

09 RADICAL OBEDIENCE

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 35:5-19

CENTRAL truth

To illustrate a message about obedience, God used a family who obeyed the commands of their ancestor for many generations. God challenged Judah to consider why the Rechabites were more obedient to their ancestor than His people were to Him. Today's passage helps us to see that **obeying God should be the top priority in our lives.**

key question

Why is obeying God important? If it's so important, why is it often so difficult for us to do?

God's good plan for us is impossible to walk in without obedience to Him. Obedience is what puts us on the path of God's plans. Even more importantly, obedience is one of the main ways we show our love for Him. We all face daily temptations to be prideful and independent, and obedience can be difficult to embrace. However, difficult as it may be, no one ever obeys God with a loving heart and regrets it.

keep in mind

- Students might have questions about a prophet trying to get people to drink wine—especially people who've made a commitment not to drink alcohol! The point wasn't to get the Rechabites to compromise. The point was to show that they wouldn't compromise but would remain obedient to their ancestor's commands.
- A life of obedience to God is not a perfect journey. Your students will probably have experienced many slip-ups and set-backs by this point in their lives. Remind students that repentance is a tremendous gift: when they disobey God, they can repent, be forgiven and cleansed, and be empowered by God's Holy Spirit to grow in obedience.

application

Why is obeying Jesus worth whatever it might cost us? What do we gain in return?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should learn that one of the best parts of obedience is a closer, more satisfying relationship with God. Another joy of obedience is how it shows those around us that we trust God because we believe He is good. More than anything else, obedience is an act of trusting love to God.

FOR THE LEADER: As a leader, you have an opportunity to share about times you were disobedient to God that have caused regret in your life, as well as times you were obedient and how that produced joy in your life. Help students to see that rather than being boring, obedience to God is life-giving and meaningful.

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