

October 21st, 2026

DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer. What does it mean to be obedient?
2. Read John 14:15 and John 14:21-24. What does Jesus say our motivation for obedience should be?
3. If we see obedience as an act of love, how does this change how you view God's commandments?
4. Read John 15:10. What connection do you see between staying close to God and doing what He asks?
5. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see often (ex: bathroom mirror, desk, bedroom, backpack, etc).

MEMORY VERSE

"If you love me, you
will keep my
commandments."

-John 14:15

I'M PRAYING ABOUT:

GOD WITH US

DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Matthew 26:36-44. What does Jesus's prayer ("Not as I will, but as you will") reveal about the cost of obedience?
2. What does Jesus's honesty with the Father teach us about how to handle our own desires when they clash with the Father's will?
3. Why is trust in the Father's character necessary when obedience requires a personal sacrifice?
4. Do you have difficulty trusting God's character? In what ways?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Philippians 2:5-8. What does it mean to have the same mindset as Jesus in our daily lives?
2. Read Hebrews 5:8-9. If Jesus was already perfect, what does learning obedience look like in this context?
3. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Why was suffering a necessary part of Jesus's life?
4. How does it encourage and comfort you when things get difficult to know that Jesus also suffered while on earth?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

GOD WITH US

DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Matthew 7:24-27. What is the main difference between the wise and foolish builders?
2. What does this story teach us about simply *knowing* the Bible without *acting* on it?
3. What is one area of your life that you are struggling to put Jesus's teachings into practice?
4. Do you feel you are more like the wise builder or the foolish builder?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Luke 2:41-51 and Philippians 2:5-8. How does Jesus's obedience to his earthly parents connect to his obedience to God?
2. What does this teach us about authority?
3. What did Jesus have to let go of to walk the path of obedience?
4. How does Jesus's total obedience serve both as our substitute (saves us) and our example (calling us to follow)?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

October 21st, 2026

Weekly Bible Reading Plan

- Luke 2:41-52
- Philippians 2:3-7
- Hebrews 5:8
- John 14:15
- Ephesians 6:1-3

Series Theme Verse

Hebrews 1:1-3 NASB | God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. **3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Luke 2:41-52 NASB | Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **42** And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast; **43** and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, **44** but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. **45** When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. **46** Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. **48** When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." **49** And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" **50** But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. **51** And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart. **52** And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Ephesians 6:1-3 NASB | Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), **3** so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

Hebrews 5:8 NASB | Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

John 14:15 NASB | "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Philippians 2:3-7 NASB | Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Ice Breaker

Question: "Would you rather: obedience edition"

Give them two choices and have them move to different sides of the room (each side represents the choices below). Would you rather:

1. Obey immediately without knowing why
2. Know why first, then obey

Have kids share their reasoning for which side they chose. You could also ask which one is harder for them and why.

Connection:

The connection is the fact that sometimes God asks us to obey before we understand the whole picture. Obedience is trusting the One who gave the instruction.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you from the message?
2. Why did Jesus have to become a human?
3. Read Luke 2:51. What does the word submissive mean? Do you have a positive or negative association with that word? Explain your answer.
4. Why would Jesus be submissive/obedient to His parents?
5. Who are you called to obey in your life, according to the Bible? What motivates your obedience (love or obligation)? Explain your answer.
6. Read Luke 2:52. What does it mean to increase in wisdom, stature, favor with God, and favor with man as a follower of Jesus?
7. How have you seen growth or lack of growth in your walk with Jesus through obedience?
8. Do you have any prayer requests?

LEADER GUIDE- Matt S speaking

It was God's plan from the foundation of the world to send Jesus into the world, fully God and fully man, to restore the broken relationship that was fractured by our rebellion. It can be hard to wrap our minds around the fact that God stooped down to earth, wrapping Himself in human flesh (John 1:14), but that's exactly what happened. The Bible says we have all sinned and fallen short of His glorious standard (Rom 3:23), which means nothing we do can pay the penalty for sinning against a holy God. God requires perfection and a sinless human sacrifice to cover and cleanse us from our sins, but no human can meet this requirement. This is why God had to become one of us so that He could do what we couldn't. God had to be fully human yet fully God to experience everything we experience. He set aside His heavenly privileges and submitted Himself to the Father's authority here on earth as a human being to prove that He is the only perfect Man who could redeem us.

This means God grew up in a human body; He learned to walk, talk, and work; He went through puberty; and He obeyed His earthly parents and authorities according to the Father's will. Basically, He experienced everything you do because He loves us, and those who trust in Him are made new and will follow His example of obedience (Philippians 2:3-7).

