



Paradigm Discipleship Lesson

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.

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 move deeper in your understanding and experience of interacting with a God who desires a deep, intimate relationship with you.

Obedience

GOAL: To help us rightly understand that we are not saved by our good works or because of our obedience. Because we have been saved by the works of Jesus, we should naturally grow and go do good works. Christ's obedience brings us salvation. His reward is our salvation!

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This is a good meeting to remember the Gospel and what it is that saves us. The fact that we are saved by Grace through Faith in the Works of Jesus is what makes Christianity different and distinct from all other religions. Please do not feel the need to read all the scripture passages.*

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS:

- What does it take to be saved?
- What are the results of someone who trusts Jesus?
- What should change in the life of someone who starts following Jesus?
- What does obedience look like for the Christian?

OPENING QUESTION: Can you think of any verses in the Bible that talk about being obedient or doing good works?

STUDY QUESTION: How does Grace and Obedience interact?

- God's grace does not negate obedience, but compels obedience! (Romans 6:1-2)

READ John 14:15, 21-24 - What does this passage teach us about obedience?

- Evidence of love for God
- Evidence of the power of God within you
- Rewarded by the presence of God in your life

Obedience reveals what we love and live for! A desire for obedience to Jesus is an indication of genuine transformation by the Spirit. This can be evidence if someone is a follower of Jesus.

READ Luke 6:46-49 - What is the point Jesus is making here?

- If He is the Lord of our life we should seek to follow, trust, and obey his words.
- Are we building our lives upon Him or something else?

READ Ephesians 2:8-10 - What is the relationship between good works and salvation?

- Good works naturally flow from a person who has trusted in the works of Christ.
- Christ has saved us so that we are able to go and do good works, which glorifies God and is loving to others.
- Additional readings if you need: Titus 3:4-8, Galatians 5:15-24

PRACTICAL QUESTION: What do we do when we fall in sin? Fail to be obedient?

- James 4:6-10 - Repent and Trust Christ! Run back to Him!
- Psalm 51 - Ask God to forgive us, give us clean hearts, restore the joy of the Gospel!
- Romans 8:14 - Seek to put sin to death! Celebrate repentance even sooner each time.

READ John 15:10-11 - What does Jesus teach us here about obedience and joy?

- Psalm 119:2-3 "Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths."

CLOSING QUESTIONS: Is obedience something you think about? Is this a priority when making decisions? *Note: the goal of this study is to rightly understand obedience, not making decisions.*

Where do you struggle to be obedient to God?

APPLICATION: Memorize Galatians 5:16 or Ephesians 2:10

Resources:

- Sermon: A Faith that Works - <https://dscabq.com/messages/a-faith-that-works>
- Faith and Repentance with Walter Strickland (New Churches Masterclass Podcast)

***If your disciple brings up works based salvation, this might be helpful:**

Clarifying Question: James 2:14-26 - What is James teaching here?

- Is James teaching we are saved by faith and works? No! Here James is arguing that good works (obedience) vindicates or proves that we have saving faith in Jesus. The fruit produced in our lives reveal that we are saved and trusting in the Gospel. If someone claims to be a Christian yet their life doesn't show that, then James is saying they probably have not trusted in the Gospel. This is a dead faith, just words, and not saving faith.