

Why should I honor and obey?

“I will honor and obey the authorities in my life because God uses them to protect and guide me.”

What does God say?

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

‘Honor your father and mother... that it may go well with you’”

Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV)

Winter 2020-21 CT: 'I Choose to Honor & Obey' Senior Version

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2021 Winter
OBEDIENCE
 December 8 - March 6

Closed:
 December 22-26 (Christmas Break)
 Dec. 31-Jan. 1 (New Year's)

		December 2020						
		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3	4	5
Wk 1		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wk 2		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Wk 3		27	28	29	30	31		

		January 2021						
		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Wk 3							1	2
Wk 4		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk 5		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk 6		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wk 7		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		31						

		February 2021						
		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
Wk 8			1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk 9		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk 10		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk 11		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk 12		28	1	2	3	4	5	6

Main Points Each Week:

- Lesson 1: Delayed obedience is disobedience and has consequences.
- Lesson 2: Obeying, whether we like it or not, will have good rewards.
- Lesson 3: When I obey my authorities, they trust me, and I receive more freedom.
- Lesson 4: I will obey completely, otherwise I am not obeying at all.
- Lesson 5: When I desire to please my authority, it brings joy to our relationship.
- Lesson 6: God uses obedience to keep us safe.
- Lesson 7: I will surround myself with people who will help me honor and obey my parents.
- Lesson 8: I honor God when I honor my earthly authorities.
- Lesson 9: Learning obedience is a long process, but in the end there is joy and freedom.
- Lesson 10: God is pleased with my obedience when I fully complete a command and choose to do so with a good attitude.
- Lesson 11: God's teachings warn us and good things come to those who obey them.
- Lesson 12: I will honor and obey my parents to gain wisdom which will lead to a safer, joyful, satisfying life.

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What does God say? Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV):

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Week 1: Dec 8-12 (Emeth closed Dec 22-26 & 31-Jan 1)

1. Introduce declaration & verse

- a. We are studying **obedience** this winter! We have a new character declaration! Memorizing our declaration can help you become a man or woman of *true character* by training your heart to think true thoughts.
 - i. *Proverbs 4:23 "Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life." (HCSB)*

2. Lead-in: What is obedience? (Let them answer if you think there is time.)

Obedience is thoroughly completing a command or order from someone who has authority in your life. You clearly understand the command, you know it is the right thing to do, and you do it whether you want to or not. Some authorities can force us to obey and do what is right so we don't hurt other people. But God never forces us to obey. He wants us to obey Him because we love Him and understand that His commands are always good for us.

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 1: *Delayed obedience is disobedience and has consequences.*

4. Listen to Chapter 1 of story: *Pet Palace*

5. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. *Discussion idea for older students)

- a. Why didn't Bella obey right away? (*She didn't want to! She wanted to keep playing Minecraft.*)
- b. What does Bella think about Mom's comment about less time on Minecraft? (*She has NO intention of obeying it! She grumbles.*)
- c. What is a consequence? (*The result that happens AFTER we do or say something*)
- d. What was the consequence of Bella's delayed obedience? (*She was too late to get the puppy she wanted and she left heart-broken.*)
- e. *Bella clearly heard and understood the command that *now* was the time to leave, but she chose not to honor or obey her mom. Who is Bella also disobeying? (*God*) Why did God choose parents to be a child's first authority instead of an institution? (*Emphasize love. Since God IS love, He does all things out of love for His creation. He gave parents that same capacity to love their own children so they would be their kids' best guides and protectors. No one wants what's best for you more than your parents! What if Bella had understood this?*)

6. Application

- a. In the gym, your coaches are your authorities. You should honor and obey them because they know more than you, want to keep you safe, and want you to do well.

7. Wrap Up:

- a. Repeat together: ***Delayed obedience is disobedience and has consequences.***
 - i. Obey your parents, obey your coaches and it "will go well with you!"

