

DISCIPLES OBEY GOD'S WORD

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: DISCIPLE

BIG TRUTH: DISCIPLES OBEY GOD'S WORD

Psalm 119:30; Jeremiah 7:23; Luke 6:46, 11:28; 1 John 5:3

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:15

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

BIG IDEAS

- Disciples are doers of the Word, not hearers only.
- Disobedience to God's Word is a sign of deception.
- Love for Jesus is displayed through obedience.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 14:15, 21-24; JAMES 1:22-25

TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Jesus is the only source of life
- God's Word is authoritative and applicable for all of life
- To follow Jesus is to pursue a life of sacrifice and surrender



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the triune God who is worthy
- Convicted of how deception has led them to disobedience
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the gospel of John
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Implement regular rhythms of prayer and fasting throughout the semester



Every student should want to...

- Pursue obedience even when faith is a struggle
- Grow in living in step with the Holy Spirit
- Live their lives to glorify God the Father

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:15

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Disciples love God.

"If you love me..."

- For followers of Jesus, love is the foundation of their relationship with Him. They follow Him because they trust Him and as they follow Him, they grow in their love of Him. Disciples love God because God is their Lord and Savior.
- For someone to be your Lord, he is the Ruler of your life. You submit your life to them. Disciples of Jesus love their Lord and Savior because He has given His life for them and ransomed them from their sinfulness.

Disciples know God's Word.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

- When Jesus taught His disciples the relationship between loving Him and keeping His commandments, He was teaching them that this relationship is connected to their knowledge of His commandments. In order for a disciple to keep God's commandments, they must know them.
- A disciple will know God's Word because it is there that we will find God's commandments. We will seek to know His Word because we will desire to obey His commandments. We will not want to displease Him because we do love Him and seek to bring Him honor and glory with our lives.

Disciples obey God's Word.

"...you will keep my commandments."

- Love causes us to do many things. Loving Jesus leads us to keep His commandments. It causes us to obey Him in radical ways, even if it costs us everything. We can read story upon story of Jesus' early disciples living in radical ways because their love for Him led them to obey Him.
- Disciples today obey His Word. They do not purposefully seek to disobey Him. Instead, they live intentionally so that they can obey His commands and please Him with their lives. This is what being His disciple is: following His example of complete obedience to the Father's commands.

BIG IDEA #1: DISCIPLES ARE DOERS OF THE WORD, NOT HEARERS ONLY.¹**[THIS]**

Following Jesus requires complete obedience of His Word. To obey His Word, we must know His Word. We know God's Word when we hear it. Hearing it involves more than just listening to it being read aloud or hearing it preached. Hearing it involves having a heart open to receive its truth and knowledge. Being open to hear and receive truth means submitting to the authority of Scripture and allowing it to rule over us. When we do this, we are hearing the Word of God. This type of hearing is a posture of our heart and an attitude of our mind more than its an actual, audible hearing. When we humble ourselves before God, we realize that we do not have full understanding and knowledge. We recognize, not just our need for a Savior, but our need for help in living our lives on this fallen and broken earth. Hearing God's Word means we are submitted to and under its authority in a way that it is transforming us.

[THEREFORE]

How can you position yourself to have a heart that is better able to receive God's Word daily?

In John 15:4, Jesus calls His followers to abide, or dwell in Him. A focus on Him and an intentional pursuit of Him will result in being a hearer of His Word. When we are in constant pursuit of Him, we will submit ourselves to His Word and hear what God has to say in it. This means that our hearts are submitted to Him and His rule over us. It means we pursue His Word daily with a heart that is willing to hear His truth.

[THIS]

Hearing God's Word is important and necessary. We cannot stop at just hearing, we must do what God's Word says, too. We all respond to God's Word in some way. We either act in obedience or disobedience. James 1:22-25 reminds the disciple to not just hear it, but to do it also. It's not enough for a disciple of Christ to hear it and know it. We cannot just gain knowledge and then it not change us and result in action. We must obey God's Word. Our lives must reveal that we are living out God's Word as truth. As we do what His Word says, our lives will be marked by this type of hearing and doing. When we put action to our faith, we show the world around us that our faith is real and we really believe God's Word is truth.

[THEREFORE]

How are you tempted to "hear" God's command to obey Him, yet not obey Him, such as honoring your mother and father?

In Hebrews 5:11, the author of this letter warns his listeners to not continue being hard of hearing. He doesn't mean that they cannot physically hear, but that they have grown dull to the things of God. Often, when things become familiar, we can become dull to them. This is true of God's commands, too.

Why is it important to hear and do God's commands?

People watch what we do. When we say we have faith, yet our works do not reveal that we do, we show our faith is not real. It's important that we hear and do what God's Word says. 1 Peter 3:16 and 2:12 remind us of the importance of our testimony to the watching world. We also show God that we love Him when we obey His commands.

