

# Character Trait December 17-21 is Obedience

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

**CHARACTER:** the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

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

**Weekly Verse:** John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

**Bible Story:** In Daniel 3 we read the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and their refusal to bow to the image in order to remain obedient and faithful to God.

**Quote:** "God gives his Own Self totally to us that we may offer ourselves completely to Him."

### Leadership: Love + Trust + Action

Obedience is defined by a relationship with God built out of love. When a relationship is built out of love, it has trust that is sustained and nurtured by the actions that maintain that relationship; namely obedience.

Whether it is obedience to God's Word or obedience to the orders of our leaders, a relationship built on trust requires action; it demands a choice. Obedience does not come from weakness but from strength. Obedience requires humbling ourselves, and surrendering to the authority of another.

### Application:

Obedience to God proves our love for Him - 1 John 5:2-3

Demonstrates our faithfulness to Him - 1 John 2:3-6

Glorifies Him in the world - 1 Peter 2:12

Opens avenues of blessing for us - John 13:17

### Discussion Questions:

1. Is it always easy to obey?
2. Do you think it was easy for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to obey God?
3. How did God take care of them?
4. How did God reward their obedience?
5. Can you think of a time when you had to choose to be different from others because you were obeying Mom and Dad?