

SMSG Kids Chapel: Parents' Handout May 6th

Gospel Passage in Kid's Language

"As God has always loved me so have I loved you! Live in my love. If you live by my commandments you will show that you live in my love, just as I showed you by living an obedient life for my Father and I live in his love."

John 15:9-10 (adapted from the ESV)

Learning Objective

After Chapel, your child will be able to summarize how loving God and obeying God are related.

Lesson Summary for Today's Gospel Reading of John 15:9-17

- **The Big Idea:** God has loved us *Therefore let us live lives of obedience, transformed by love.*
- **Context:** Jesus has just talked about the importance of bearing spiritual fruit as a community and explained how living in him is the source of spiritual growth. He expands on this concept by showing how loving God and living in that love must result in a life defined by perusing obedience.
- **Difficult Questions:** Sometimes we can accidentally create in our lives a situation where love is pitted against obedience. But yet Jesus speaks about how love and obedience must live in a perfect harmony as evidence of His love abiding in us! How can we help our children think about love and obedience?
 1. We have to help our children understand that obedience doesn't earn God's love. He first loved us while we were yet his enemies (Romans 5:10). Instead obedience must flow from a transformed life that loves God! Doing the right things outwardly might look like obedience but it's not what God desires! Instead he wants obedience from a heart of love for Him and others.
 2. Sometimes we can all wrestle with the concept of obedience and instead we focus exclusively on the love of Christ. But loving Christ and loving others means filling the idea of love with content! We must love according to how God defines love and sometimes that goes against what we might understand as loving. If God wants us to avoid certain behavior, even though society might tell us it's acceptable, true love requires that we follow God. But it also requires us to live out that loving obedience gracefully, especially when loving God and obeying him means living very differently than those around us.
 3. Feel free to talk with me and I can help you find resources and appropriate answers to your child's questions.