We don't see much of Jesus' early life in His humanity, but we get a glimpse when He was a teenager. Jewish people customarily traveled to Jerusalem for the feasts, often in large groups called caravans, and spent many days in the city celebrating the festivals and offering sacrifices to the Lord in the temple. Among them were 12-year-old Jesus and His family, but as they traveled home,

His parents could not find Jesus. Frantically, Jesus' parents became worried and rushed back to Jerusalem to find their Son. They found Him in the temple, listening to all the religious bigwigs of the day as they asked questions and talked through the Scriptures. His parents were upset with Jesus and asked Him why He would run off. We know that Jesus did not sin because He is incapable of that, but He responds to them with the first recorded words from His mouth: "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2:50).

After His parents confront Jesus, He submits to their authority because that was the will of His heavenly Father. The chapter ends by saying, "And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." This week, we will learn that even as a 12-year-old young man, Jesus insisted on carrying out His Father's business and being completely obedient to Him. When we accept Jesus as Lord, we are compelled to be about our heavenly Father's business: living obediently to Him. Just as we see Jesus grow in wisdom and stature, we will as we live obediently by submitting to Him.

1. What stuck out to you from the message?

2. Why did Jesus have to become a human?

Leader follow-up:

This is an important question to unpack with the kids, especially since we couldn't unpack it with them last week during War in the Woods. This is a hard concept for our finite mind to understand.

- **Galatians 4:4-5** — To do what we cannot do
- **Romans 8:3-4** — To rescue us
- **Hebrews 4:15** — To sympathize with us

3. Read Luke 2:51. What does the word submissive mean? Do you have a positive or negative association with that word? Explain your answer.

Leader follow-up:

Some of your Bibles may say subject instead of submit/obey.

People hate submitting to authority. Submission means trusting what has been put over me, essentially trusting what/who God has placed over me in my life.

- The New Testament Greek word is *hupotasso*, which means "to put under or arrange under." It is a military word that refers to lower-ranking soldiers arranging themselves under the orders of higher officers. *Submission*, then, comes from acknowledging proper order and authority.
- - <https://www.gotquestions.org/submit-vs-obey.html>

4. Why would Jesus be submissive/obedient to His parents?

Leader follow-up:

This links back to the first question of why Jesus had to become human.

- Jesus kept the law perfectly, modeled humility, and was an example for humanity
 - Jesus' entire life was one of submission and honor to the Father- from keeping God's commandments to recognizing His purpose in life, which put Him on the cross
 - **Ex 20:12**- the 5th commandment, obey your parents, also seen in **Eph 6:1-3**
-
-
-

5. Who are you called to obey in your life, according to the Bible? What motivates your obedience (love or obligation)? Explain your answer.

Leader follow-up:

Once you have worked through who is over us in our lives, take it to the heart posture of why you would obey. Jesus became obedient and subjected Himself to the authority of God because of love. This is why Jesus obeyed earthly authorities: it was God's will for Him to do so. If we say we love Jesus, the same thing should be seen in our lives.

- We are to submit to God's authority
 - obey your parents (**Eph 6:1-3**)
 - obey your employer in the workplace (**Eph 6:5-8**)
 - anyone placed in authority over us (**1 Peter 2:13-14**)
 - to our elders (**1 Peter 5:5**)
 - wives submit to husbands
 - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-submissive.html>
-
-
-

6. Read Luke 2:52. What does it mean to increase in wisdom, stature, favor with God, and favor with man as a follower of Jesus?

Leader follow-up:

Luke 2:52 NASB | 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Hebrews 5:8 says, "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered." Jesus' humanity is seen as he learns and grows as other human beings do. Jesus grew in all areas through obedience motivated by love, and we will grow to maturity through obedience as well. Make sure to distinguish that our obedience to rules does not save us. We are saved by

grace through submitting control of our life to Jesus (Eph 2:8-9), and works and obedience follow from a heart posture devoted to God.

- Grow in wisdom — (seeking and applying Biblical knowledge to life)
- Stature — (physical growth; we have a physical body to steward)
- Favor with God — (Seeking and obeying an intimate relationship with God)
- Favor with man — (Building positive relationships with others focused on building up and serving those around you).

1 Samuel 2:26 is a great Old Testament connection.

- 1 Samuel 2:**26** Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the Lord and with men.

7. How have you seen growth or lack of growth in your walk with Jesus through obedience? What does it look like to grow like Jesus this year?

Leader follow-up:

This piggybacks off the prior question and personalizes it to our own life. We grow through life and experiences, but what are we letting influence/shape us? Your group could write letters to their future selves with goals for how they want to grow this year, then give them back when we finish weekly gatherings.

8. Do you have any prayer requests?

Challenge:

Hand out the homework/digging deeper.

Upcoming Events:

11/7 Fall Community Clean Up
12/9 Youth Christmas Party
12/11 Gingerbread Building Contest
1/26- 1/27 High School Winter Retreat
2/19 Middle School Lock-In