1. James 1:22-25: Those who truly follow Jesus will hear and do His Word.

BIG IDEA #2: DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD IS A SIGN OF DECEPTION.²**[THIS]**

The things we believe, we do. When we really believe something, we do it. When we obey the Word, we reveal that we believe it is true. When we disobey God's commands, we reveal that we are deceived into believing that they are not actually true. We are first deceived as Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. That very same sin nature lives inside of us and is at war with our redeemed self. Because the Spirit lives in us, we can know truth and understand it, yet we fight against our old nature that lies to us and leads us astray. We are deceived by Satan and his demons. We believe their lies and disobey God's Word, believing that what He says in His Word isn't really true. When we disobey, we are revealing that in some way we have been deceived. We must recognize this deception and repent of it. Disciples understand that disobedience means deception and they reject the lies of this world.

[THEREFORE]

Look at Genesis 3. How does this same type of deception happen to us today? How does it lead us to disobey God's Word?

In Genesis 3, we see the way Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan and this deception led to their disobedience. They believed a lie about God and they chose to disobey His command. We believe lies about God, too. When we do, it leads us to disobey. If we stay in this deception, we will continue to disobey.

What steps can you take to recognize when you are being deceived?

Galatians 6:7-8 warns us to not sow to our flesh. When we sow to our flesh, we invest in our sinful desires. When we choose to invest in our relationship with God by studying and reading His Word, we will be able to recognize deception. We can turn our hearts and minds to God and that will protect us. Being a part of the body of Christ is a step toward accountability and a step toward protection.

[THIS]

James teaches us that we can be deceived into believing we are following Jesus when we are not. When we are hearers and not doers of the Word, we are deceiving ourselves into believing that we are walking in obedience. Many people will live good, moral lives attending church weekly, participating in programs, and doing many church things, but their hearts will be far from God. This type of deception will keep us in a life of disobedience to God's commands. We cannot disobey any part of God's Word consistently and think that we are really living for Him. Our lives must be marked by a consistent desire to live obediently to His Word in every way. Disciples know this and do this. They want to live obedient lives and they reject deception. They seek to hear and do His Word.

[THEREFORE]

How can you intentionally guard against deception in order to be obedient to God's Word?

Matthew 6:22 reminds us that our eyes are the lamp of our bodies. This means that what we focus on and look at will direct our hearts. We must be intentional and guarded with our focus. When we intentionally set our minds and look to the things of God, we will not be so easily deceived by the things of this world. Psalm 101:3 serves as a reminder that we should not set our minds on the worthless things, but instead, we should focus on the eternal things of God.

2. Ephesians 4:14: When we disobey, we are deceived and dragged away from truth.

BIG IDEA #3: LOVE FOR JESUS IS DISPLAYED THROUGH OBEDIENCE.³**[THIS]**

In John 14:15 and 21-24, Jesus teaches that our love will motivate us. When we love Him, this love will lead us to obey Him. Our love for Him is what guides us and directs us to intentionally obey His Word. As we grow in our love for Him, we will grow in our obedience. Just as Jesus obeyed the Father out of love, we will obey Jesus out of love. Love is the great motivator for all things. It is what drives us to do many things and our love for Christ is what drives our obedience to His Word. We follow Him in radical ways because we love Him. He is our example of this. He obeyed the Father to the point of death on a cross out of love for the Father and for us. Jesus taught His disciples that their obedience should be done out of love because of the relationship that He has with each one of them. The same is true for every disciple of Christ. We have a relationship with Him; therefore, we obey out of love and not compulsion.

[THEREFORE]

How have you seen love motivate people to do radical things for Jesus?

People have gone to the ends of the earth and risked their lives for the sake of Jesus. They do this because they love Him, not because they fear Him or someone is making them. John 13:34-35, Colossians 3:14, and Proverbs 10:12 help us understand the great motivator that love is when it comes to following Christ.

[THIS]

How we love Jesus is shown by the way we obey Him. It's not enough to obey Jesus sometimes; we must obey Him always. During Jesus' earthly ministry, He taught that radical obedience was the only obedience a disciple could really have. Jesus requires His disciples to lay down their lives for Him. This is a radical request. To ask someone to give up their lives in order to follow you is extreme, yet it is what Jesus did for us. A true disciple will follow Jesus and obey Him fully. He or she will do this because of their love for Him. They will not be able to contain their love because as a person grows to know the person of Jesus, their love for Him increases. This increase in love results in a radical, life-long obedience to Him. When Jesus is your everything, you will desire to lay down everything for Him. Your love for Him will lead you to live fully for Him.

[THEREFORE]

Read John 14:15 and 21-24. What does your level of obedience reveal about your love for Jesus?

Jesus' words in these verses are true. If we love Him, we obey Him. When we evaluate our lives and discover that we don't really obey His commands, we are discovering that perhaps we don't really love Him. If our lives reveal that we do obey Him, then we can know that we do love Him and know Him personally.

What could obeying Jesus fully and radically look like in your life?

To follow Jesus radically and obey Him, we must die to ourselves as Luke 9:23 tells us. This involves obeying Jesus' commands in Scripture. We will be forgiving as Ephesians 4:32 teaches and we will bear with one another as Colossians 3:13 reminds us. Obedience is immediate and fully if it is to be done correctly.

3. John 14:15: Our love motivates us to follow Jesus. Our love reveals what we believe and trust.