Why Obey?*

**Main Point:** Teach kids the importance of responsibility, which includes submitting to authority (1 Samuel 15:23; Exodus 20:12; John 14:15).

**Preparation:** You’ll need paper and something to draw with, an umbrella, a stepladder or chair, several soft objects (like Nerf balls or rolled up socks) or if you decide to go outside and use real water, a squirt gun or water hose.

**Suggested Age:** Elementary/Pre-teen  
**Estimated Time:** 15–20 minutes

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**Step One:**
Part of living a responsible life is learning to submit to authority. We must choose to submit or suffer the consequences for failing to do so. In order to reinforce the protective nature of obedience, have your kids draw a picture of people standing under an umbrella. Write the word “obey” on the umbrella to represent people who are in authority—including parents, God, and others. Draw strong rain coming down around the umbrella, representing the “hard knocks” of life. Explain that people who are in authority are like the umbrella. When we obey them (stay under the umbrella), they protect us and keep us safe. But if we disobey (move out from under the umbrella), we can get hurt.

**Step Two:**
Pull out a real umbrella and have the kids get under it while Mom or Dad stands above them on a ladder or chair. Drop the soft objects on anyone who steps out from under the umbrella. If you do this activity outside when it’s warm, use a squirt gun or water hose to soak those that venture our from under the “safety” of the umbrella.

**Step Three:**
Once you’ve had some fun, read 1 Samuel 15:23, Exodus 20:12 and John 14:15 together and discuss the ways our lives are better when we learn to be obedient to the authority God places over us.


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