Planning:

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What does God say? Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV):

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Week 2: Dec 15-19 (Emeth closed Dec 22-26 & 31-Jan 1)

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. **Lead-in:** How many of you have ever done something you were told not to do and then were really sorry afterward? (*Let them give examples and/or tell your own story, perhaps a funny one! Tell them regret means wishing you had not done or said something.*)

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 2: Obeying, whether we like it or not, will have good rewards.

4. **Short review:** Because Bella did NOT obey right away, she was late to the dog adoption event and learned that a family had already taken the puppy she had wanted. She left in tears.

5. Listen to Chapter 2 of story: *Finding a Dog*

6. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. *Older students)

- How does Bella feel *now* about choosing Minecraft instead of obeying? (*Sad and angry*)
- What does Bella find when she is working on the property? (*Dead chickens from a fox*)
- Do you think Bella has learned the importance of obeying right away yet? Why or why not? (*No. She's complaining about doing something she doesn't want to do and shows no respect.*)
- Because Bella was angry, what did she choose to do? (*She disobeyed again! She chose NOT to complete her work. Obedience means obeying a command COMPLETELY.*)
- Why do you think Dad doesn't tell Bella where they are going? (*Perhaps he wanted to see if she had learned to obey right away without grumbling or to help her think more about the rewards of obeying that she almost missed out on again!*)
- *Dad MADE Bella obey. Why did he do that instead of letting her stay home? (*Listen to answers, but emphasize that HE KNEW she would be happy at having a second chance to get a puppy. Since he could see the future and knew it was good, he insisted she do what she was told whether she wanted to or not. Parents are much better at seeing what's ahead than their children! God sees the complete future of our lives, and though He doesn't force us to obey, He desires our obedience because He knows how good it will be for us. He wants us to obey Him because we love Him.*)

7. **Truth:** Another verse in the bible tells us this, speaking of wisdom:

- "And so, my children, listen to me, for all who follow my ways are joyful. (Proverbs 8:32)

8. Application

- Obeying those who love you and care about you leads to a better, stronger, wiser you. Be sure to listen to your coaches carefully and do your best to follow their instructions completely!

9. Wrap Up

- Repeat together: **Obeying, whether we like it or not, will have good rewards.**
 - Focus on the *rewards* of obedience instead of whether you want to obey or not!

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Week 3: Dec 29-Jan 2 (Thr & Fri do not get a week 3)

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. Lead-in:

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 3: *When I obey my authorities, they trust me, and I receive more freedom.*

4. Short review: Bella regrets being late to Pet Palace because she didn't obey right away, yet she repeats the same disobedience a second time against her dad. He insists she does what she's told and then discovers why a few minutes later: a second chance to get a puppy!

6. Listen to Chapter 3 of story: *The Great Escape*

7. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. *Older students)

- What kinds of trouble does Oscar - the indoor tornado - get into? (*Runs the stairs, jumps on beds, drags toys and rugs, and uses Bella's bedroom for a bathroom!*)
- Even though Oscar is a terror, how does Bella feel about him? (*She loves him more each day because he's cute and innocent*)
- How does Bella feel about her mom putting Oscar behind a gate? (*She thinks Mom is mean and feels bad for Oscar as he whines.*)
- Dexter is so well-trained he needs no leash and never runs off. How did Nathan do that? (*It took lots of patience to train obedience, but now he trusts Dexter will come and can let him run free.*)
- Why does Bella also decide to put Oscar behind the gate now? (*She doesn't want to, but is afraid he may escape and be hurt. He may be a cute puppy, but she can't let him do what he wants. She knows it's for his own good.*)
- * Mom says, "When he's trained, he can roam freely, but not now. Dogs left to themselves cannot be good companions." What is the difference between a dog roaming free when he's trained and when he's not trained? (*Discuss the purpose of training: to teach about safety within the boundaries. Without boundaries, roaming free will lead to many dangerous places and situations. Puppies and kids are unaware of dangers. They need loving guides to teach them.*)

8. Application

- The more you obey your parents, the more they will say "yes" to your requests because they will trust you to do the right thing. Try obeying right away and completely this week and see what happens!

