

Family Formation

Session 19: “Do whatever He tells you”

Background for Parents

In John 16:12-15, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears. Jesus also said that He only does what He sees the Father doing. We, too, need to hear and see what the Father is doing and saying. We need to hear and see God’s directions in our lives. We need to spend time with God, listen to whatever He says, and do it!

At the wedding feast of Cana, our Mother, Mary, gave us the perfect advice to follow in all situations—“Do whatever He tells you.” We are like those waiters that bring the empty water jugs to Jesus. Jesus says to go fill them with water. We don’t always have to understand why we are supposed to do something, but when we obey Jesus, we know that plain old water can be turned into wine and miracles will happen!!

With the family

Read Jesus’ words on Holy Thursday night in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus said, “Not my will but Thy will be done.”

Obedience is saying “Yes Lord” every day, especially in the small things that we know that we should be doing (or avoiding the things we should not be doing). There are people that God has placed in authority over us in our lives, and we are to obey them as if obeying the Lord Himself (provided they are following God’s laws). So often we don’t want to; in order to do this, we need the Holy Spirit—He will help us. Our job is to yield. An example of where we need to yield is:

- We need to obey our parents (the 4th Commandment).
- We need to obey those in authority over us like our teachers, bosses, grandparents, police, etc.
- We need to do the things that we are supposed to do.
- We are not to do those things that are harmful to us or others.

Read Luke 2:41-52, “The Boy Jesus in the Temple” emphasizing verse 51, “He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.” Discuss how even Jesus was also subject to obey the 4th Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother.

Example to show that it is best to do the most important things first: Have a container and get several large rocks and mark them as follows: time with the Lord, praying, journaling, doing acts of kindness, etc. Put them in the bottom of the container. Then fill the remainder of the container with smaller stones. The point of this is that if you put the large rocks in first, all the stones will fit, but if you put the larger rocks in last, everything will not fit. Use the analogy of the container being your day—if you put the important things in first (like offering your day to the Lord, etc), all will work out well and fit. But if you put off spending time with the Lord, it may not fit in after all the other things in life have come first. So put the big ones in first!!

We need to listen to God so we go down the pathway that He has for each of our individual lives. Our conscience is like that flashlight—it will light the way through the Holy Spirit. However, if we choose to ignore these warnings, then it is like taking a flashlight and putting cloths of varying darkness over it. We can’t see clearly, and we are on our own again.

Read the story of the Wedding at Cana in John 2:1-11. At the wedding feast of Cana, our Mother, Mary, gave us the perfect advice to follow in all situations—“Do whatever He tells you.” We are like those waiters that bring the empty water jugs to Jesus. Jesus says to go fill them with water. We don’t always have to understand why we are supposed to do something, but when we obey Jesus, we know that plain old water can be turned into wine and miracles will happen!!

Discuss how Mary’s response, “Do whatever He tells you” can be helpful in each one’s life. We may not always want to obey, but Jesus obeyed His parents and remained at home in Nazareth for 30 years. Many blessings come to us when we obey.

Throughout the week

Continue to work on “Doing whatever He tells you.” Possible journaling questions for this week are as follows: “Where am I having trouble being obedient? Is this something new or is it a persistent problem? What are some of the little, special things that I can do throughout my day to make me more like Jesus? What are some of those dark cloths that I put over the Holy Spirit’s light?”