

# Daily Living- Becoming Submissive

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**After completing this lesson, the children will understand what it means to become submissive and what they can do to practice submission.**

by Andrea Wehmeyer

## TOPICS

Christian Living, Attitude, Humility, James, Obedience, Submission

## AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

### Remembering James (Activity/Quiz) [page 4](#)

Give everyone a copy of the "Remembering James" quiz as they arrive. At first, let the kids see how well they can do without using the hints at the bottom. When finished, let them use the hints to see if they need to change any answers.

Answers: 1-d; 2-c; 3-no; 4-b; 5-a; 6-c

## MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

### "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7 NIV

Divide the class into two teams and choose a leader for each team. Leaders will help the team members memorize the verse and reference to get ready for the challenge. When ready, teams will alternate saying the verse and reference in unison. As soon as one team is finished, the second team should start, going back and forth. Continue this way, going faster and faster until everyone from each team is able to recite the verse accurately, without any hesitation.

## SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

### Introduction:

Today, we want to learn about what it means to be submissive. Our memory verses today say we should both submit ourselves to God, and humble ourselves before God. How is submitting and humbling different? How are they the same? Let's read from James chapter 4 for more help with these commands. (This passage should prompt a good deal of discussion. Allow sufficient time to talk about these commands presented by James.)

### Read James 4:1-10

### Discussion Questions:

1. Verse 4 makes reference to adulterous people. What does this mean? (*Someone who commits adultery is unfaithful to their husband or wife. When talking to the people, James was saying that because they loved the world, they were being unfaithful to God.*)
2. James also says, "Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." (James 4:4) What do you think that has to do with adultery? (*When we choose the world over God we are not being faithful to Him.*)
3. What does "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" mean? (*People who are proud are going to get in trouble, but those who are humble will be rewarded.*)
4. What is the most important thing we need to do in verse 7? (*Submit to God. Submitting to God is what will help us resist—not fight—the devil. It is God's power that will cause him to flee—not how hard we fight him.*)
5. Does it comfort you to know that if you come near to God, He will come near to you? If you take the first step toward God, He will already be there, waiting! (*Allow the kids time to think about this.*)
6. How do you guys think we can purify our hearts? (*Listen to their thoughts about this.*)
7. Why does James want us to be sad in verse 9? (*He doesn't really want us to be sad, but he wants us to know that we are sinners, that we need God, and that we are sorry for our mistakes. Usually when you get in trouble and you realize that what you did was not good, you tend to feel bad. Sometimes we will feel so bad we might even cry. THAT is what James is really talking about.*)
8. Are you going to submit, or humble, yourself before the Lord? Every day? (*They don't need to answer, but have them think about it.*)

## CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

### Practice Being Submissive (Skit) [page 2-3](#)

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## PRACTICE BEING SUBMISSIVE

*It's not easy to be submissive, but in this skit we see that practice makes it easier.*

*(A skit for two persons: Jess, Jim.) by Andrea Wehmeyer*

### TOPICS:

Obedience, Respect, Submission

### MATERIALS:

Table and 2 chairs, Books (optional)

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes



*(Jess comes and sits down next to Jim in the lunch room at school)*

**Jess:** *(Teasingly)* Jimbo! How's it going?

**Jim:** Hey Jess! It's going pretty good!

**Jess:** So, dude, did you hear what the teacher wants us to do?

**Jim:** Yeah, she wants us to...

**Jess:** She wants us to read this entire book, answer all the questions after each chapter, plus fill out a study guide, AND take a test!

**Jim:** Yeah...so?

**Jess:** It's just so not fair!

**Jim:** Would you rather just read the book and take a test?

**Jess:** Well...no. I'd rather not read the book, or take the test—AT ALL!

**Jim:** Jess, you know this book is required by the district. Plus, the teacher has a reason for doing things this way. I heard it is a hard book to understand.

**Jess:** EXACTLY!!

**Jim:** *(Sighs)* But, again, since we have to read it, she's giving us work to do that will help prepare us for that test.

**Jess:** But it's just a lot of work!

**Jim:** Then don't do all of it!

**Jess:** *(Smiling)* But then...

**Jim:** Then, just wait and see what you get on the test!

**Jess:** Oh, Jimbo! Why do we even have to obey the teacher! I don't even like her!

**Jim:** Ummm...*(Pauses to think)* You were in Sunday school right?

**Jess:** Yeah.

**Jim:** Remember how we talked about submitting?

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**Jess:** Yeah, but submitting to God has nothing to do with doing my homework!

**Jim:** Are you sure?

**Jess:** Well... yeah... No... I think so!

**Jim:** Look, this is how I see it. I see doing all my homework like my teacher asks me to do as submitting to my teacher.

**Jess:** AND...?!!

**Jim:** I use it as, um, practice. I think it will be easier to submit to God, who I can't see, after I've 'practiced' submitting to my parents and teachers who I can see.

**Jess:** Oh. I see!

**Jim:** I think it is always hard to submit to someone, but if you can do it often with those in authority over you, then you might find it a little bit easier to submit to God.

**Jess:** So, like it says in James, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

**Jim:** You got it! So, let's get busy!

# Remembering James

How well do you remember what we learned so far in James? Take this little quiz to test your knowledge.

1. Why do we need to consider our trials joy? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. It's not right to ever be sad
- b. We will become perseverant
- c. We will become mature and complete
- d. Both b and c
- e. None of the above



2. What will you receive when you persevere under trial? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. good life
- b. riches
- c. crown of life
- d. strength
- e. food

3. Can someone who doesn't have the 'deeds' that James talks about in chapter 2 be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. The demons believe that there is one God. What is their reaction to that information? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Repentance
- b. Shudder
- c. Both a and b
- d. Laughter
- e. Stutter



5. Our tongue is a restless evil, full of \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Deadly poison
- b. Snake venom
- c. Demons
- d. Both a and c
- e. None of the above

6. James describes the wisdom that comes from heaven.

Which one of these characteristics is NOT included? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. peace-loving
- b. sincere
- c. joyous
- d. full of mercy and good fruit
- e. pure

Hints: 1. (James 1: 2-4); 2. (James 1: 12); 3. (James 2: 14-18); 4. (James 2: 19); 5. (James 3: 8); 6. (James 3: 17)