9. Wrap Up

- Repeat together: ***When I obey my authorities, they trust me, and I receive more freedom.***

Planning:

Obedience in my students looks like: _____

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Week 4: Jan 5-9

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. **Lead-in:** Mini skit: Say to another coach or student (who was informed ahead of time), "Hey, _____ bring me that mat," (jump rope, or other item that is a little ways away). The other coach only brings it half way then sits down. Give a visible facial/body language response and comment questioning their half obedience, then ask, "Did _____ really do what I asked?"

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 4: *I will obey completely, otherwise I am not obeying at all.*

4. **Short review:** Oscar is a very energetic, destructive puppy! But Bella loves him anyway and thinks it's mean that Mom puts him behind a gate. He escapes out the door and wouldn't come without the help of Nathan's well-trained dog, Dexter. Now Bella, too, keeps Oscar behind a gate for his own safety.

5. Listen to Chapter 4 of story: *Losing the PlayStation*

6. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. *Older students)

- What is the PlayStation rule for Bella? (*One hour is allowed AFTER homework is finished.*)
- Did Bella obey? (*No.*) How did she try to convince her mom that she DID obey? (*She obeyed PART of the rule, so that should be good enough.*)
- Is it fair that Mom took Bella's PlayStation privilege away? (*Yes. Bella KNEW the rule but chose not to follow it. Mom was teaching her to obey COMPLETELY, otherwise it is disobedience.*)
- *Why is obeying only part of a command not good enough? (*Partial obedience is a deception, a lie. It does not exist. There is no such thing as a HALF sin. It makes us THINK we are being good and obedient when we really aren't. It leads us away from being honest before God or others and always has consequences, like the consequence of Mom's garbage example.*)
- *What would have happened if Jesus had obeyed everything God had told him to do - telling others about God's love, telling them to keep the commandments, etc, - but decided *not* to obey Him when it was time to die on the cross? (*Definitely for older kids!*)
 - Our sins would still separate us from God, and we would not be forgiven or able to enter heaven.*

7. **Truth:** Another verse in the bible tells us this:

- "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever." (John 14:15-16)

8. Application

- When you feel like disobeying or don't want to obey completely, ask Jesus for help. He loves you and wants to help you to do the right thing.

9. Wrap Up

- Repeat together: ***I will obey completely, otherwise I am not obeying at all.***

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Week 5: Jan 11-16

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. **Lead-in:** How many of you have pet dogs? When do you enjoy your dog the most? (*Probably NOT when he's disobeying!*)

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 5: *When I desire to please my authority, it brings joy to our relationship.*

4. **Short review:** Bella is not allowed to play on the PlayStation until her homework is finished. She tries to convince her mom that because she did half her homework, she did obey the rule. Mom tells her obeying halfway is not acceptable so Bella loses her PlayStation privilege for a week.

5. **Listen to Chapter 5 of story: *Shadow's End***

6. **Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class.)**

- What did Bella notice Dexter was doing as they walked to the yard? (*He was constantly looking up at his owner, Nathan.*)
- Who was Oscar looking at? (*Dexter!*) Who should Oscar be looking at? (*Bella, his owner.*)
- During Dexter's training, when would Nathan reward him with a treat? (*When he obeyed perfectly.*)
- What important lesson did Nathan learn about training dogs when he had Shadow? (*Many possible answers, but emphasize that a dog must learn to obey completely the first time when he is called because his life may depend on it!*)
- Why are Nathan and Dexter such good friends and companions? (*Since Nathan loves Dexter, Dexter returns that love to Nathan and always wants to please him.*)

7. **Truth:** Another verse in the bible tells us this:

- "Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart."* Psalm 37:4
***(Older students)** Dexter, like every dog, wants to run free. However, running free without boundaries is dangerous. But because Dexter desires to please Nathan and since Nathan knows Dexter loves him and will obey him, Nathan can give his dog the greatest freedom possible and they are both happy. By aligning our desires with God's, we, too, can experience the greatest amount of freedom and joy. (Obeying authorities is part of what God desires for us!)

