

Practicing the presence of God helps keep our world in sacred order.

Matthew 2:13 & 14

Materials: Small Dixie cup and beans

THEME: OBEDIENCE

Obedience or obey.... Hmmm what does that mean? *(Listen to children's answers.)*
Obedience is doing the right thing at the right time. When we obey we earn trust.

When my son was little he had a difficult time obeying. He would not tell the truth in order to avoid being disciplined. His lying caused us to not trust him.

So we decided to use a trust cup. Let me show you what that looks like.
(Hold a small Dixie cup and beans.)

Each time our son told the truth, he added a bean to the cup, which I set on my kitchen windowsill above the sink. When I asked him if he made his bed and he said he did—and he really made his bed—he could add a bean. When I asked him if he hit his sister and he admitted it had done this, he would earn a bean despite the consequences for a poor behavior. Do you understand how this worked?

When his trust cup was full I knew I could trust him to make good choices and he then received special privileges. However, if he didn't tell the truth he would have to spill out ALL of the beans and start over. He lost privileges because I could not trust him to make good choices.

He didn't realize that each time he told the truth he earned our trust...one bean at a time, but when he lied he lost all of our trust ...all of the beans at once.

Our relationship with Jesus is similar. When we obey Jesus and live the way he asks us to live we can stay in the presence of God. That is a privilege we receive. But if we choose to not do the right thing it makes us feel distant from Jesus.

Obedience is a choice we must make everyday. I have learned that obeying God it is the best way to live. Do you want to live for God, too?