

elements

kids worship

At-A-Glance Service Schedule

- 3-5 minutes—Welcome & Prayer
- 10-12 minutes—Music and Worship
- 6-8 minutes—Intro/Reinforcement
- 8-10 minutes—The Big Idea Skit
- 3-5 minutes—Offering
- 4-6 minutes—The Big Idea Video
- 3-5 minutes—Transition Music
- 15-20 minutes—Sermon
- 5-10 minutes—Application & Review

This is the period just before you begin church. It typically lasts 3-5 minutes. During this time, have music playing and encourage your team to greet as many children as possible. Encourage kids to use this time to get a drink of water or use the bathroom. You can also use this time to go over any rules or announcements about upcoming events.

Obedience (week 1)

- **Element of the Month: Obedience**—to eagerly follow the commands of God.
- **The Big Idea: Jesus is our standard for obedience.**

Learning to obey with the right attitude is a big deal. Kids need to be taught that obedience is a decision—an act of the will. Our obedience should not be based on feelings or situations. It should be based on the standard set in God's Word. Jesus is the ultimate example for us to follow. ***Jesus is our standard for obedience.***

Welcome: If you have the capability, use a video countdown to show the kids just how much time remains before the official beginning of church. **(Optional)**

Welcome to church! I am so glad you are here with us today. We are going to have a great time today worshipping God and learning an important element from His Word. It's an element needed to help you build your life as a Christian.

Prayer: As you pray, remember to ask the Lord to help the kids' hearts and minds to be open to the Word of God and the teaching they will hear on this day. Ask the Holy Spirit to help the kids treat the time you have in church seriously.

Use words and phrases kids can understand and relate to. Kids need to hear you pray with energy and passion. This will help them understand and believe that your personal relationship with God is real to you. Kids catch what they see modeled for them. Show them your *Real-relationship* with God.

Worship in Song: During this segment, choose 3-4 songs totaling 10-12 minutes. Choose the songs your kids like (and that you can endure because they love them) from the **Music Folder** on the *Elements* website. The suggested resources for music provide songs of various styles that are biblically based and great for inspiring kids to think about God in worshipful ways.

During this first worship section, select songs that are high energy and engaging. This will help get the kids excited and ready to participate in the service.

Introduce the *Element of the Month* (EOM):

One of the hardest things to do is simply obey and do what we are asked to do. Whether you're a kid or a grown-up, making the choice to obey can be very hard. But this is one of the things we have to do well in order for us to be all we can be for Jesus.

This month we are going to focus on the element of **obedience**. We will be looking at the benefits of obedience as well as the consequences of disobedience. Most important, we are going to learn about a standard or a measuring stick for us to use to see how well we measure up in our daily obedience. To help us remember what we learn, we've simplified the element of obedience into one we all can remember. Let's look at it now. Display the EOM slide.

The EOM slide is available in the folder marked PowerPoint slides.

Read the element and its definition. Encourage the kids to repeat it with you.

Obedience—To Eagerly Follow God's Commands.

Obedience is very important, but it's a tough issue to tackle and adopt in our daily lives. This definition gives us two areas of obedience on which we need to focus.

1. Following God's commands
2. Doing so eagerly



Obedience is sometimes thought of as simply doing what we are told. But there is more to it than that. Many times, when my parents told me to clean my room, I did it with the wrong attitude. Have you ever done that? Sometimes my attitude or reaction to their request was not in line with true obedience. True obedience is ***to eagerly follow God's commands***. This means that not only do I do what I'm told, but do what I'm told with a right heart and attitude. This means that I'm not stomping my feet, rolling my eyes, or complaining. It doesn't mean I have to like cleaning my room, but I should do it because I love and respect my parents and want to obey them.

We need to realize the devil is going to tempt us to react negatively. He wants us to disobey our parents and God in every way. Even when we do obey, the devil still wants us to do so with a bad attitude. To be our best for God, we must understand and apply the element of obedience in our actions and our attitudes.