8. **Application**

- Pay very close attention to your most important authorities, such as parents, and recognize that your obedience to them will have lasting effects on your life. Remember Shadow!
 - Repeat the bible verse, emphasizing, *"that it may go well with you."*

9. **Wrap Up**

- Repeat together: ***When I desire to please my authority, it brings joy to our relationship.***

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Week 6: Jan 18-23

1. Practice declaration & verse together
2. Lead-in:
3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 6: *God uses obedience to keep us safe.*

4. **Short review:** Nathan tells Bella a sad story about his first dog, Shadow. Because Shadow did not learn to obey the first time he was called, he lost his life. Nathan was not going to let that happen again. After long months of training, he now has a dog he loves and trusts and is his best friend.
5. **Listen to Chapter 6 of story: *Listen and Live***
6. **Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. Older students)**
 - a. What were the dogs doing in the barn? (*Running and jumping on straw bales.*)
 - b. What did Oscar do that could have killed Dexter? (*He accidentally knocked the cage off the top.*)
 - c. What saved Dexter from being hit by the cage? (*He immediately obeyed when Nathan called.*)
 - d. What was Bella thinking as she dragged the cage away? (*Oscar would have been killed! "He MUST learn to obey me if he's going to live very long!"*)
 - e. Bella's dad isn't sure if a fox killed the chickens. He tells Nathan, "*All I know is that our fence was not secured very well. I just fixed several gaps.*" Why does Bella pretend not to hear? (*Refer to lesson 2, question d: Bella knew it was her fault. She had been angry and never completed the fence repairs!*)
 - f. *There are instances when explaining why you should obey is just not possible: not enough time; you are not yet able to understand; you are being tested to see how you respond. Who is ultimately in charge of your life? (*Discuss faith in God. If He says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." [Ps. 32:8], then we need to learn to look past our feelings and present circumstances and trust what God says. Otherwise, why would we need faith! Guides that God uses include the Bible and people, especially God-appointed authorities like parents.*)
7. **Truth:** Another verse in the bible tells us this:
 - a. "Remember my laws and rules, and obey them. Then you will live safely in the land." Leviticus 25:18
 - i. Good thing Dexter didn't grumble and ask WHY he should obey!
8. **Application**
 - a. Immediate, complete obedience in the gym prevents lots of accidents. Never delay when your coach calls you!
9. **Wrap Up**
 - a. Repeat together: ***God uses obedience to keep us safe.***

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Week 7: Jan 25-30

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. **Lead-in:** What would happen if puppies were being trained by another group of puppies? (*After they answer, ask*) Could they ever be an obedient pet?

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 7: I will surround myself with people who will help me honor and obey my parents.

4. **Short review:** Dexter and Oscar play in the barn on the straw bales. Oscar accidentally knocks a large wire cage off the top bales. Dexter is directly below and would have been hit if he had not obeyed immediately when Nathan called him. Bella is more aware than ever how important it is to make Oscar as obedient as Dexter.

5. **Listen to Chapter 7 of story: Oscar Learns to Sit**

6. **Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. *Older students)**

- Why was Oscar having trouble obeying Bella during his sitting lesson in the house? (*He kept getting distracted by her other hand when she moved it.*)
- Do you think Oscar was purposefully trying to be disobedient? (*No. He is young and hasn't yet learned what is most important to pay attention to. He's trying though!*)
- What method did Mom use to eventually teach Oscar to sit without her help? (*Every time Bella told him to sit, Mom would use force to make him sit until she was only using just a light touch.*)
- If you were Oscar, what would you be thinking when your owners were cheering and clapping for you? (*Many answers. "OH! I get it now!" "Look how happy they are!" "I'm a GOOD BOY!"*)
- What did Mom say after Bella thanked her? (*"Everyone, even puppies, need a helper sometimes to come alongside them to guide them in doing the right thing."*)
- *If foolish puppies train foolish puppies, what will they become? (*Foolish, self-centered dogs that are a danger to everyone.*) If kids and young people know this, why is it that they oftentimes still honor their peer's advice over that of their parents? (*Many answers - but it comes down to sin, which is wanting to do things my way! Every baby is born with a sin nature and cannot stop themselves from doing wrong. God gives us parents who love us enough to discipline us and lessen the foolishness we are born with. But it's only through Jesus that we will ever be able to be completely free from the effects of sin.*)

7. **Truth:** Another verse in the bible tells us this:

"Be friends with those who are wise, and you will become wise. Choose fools to be your friends, and you will have trouble." Proverbs 13:20

8. **Application**

- When choosing your friends, pick ones who honor and obey their parents. Otherwise you may end up being just like a foolish puppy or even a dangerous dog the rest of your life!

