

Paradigm Discipleship

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The purpose of this resource is to provide some guidance for you as you encourage your disciple to develop a strong devotional relationship with God.

The following resource is a guide that provides some basic structure to developing a study on valuing obedience and becoming doers of the Word on not simply hearers only.

We encourage you to do your own study, using this resource as a guide, to develop a learning experience for you and your disciple that will help you both become followers of the Word of God.

Be Doers of the Word

Opening question: Can you think of any verses off the top of your head that talk about obedience to God's Word?

*This might be tough for some. They may not be able to quote the reference, but they may come close to the concepts. Hopefully they will think of a couple of the verses that are listed in this study.

*You could read Psalm 81:7-16 together and discuss the value of obedience.

*Some of our favorite verses on this topic are James 1:22-25 & Luke 6:46.

Follow up question: What do **YOU** think are some consequences of disobedience to the Word of God?

*Make a list of what they come up with, see if it compares to what you developed for this study.

*There are several references in the Old Testament, like in the book of Deuteronomy, that you might be able to find and use here.

*We would encourage you to also look at the New Testaments examples:

-John 3:36

*John the Baptist talking about the Christ – the man Jesus.

*Compare with Jesus' words in John 3:18. We stand condemned already, but Jesus came to save.

-Notice that John uses a play on words, first saying that those who "believe" are saved, then saying that those who do not "obey" are still under the wrath of God.

-Romans 2:4-8

*Notice that in verse 8 Paul compares "not obeying the truth" to people who are "selfishly ambitious". Consequences? Wrath and indignation.

-Ephesians 5:6 & Colossians 3:6 speak to the same issue as well.

*What we like about these verses is that it uses the phrase "sons of disobedience" as a general term to mean people who are under the wrath of God. We see just how deadly disobedience is.

-Hebrews 3:16-19

*Context – written to Jewish believers in Christ

*God's rest being referred to in v. 18 is the literal rest of the promise land for Israel.

*The following context of Chapter 4 illustrates that God's rest can refer to many things, including the rest of our relationship with Him.

*You can see from these verses that sin (v.17) is then redefined as disobedience (v.18), and further redefined as unbelief (v.19).

*The biggest point being made here is that sin, or disobedience, which is rooted in unbelief, is a destructive reality that keeps many from being saved, but also severely damages our relationship with God for those who are saved.

Follow Up Question: What are the rewards of Obedience?

*Again, make a list of what they come up with and compare it to what you have prepared.

*The obvious answer would be salvation, which includes receiving the Holy Spirit:

-Hebrews 5:9 talks about salvation coming to those who obey Jesus

-Acts 5:32 talks about those who obey receive the Holy Spirit

-Matthew 7:24-27

*Obedience is the foundation of life.

*Wisdom to live life well, even in the face of trial and hardship.

-Joshua 1:8

*Success and prosperity flow from obedience.

*GOOD CLARIFICATION QUESTION: What kind of success and prosperity?

*Given in the context of God's assignment. You will succeed and prosper in what **God has given you to do** if you devote yourselves to the Word and to doing what it says.

-1 Peter 1:22

*The result of obedience is a purified heart that is capable of sincere love.

Study Question: Read Matthew 7:21-23. What do you think the point of this story is?

*WARNING VERSE: Not just obedience for obedience's sake.

*This allegory demonstrates that even doing amazing things isn't what saves you, but a relationship with Jesus saves you. Therefore, your obedience needs to flow from a relationship with Christ.

Read John 14:21-24 together. Discuss the implications of obedience.

*Potential thoughts:

*Evidence of love for God

*Evidence of the power of God within you

*Rewarded by the presence of God in your life

Final Question: In light of John 14:21-24, what might the implications be for someone who has a hard time following Jesus' commands?

A suggestion: memorize Luke 6:46 together.