



BETWEEN THE MANGER AND THE CROSS

Obedience

For the week of January 18th, 2026

Life

When you hear the word ***obedience***, what comes to mind?

Growing up, how was obedience talked about or practiced in your home? Was it more about rules, trust, relationship, or something else?

Have you ever been deeply misunderstood by someone close to you, even when you felt you were doing the right thing? What did that feel like?

Theology

Read Luke 2:41–52 together. Looking closely at Luke 2:49, Jesus says, “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” What does this statement reveal about Jesus’ identity and authority?

Lookup Luke 4:43, Luke 9:22, and Luke 22:37. What do these verses have in common?

Read Philippians 2:5-8. What does this passage teach us about the importance of Christlike obedience?

In Jesus’ world (the ancient Jewish world), Obedience carried with it three elements: Listening, Trust, and Relationship. Is this the kind of obedience you grew up with? Does this change the way you view obedience?

In Practice

Read Hebrews 5:8,9. What does it mean that Jesus learned obedience through suffering? How might God be forming you through obedience right now?