

OBEDIENCE

From childhood, children are taught the very basics of listening. Obedience is defined as; complying with those in authority. Children may have grown up in a dysfunctional, broken, and unstable home, so their obedience has been compromised. Children thus growing up in such systems would be quite difficult in convincing them to obey. Children in stable homes usually are more apt in obeying parents and adults. Your mentee will have already passed through their stage or in process of going through a childhood stage, so they will still be learning, in some cases. Here are a few questions you can ask.

- What would you do if your parents or an elder asked you to do a chore and you didn't feel like doing anything?
 - How would you react?
 - Would you perform the chore immediately or later at your convenience?
 - Is the act of doing the chore important for you in satisfying your parents or an elder?
 - Why or would you do or not do the chore?

Mentor

This would be a great time to share your experience with your mentee on obedience. Share your thoughts in terms of importance, consequences, learning, and challenges. These three areas are suggested “discussion starters”, biblical foundation, cultural values and activities to help the mentee in practical terms.

Biblical Foundation

- Genesis 6:22, ‘Noah did everything just as God commanded him.’ (TNIV)

- Jeremiah 7:27, ‘When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer.’ (TNIV)
- John 15:10, ‘If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.’ (TNIV)

Cultural Values

Historically, the Cup’ig and Yup’ik people have valued obedience as their way of communicating. It was said that when, ‘young children do not obey, they would not be growing in the right path.’ This is interpreted as if young children would not listen to parents or elders giving advice, they future as adults would be very difficult in taking advice.

Potential activity

Ask your mentee to engage with their parents or elder in listening to their advice. Ask your mentee to purposefully ignore the advice of their parents or elder. They must think in terms of an exercise, how did this make them feel by not listening? This activity will give the mentee’s insight on awareness of purposefully ignoring advice and asking them to reflect on the entire process.