

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:

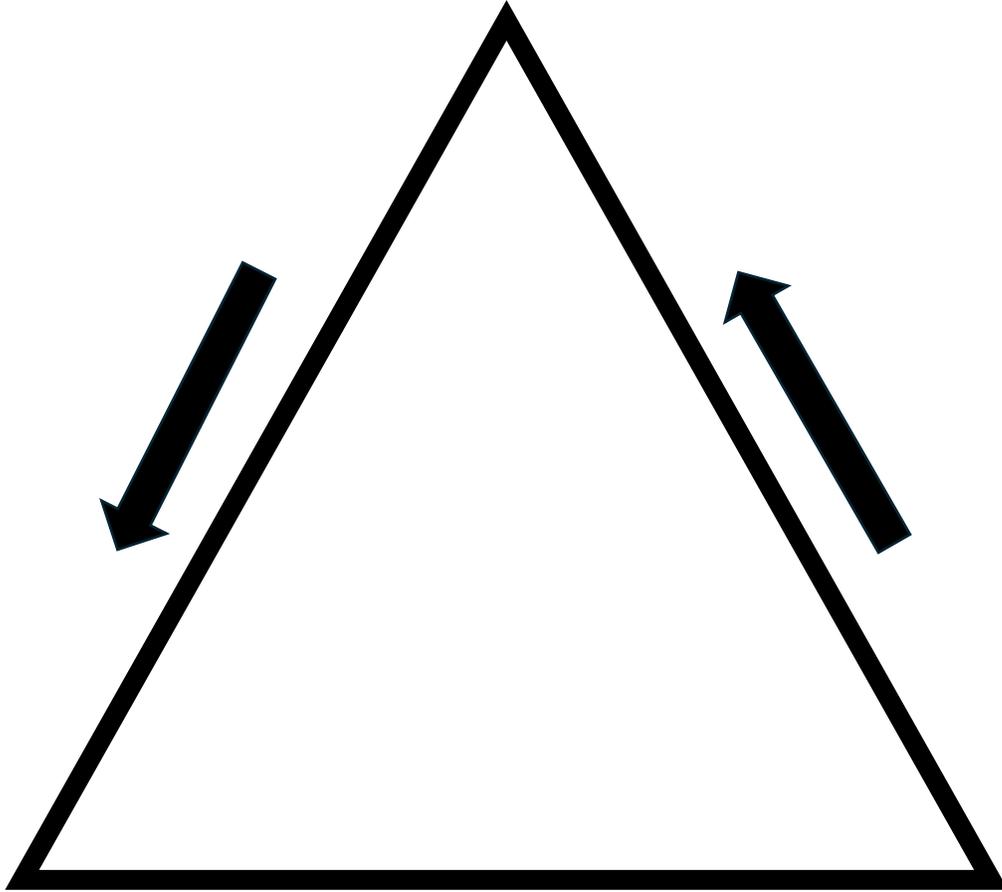
1. The **Birthmark** of Obedience (1 John 2:3-6)
 - a. Context of 1 John: John wrote this epistle to assure true believers of eternal life while exposing false professions of faith.
 - b. Read the text out loud and see if the students can figure out the key word in this text? Notice that the word “**know**” saturates this text.
 - i. John uses it thirty times in this letter alone.
 - ii. When John uses this word, he is not talking about information we should know as if we are studying for a test at school.
 - iii. The word means to have a personal, experiential knowledge of something through close interaction.
 - iv. Silly illustration: A friend says to you, “I really like your parents!” You reply, “That’s because you don’t *know* them!” What are you saying? You know your parents at a much deeper level because you have lived with them for years.
 - v. John is saying that if we really know God, we will obey Him. If we don’t obey Him, we don’t really know Him.
 - c. Jesus made the same point in John 14:15.
 - d. Here’s the point: Most people think negative thoughts when they think about the topic of obedience. It is almost never considered in a positive tone.
 - i. John’s point is that we will obey God if we love God.
 - ii. Keep it simple! That means if we are consistently disobeying God we do not actually love Him!
2. The **Blessings** of Obedience
 - a. 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. This section ties it all together.
 - b. What motivates our obedience? Are we supposed to go drudgingly along like a teenager after being told to clean their room or take out the trash?
 - c. 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...
 - d. Here’s the point: You will never obey Him **faithfully** until you love Him **fervently**.
 - e. 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:

- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ What is the #1 area of your life that you need to work on your obedience? What can you do this week to attack this area of your life?
- ⇒ 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