

Unwavering Obedience | Family Worship Guide

Mark 1:9-13



MAIN IDEA: Jesus, the son of God, obeyed the Father even in the face of temptation.

PREPARATION:

Play a little game of Simon Says. Step it up a second time by placing participants individually on a bucket or unlevel surface. Ask these questions: What is the difference in obeying commands on flat ground versus the unlevel surface? When did you begin to feel unstable, and how did that challenge your ability to follow the commands?

Acquiring a new skill isn't always the easiest thing. Remember when you learned how to walk or watched someone else learn how to walk? What about when someone is aging and beginning to lose their stability or balance in the tasks they have participated in their whole lives? In both circumstances, they are unstable and unbalanced. They need a hand or someone nearby. Similarly, walking in obedience is not an easy task, no matter the age, experience, or circumstances.

EXPLANATION:

John the Baptist walked in the rugged wilderness where not many people desired to travel but where Jews would immediately make a connection to their Israelite ancestors. He proclaimed the good news to them by calling them to hard repentance, naming their individual sins, and calling them to social justice. But then he baptized them in the river Jordan, an external symbol of an internal transformation. John's life, message, and passion trumped the awkward stares, unwelcoming tones, and inhospitable glances. In contrast, Jesus didn't need to be baptized. He did so to "associate himself with us sinners and place himself among the guilty-not for his own salvation but for ours-not for his guilt but for ours-not because he feared the wrath to come but to save us from it. His baptism meant the cross!" (K. Hughes). With John's obedience, he was preparing the way for Jesus to "fulfill all righteousness" on the cross (Matthew 3:14). Can you imagine his countenance when Jesus of Nazareth, the very one he was proclaiming to others about, approached him to be baptized? His moment was here, his time had come. He was quick to obey in baptizing Jesus-indeed, a great honor.

In Mark 1: 9-10, the writer states, "And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove." The emphasis of "immediately" seeing the heavens opened and the "Spirit descending on him" is referring to the at once, empowering, and anointing for Jesus' unique service and ministry. Also, the "heavens being torn open" would have been quite the sight reminding modern day readers of Jesus' actual body being torn open upon the cross and the symbolic curtain being torn in the temple. The actual and symbolic occurrences which made a way for our eternity with him. In verse 11, "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" The spirit is "with him" and God the Father is "with him" and this is pleasing to our triune God.

In verse 12, we see the author's use of "immediately" again. This time presenting an immediate entrance to a unique wilderness requiring a quick obedience to the Father. Jesus was not welcomed into the wilderness but driven, a new turn of events. Jesus was tempted forty days and in various ways even though there are only three temptations mentioned in scripture. However, Jesus was never alone in the wilderness as he suffered hunger and thirst, nor was he ever abandoned in the wilderness surrounded by temptation (v13). He had the at once, empowering, anointing Spirit and angels to minister to him.

Family, we also have this Spirit within us. The same empowering and anointing Spirit that descended on him is the same Spirit sent to us as a comforter in times of great suffering and temptation. A Spirit that does not leave us nor forsake us but draws us near. A Spirit that does not leave us imbalanced or unstable but steadies us with peace and comfort. This

life is our moment. Our time has come. We need to continue in quick obedience seeking stability and balance from the Spirit who is near through the riches of his Word. The fullness of Christ and the fullness of his Word are tools in which we can walk steadily in quick obedience in the face of any temptation.

CONVERSATION:

- Recall the Simon Says game. What if there was someone standing with you to offer a hand of stability when you began to lose your balance? How would this change your ability to follow the commands?
- Why do you think in times of temptation that Christians are more likely to be disobedient to God's commands?

APPLICATION:

- Think upon the last temptation you've experienced. Generate some ideas about how the fullness of Christ and the fullness of his Word can be effective tools in obedience.
- What are some areas of temptation that you recognize in your life?

SUPPLICATION:

Lord, thank you for providing me with tools to fight temptation. Remind me that you are the one that fills me with your Spirit, and you are the one that renews my mind and transforms my heart with your Word. Father, reveal to me the places where I am prone to temptation, and teach me to be quick to obey your Spirit and your Word.

EXULTATION:

[Every Moment and Every Day](#) The Village Kids (2018 The Village Church)

We can see him in creation
Hear him in his Word
Hear him through our friends
That tell of his great love
Hear him by his Spirit
Who leads us on our way
God is speaking to us
Every moment
Every day

He is talking
Are we listening?
He wants to speak to us
Can we hear him?