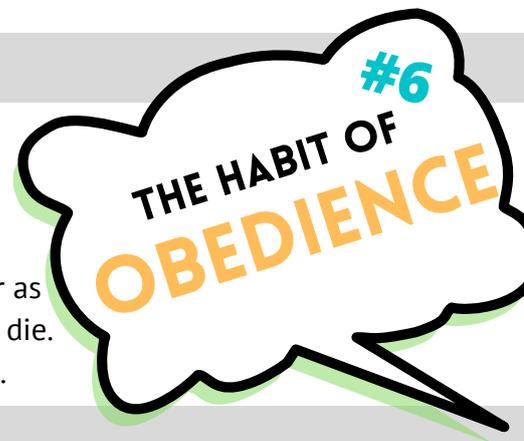


Following Jesus

PARENT CONTEXT

Like last week this passage will cover Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest and eventual crucifixion. During this time, Jesus asks his Heavenly Father if there is any other way to save mankind, and to give him the strength to follow his Father's path. Jesus knew that he would not only suffer physical torture but the spiritual torture of being separated from God the Father as he took on our sins. However, out of his love and perfection, Jesus still chose to die. Thanks be to God that Jesus rose again on the third day to forgive us of our sins.



BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Craft

Make a kite or flower chart with reminders for kids to listen to their parents. Write on the leaves or bows tasks they are often told to do (like sharing, cleaning up, and using kind words).

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to follow Your plans for us and to create habits that will lead us to You. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for us, and help us to follow Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

ASK: Do you always do what your parents say? Did Jesus?

Yes . . . Jesus lived a perfect life on this earth! He followed the Fourth Commandment to "honor your father and mother". He always did what God the Father wanted him to do. Jesus trusted his Father and obeyed him.

ASK: Do you know what obedience is?

Obedience is when you do what you are told to do and show respect for authority. You honor your parents by obeying when they ask you to do something. We honor God when we follow Jesus and obey his teachings. It is not always easy to be obedient. We can want to ignore our parents, or even God. It can also be scary to follow and be obedient to God. Sometimes we have to do things we don't like. There was a time when it was really scary for Jesus to follow his Heavenly Father yet Jesus still did.

ASK: Do you know remember the story from last week? What happened?

We are going to read it one more time, but told in the book of Matthew instead of Luke. **Read Matthew 26:36-46**

ASK: What was the cup that Jesus talked about?

The cup was the responsibility Jesus had to die on the cross for us and our sins. Right before Jesus was taken away to be crucified, he asked his Heavenly Father if this is what His plan was. Even when he was afraid, Jesus knew that it is his Father's plan that is important. Because Jesus was obedient and followed God the Father we are all saved. His death and resurrection is what forgives us of our sins. We are all asked to listen to our parents and listen to God, even when it is hard.

The season of Lent is coming to a close and Holy Week is up next. Holy Week follows Jesus' last days before his death on Good Friday. This is a time of great sadness for the Church as we remember Jesus' death. However, this is not the end of Jesus' story. Three days later he rose from the dead, declaring victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil! As you and your family go into Good Friday remember the hope that awaits us in three days on Easter!

ASK: What are habits we can make that will help us follow God? (Go back to past lessons for ideas. Service, forgiveness, studying Scripture, prayer, praise, and obedience)