

Simple - Studies in Mark

Session Five: Obey - Part 1 (including notes for leaders)

Welcome, opening prayer and worship

(5–15 minutes)

[Pray as you begin, asking God to be at work in your group, and enjoy a short time of worship together (e.g. singing, soaking, waiting on God in silence, praying through a Psalm, journaling, etc.).]

Introduction

(5 minutes)

[Read the paragraphs below aloud to introduce the session.]

Obedience is one of the most misunderstood and misrepresented aspects of Christianity. Is follow Christ really only about a list of do's and don'ts? If not, why does the list seem so important? In this session, we discover that the confusion comes when we get the steps out of order. Jesus said to: Follow. Believe. Obey.

[Go around the group and ask people to share a time that disobedience got them into trouble.]

Bible study

(15 minutes)

[Read Mark 14:32-36]

1. What do we learn about obedience from Jesus behaviour in this passage? And what do we learn from the disciples' behaviour?
2. Obedience can sometimes be very difficult. What explanation does the passage offer?

Movie Clip

(15 minutes)

[Watch the clip from Andy Stanley's talk on the 'Simple' DVD. Go to 'Group Curriculum' -> 'Session 5. -> 'Continue'.]

Youtube link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcDAq_oxXsE

[Work through the questions below.]

1. Was there anything from the DVD that was new to you, or had an effect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?
2. What keeps people from taking the last step and obeying Jesus?
3. When did you begin to obey Jesus? What was your motivation?
4. What should be our motivation to obey?
5. Has there been a time when you had to make a difficult choice on whether or not to obey God? How did it turn out?
6. Read Matthew 7:24. What are the benefits of doing the hard work of laying a firm foundation for your life?
7. Read Matthew 7:25. When has obeying Jesus helped you weather the storms of life?
8. Of all the Christian commandments that you have heard, which ones have been the hardest for you to apply in your life? What difference would it make if you were to align your life with Jesus' teaching in that area?

[Close by reading the following prayer aloud.]

From the famous hymn written by Edward Mote (1834): "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand".

From Isaiah 28: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed". Lord Jesus, thank You that You are our firm foundation. Thank You that our lives stand strong and firm on the foundation of Your Word and of Your everlasting love for us. Help us to live lives of obedience to you, for the glory of Your Name. Amen.