

OBEY: Follow the Leader

Lesson for Sunday, March 22, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Review: We are in the middle of a series where we are seeing what the Bible says about being a disciple. In recent weeks, we have begun to look at the specific spiritual disciplines that a disciple is to develop. We are using the acrostic “CLOSER” to help us remember.
 - The first discipline is COMMUNICATE (prayer). The second is LEARN (the importance of God’s Word. This week is “O” for OBEY.
- ⇒ How many remember the game “Simon Says?” TIP: Play a game right now!
- ⇒ It’s amazing how well we follow directions of a mystery man named Simon, but the real issue is how do we respond when Jesus says _____?
- ⇒ One of the key birthmarks of a Christian is their **obedience** to Jesus.

BIBLE STUDY:

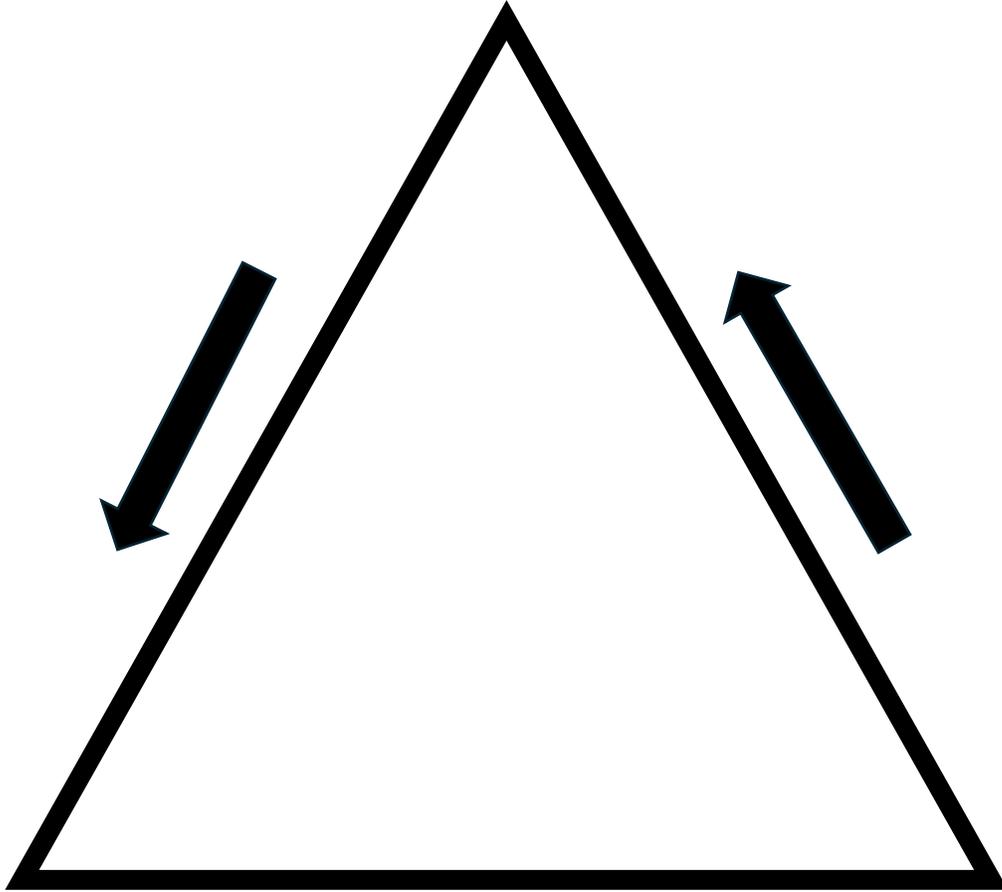
1. The **Birthmark** of Obedience (1 John 2:3-6)
 - a. Context of 1 John:
 - i. John wrote this epistle to assure true believers of eternal life while exposing false professions of faith.
 - ii. This passage introduces the "test of obedience," one of three tests (obedience, love, doctrine) showing that saving faith produces a lifestyle of keeping God's commands.
 - b. Notice that the word “**know**” saturates this text. (*Read the text.*)
 - i. John uses it thirty times in this letter alone. The word is not speaking of mental knowledge or simply an awareness of information.
 - ii. The word means to have a personal, experiential knowledge of something through close interaction.
 - iii. It’s not a knowledge that you obtain once and for all. It is the ongoing result of a personal encounter.
 - iv. Point out that this type of knowledge is the result of what we have discussed the last two weeks – communication with God through prayer and learning more about God through time in His Word. These are the two primary ways we come to know God. (*This is a key point of this lesson!*)
 - c. Jesus echoed this in John 14:15, linking obedience to intimate knowledge of God.
 - d. Finally, point out that obedience to Christ’s commands is not a **selective** process.
 - i. We don’t treat God’s commands as a buffet, picking and choosing what we like and ignoring what we don’t like.
 - ii. God expects complete obedience from His disciples.
2. The **Blessings** of Obedience
 - a. While many people look at obedience from a negative point of view, the Bible presents numerous blessings that are the result of our obedience.
 - b. TIP: Break the class into groups. Have each group look up one or two of the following references and report back to the class what it teaches. You do not have time to teach each of these points. We simply want to make the point that blessings follow obedience.
 - i. **Assurance** of Salvation (1 John 2:5) (“know that we are in Him”)

- ii. God's love is **perfected** in you (1 John 2:5) ("in Him...is the love of God perfected")
 - iii. **Success** (Joshua 1:8)
 - iv. Answered **Prayers** (John 15:7)
 - v. **Friendship** with Christ (John 15:14)
 - vi. **Needs** will be met (Matthew 6:33)
 - vii. God will **direct** your path in life (Proverbs 3:5-6)
 - c. Wrapping up this section ask: Does this look like the life you wish for? Then simply trust and obey!
3. The **Beginning** of Obedience
- a. What motivates our obedience? Are we supposed to go drudgingly along like a child being told to clean their room?
 - b. The key to obeying God is our **love** for God. Think of it as a triangle (*use the board – see the diagram below*). Here's the explanation:
 - i. The progression flows from knowing God to loving Him.
 - ii. Then, the more we love Him, the more we will desire to obey Him.
 - iii. The more we obey Him, the more He reveals Himself to us.
 - iv. Then we love Him even more, which causes us to obey Him better.
 - v. And it just keeps going...
 - c. Here's the point: You will never obey Him **faithfully** until you love Him **fervently**.
 - d. This takes us back two weeks. How do we learn more about God?
 - i. We communicate with Him daily (prayer).
 - ii. We learn more about Him through daily time in His Word.
 - iii. Think about it, when a married couple has issues, it often comes back to communication. They are not spending time with each other, sharing their desires and needs with one another, etc.
 - iv. The same applies spiritually. When we fail to obey the Lord, it is a signal that there is something more going on.

APPLICATION/DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ What makes obedience difficult?
- ⇒ Which blessing of obedience means the most to you? Why?
- ⇒ Can you see how disobedience is related to a lack of love for God?
- ⇒ Share with the class what you do personally to grow your knowledge of God. This is primarily what you do for your personal time with God.
 - Remember, if a person will not dedicate to spend time with God, they will not know more about Him. That leads to a cool heart and love for Him, which leads to disobedience.
- ⇒ You may want to take a few minutes and discuss the importance of daily confession and repentance. We will all disobey at times, but that moment of disobedience does not have to derail our walk with the Lord.

KNOWING



LOVING

OBEYING