

“When Obedience Makes No Sense”

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INTRODUCTION

In our series of “Great Buts” of the bible, we’ve found God’s intervention can radically redirect our path. In the story of Luke 5 it was Peter’s faith that was redirected. We will all have opportunities to put our faith into action, even when our actions don’t seem to make sense. Peter’s decision to obey resulted in more than a great catch of fish. It produced a greater level of faith and we can find important lessons for ourselves from this example of obedience.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What’s the biggest fish you’ve ever caught?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Disciples and Apostles

Q1. Read Luke 5:1-11, Luke 6:12-16, Mark 8:34, Matthew 28:18-20

In the Greek, a disciple (*mathētēs*) is one who follows another’s teaching and an Apostle, *apostolos*, is a messenger, or one who is sent forth. In Luke chapter 5, how does Peter prove to be a disciple, and what makes him an Apostle? According to Mark 8:34, what qualifies us as disciples? Who does Jesus send forth in Matthew 28? Do you feel Jesus has called you to be both his follower and his messenger?

We Must Hear the Words of Jesus

Q2. Read Matthew 7:24, Luke 11:28, John 8:31,

If we are disciples of Jesus, we need to consider how a disciple acts, especially when following Jesus’ commandments makes no sense to us. But before we can obey, what do Matthew 7:24 and Luke 11:28 say we must do? While there are a variety of ways God may choose to speak to us, we know he will not contradict his Word. What did Jesus say his disciple would do in John 8:31? How is abiding in God’s Word different from simply reading God’s Word?

We Must Trust the Words of Jesus.

Q3. Read Luke 5:5, Hebrews 11:6

In this instance, the great “but” comes from Peter in Luke 5:5. What was it about Jesus command that tested Peter’s faith? What are the situations in your life right now that seem to be without results? Is there an area that God is calling you to step out in faith? Share with your group what would prevent you from taking a risk to be obedient to God. Hebrews 11:6 tells us God rewards those who earnestly seek him. What are some unexpected ways God has rewarded you, when you have stepped out in faith?

We Must Obey the Words of Jesus

Q4. Read John 14:15, 2 John 1:6, Luke 5:6

In the world around us there are many motives for obedience; such as fear of punishment, hope for gaining favor, or simply meeting obligations. But what is the motivation for obeying Jesus found in John 14:15, and 2 John 1:6? We see the result of Peter’s obedience to Jesus’ command in Luke 5:6. What is the command he gives to us in Matthew 28:19-20? What is the greatest hurdle you have to overcome to follow that command?

WRAP-UP

As followers of Jesus we must be willing to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. But following Him starts with “hearing His Words” by reading and abiding in them. When we hear God’s word, we must choose to put our trust in it, even if it makes no apparent sense to us. The final step of the process is to take action in obedience to God’s commands. Knowledge and intellectual assent alone fall short of obedience. It is our actions that define our obedience, even when the risk seems high, because our obedience is motivated by our love for God. And His reward for our obedience will be greater than we ever imagined.

Memory Verse

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

John 14:15 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge: Choose one of the commands listed below that is most challenging for you right now. Read the references below it. Pray that Jesus will show you what he wants you to do, and empower you to do it.

Love

John 13:34
Matthew 22:37-39

Forgive

Matthew 6:12,14
Matthew 18:21

Pray

Matthew 6:5-13
Matthew 18:19-20

Fast

Matthew 6:16-18
Luke 5:35

Give

Luke 6:38
John 13:13-17

Reconcile

Matthew 5:23-24
Matthew 18:15-17

Seek

Matthew 6:33
Matthew 7:24

Abide

John 15:1,4
John 8:12,31-32

Shine

Matthew 5:16
Matthew 5:14-15

Read Luke 5:1-11 in your Bible

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV - 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 7:24 ESV - 24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
 Luke 11:28 ESV - 28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Luke 11:28 ESV - 28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Luke 5:5 ESV - 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

Hebrews 11:6 ESV - 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

John 14:15 ESV - 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Luke 5:6 ESV - 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.

Prayer requests con't _____