

## **Obedience: Getting Started**

### ***Inspiring Words***

The education and training of children is among the most meritorious acts of humankind and draweth down the grace and favour of the All-Merciful, for education is the indispensable foundation of all human excellence and alloweth man to work his way to the heights of abiding glory. If a child be trained from his infancy, he will, through the loving care of the Holy Gardener, drink in the crystal waters of the spirit and of knowledge, like a young tree amid the rilling brooks. And certainly he will gather to himself the bright rays of the Sun of Truth, and through its light and heat will grow ever fresh and fair in the garden of life.  
(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections, p. 129)

### ***Printables***

Page 1: Spiritual Treasure Box Projects  
Page 2: Devotional  
Page 3: Booklet  
Page 4: Radiant Hearts Book Template  
Page 5: Monthly Letter Template  
Page 6: Daily Activity #14  
Page 7: Daily Activity #15  
Page 8: Daily Activity #18

*See the "Printable" document for these pages.*

### ***Questions to Consider***

How do I currently model Obedience?

What are ways I would like to model Obedience better?

How does my child currently exhibit Obedience?

What aspects of showing Obedience can I help my child work on?

## Obedience: Foundation

### **Prayer**

O my Lord and my Hope! Help Thou Thy loved ones to be steadfast in Thy mighty Covenant, to remain faithful to Thy manifest Cause, and to carry out the commandments Thou didst set down for them in Thy Book of Splendors; that they may become banners of guidance and lamps of the Company above, wellsprings of Thine infinite wisdom, and stars that lead aright, as they shine down from the supernal sky. Verily, Thou art the Invincible the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

('Abdu'l-Bahá, Baha'i Prayers, p. 71) Obedience

### **Quotation**

Observe My commandments, for the love of My beauty.

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 20)

Obedience

### **Introduction to the Virtue**

Obedience is following the rules even when no one is watching. When we are obedient we listen to our parents and other adults in authority to guide our actions. When we are obedient, we obey the laws of God. Obedience keeps us safe and protects us from challenges that can arise when we do not do the right thing. Practicing obedience means living and playing by the rules, even if we may not feel like it, in a respectful manner.

What does Obedience look like in your home?

Who are you Obedient to? Who are your parents Obedient to?

What would happen if no one practiced Obedience?

Obedience

### **Songs**

#### Obedience

(Nabil H., *Virtues In Us #28*)

I listen to my mommy  
I listen to my daddy  
I listen to my teacher every day

And what they ask  
And what they say  
I promise, I promise to obey

Obedience

#### Open Shut Them

*Go to the Online Lesson for the actions.*

Open shut them, open shut them  
Give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them  
Fold them in your lap

Creep them, crawl them  
Creep them, crawl them  
Right up to your chin

Open wide your little mouth  
But do not let them in

Obedience

## Obedience: Daily Activities

### *Activities for Every Month*

1. Spiritual Treasure Box project (prayer).	2. Assemble the booklet.	3. Make a Monthly Letter.
4. Spiritual Treasure Box (quotation).	5. Make Radiant Hearts Book page.	6. Add a jewel to the Crown of Virtues.

### *Games and Role Plays*

<p>7. "Today we're going to play a game called Mother May I." When we obey we pay attention to instructions given to us by our parents and other adults. In this game one person is the Mother and stands on one side of the room. The other players are children and they stand on the opposite side. They ask "Mother may I" and insert action phrases (like "jump three times" or "hop forward twice") in order to get closer to the Mother. The Mother can say, "Yes you may" or "No you may not" and suggest something else instead. The object of the game is to get close enough to hug. Practice following instructions and then switch roles. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>8. "Today we're going to talk about how God's laws are like lamps and keys." Read the first quotation from the Devotional on page 2 of the Printables. If you have a dark room, go inside without any lights and turn on the light. Or you can go outside and give your child a key to unlock the door and get inside. Explain how this is what God's laws are for us. They allow us to see clearly and go places that would be impossible for us to go without His Laws. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>9. "Today we're going to visit a place that helps everyone in our community remember to be obedient." Visit a Court House or Police Station and talk about how the people who work in these places make sure everyone in the community follows the rules. Following rules keeps us all safe so we can live together in peace. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>10. "Today we're going to ask a wise person about what they learned from obeying their parents." Arrange a time to call or visit a grandparent, elderly neighbor, or other family friend who had a positive childhood experience and have your child ask them about Obedience. What rules did they have to obey at home when they were growing up? Why did their parents make rules? <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>11. "Today we're going to learn the importance of obeying because it keeps us out of danger." Practice crossing the road together: looking both ways, holding hands, and listening carefully to instructions. Obedience keeps us out of danger. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>12. "Today we're going to play Blindfolded Bunnies." The Laws of God will guide us to a more fulfilling life but we must choose to obey His instructions to gain the benefits. Blindfold someone who is a "bunny" and lead them to their food (carrot sticks or fruit) by giving instructions. Explain how God's laws, such as praying and not gossiping, are like food but we must follow them in order to get fed. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>

## **Obedience: Daily Activities (continued)**

### ***Creative Arts***

<p>13. "Today we're going to make a poster about the ways Obedience keeps us safe." Draw ways obedience keeps us safe, such as not touching sharp objects without help, staying clear of dangerous machines or animals, or not playing with fire. Rules are often made out of love for us to keep us safe. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>14. "Today we're going to be obedient when we follow instructions to create a picture." Print page 6 of the Printables and follow the instructions. God gives us instructions for living our life so that we will have a strong foundation and what we need to be protected in life. But if you are not obedient, you will not get the end result. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>15. "Today we're going to discuss our Family Rules." Consider what is most important in your family for everyone to get along. If people follow these rules, you can all work together and live in peace, even when there are challenges. Write these rules and hang them for all to see. Page 7 of the Printables is an example you may wish to use. You can draw pictures in the squares to represent each rule. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>16. "Today we're going to find out what happens when we are not obedient." One rule in most homes is that everyone should help tidy up. Draw a picture of everything you use each day, all left out in one room. Imagine what it would be like if no one obeyed the rule of tidying up and all these things were piled up instead of being put in their place. This would not be a very well organized home, nor very fun to play and live in! When we are obedient, we clean up after ourselves both literally and figuratively. We obey rules in order to keep our lives in order. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>17. "Today we're going to learn a sign for Obedience." Create a hand sign for your family to use when you need to remember Obedience, such as making an "O" shape by connecting the thumb to the rest of the fingers in a circular shape. Use the sign to remind each other to obey the rules when necessary. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>18. "Today we're going to learn about how there are sometimes different rules in different places." Make a list of rules beside each of the places pictured on page 8 of the Printables. Discuss how we must obey the rules for the place we are in. Rules can depend on the purpose of the place and what is there, so we should be careful to always pay attention to the different rules in various places we go. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>
<p>19. "Today we're going to obey instructions when following a recipe." Choose a dish to bake. Show how you cannot put the ingredients in the oven before mixing, you have to measure the correct amounts for the dish to come out right, etc. Being obedient is following directions closely; there is a wisdom you may not yet know. <span style="float: right;">Obedience</span></p>

*Visit the Online Lesson where you can see example photos of the daily activities, listen to the songs, and download the "Printables" document for this lesson:*

<http://www.enablemetogrow.com/obedience/>