Introduce Verse of the Month:

In addition to teaching the ***Element of the Month***, we will also include a Bible verse that goes along with the element. God's Word is a powerful and amazing book. It contains everything we need to learn how to follow God. The Bible has a lot to say about obedience. Let's look at a Bible verse for the element of ***Obedience***. Show the Verse of the Month (VOM) slide.

"You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the Lord your God " (Leviticus 18:4). NIV

This is the verse we will review each week this month. It will help us remember that the command to obey comes from God. Let's say this verse together and begin committing it to memory.

Read the verse aloud, leading the kids as you read. (Don't forget to be energetic and emphatic.)

Let's stop right here and talk about what this verse means. How can we break this verse down and understand it's meaning?

One way to do this is by asking some questions. This technique is one you can use at home when you read your Bible during the week.

1. ***What does this verse say?*** It says I must obey God. He wants me to obey His laws and decrees. We know what laws are, right? Laws are rules that governments put in place to help maintain an orderly community. An example of a law is the speed limit. If there were no speed limits on our roads, people could drive 100 mph past your house on a small street in a neighborhood. Does that sound safe or dangerous? Laws are good things for us to follow. They keep us safer in the towns we live in. So we understand laws. But what are decrees? A decree is something a ruler expresses to the people that establishes some new law. Oftentimes a royal decree would go out from the king or emperor to inform people of something the people had to do to obey a law. A good example of a decree was when Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem. The emperor decreed that everyone had to go back to the town of their birth to be counted.

This verse also says, “I am the Lord your God.” God is speaking to us and telling us that He is in charge—He is the King and must be obeyed.

2. ***What does this verse say to me?*** I should follow the instructions God gives me, remembering all along that He is the Lord our God. In other words, He’s way more powerful than a king over an empire. He’s the Everlasting God, the all-powerful Creator.

This month we’re going to focus on how we should respond to this verse of Scripture by applying the ***Element of the month*** to our lives. Let’s read this verse together one more time.

Transition from VOM slide to the EOM slide for Skit Time

Skit (To be performed by two people or puppets)

The skit is written to help you teach **The Big Idea** for the day and ultimately the month. It requires a minimal amount of props and does not have to be memorized. Please make changes to the names, props and script as you see fit for your program.

Props: An old record, DVD player

Characters: Two members of your team who are familiar to the kids—we gave them names (Steve and Alan) but you should change them to the names of your team members.

Setting: Alan walks excitedly into the room where Steve is, holding the record in a bag. Alan is literally bouncing around the room in excitement.

Steve: (Watching Alan bounce around the room) **Hey, Alan. How's it going?**

Alan: (seriously overly dramatic) **Steve! My buddy, my pal! It's going great! Wonderful. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and tiny bunnies are hopping happily in the meadow.**

Steve: (thinking Alan is losing his mind) **Umm. OK, I'm scared. Why in the world are you so happy, Alan?**

Alan: (still excited) **Are you kidding? Today's the day!**

Steve: **The day for what?**

Alan: **D-Day!**

Steve: **Excuse me?**

Alan: **Delivery Day! I just got my new movie in the mail today, and I can't wait to watch it. Woo-hoo!** (Begins walking excitedly around the room again)

Steve: **Cool. What movie is it?**

Alan: **It's the new spy movie . . .** (So excited about the movie, his voice has lowered to an awestruck whisper) **The Revenge of the Jelly Makers . . . part 3.**

Steve: **That sounds . . . uh . . . really great, I guess. When are you going to watch it?**

Alan: **I can't wait another minute. I'm about to watch it right now! Why don't you watch it with me?**

Look for ways to grow your Kids Worship Team. You don't want to do this as a solo act. Trust us!