9. **Wrap Up**

- Repeat together: ***I will surround myself with people who will help me honor and obey my parents.***

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Week 8: Feb 1-6

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. **Lead-in:** Let's say you ate five of the twelve cookies Mom said were for the bake sale and she asks you what happened to them. What is your first thought? (*Let them answer*) Do you think it's easy or hard to admit when you're guilty of doing wrong?

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 8: I honor God when I honor my earthly authorities.

4. **Short review:** Bella tries to teach Oscar to sit but he keeps losing his focus and wiggling around. Mom comes and helps Oscar so he can focus only on Bella's hand that holds the treat. He finally sits all by himself. He just needed a little extra help to enable him to stay focused on the right thing.

5. **Listen to Chapter 8 of story: "I Need Your Help"**

6. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class)

- Why is Dad so angry? (*He received an expensive parking ticket.*)
- What is Dad's attitude toward the city officials and what does he decide to do? (*Rebellious! He is NOT going to pay.*)
- How does Mom help change his mind? (*She reminds him they are examples to Bella and they also need to honor authorities. She says there are proper ways to ask them about the ticket.*)
- How does Dad respond to her reminder? (*He confesses he is wrong and prays for God's help.*)
- Why does Bella whisper, "Did you hear that Oscar?" (*She heard Mom say that Dad needs to honor and obey the authorities and she wants Oscar to obey her.*)
- *Bella liked what Mom said to her dad about obeying the authorities, so she repeated it to Oscar. But what did her dad say that she should also have paid attention to? (*He admitted his wrong attitude, and knew he needed help from God to be changed. He demonstrated humility and submission. Authorities in our lives are not perfect either! God wants all of us to admit when we're wrong, forgive each other, and always ask for His help. Little by little we learn and change - just like Oscar!*)

7. **Truth:** Another verse in the bible tells us this:

"Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.' And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone." Psalm 32:5

8. Application

- Admitting we have a wrong attitude and that we need help to honor and obey is hard, but it's also the only way to live happily with others and to please God. Don't give up your happiness! Be honest, pray, and ask others to pray for you, too.

9. Wrap Up

- Repeat together: ***I honor God when I honor my earthly authorities.***

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Week 9: Feb 8-13

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. **Lead-in:** It took one week for Oscar to learn to sit. Bella worked with him every day and needed Mom's help too. How long do you think it will take her to teach him to come?

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 9: *Learning obedience is a long process, but in the end there is joy and freedom.*

4. **Short review:** Dad receives an expensive parking ticket. He is very angry about it and decides he's not going to pay it. Mom reminds him that they are trying to teach Bella the importance of obeying her parents and that he should choose the proper way to respond to the city authorities. He admits he is wrong and then prays for God's help in changing his attitude.

5. **Listen to Chapter 9 of story: "Come!" The Most Important Command**

6. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class)

- How many times did Nathan's parents try to tell him the importance of teaching Shadow to come immediately? (*Many!*)
- Why didn't Nathan listen to their advice? (*He really thought that Shadow was obeying well enough and didn't understand that half-obedience is disobedience.*)
- If Oscar will never understand how important complete obedience is, how will he learn? (*It is Bella's job. She must insist he obeys perfectly, not halfway.*)
- How often did Bella have to work with Oscar before he finally obeyed perfectly? (*Day after day after day! She probably felt like quitting, but she always remembered Shadow.*)
- How does Bella feel when Oscar finally comes perfectly 10 times in a row? (*Bella is so full of joy, she bursts into tears!*)
- * You've just felt the joy Bella feels over her long, hard, consistent work with Oscar. Now place yourself in the position of being your parents. (*Suggested questions you could ask for discussion!*) **How** do you think they feel right now about your level of obedience to them? **Do** they perhaps feel like giving up? **Have** you ever tried to understand their perspective and how hard it is to be a parent? **Will** your attitude change now that you have a better understanding of how difficult it is to train obedience?

