

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER LESSONS

COOPERATION:

“LEARNING TO SUBMIT TO GOD”

Read Judges 2:6-23.

Questions for discussion

1. What did the Israelites do to make God angry?
2. What are the names of the other gods they followed?
3. How did God discipline the Israelites?
4. Did they learn their lesson? (Deuteronomy 5:7)
5. Were the Israelites doing things God’s way or their own way?
6. Are you ever stubborn enough to insist on doing things your way, even if a parent has warned you of harsh consequences for refusing to obey?
7. Is life more pleasant when you cooperate, or when you refuse to do as your parents ask?
8. How are God’s instructions to children in Ephesians 6:1-3 similar to the instructions He gave the Israelites?

Key concepts

To submit to God means a person is willing to do things God’s way, and to live following God’s rules. The opposite of submission is rebelliousness and stubbornness. Rebellious or stubborn people insist on doing things their own way and refuse to follow rules and instructions.

The Israelites honoured God during the time Joshua was alive, but after he died the Bible tells us that the Israelites forgot to teach their children about God’s faithfulness and how He cared for them. They started to worship the gods of the other people who lived in the land. This made God angry, so He allowed rival armies to defeat them.

After being taken over by their enemies, the Israelites would then become very miserable and God would have compassion on them and give them a leader, called a judge, who would save them from their enemies. The Israelites would follow God for a short time, but as soon as the judge died, they would quickly go back to following the other gods. The stubbornness of the Israelites finally made God angry enough that He decided to leave the foreigners in the Promised Land with the Israelites in order to test their willingness to stay faithful to Him. Similar to the warning God gave the Israelites about obeying Him, God tells children to obey their parents so that it may go well with them.

Relevant Scripture

- ❖ Ephesians 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.’ ”
- ❖ Psalm 81:10-12 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. But My people did not listen to My voice; Israel would not submit to Me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.”