

Character Trait for December 4-10 is Obedience

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Obedience: Quickly and cheerfully carrying out the directions of those who are responsible for me.

Weekly Verse: II John 1:6a "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands."

Bible Story: Luke 2:41-52. Jesus was obedient to his earthly parents.

Quote: "One act of obedience is better than 100 sermons."

Community:

The Bible makes it clear that real relationship is centered on obedience. In fact, God is very definite when He says that the greatest way to demonstrate our love for someone else is to obey them.

Leadership:

The relationship Jesus had with his disciples shows one important aspect of leadership and obedience. Almost everyone who is a leader finds themselves in the position of having followers who are obedient to them, but also being obedient to Jesus. Jesus began the recruitment of his disciples in a very simple and straight-forward manner. He said "follow me." There were no discussions of what that would mean; no arguments about who was in charge. Jesus asked, and they obeyed. You won't find one example where Jesus tried convince or coerce anyone to follow Him. Leaders must find the balance between leading others and obeying God.

Application:

Imagine a door with five locks—I must turn all five locks before opening the door. Similarly, there are "five keys" to obedience. Missing one key makes my obedience incomplete.

1. Obey quickly.
2. Obey cheerfully. Attitude makes a big difference.
3. Obey completely. Do not skip difficult parts.
4. Go the "extra mile" instead of getting by with as little as possible.
5. Do not obey a wrong command, or a command from the wrong person. Talk to someone you trust if you are unsure about an instruction, and do what is right.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever had to choose between what you wanted and what you knew your authorities would want? How did you make your decision?
2. How does the obedience or disobedience of a leader affect those under their authority?
3. What is the relationship between listening and obeying?