

# Simple - Studies in Mark

Session Six: Obey - Part 2 (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.]**

The church often mistakes Christian obedience as the first step in the Christian life. As a result, for many people the Christian faith becomes a rule-based religion. Instead, the Scriptures reveal that Jesus' initial invitation is to follow Him. He invites us to follow Him until we begin believing that His is indeed who He says He is. This belief that God loves us and has the best in store for us, then, becomes the reason we obey.

Bible study

(15 minutes)

**[Read Mark 6:7-13]**

1. Obedience can be difficult when the task seems too big for us, or when we're not sure what's going to happen. What benefits of obedience do the disciples experience in this passage?
2. Read vs. 8,9. Why would Jesus place these restrictions on the disciples?
3. Trusting (believing) and obeying are seen to go hand in hand. Explain their relationship.

Movie Clip

(15 minutes)

**[Watch the clip from Andy Stanley's talk on the 'Simple' DVD. Go to 'Group Curriculum' -> 'Session 6. -> 'Continue'.]**

Youtube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiFEkj6-rss>

**[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. Read Matthew 7:26. Was there a time in your life when you were the foolish builder? A time when you disregarded Jesus' words in order to live life your own way? How did things work out?
3. Read Matthew 7:27. Have you seen someone's life crumble under a storm of life? Have you felt your life crumble beneath the weight of a storm? How was the outcome affected by the foundation that was laid?
4. Read Matthew 7:28. The authority Jesus taught with amazed the crowds. Do you believe that Jesus knows what He is talking about? Why do you trust Him?
5. Does this parable comfort you? What are the things you are doing now to lay a firm foundation?
6. Do you hear this parable as a warning? Is there anything you are now building on sand?
7. Obedience to Christ makes all the difference in the outcomes of your life. Going forward in obedience to Christ, what areas of your life do you need to surrender?

**[Close by reading the following prayer aloud.]**

From Proverbs 3: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Lord, help us to submit *all* our ways to You. Help us to let go in those areas where we are afraid to loose control. We trust in Your Unfailing Word, which teaches us that You care for us and will guide us safely through the storms of life. Renew our minds so that we may have the mind of Christ. We long to trust and obey you. In Jesus name, amen.

**[Ministry idea: We can attend church and experience great music and informative sermons, but these things are not life changing. Obedience to Christ makes all the practical difference in the outcome of our lives. What areas of your life do you need to surrender in obedience to Christ?]**