



BIBLE KIDS

Bible Kids - Week 3 **What Does the Obedience of** **Jesus Mean for You?**

Opening prayer

Prayer for the millennial generation:

Here

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Bob Warning and 412 Church in Menifee.

Closing prayer

INTRODUCTION

- The story within a story

Big Idea: Jesus obeyed God to save you.

Everything Jesus did means something. So, if Jesus obeyed God the Father perfectly, what does that mean for you?

Luke 2:41-43 (NIV)

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

Have you even gotten lost at the mall? Maybe you didn't mean to get lost, but you just got distracted by something that interested you? You weren't being willfully disobedient to your mom or dad, but you just stopped to look at something and the next thing you know, no one's around. That's kind of what happened to Jesus here, but Jesus wasn't afraid of being lost and we'll see why as we read on.

⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

Families used to walk to places in large groups with all their relatives and friends. There would be aunts and uncles and cousins and neighbors all walking together in a large group, so parents didn't worry about their kids because they knew they'd be somewhere in the group and others would be looking out for them.

⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Here is Jesus as a twelve year old boy discussing God with the greatest religious minds of his day and they are amazed by him. Even at twelve years old Jesus amazed people. He

hadn't performed a miracle yet. He hadn't begun his public ministry yet, but they were amazed — the religious leaders of his day, the grownups who taught other grownups about God — they were amazed not only at the understanding of Jesus, but at the answers Jesus was giving them as a twelve year old boy.

Even after Jesus grows up, he is consistently amazing. Wherever Jesus went he amazed people. That's point number one.

#1 - Jesus is the most amazing person who ever walked the earth (even as a twelve year old boy).

⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

His parents didn't know what to think, because Jesus was no ordinary child. They knew that

much. He wasn't like any child who ever lived, so his parents were a little baffled as to how to raise him. How do you raise someone who created you? But at the time they didn't understand everything about who Jesus was or what he came to do. They grew to understand as he grew up.

⁴⁹ **“Why were you searching for me?” he asked.**

In other words, why did it take you three days to figure this out?

“Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

#2 - Even as a twelve year old child, Jesus claimed to be equal with God.

Even as a twelve year old, Jesus claimed that God was his Father. Jesus said he was equal to God even as a child. To claim to be equal with God means that you're saying you're all-powerful, all-knowing and that you define truth and reality.

Jesus is the only reason any of us can now say that God is our Father, but we can't say it in the same way Jesus said it. When we say God is our Father it doesn't mean we're equal with God. It

means we have been adopted by God as his children because of Jesus.

How does God adopt us as his children?

Well, we go back to the day a long, long time ago when we (human beings) turned away from God — because we ran away from home and disobeyed the most loving and wise voice in the universe, we now have to face the consequences of our disobedience. There are consequences for doing wrong.

You know it's wrong to steal, right? Well, what if word got out that you could go to Target and steal whatever you wanted and Target wouldn't do anything? What would happen? You'd go to Target and take whatever you wanted and you wouldn't think much of Target. And Target would soon go out of business.

Now, Target is just a store. They're just selling stuff. But it still matters that they punish shoplifters, people who steal from them, otherwise

people won't think much of Target as a store, because it would show they didn't think much of themselves. It would show they didn't value themselves.

God is the Creator of all things, so when we steal from him — and that's what we've done — we've stolen our lives from him and said, “My life is mine and you can't have it,” when he's the One who gave us life to begin with.

Well, it's more important that God punishes us for stealing our lives from him because he's the most important person in the universe. If he didn't punish us for stealing our lives away, we wouldn't think much of him. God tells us that he never lets the guilty go unpunished and we're all guilty. That's the problem.

I can't step in and say to God, "Hey, let my daughter go and punish me in her place," because I'm guilty too. God would say, "Okay,

you can take her punishment, but who's going to take yours?"

That's why God sent Jesus. Jesus who is God and has always been God, became a baby in Mary's stomach. Then he was born and began to grow up. But again, he was no ordinary child. He was God in human form. He was perfect. He never disobeyed God as his Father. He never stole his life away from God. As a matter of fact, he gave his life away for us.

#3 - Jesus gives his perfect record of obedience to us.

- The Report Card Illustration: obeying your parents, generosity, kindness, telling the truth and putting yourself last.

“Lots of people try to stop being bad. But Christians also stop trying to prove how good they are.”

⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

#4 - Jesus obeyed God to save us.

Jesus didn't primarily obey God to be an example to us, though he is our example in

everything, but Jesus obeyed God to save us, to give us his obedience that we could have a perfect record before God.

Now, we don't obey God to earn his good favor, but we obey God because we have his good favor. Why do we have God's favor? Jesus gave it to us.

Colossians 3:20

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

So, obeying God is never to get on his good side. It's never to gain or earn his favor. We obey because we have his favor, because he is already pleased with us because of Jesus.

And that's what the obedience of Jesus means to you.

“Because you are holy, you are patient, because I am unholy.

Because you are holy, you are kind, because I am unkind.

Because you are holy, you are loving, because I am unloving.

Because you are holy, you are selfless, because I am selfish.”

That is why we need the obedience of Jesus as much as we need his forgiveness.