

The Blessing of Obedience

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Were you a compliant child or a challenging child? Explain.
2. When you purchase a new product, are you more likely to read the instructions or to start trying to figure it out on your own?

Read the following passages: Luke 11:27-28; 6:46-49.

When an unnamed woman in the Gospel of Luke sees the remarkable things that Jesus is doing and hears the wisdom coming from his mouth, she honors him by declaring how blessed his mother must be. It is likely she is also thinking to herself, “I wish I had a son like him.” We have a tendency to think similarly. “If I only I had that job or that house or that body I would really be blessed.” Jesus’ response to this woman’s comment is important: “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” A blessed life is not primarily a function of our circumstances. It is a function of our obedience.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are some things that we may have a tendency to fixate on even though they are outside of our control? Explain how focusing on obeying God can be empowering.
2. Read Philippians 1:12-26. How is it that the apostle Paul was not “stuck” even though he was chained up in prison? What can we learn from his example?
3. Read John 13:12-17. Are you taking action to follow Jesus? Explain. What do you think Jesus wants you to do?
4. Can you name Freedom Church’s six practices of discipleship? On a scale of 1 to 5, how well have you engaged each practice the past three months? Which practice do you feel needs the most attention right now? What are you going to do about it?
5. Read Proverbs 28:1; Acts 5:27-32. How does obeying God increase our confidence? What steps of obedience would lead to increased confidence in your life?
6. Read John 14:15-24. According to Jesus, what is one of the keys to experiencing God’s love? Is there anything in your life right now that you think might be hindering your experience of God’s love? Explain.
7. What are the most important steps of obedience you need to take in your life right now?

Pray