

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 October 2023 - Year A

“The son went out moved by regret.”

Something to Think About

Imagine if Jesus was in the world today. Who might be the people to welcome and follow him? Who might reject him or be challenged by him?

The Story

Today's story teaches us that actions speak louder than words. If we say we are going to do something, we should do it! It is also a story about obedience and doing what we are asked to do. Jesus wants us to be sincere in our actions and our love.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

21:28-32

Jesus said:

"I will tell you a story about a man who had two sons. Then you can tell me what you think.

The father went to the older son and said,
'Go work in the vineyard today!'

His son told him that he would not do it, but later he changed his mind and went.

The man then told his younger son to go work in the vineyard. The boy said he would, but he didn't go. Which one of the sons obeyed his father?"

"The older one," the chief priests and leaders answered.

Then Jesus told them:

"You can be sure that tax collectors and bad women will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will! When John the Baptist showed you how to do right, you would not believe him. But these evil people did believe. And even when you saw what they did, you still would not change your minds and believe."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video: [The Parable of the Two Sons](#)



Group Discussion

There are people in the world who promise many things but deliver little or nothing. Invite the children to consider if they could be like this sometimes?

Then there are those who seem reluctant to get involved but then decide to enter fully into the game or project. Invite the children to consider if they could be like these people in any way.

Invite the children to discuss what it means to be a person who keeps their word. What does it mean to make and keep a promise?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will be people we can trust. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will always honour and respect our parents. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for all who are too sick to work. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that our words will be sincere and genuine. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will obey our teachers and parents with a happy heart. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us to say YES to God.
Give us the strength to let our good
intentions shine through in our
actions.
Amen.

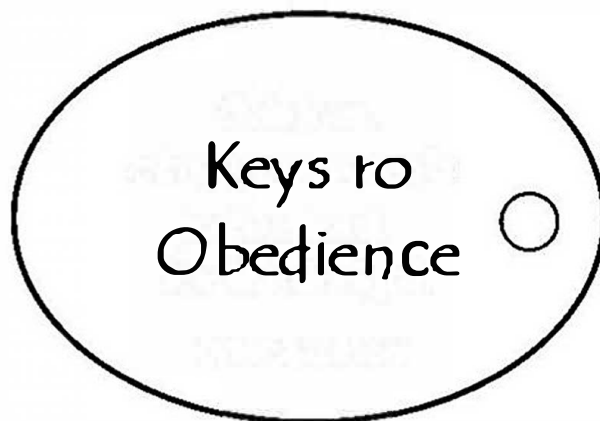
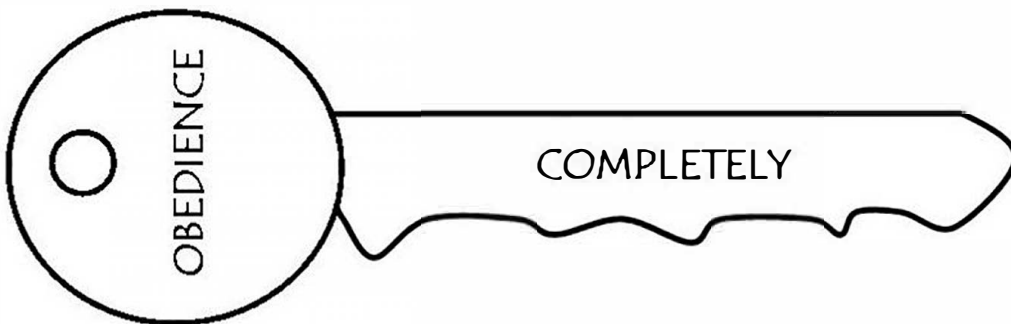
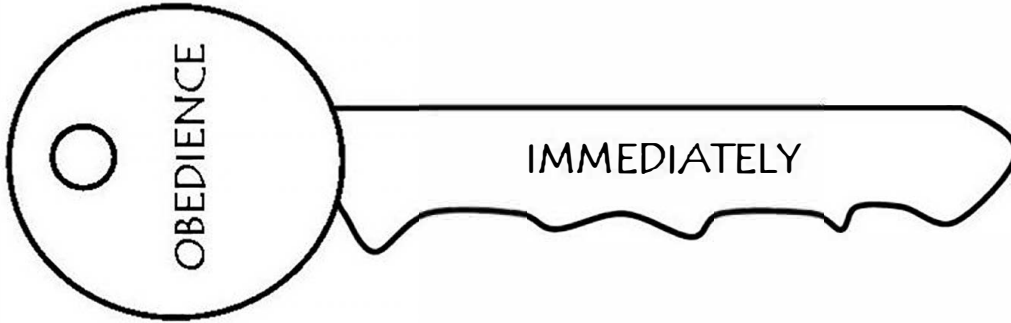
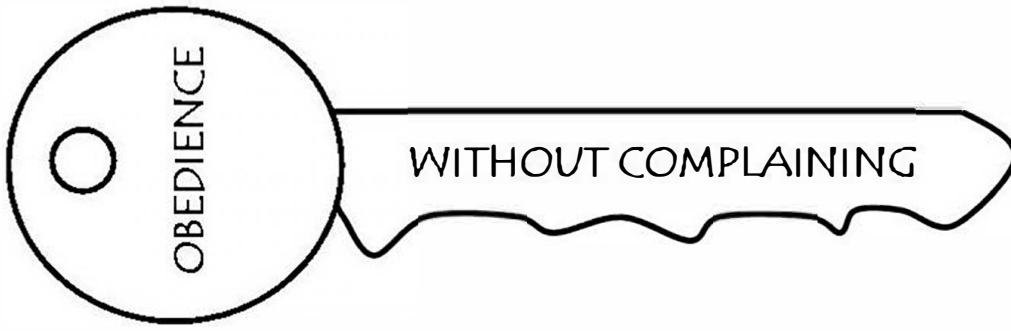
Group Activity

Keys to Obedience

You will need: template for each child on thick cardstock, coloured markers, scissors, wool or pipe cleaners. Optional: clear contact.

- 1) Talk about all the keys to obedience and how the boys in the story followed these.
- 2) Invite children to colour the keys, poke holes as marked and then cut them out. Contact the pieces if desired.
- 3) Use wool or a pipe cleaner as a key ring to join the pieces together.





**MUM ASKS JACK TO
FEED THE DOG.
'YEAH, SURE!' SAYS
JACK. BUT THEN HE
KEEPS PLAYING HIS
GAME AND DOES
NOTHING.**



**DO
YOU**

**REMEMBER THE TWINS
JACK AND AVA?**

**WHO GETS
THE BEST
REPORT CARD
?**



**DAD ASKS AVA TO
MAKE HER BED.
'NO, I DON'T FEEL
LIKE IT,' SAYS AVA.
BUT THEN SHE
GOES TO DO IT
ANYWAY.**