Steve: **Well, I don't have much going on right now, so I guess I can do that.**

Alan: **Great!** (Pulls the "movie" out of a bag, holding it up like a trophy)

Steve: (noticing something's wrong with Alan's movie) **Um, Alan. Where did you get that movie, anyway?**

Alan: **From my movie subscription service, MovieMovieMovie.** (Still excited)

Steve: **Are you sure that movie's going to work in our DVD player?**

Alan: **Sure, why wouldn't it?**

Steve: **Well, I'm not sure, but I think it will be too big to fit in the player.**

Alan: **No problem, Steve. It'll fit.**

Steve: **I don't think so Buddy. You see, DVDs are all the same size. There's a standard size they have to be in order to play in the player.**

Alan: **Well, I'm going to watch it anyway. I'll make it fit!** (Begins to try to put it in the DVD player)

Steve: **That's not going to work, Alan. Wait! You're going to break it. It's not the right size, I'm telling you. No matter how much you try to fit that in there, it's never going to work. It's not the standard size, buddy. It's too big.**

Alan: (not so excited now) **I really want to watch this movie!** (Thinking) **I've got it!** (Excited again) **I'll be back!**

Steve: **Where are you going?**

Alan: **To the store.**

Steve: **Why?**

Alan: (with a look like, Duh on his face) **Well, since our DVD player is too small to play this movie, we need to get a bigger DVD player.**

(Alan exits, leaving Steve in front of the kids to carry on)

Steve: **He just doesn't get it does he?**

Ask the kids some questions to be sure they understood the application. (What was the problem? Why wouldn't it work?)

Sometimes we can be confused by the options the world presents. We need to be sure to keep our focus on God and the standards He gives in His Word.

Offering (see Offering folder)

Use some light music during the offering time.

The Big Idea Video: Looking at Standards in Real Life

Play the video. Dim the lights if you have the capability to do so. This helps keep the kids' attention on what's being shown.

In just a few minutes we will look at a passage of Scripture that helps illustrate The Big Idea—Jesus is our standard for obedience.

Transition Song: Choose a song that brings the energy level down and prepares them to Explore God's Word. Select a song from your own collection or use some of the ones suggested in the Music folder.

Sermon/Bible Lesson

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-8

The Big Idea: Jesus is our standard for obedience.

Connect

Growing up in the Michael Jordan era, every boy who liked basketball wanted to “Be like Mike.” Everyone wanted to dribble, shoot, dunk and play basketball like Michael Jordan. Everything revolved around him because he set a great standard of how basketball should be played. We can look at many sports and activities to find people who have set the standard for their particular activity.

Personalize your sermon connection with a reference to your *own* favorite athlete or celebrity. Your kids probably already know who your favorite team, player or celebrity is—use that as a connection point.

As Christians, we need to be mindful of who sets standards for us. We should be careful we don't follow the wrong models. Today we are going to talk about the standard for living an obedient life.

The wording (script) for this sermon is just a suggestion. Use these thoughts and ideas with your own style and personality to most effectively communicate the message. Be sure to read all Scripture from a Bible. There are many messages coming at kids from various forms of media. It is vital that they understand the message you are sharing is based on God's unchanging Word!



Jesus is our standard for obedience. (The Big Idea)

Learn and Explore God's Word

Read Philippians 2:5-8

Throughout this passage it is clear we are being given an example to follow and that example is Jesus. If we look at verse 6, we are told Jesus was in His very nature, God. To put it plainly, Jesus is God. He is God incarnate. That means He was God in human form. He was fully God and fully human. That can seem confusing, but we don't have to understand how that is possible in order to believe it by faith.

Even though Jesus was in fact God, He didn't take the easy way out while living here on earth. Let's reread verses 7 and 8. Read the verses again—from the Bible.

Jesus lowered Himself to our human level. He willingly left heaven to come here to ultimately suffer pain and death because He knew that was required. While Jesus was here on earth He was tempted in every way we are today.

Do you remember the time in the Bible when Jesus lived in the wilderness for 40 days? He didn't eat anything for the entire time He was out there. You can read about that in Matthew 4. He must have been so hungry and thirsty. Do you remember the last time you were really hungry? What did you do? You probably asked your mom when dinner would be ready or had a snack. Jesus could have easily created food from the stones if He wanted to, but even though He was so hungry, He did not give into the temptation to do so. He did not use being God to His advantage to make His life on earth easier.

In this great passage of Scripture that gives us so much information about the way Jesus lived, the most amazing verse has to be verse 8. We have been reminded in verse 5 that our attitude should be the same as Jesus. Now in verse 8 we are told that Jesus humbled Himself and was obedient even to the death on the cross. Verse 8 is a hard verse to understand. Jesus was obedient unto death. The question for us today is to ask whether we are truly willing to die for Jesus by simply being obedient to Him throughout our life. We might

not ever be called to actually give our life physically as Jesus did, but we **WILL** have to make hard decisions about whether or not we will obey our parents, teachers, or coaches. We should follow the example of Jesus. If we truly want to be our best, we need to realize that ***Jesus is our standard for obedience.***

Let's concentrate on Jesus for a minute. Jesus, being God, could have chosen some other method to provide our salvation. He was 100% human, but also 100% God, so He can do anything He wants! He could have commanded us to continue offering sacrifices like the children of Israel or He could have made salvation available to anyone who could pay the price on a price tag. Even though Jesus could have done something easier, He understood that to redeem, or save humans, there needed to be a human sacrifice. He willingly and amazingly chose this pathway.

He chose to come and live on the earth as one of us. He probably fell and hurt Himself when he was a kid, cried when he was sad, burped when He drank something too fast and sneezed when He had a cold, just like we do. He was born like us, played like us, and enjoyed life as we do. The reality of Jesus being human makes what He did all that more amazing, because in His entire life on earth, Jesus NEVER disobeyed. He obeyed His parents. He obeyed God, even to the point of allowing Himself to be killed. Because of this amazing life, we look to ***Jesus is our standard for obedience.***

Jesus had to choose daily to be obedient to God. Jesus was obedient when He was baptized by John the Baptist, so He could show us another example of how to show the world we follow God. When He went, as a young boy, to the temple to talk and ask questions, He showed us that studying to understand God's Word is an important task. As He grew up and began His ministry, we know the stories of how He went all over preaching, teaching, and healing to point people to His Father. In the Garden of Gethsemane, just before Judas betrayed Him, Jesus prayed that He would not have to go through with it (die on the cross) but ultimately prayed that God's will be done. He completely submitted to the will of His Father. Although Jesus knew the pain to come, He still remained obedient. When Jesus laid His life down for us at the cross, He completed the ultimate test of obedience. This is why ***Jesus is our standard for obedience.***

Apply and Respond to God's Word

So what does that look like for us? We understand there are rules to the games we play and we must follow those rules if we want to play. We can easily understand the stories of people who have set the standard in sports, music, and movies. These famous people, at the top of their own world, set a standard for everyone who hopes to achieve the same level of success.

Christians have lots of standards to look at in the Bible. We can look at those heroes of the faith such as Moses, Abraham, David, John the Baptist, Paul, and Timothy. But there can be no doubt at all that the greatest standard for obedience is Jesus Christ. He was willing to lay everything down in order to be obedient to God. Just like Jesus, we won't always find obedience easy to do, especially when it is something we don't want to do. But just like all of those players, singers, and actors who practiced and practiced hours and hours to be a standard for greatness, Christ lived out His perfect obedience by obeying His father one day at a time. This is EXACTLY what we have to do. We don't have to think about how to be obedient for our entire life all at once. God just wants us to follow Christ's example and practice obeying day by day by day.

What are some examples of how this might work out in your life? Well, it may look like obeying your parents in little things, such as doing your chores, doing your best in school, or simply doing whatever they ask with a cheerful attitude. When you practice obeying God in small things, you'll be ready to obey Him in big things as well. Remember, Christ started small too, just like you. He was an 8-year old boy once upon a time. He had to be obedient to His parents, just like you. He sets the perfect example for us because He practiced being obedient every single day, all the way up the hill to where He would die. It's time we realized **Jesus is our standard for obedience** and begin to live the way Jesus did.

Use the Elements To Go page as a tool to help parents connect with and continue the teaching from this lesson.





elements to go

Obedience—
to eagerly
follow God's
commands

Talk about it:
Have a family meeting
to discuss adding some
rewards for proper
obedience. Consider
earning obedience
points for a reward at
the end of the week.

Leviticus 18:4
You must obey my laws
and be careful to follow
my decrees. I am the
Lord your God. (NIV)

**What's The
Big Idea?**
*Jesus is our standard
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Obedience (week 1)



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Obedience (week 1)

Speaker's Name _____

Date _____

Scripture Passage _____

Topic _____

What does this say? _____

What does this say to me? _____

Speaker's Name _____

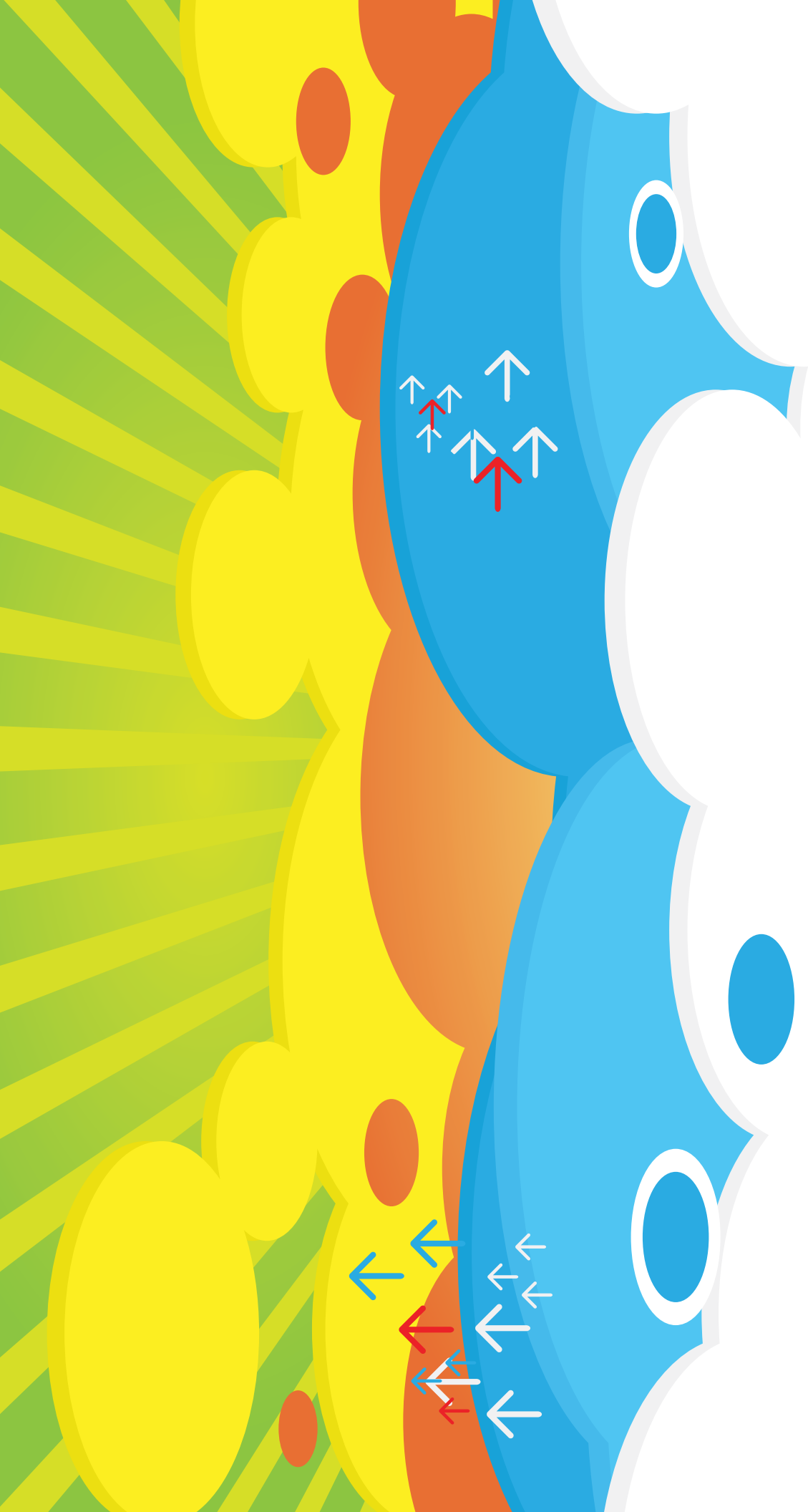
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to eagerly follow God's commands

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Leviticus 18:4 (NIV)