7. **Truth:** Another verse in the bible tells us this:

- "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9

8. Application

- Your parents are like Bella. They know the dangers of disobedience so they do their best day after day to help you obey. Make their job easier by honoring their authority!

9. Wrap Up

- Repeat together: ***Learning obedience is a long process, but in the end there is joy and freedom.***

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Week 10: Feb 15-20

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. **Lead-in:** Your mom tells you to shovel the snow off the front porch. You put on your coat and boots and go outside. The whole time you're shoveling, you're complaining about how much you hate this job and it's not fair that you were given this hard chore. You finish and go inside. Did you obey?

3. Share today's main point:

Lesson 10: God is pleased with my obedience when I fully complete a command and choose to do so with a good attitude.

4. **Short review:** Oscar was quite obedient when told to sit, stay, and heel, but he was still on a leash when outside because he had not learned to come immediately when called. Nathan reminded Bella again of Shadow's sad ending and that she must insist that Oscar obey perfectly. Bella spent many weeks training him until one day he came straight over to her 10 times in a row. She cried tears of joy!

5. Listen to Chapter 10 of story: *The Sleepover*

6. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. *Older students)

- What does Dad ask Bella to do? (*Clean the chicken coop, check the fence, and fix any gaps.*)
- How does Bella respond? (*She complains, argues, just wants to get ready for her sleepover.*)
- Does Bella obey her dad completely? (*No. Once again, because she is mad, she only checks and repairs part of the fence. PLUS-she has chosen to do the work with a bad attitude!*)
- The girls loved the scavenger hunt, especially Josie. What does she think would be really fun? (*A night hunt with flashlights.*)
- Does Bella honor her parents in this chapter? (*She honors her mom because she turns out the lights at 11 pm. But she dishonors her dad by trying to tell HIM she would obey when SHE felt like it - tomorrow, not right now.*)
- *Everyone is under someone's authority. We have three options to choose from. Do you know what they are? (**Self.** *I choose to be in charge and to do what is best for me or what I think is right.* **Others.** *I choose to listen to the advice of others which may be good advice or bad advice.* **God.** *I believe God created me, knows me perfectly, can see the future, and has the best plan for my life so I choose to let Him be in charge by obeying His word, the Bible.*)

7. Application

- Honoring your parents, coaches, and teachers means choosing the right attitude. CHOOSING to be respectful, instead of argumentative, makes you a MASTER! *You* become the ruler over your feelings instead of your feelings ruling over you. Choose to master your feelings this week!

8. Wrap Up:

- Repeat together: **God is pleased with my obedience when I fully complete a command and choose to do so with a good attitude.**

Planning:

Winter 2020-21 CT: 'I Choose to Honor & Obey' Senior Version

Why should I honor and obey?

"I will honor and obey the authorities in my life because God uses them to protect and guide me."

What does God say? Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV):

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother... that it may go well with you'"

Week 11: Feb 22-27

1. Practice declaration & verse together

2. Lead-in:

3. Share the main point:

Lesson 11: God's teachings warn us and good things come to those who obey them.

4. Short review: Dad asks Bella to check the fence around the coop and clean it. She complains about working on Saturdays and only wants to focus on her sleepover. She grudgingly does some of the work. Bella and her three friends have fun on a scavenger hunt and Josie remarks it would cool to go on a night hunt sometime. At 11 pm, Bella obeys her mom and turns out the lights.

