

OBEY THE LAW



WEEK 3 Romans 13:1-7



Game title: Who are you?

Start a guessing game with the kids.

Have a list of authority figures. For each one, think of 3 ways to describe them.

Example: TEACHER: 1. I share what I know with others.

2. I help kids learn new things.

3. You can see me in school.

Other authority figures: parents, grandparents, boss, policeman, security personnel, president of country (or company), government officials like mayor, governor, etc

- Kids have to guess who it is as you give the descriptions.

- Start with the first description and whoever gets it right, gets 3 points. If no one gives the correct answer, you can give the second description and whoever gets it right, gets 2 points. If still no one gets it, you can proceed to give the third description and the person who correctly answers it gets 1 point.

- Continue until you've exhausted your list of people of authority.

- The person with the most points wins!

We normally think of authority figures as those people we have to obey. But more than that, they are people who have the responsibility to protect the people under them. They normally would have some rules so they can make sure that everyone is safe.



The Bible tells us in Romans 13:1-7 :

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

All of us live under certain authority. Children live under the authority of their parents. In school, they are under the authority of their teachers or the school principal. Our parents and teachers are also under an authority - that of the state. It could be a mayor, a president, prime minister or even a king. And the mayor, president, prime minister and king are also under an authority - that of God! But we are all under God's authority as well.

To maintain order during this pandemic, the authorities had to establish some laws within their communities. Depending on where you live, some of the laws may sound like these:

- People with no masks or face shields are not allowed within certain premises.
- Children are not allowed to leave their homes.
- Gatherings are only allowed for groups of not more than x people
- Social distancing must be observed.

These are quite simple laws yet some people have resisted in obeying them. The Bible tells us that disobeying them is like disobeying God because it is God who put them in their positions of authority. They are God's servants and they are accountable to God. Any law they put in place must be meant to protect their constituents.

Do you find it difficult to obey laws? If we find it hard to obey these laws made by men, how much more the laws made by God?



Parent to Kid/s:
2-6 years old

- How can you obey your parents? How can you show respect to older people?

7-12 years old

- Who is your favorite teacher? What do you like about her/him?
- Do you find it difficult to obey rules (whether at home or in school)? Why or why not?

Kid/s to Parent:

- Do we always have to obey those in authority? What if they themselves are not obedient to God?

The Bible is clear to instruct us that obeying authority is not an option. Whether good or bad, people in authority are God's servants, and that means God is the ultimate boss! He sees any good or bad actions, therefore He will do something about it. Our role is not to take His job, but to continue obeying in faith that God is still in control.



Dear Jesus,

We pray for the wisdom of our authorities. Please help them as they lead the people. Let them be free of selfishness and corruption. Remind them that it is God who is their real boss.

Help us be obedient to the rules, to the laws set by people of authority. Give us a humble heart and fill us up with hope that someday, You will take away all injustice, suffering and inequality.

Amen!



Did you know?

The first ever complete law code was written by an ancient Sumerian leader, Ur-Nammu. It was known as The Code of Ur-Nammu. It consisted of 40 paragraphs that stated the crimes and their corresponding punishments, many of which were fines the offenders had to pay.

Today, even as we have violated the law of God, all who believe in Jesus are free from having to endure any punishment because Jesus already paid the price for all our sin.

Source : <https://www.ancient.eu/Ur-Nammu/>