. Do you understand?**

Joseph: **Of course I do! My mom always tells me that when I obey or do what she asks me to do...(Joseph starts to act timidly.)**

Teacher: **Yes...**

Joseph: **Well, she says that when I obey, I show that I love her.** (Joseph covers his face with his hands.)

Teacher: **Joseph, why do you think she feels that way?**

Joseph: **Well, when I do what she asks me to do, she knows that I'm listening to her and that I think what she's saying is very important.**

Teacher: **Joseph, I'm glad that you've said that, because Jesus said the same thing.**

Joseph: **Awesome! Now I talk like Jesus did! You will have to start listening to me!**

Teacher: **Don't take it that far, Joseph! I have a Bible verse and story to share with you. Ok?**

Joseph: (Joseph walks towards the back of the stage. He turns around and says,) **Ok! I'll be right here listening.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 14:21

Preparation

Write John 14:21 on a piece of poster board.

For the memorization activity, cover white sheets of paper with waxed paper. Trace John 14:21 on the waxed paper, pressing hard with a good sharpened pencil. Prepare a sheet for each child in your class. (Instead of using the wax paper, you can also write the verse on each piece of paper with a white crayon.)

Explanation

Read John 14:21 and explain that this Bible verse tells us two things we must do to love Jesus. Ask: **Who can read the verse carefully and find the two things we must do to**

Materials
poster board
markers
pencil
white paper
wax paper or white crayon
watercolor paints or colored water
small paint brush

love Jesus. Choose a child to come and circle the two phrases, “has my commands” and “obeys them.” Ask: **Now, who can find in this verse the three things that show what happens to each one of us who loves God?** Choose a child to go to the front and underline the three phrases, “loved by my Father,” “I too will love them,” and “will show myself to them.”

Say: **What are some ways Jesus might show Himself to you when you obey Him?** If the children aren’t able to answer this question, give them some suggestions such as, “He helps me when I ask Him.”

Memorization Activity

Give each child watercolor paints or a cup of colored water, a paint brush, and a sheet of paper on which you wrote John 14:21, according to the instructions under the preparation section. Say:

Today’s verse has been written on the sheet of paper I just gave you, but you will not be able to see it unless you obey my directions.

Give specific instructions for the children to follow:

1. Dip your brush into the watercolor paint or colored water.
2. Brush across the paper several times until words show up.
3. Put your paper in a place where it can dry.

When all of the children have finished, read the verse together.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: “The Young Man Who Didn’t Love Enough,” Matthew 19:16-22

Preparation

Read and study Matthew 19:16-22.

On a poster board, write the commandments that the young man in today’s Bible story obeyed:

- You shall not murder.
- Love your husband or wife.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not lie.
- Honor your father and mother.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

Materials
Bible
poster board
markers
2 Bible costumes

A week prior to this session, ask two young people to prepare the following skit. Dress them in Bible costumes. Have one person act as Jesus and the other person as the young man. Using the commandments written on the poster board, the young man should mark off the ones he has obeyed as they are mentioned.

Presentation

Say: **Many of us claim to love Jesus. But, do we love Him enough to do everything He asks of us? Our Bible story today is about a young man who loved Jesus, but...did he love Him enough?**

Young man: **Jesus, I've tried all day to get close enough to you to ask you a question.**

Jesus: **Yes, what is your question?**

Young man: **What do I need to do to have eternal life, to live with God forever?**

Jesus: **If you want to have eternal life, you need to keep the commandments.**

Young man: **What commandments?**

Jesus: **Don't murder; love your wife; don't steal; don't lie; honor your father and mother; love your neighbor...**

Young man: **Jesus, I have obeyed each one of these commandments. Is there anything else I need to do?**

Jesus: **Yes. If you desire to obey me completely and perfectly, sell all you have and give the money to the poor. By doing this, you will have treasures in heaven. After you do this, come and follow me.**

Young man: **But Jesus...Jesus...(He starts to walk away and speak to the crowd) I really would like to follow Jesus. I would love to have eternal life. But...I have so many things. There's no way that I could sell everything I have. Where would I live? What would I eat? What clothes would I wear? Jesus and His followers don't have a place to call home. I just can't sell everything.**

Say: **The young man thought he loved Jesus, but He didn't love Jesus enough to obey. He loved his money and his possessions more than he loved Jesus. He couldn't trust Jesus to take care of him. He only wanted to obey Jesus when it was easy for him, not when it was hard. When we love Jesus, we will obey what He asks us to do, even if it is hard.**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Game, "Obedience: Easy or Hard?"

Preparation

Make two signs, one that says "easy" and one that says "hard." Attach the signs to opposite sides of the room.

Materials
paper
markers

Presentation

Explain to the children that we need to obey Jesus even when it is hard. Read aloud the scenarios listed below, asking the children to decide if it would be easy or hard to obey in these situations. They should stand by the sign that indicates their choice.

1. Your mom asks you to turn off the television and go clean your room. Is it easy or hard to obey?
2. Your dad has given you 10 minutes to read before bed. You know you should read your Bible, but you really want to finish your story book. Is your choice easy or hard?
3. Your little brother just wrote all over your math homework with a black marker, and now you have to re-do it. Your parents remind you that God wants you to forgive him. Is this easy or hard to forgive?
4. You are spending the night at a friend's house. Your friend wants you to watch a movie that you know your parents have said you are not allowed to watch. You know you should say no. Is this choice easy or hard?
5. You received \$10 as a birthday present. You know that the Bible teaches you to give \$1 of the money back to God as a tithe. Is it easy or hard to give God some of your money?

Say: **Some of these things were easy for you and others were hard. Each of these situations illustrates a way that you can be obedient to Jesus. He has asked you to obey your parents, love those who treat you badly, spend time reading your Bible, and tithe your money. When you do each of these things, you are showing Jesus that you love Him.**

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Ask the children to write or draw one way that they are going to be obedient to Jesus this week. Say a prayer asking God to help the children be obedient to His Word.

Materials

paper
pencils
crayons