5. Listen to Chapter 11 of story: *A Daring Adventure*

6. Questions (Choose one or more that best fits your class. *Older students)

- What do Bella's friends want her to do? (*Play Courage or Coward and run the paths in the dark.*)
- Why does Bella agree? (*She doesn't want Josie to tell everyone she's a coward.*)
- Why do you think Oscar whined? (*He probably smelled and heard the wolf.*)
- What happened when Bella saw the wolf and then Oscar? (*She knew Oscar would be killed. She screamed for him to come and he obeyed immediately.*)
- How were the girls saved from the wolf? (*Bella's dad hit the wolf's face with a rock. He ran off.*)
- Were Josie, Pam and Myrna being good friends? (*True friends do not ask you to do wrong.*)
- *What was the reason Bella agreed to go outside? (*Discuss peer pressure and the reasons for honoring and obeying God's word (and the advice or directives of certain authorities) over that of others, even if we feel great pressure from them to do otherwise. [for protection, guidance, that it may go well with YOU.]*)

7. Truth: Another verse in the bible tells us this:

- "What you learn from your parents will bring you honor and respect, like a crown or a gold medal. My son, those who love to do wrong will try to trick you. Don't listen to them."
Proverbs 1:9,10

8. Application:

- Choose carefully who will be your friends! Be courageous enough to say NO when asked to do something you know is wrong.

9. Wrap Up:

- Repeat together: **God's teachings warn us and good things come to those who obey them.**

Planning:

Winter 2020-21 CT: 'I Choose to Honor & Obey' Senior Version

Why should I honor and obey?

"I will honor and obey the authorities in my life because God uses them to protect and guide me."

What does God say? Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV):

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother... that it may go well with you'"

Week 12: Mar 2-6

1. Practice declaration & verse together (No lead-in - lots to cover!)
2. Share the main point:

Lesson 12: I will honor and obey my parents to gain wisdom which will lead to a safer, joyful, satisfying life.

3. **Short review:** Bella's three friends want to sneak out and run the paths at night. Bella is scared, but if she says no, Josie will tell everyone what a coward she is. As they near the chicken coop, a huge wolf appears, sees Oscar coming around the fence and is about to pounce on him. Bella screams for Oscar to come. He immediately obeys and is saved from death. Dad runs out and throws a rock at the wolf's face, which saves the girls from his attack.
4. **Listen to Chapter 12 of story: Grace**
5. **Questions and Explanation**
 - a. What did Bella confess to her parents about going outside? (*She was scared and didn't want to go. She knew it was wrong, but didn't want to be called a coward. It was a stupid choice.*)
 - b. Why does everyone want to do wrong? (*We want to do wrong because we are all born with sin inside of us. Sin never wants to please God. It only wants me to please myself.*)
 - c. God knew we could not get rid of our own sin, so what did He do? (*He sent Jesus from heaven to earth. Jesus had no sin in Himself, so He is the only one who can take our sin away. Jesus paid for our sin with His own life when He died on the cross.*)
 - d. *But Jesus did not stay dead! God is so powerful, He brought Jesus back to life and He now is with God again.*
 - e. *Sin is like the wolf that wants to destroy us. When we confess our sin, like Bella did, and tell God we want to obey Him, then He forgives us.*
 - f. *When we obey God, we strengthen our spirits and weaken the sin in us. Since God loved us first before we ever loved Him, we know He will keep loving us as we learn to obey Him, no matter how many times we fail.*
 - g. What is grace? (*Grace is that God loves us even though we aren't good on our own. Instead of punishing us for the wrong we do, God has made a way for us to live with him forever. All He asks of us is to choose to believe him, and then practice obeying him.*)
 - h. What important truth did Bella come to understand? (*She loved Oscar first so she taught him to obey, which saved his life. He is happy in Bella's love. She now knows that her parents want her to obey so she can be safe and happy in their love.*)
 - i. How did Mom and Dad show grace to Bella? (*They did not give her the punishment she deserved for being so disobedient because they knew she was sorry, asked their forgiveness, and had learned the importance of obeying through her frightful experience.*)
6. **Wrap Up:** Repeat together: ***I will honor and obey my parents to gain wisdom which will lead to a safer, joyful, satisfying life.***

Planning:
