

# Growing in Obedience

Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” *John 14:23*

Teaching teens about obedience to God is about helping them understand the importance of aligning their actions with God’s will and teachings. It’s good to convey that obedience to God is not about blindly following rules but about trusting in God’s love and wisdom. Explain that obeying God often means making choices that are countercultural or challenging, yet these choices lead to a fulfilling and purposeful life. Encourage them to see obedience as a form of worship and a response to God’s incredible love for us.

## ➤ conversation starter

Are there areas in your life where you find it challenging to follow the Bible’s teachings?

How do you feel about the idea that our love for God is shown through our obedience to Him?

## ➤ navigating the conversation:

- **Explain the Reasons Behind Obedience:** Discuss why God asks for our obedience. It’s not about imposing restrictions but about guiding us to a life that is good, fulfilling, and in line with His plan.
- **Connect Obedience with Love:** Emphasize that obeying God is a way to express our love and gratitude for Him. It’s about choosing God’s ways over our own because we trust His love and wisdom.
- **Discuss Real-Life Applications:** Talk about practical examples of what obedience to God looks every day, such as being honest, showing kindness, and making choices that honor God.
- **Address Challenges:** Acknowledge that obedience can sometimes be difficult, especially when it goes against personal desires or societal norms. Discuss how to handle these challenges.
- **Highlight the Role of the Holy Spirit:** Explain how the Holy Spirit helps us obey God, guiding us in understanding and applying God’s Word.
- **Encourage Reading the Bible:** Stress the importance of regular Bible study to understand God’s Word and how to apply it.
- **Discuss the Consequences of Disobedience:** While focusing on the positive, it’s also important to discuss the consequences of not following God’s ways, both in biblical examples and potential real-life scenarios.
- **Model Obedience:** Lead by example. Show through your actions how you strive to obey God in your life.
- **Pray for Guidance:** Encourage praying for wisdom and strength to obey God, especially in difficult circumstances.
- **Talk About Grace:** Remind teens that everyone falls short at times, but God’s grace is always available. Obedience is a journey, not a destination.
- **Encourage Questions and Discussion:** Be open to questions and discussions about obedience. Doubts and questions can be a healthy part of growing in faith. However, where we go for answers is extremely important. Not every source is trustworthy. Discerning trustworthy sources for answers is vital.

