

# Colossians 3:18-24

## “Jesus is Risen! Now What? Obey!”

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:18-24

**Memory Verse:** Colossians 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

**Lesson Focus:** God designed the family to exist in perfect harmony. In this portion of Colossians, we’re going to learn about each role God has for each family member. Specifically, we’re going to focus on the role of the child and their instruction to obey their parents.

**Activities & Crafts:** Bring it Home for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade; cryptogram puzzle; memory verse coloring page

**Starter Activity:** Begin the lesson by playing “Simon Says” with the whole group. Prepare in advance by creating a list of actions.

**Bible Study:** Open in prayer.

Introduce the kids to the “Beat the Teacher” game. Explain that today’s lesson is all about obedience and so we’re going to play a game throughout the lesson. They are going to try to “Beat the Teacher” with their obedience. Come up with 3 rules for the morning that you will be watching for. I would suggest, “no blurting, raise your hand to speak” for one and then allow the kids to come up with two more together. Write them down on the whiteboard so the kids can see them.

Explain that the goal of the game is for them to beat you, the teacher with how they are following the 3 rules they have agreed upon. Every time they disobey (i.e. someone blurts out and doesn’t raise their hand), you get a point. Every time you catch them obeying, they get a point. Don’t be afraid to call out their disobedience and get points, but also try to award a lot of points to them throughout the lesson so they have an opportunity to win.

This will work well if you really ham up the fact that you think you can beat them and that you are really good at this game. Keep track of the points on the whiteboard throughout the lesson. If there is time at the end, and the kids have earned more points than you, allow them to play a short game together at the back of the Summit Room.

Explain to the kids that today's lesson is about the family and the role each member was designed to play. This is the ideal scenario that God had in mind when He created us. We each have a role to play and for kids, it's obedience.

### **Read Colossians 3:18**

**Q: What does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband?** God created male and female and determined that the man should be the leader. This does not mean that women are less important than men or that they should have no opinions, but that they should work together with their husbands and not strive for their own desires.

What this verse does not mean is that a wife should follow her husband even if he is doing something wrong. Remember, this is the ideal scenario and the woman's submission is closely tied to the next verse.

### **Read Colossians 3:19**

Husbands are supposed to love their wives! This means that they value them, seek their opinion and lead their family well. Paul tells husbands in Ephesians 5 that they are to love their wives as Christ loved the church (us!) and gave Himself up for her. This kind of love is selfless and sacrificing.

### **Read Colossians 3:20**

Here is the part that speaks to the kids—obey your parents! Some of us don't live with mom and dad but maybe we have stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles that take care of us. This verse applies to them too. Whoever God has entrusted to take care of you—you are to be obedient to them.

Now this verse does not mean to obey if our parents tell us to do something wrong. Remember, this is the ideal scenario—one where our parents would not instruct us to do something wrong. If that does happen, we are to obey God first! If anything your parents tell you to do disobeys God's word, then obey God.

Let's talk more about obedience. There are 3 parts.

1. Obey right away – we are not obeying when we ignore what mom & dad are saying and then decide eventually to do it. Provide some examples like ignoring their instruction to clean your room and deciding instead to finish playing your video game and cleaning your room later. If you ever see little toddlers, watch how they respond when mom & dad tell them what to do. Little toddlers usually have a hard time responding right away when mom & dad tell them to stop or to come to them. They are so determined to do what they want that they fail to obey. We are supposed to obey RIGHT AWAY.
2. Obey all the way – we are not obeying if we only do a part of what we were instructed to do. This might mean we were told to clean our room and we know that means putting all of our clothes away, but instead we shove all of the clothes in the closet or under the bed. We are supposed to obey just as our parents have instructed us to do.
3. Obey with a happy heart – sometimes we do what we're told, but we do it with a bad attitude and complain the whole time. Or we may try to negotiate our way out of obeying by asking another parent or trying to convince mom & dad that you don't need to do what they have asked. This does not bring joy to the Lord. He has given us parents and we are to honor them by doing what they have asked of us with a good attitude. Even if we don't like their request, we can obey with a happy heart.

Poll the kids by asking, which area of obedience do you struggle with the most: right away, completely, or right attitude? We'll decide later what we're going to do about this.

## **Read Colossians 3:21**

This instruction is to those who served as slaves. Now we're not going to spend time talking about slavery, but know that God gave instructions for those who had slaves too. God did not approve of people treating others like they were not important or treating them harshly. He created all of us in His image and we are all precious to Him.

But this verse talks to those who are responsible to someone else – and much like the instruction to children to obey, slaves are to listen to the instruction and obey.

### **Q: This verse talks about fearing God? What does it mean to fear God?**

Fearing God is not being afraid of God, but rather, having a respect for God and honoring Him. The rest of the chapter has more to say on that.

## **Read Colossians 3:22-25**

Each of us has a role to play and we are to do what God has called us to do with joy, because really we are serving the Lord in what we do. As kids, we obey our parents because it honors the Lord too!

**Close in prayer and ask God to help us obey right away, all the way and with a happy heart.**

If the kids won “Beat the Teacher” allow them time to play a game in the back of the Summit Room. I would suggest this game from [youthgroupgames.com](http://youthgroupgames.com) called “True False Run”. Prepare several facts in advance and use the first several rounds to get the kids used to the game with easier questions that they would all know the answers to.

### **How To Play True False Run**

The group stands in the middle of a room (or if outside, between two markers eg cones). one wall/marker is nominated 'true' and the other 'false'.

The leader reads a statement, eg 'bats aren't actually blind'. On 'Run!' the kids must run for whichever side they think is correct - true or false - and whoever reaches the correct

wall/marker first wins. STAYING IN THE CENTRE IS NOT AN OPTION. Disqualify stragglers if necessary.

Alternatively, the kids who choose the wrong answer are eliminated, and only the correct side continues to the next round.

Teachers: back in your classrooms, spend time talking to the kids about what obedience to their parents looks like. Have them think about the area of obedience to their parents that they struggle with most (right away, all the way, with a happy heart). Hand out index cards or paper to each of the kids and have them commit to working on that area. Have them think of a specific thing that they can work on doing this week (an example might be: cleaning their room exactly the way mom & dad expect them to).

Encourage them to take their paper home and put it in a place they will see so they can be reminded of their commitment to obey their parents.

# Bring It Home

**Lesson Theme:** “Jesus is Risen! Now What? Obey!”

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:18-25

**Memory Verse:** Colossians 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

**Teachers/Parents:** Today we talked about God’s plan for our families and how each member has a role to play. For kids, it’s to obey their parents!

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. We talked in class about how kids are to obey their parents right away, all the way and with a happy heart. Talk to your child about what this means.
2. We challenged the kids to think about which of the 3 areas they struggle with the most (right away, all the way and with a happy heart). Talk to them about what they chose and why.
3. Your child may have made a commitment to obeying in one specific area this week and should be coming home with a piece of paper indicating what they are committed to working on this week. Discuss their decision and commit to encouraging them as you see them obeying in this area.