

I WANNA BE LIKE JESUS

LESSON 4: AN OBEDIENT CHILD

This lesson will show how Jesus was obedient to His Father's Will, even unto death. If we want to be just like Jesus, we must also be obedient to the Will of God and behave according to His commands.

TOPICS

Choices, Behavior, Knowing Jesus, Obedience, Pleasing God

AS KIDS ARRIVE (7 minutes)

Who Should We Obey? (Activity)

WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)

“Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ” Ephesians 5:2a NLT

As the children continue to memorize this verse, discuss what it means to be FILLED with love. Then ask the children to give examples of what Jesus did that we should do too.

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story about Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

What do you think of when you hear the word obedient? Do you think of having to do things you really don't want to do? Do you think of rules? Being obedient is not always easy, but being obedient to God is always the right thing to do. In our Bible story today, we will see how Jesus was obedient to the Will of God. Although it meant a lot of pain and suffering, He still wanted to do God's Will because of His great love for us.

Read Mark 14:32-42 (Garden of Gethsemane)

Discussion Questions:

True or False:

1. When Jesus went to the olive grove to pray, He took Peter, James, and John with Him. *(True.)*
2. When Jesus went to pray, He was happy and filled with joy. *(False, He was troubled and distressed.)*
3. Jesus prayed to God saying, "please take this cup of suffering away from Me." *(True.)*
4. Although Jesus wanted to be spared the pain of dying, He said, "I want Your Will to be done, not Mine" *(True.)*
5. Jesus wanted Peter, James, and John to stay awake and wait for Him, and they obeyed. *(False, they fell asleep three times because they were so tired.)*
6. Because God loves us so much, Jesus was willing to obey God and give up His own life. *(True.)*
7. When we have a difficult time being obedient, we can pray to God for help just like Jesus. *(True.)*

FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Keep It Up? (Game)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)

Start with prayer, thanking God for all the good things He gives to us. As the children enjoy their snack, ask them what are some things God would like us to do to show we love Him. To help them get started, you can mention talking with Him in prayer, helping other people, getting ready to go to church without fussing, obeying parents, etc.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

Give the children crayons or markers and blank sheets of paper to use while they wait to be picked up. Have them draw different ways they can be obedient children of God. Suggest that they can draw a picture of them going to bed on time or cleaning their room. Perhaps eating vegetables. At the top of each picture, help the children write their name before the phrase: "Obey God!" Example: **"Christina Obeys God!"**

STORY TELLING TIPS

Story telling is an old age art that most any one can do. To become a really good storyteller takes practice. These tips will help you become a better storyteller.

When my child was a preschooler, she loved going to the library with me for story time. She sat quietly and listened to the storyteller as if she were one of the characters in the book the storyteller read. The children giggled, covered their eyes, and yelled in unison. They were excited about the story. Until my daughter attended story time, I did not realize how storytelling could be such a powerful medium to communicate with children. A great story can give a child a realistic picture right from his or her own imagination that lasts forever.

Storytelling can be done effectively through a range of visual and vocal emotions. You don't need to be highly experienced. You only need to read, use your imagination, and make funny, loud, or silly noises. Add some arm movements and face contortions and anyone can be a storytelling star.

The key is to really get into the story yourself as if you were hearing it for the first time as a small child. If you are really adventurous, not minding the adults that may be accompanying their children, you can even dance around the room in an animated fashion.

Children love to interact with the story, so whenever possible, ask the children to take part in the storytelling. For example, children can make rain noises, or they can guess which animals oink and quack.



Change your voice's reflection - loud at times and soft at others, use different voices for different characters.

Storytelling is a great way to teach the children about Jesus without spending a lot of money on supplies or materials. Kid's Sunday School Place has many stories available for usage—all you need is yourself and your commitment to be silly in the name of the Lord.

Other items you can use for a great story time:

Faces of main characters or pictures of objects in the story can be drawn on paper and attached to wooden rulers. Display these props at the appropriate time while telling the story. For example, when you tell the story of Noah, use a paper face for Noah, Mrs. Noah, and an animal or two. These visuals will help keep the children's attention.

Bring a twin size blanket or comforter to place on the floor for the children to sit on. This will make them comfortable and feel like they are in a special setting.

IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES

- **MISSING WORDS**

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN**

With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.

- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS**

Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.

- **SCRAMBLED**

Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.