



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE
Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

Age: 13 yrs & Over

SUBMIT

May 24 – Submit to Authority

Let us sing:

I'll say yes, Lord, yes
To your will and to your way
I'll say yes, Lord, yes
I will trust you and obey
When your Spirit speaks to me
With my whole heart I'll agree
And my answer will be yes, Lord, yes(3)

Memory Verse:

Romans 13:1 (NIRV)

13 All of you must obey those who rule over you. There are no authorities except the ones God has chosen. Those who now rule have been chosen by God.

Reading from the Bible: (Read with me)

Jonah 1: 1 - 16 (NIRV)

Jonah Runs Away From the Lord

1 A message from the Lord came to Jonah, the son of Amittai. The Lord said, 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh. Preach against it. The sins of its people have come to my attention.”

3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord. He headed for Tarshish. So he went down to the port of Joppa. There he found a ship that was going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went on board. Then he sailed for Tarshish. He was running away from the Lord.

4 But the Lord sent a strong wind over the Mediterranean Sea. A wild storm came up. It was so wild that the ship was in danger of breaking apart. 5 All the sailors were afraid. Each one cried out to his own god for help. They threw the ship’s contents into the sea. They were trying to make the ship lighter.

But Jonah had gone below deck. There he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went down to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call out to your god for help! Maybe he’ll pay attention to what’s happening to us. Then we won’t die.”

7 Here is what the sailors said to one another. “Someone is to blame for getting us into all this trouble. Come. Let’s cast lots to find out who it is.” So they did. And Jonah was picked. 8 They asked him, “What terrible thing have you done to bring all this trouble on us? Tell us. What do you do for a living? Where do you come from? What is your country? What people do you belong to?”

9 He answered, “I’m a Hebrew. I worship the Lord. He is the God of heaven. He made the sea and the dry land.”

10 They found out he was running away from the Lord. That’s because he had told them. Then they became terrified. So they asked him, “How could you do a thing like that?”

11 The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down?”

12 “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied. “Then it will become calm. I know it’s my fault that this terrible storm has come on you.”

13 But the men didn’t do what he said. Instead, they did their best to row back to land. But they couldn’t. The sea got even rougher than before. 14 Then they cried out to the Lord. They prayed, “Please, Lord, don’t let us die for taking this man’s life. After all, he might not be guilty of doing anything wrong. So don’t hold us responsible for killing him. Lord, you always do what you want to.” 15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard. And the stormy sea became calm. 16 The men saw what had happened. Then they began to have great respect for the Lord. They offered a sacrifice to him. And they made promises to him.

Message:

Let's talk about it:

This Bible story is simple. The Lord ordered Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people that their sins were so great that He, God will punish them, so they needed to repent of their sins. Jonah did not follow the Lord's instructions. Instead, Jonah boarded a ship to go to Tarshish, fleeing in the opposite direction of Nineveh.

Have you ever been instructed to do something and you did something else instead? Let us think of something; maybe you were asked to clean the shelf with all the fancy glass and crystal pieces. Of course, this came with the warnings, "Do not drop them!" "Do not break them!" So you were really afraid of going near them.

It was the same thing with Jonah. He was afraid of what will happen when he got to Nineveh. Just after the boat set sail, a great storm arose, and the sailors feared for their lives. Jonah finally told the sailors why he was on board, and advised them to throw him overboard so that the storm will cease. Eventually they did, but instead of drowning, the prophet was rescued by a divinely appointed fish that swallowed him whole. Inside the fish, Jonah prayed and received forgiveness for his disobedience, and he was delivered safely back onto dry land. Again, he was commissioned to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah submitted to God's command and authority and travelled to Nineveh.

What do you think? Jonah could have saved a lot of anguish if he had submitted to God's authority in the first place. Do you have to wait until you are punished before you submit to your parents' or teachers' authority? How willing are you to be obedient? On a greater level, the world is now facing the effects of a global pandemic, a corona virus, COVID 19. Most countries have gone under lockdown. We in the Caribbean have also gone under lockdown. "Stay home" we are told. Yet many people are disobedient. Some people still want to party. We need people to submit to authority, and stay home. Other instructions are to wear face masks in public, wash your hands, sanitize. As a nation we need to submit in order to have things under control for the safety of all. As the memory verse says the people in authority have been appointed by God, so we are actually submitting to God's authority. When we are obedient to the instructions of those set in authority over us, then we can say that we are submitting to God's authority.

Submission is a liberating word. We are all under God's protective authority, and we can only be free if we seek it and submit to it. Coming under authority is for your protection. Living free is your opportunity to be all that God created you to be. We're supposed to respect authority and that means we should obey figures of authority when they tell us to do something. However, there is a time when we shouldn't obey an authority figure. If someone who has authority over us tells us to do something that we know is wrong, or it's something God tells us not to do, then we should not do it. For example, imagine that you are at the store with your dad. You're next to the candy bars and your dad says, "Take one of those candy bars and put it in your pocket, we're not

going to pay for it.” We know it’s wrong to steal, God tells us that in the Bible. So, in a situation like that, you shouldn’t obey your dad because stealing is wrong. We should always respect authority unless they tell us to do something that we know is wrong. When we let God’s word rule us, we are submitting to His authority. We need to follow God’s will and not our own.

Prayer for authority

Thank You, Lord, for Your great love and tender mercy toward me. Forgive me, Lord, for my rebellious spirit. Teach me to be submissive and respectful to those in authority over me especially those who seek the best for me. Help me be a light in our dark world; let Christ shine through me. Give me eyes to see and ears to hear those around me who need Your gospel truth. Help me to obey Your laws and surrender my will to you as I seek to do what is good and right in Your eyes. Strengthen my heart and bless me as I walk in the ways of Christ in whose name I pray. Amen.



Activity:

WORD SEARCH.

SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY

Rules: Locate the given EIGHTEEN (18) words in the list below in the grid, running horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. You may also read words backwards, or downwards.

E	A	J	E	S	C	E	R	O	K	S	O
T	R	U	H	V	L	U	V	A	S	Z	B
A	E	I	T	A	E	E	R	E	E	S	E
L	P	W	H	H	R	I	N	F	U	F	D
O	E	W	O	B	O	E	L	O	E	A	I
S	N	G	O	L	V	R	I	E	C	W	E
I	T	A	R	I	L	X	I	C	B	S	N
C	R	K	G	A	N	O	E	T	L	F	C
D	C	R	C	A	C	P	F	M	Y	V	E
H	O	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N
F	T	H	Y	T	I	L	I	M	U	H	O
W	S	L	S	U	B	M	I	T	E	A	R

Find these words among the letters above.

ACCEPT ANXIOUS AUTHORITY BELIEVE CURFEW	FEAR FOLLOW FORGIVENESS GRACE HUMILITY	ISOLATE OBEDIENCE OVERBOARD PROTECTION	REPENT SHIP SUBMIT WHALE
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