



I Can Be Obedient

Encourage each child to follow Jesus's example by being obedient.

Obedience Brings Happiness

When Theodore M. Burton was only five years old, he visited his grandmother on her farm. Theodore liked to play outside at the farm. On this visit Theodore's grandmother warned him not to get too close to the hen with the baby chicks because the hen might think he was trying to hurt her babies. Theodore promised he would not get too close.

But when Theodore saw the fuzzy yellow chicks, he just had to touch one. The chick ran away, but the mother hen ran toward Theodore and pecked his hand with her hard beak. Theodore ran crying to his grandmother.

Theodore's grandmother hugged him until he stopped crying and then explained that the mother hen thought Theodore was going to hurt her babies. She was trying to protect her chicks when she pecked him.

Grandmother sent Theodore outside again, reminding him to stay away from the hen. She warned him not to get too close to the mother goose either, because she also had babies. The mother goose was bigger than the hen, so she might really hurt someone who touched her babies. Theodore promised he wouldn't touch the goslings.

Theodore stayed away from the mother hen. But when he saw the mother goose and her goslings, he moved closer to see them better. Spreading her wings and stretching her neck, the mother goose hissed loudly at him. Theodore was frightened and ran back into the house.

Questions:

- Why did Theodore's grandmother tell him not to go near the hen or the goose?
- How did Theodore feel when he disobeyed his grandmother?
- Why did he feel this way?
- What do you think Theodore learned from this experience?

Tell the children that Theodore's grandmother told him that he had people to protect him, just as the hen and goose protected their babies. Explain that our parents and families and Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ watch over and protect us. They will teach us what to do to be safe and happy. It is important that we learn to obey them.



Obedient

“Obedient.” Have the children say the word aloud with you a few times. Explain that we are obedient when we do what Heavenly Father, our parents, and our leaders want us to do.

Say the word *obey* and repeat it. Explain that to obey means the same as being obedient.

We Can Obey Heavenly Father As Jesus Christ Did

Explain that in the Bible, Jesus Christ taught that it is important to obey Heavenly Father.

Read aloud the following phrases from John 8:28–29:

“I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me. ... For I do always those things that please him.”

Explain that these are *Jesus’ words*, and they mean that Jesus always did what Heavenly Father wanted him to do. He did only the things that he knew would make Heavenly Father happy.

Scripture Story

Read aloud what Jesus Christ said in his prayer:

“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39).

Explain that Jesus did not want to suffer and die if there were another way to help us return to Heavenly Father.

Read aloud what Jesus said next:

“Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39).

Explain that this means Jesus was willing to do what Heavenly Father wanted, even though it was not easy.

Explain that we will not be asked to do something as difficult as what Jesus did; however, we should obey Jesus in whatever he wants us to do.

- What are some things Heavenly Father has asked us to do? (Answers may include pray, love one another, be baptized and confirmed, and be honest.)

We Can Obey Our Parents

Scripture discussion

Explain that if we obey God, we will also obey our parents. (If some of the children in your class do not live with their parents, adjust this discussion as needed. For example, children should also obey their grandparents.) Point out that one of the Ten Commandments tells us to obey our parents.

Read aloud the first part of Exodus 20:12: “Honor thy father and thy mother.” Explain that obeying our parents is one way to honor them.

- Why should we obey our parents?

Story

Kathryn loved to play at her friend April’s house. Kathryn’s mother had said Kathryn could play for one hour. When April’s mother said the hour was up, it was hard for Kathryn to leave. She wanted to finish the game that she and April were playing. Kathryn thought for a moment and decided she would go home as her mother had told her to do. Quickly she said good-bye to April and ran home.

When Kathryn got home, her grandmother was waiting for her. Grandmother wanted Kathryn to come spend the night at her house, but she was in a hurry to get home. If Kathryn had not come home when her mother had told her to, she would have missed the chance to visit her grandmother.

- **How do you think Kathryn felt?**

Emphasize that we will not always receive an exciting reward when we are obedient, but we will have a happy, peaceful feeling. This feeling comes from knowing that we have chosen to do what is right.

Have a fantastic week 😊