

OBEYING

As children of our Heavenly Father, we strive to obey God, to honor His will and to adjust ourselves accordingly. Connected with this is blessing and protection. Obedience to God is a virtue. Already little children practice obedience to their parents. Adults also sometimes find it difficult to be obedient.

The children experience that obedience often brings preservation from harm.

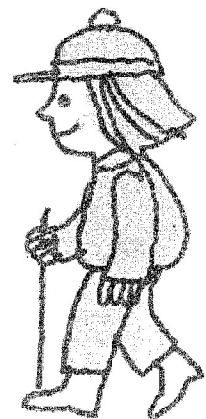
▶ **The hike (obedience brings preservation)**

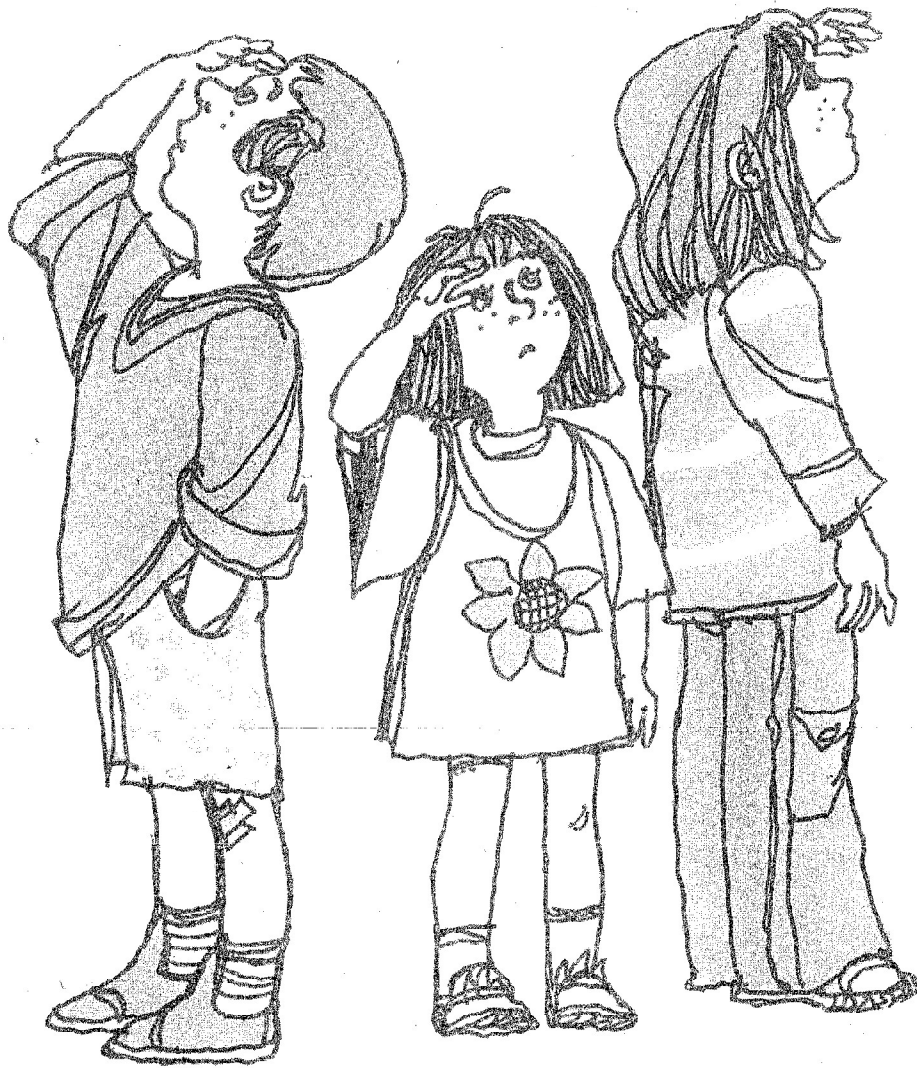
Simon goes on a hike with his parents. The boy constantly walks a few paces ahead. Curiously he looks around the next curve. At first the path leads along wide grass inclines. Sometimes the family has to cross streams that carry melted ice from the higher lying snowfields to the valley below. Simon wants to throw several pebbles into the next mountain stream. He hears his father call: "Simon, stay with us." Surprised, Simon remains standing and looks around. He thinks, "Why should I wait here? It is impossible for this place to be dangerous." Obediently he remains standing. Questioningly he looks at his dad who has no explanation for his request. Together they walk along the path. A short time later something unforeseen happens: several meters/yards ahead a piece of rock falls on the path. In shock the family looks at the piece of rock. Only after the rock lands with great force, are they aware of what could have happened if Simon would have walked ahead.

▶ The story can be told with a series of hand drawn pictures.

▶ The children think about what could have happened.

▶ The children talk about known dangers and the proper conduct taught to them by their parents.





► The children form a line. The first one in line is acting out a walk or body movement. All follow the example of the first one. Now it is the turn of the second child in line to demonstrate a different walk or movement. Again everyone follows his or her example. Every child gets a turn.





In the pond (disobedience brings harm and hurt)

A pond is divided by wire mesh. On the one side lives a pike. The wire mesh fence prevents him from eating the three small goldfish that live on the other side. Even though they could slip through the mesh, they keep away from the fence. They know, it is forbidden to swim to the side where the pike lives. One afternoon the saucy little goldfish gets bored with all the games they usually play. He swims close to the fence and longingly he says: "Surely it must be fun and interesting on the other side." His shocked friends advise him: "Come back from the fence. You know, the pike is lurking on the other side." But he does not heed their warnings. He swims back and forth along the fence. Finally he even slips to the other side. The hungry pike was just waiting for that. Quickly he darts from his hiding place, opens his mouth wide and swallows the disobedient little goldfish.

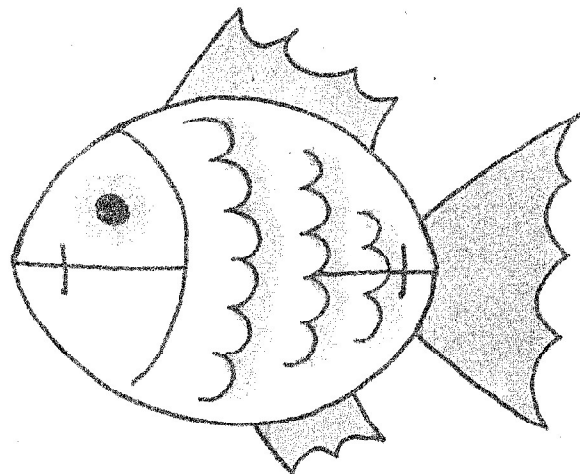


At the flannel board (or cork board) this story can be acted out.

VIII. 10



The children can cut fish out of gold foil. Or they can paste scales onto fish cut from cardboard. Together the children can arrange all the fish into a picture. Or they can build a mobile.



We discuss with the children the reason for rules.

Example: One should not touch a hot stove burner, because...
One is not allowed to play on the road, because...



