

## Cycle B

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Lectionary #35

#### Reading I: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The prophet Jeremiah is speaking to the nation of Israel as the people find themselves exiled from the promised land for the first time since Moses led them there. While they are in exile and under the control of the Babylonians, Jeremiah speaks words of hope to the people. He tells them that God is calling them to enter into a new covenant, one where they will be more attentive and **obedient**. In the prophecy, God speaks of placing His law upon the hearts of the people, hopeful that they will respond in **obedience** to that law.

#### Reading 2: Hebrews 5: 7-9

This very short segment of the letter to the Hebrews contains some of the most remarkable theology within the New Testament. It presents Jesus as the “great high priest” and “the mediator of the New Covenant.” It portrays Jesus as the one who “learned **obedience** from what he suffered.” **Obedience** is a key element in Jesus’ relationship with the Father, and as such, **obedience** is not something those who choose to follow Christ can take lightly.

#### Gospel: John 12: 20-33

The Gospel of Saint John consistently presents Jesus as the **obedient** one. In this passage, we encounter the Jesus who understands the will of the Father as he uses the metaphor of the grain of wheat falling into the ground. Jesus is troubled, yet he gives himself over in complete **obedience** to the Father. It is in this passage that Jesus most profoundly reveals his upcoming Passion as his destiny: “But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.” Jesus is the ultimate example of **obedience** in handing over his life for the salvation of all humanity. It is this **obedience** that will bear great fruit for all nations and throughout all ages.



build. plant. grow.  
*the word this week*



lent



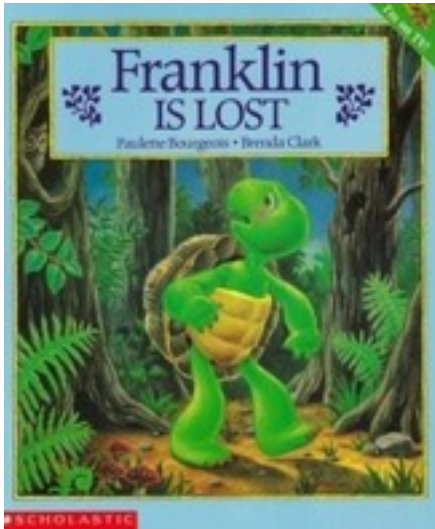
*Obedience*



lectionary  
reading



children's  
story



### *Franklin is Lost*

By Paulette Bourgeois

Illustrated by Brenda Clark

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character  
education  
activity

**Obedience entails listening  
and hearing God's word and  
then acting accordingly.**

## Franklin is Lost

This story is a great illustration of the lure of disobedience and its consequences. Franklin, a young turtle, wishes to play with his friends. His mother gives him permission to do so, but she tells him not to go into the woods. All of Franklin's friends are playing hide-and-go-seek, and Franklin believes that his friend the Fox would go into the woods in order to not be caught. Franklin decides to enter the woods even though he has been warned not to. Eventually, all of Franklin's friends decide to end their game and go home. Meanwhile, Franklin is lost in the woods and it is beginning to get dark as night falls. Luckily, Franklin's parents figured out what must have happened after talking to all of his friends and go on a search for him. A very frightened Franklin is found and returns home with his parents, now having learned the importance of being **obedient**.

## Activity: Listening as Essential to Obedience

**Step One:** This activity is a variation of the Montessori Silence Game. Bring the classroom to a calm level. Give each student a piece of paper and a writing implement. Instruct them to remain absolutely silent and to face the front of the room. You will then proceed to the back of the room. You should have a number of selected items with which to make noises (bell, rubber band, balloons, etc.). Determine the number of sounds you will be using for each item and have the students put that number down on the left side of the page so they can identify the sound with a number.

**Step Two:** Instruct the students to listen carefully to the sounds and then to write down what they thought the sound was. If they speak they are disqualified. The children left who have guessed the most noises correctly win.

**Rationale:** Listening to the word of God is crucial to being **obedient**.

**And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. 2 John 1:6**



**case study**

**Look.  
Feel.  
Know.  
Act.**

## What could you do today?

Listening is a very important part of being obedient. Think about how you might not be able to accomplish an assignment or successfully complete a task if you were not paying attention to instructions. Think of the number of people that God has given you to help you learn how to **obey**.

Your mom and dad

Your teachers

Your coaches

Other adults that are responsible for you

Each of these individuals is called to care for you, and that will often entail giving you instructions that will protect and help you. On the left side of your paper, list these individuals, and across from their names, give an example of an instruction that they gave you. Then, across from that instruction, write down what consequence would have happened had you not listened or been **obedient**. Finally, write down what the result of your **obedience** was to their instruction.

## Look Feel Know Act

We have seen the important role that listening plays in being **obedient**. If we have not listened to instructions, it is fairly certain that we will not be able to accomplish a given task. We are given the job of loving each person as best as we are able to each day. We are aware of what it is like when we are speaking and a person is not listening to us. Once we know in our hearts and minds the importance of listening and being **obedient**, we can make a deliberate effort to listen and be **obedient**. Make a commitment to being a person who listens and is **obedient**, most especially to God and God's Word. Review the 10 Commandments and ask yourself where you are doing well and in what areas you need to improve.

In *Franklin is Lost*, we see that not being **obedient** can leave us far from home. Our home is with God, and when we are disobedient, it is as if we are wandering far from our being at home with God. God constantly desires for our return to Him. God, like a good parent, goes in search for us when we have wandered from him in **disobedience**. In *Franklin is Lost*, we see how Franklin's mom and dad search for him until they find him and bring him safely home. Franklin's wandering, **disobedience**, and becoming lost eventually brings him to realize the importance of following rules and being **obedient**.



closing  
tool

Pray to always have open ears and an open heart to hear God's Word and respond obediently, willingly, and lovingly to that Word. Amen.



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