



SERIES: A Long Obedience

Group Guide Week 2 (for the week of March 14th, 2021)

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Most of us experience life from failure to failure, mishap to mishap, or crisis to crisis. It's understandable. Life, particularly modern life, has its fair share of difficulties. It's hard to feel like we are headed any place positive. But, what if we could? What if we could experience life as a beautifully unified story that proves just how much God loves us? In this series, we will be discussing God's masterful plan known as discipleship. The ability to stay consistently disciplined in order to experience more of who God is and who he's made us to be.

Big Idea: Obedience has a history and gives us hope for the future.

Scripture: Psalm 132

WEEK 2 RECAP:

If you missed Sunday's message here is WEEK TWO RECAP:

God's instructions to us through the Bible were not motivated by a spirit of restriction. Rather, he has given us the information we need to live full and free lives. Those who choose to follow God's plan for navigating the world we live in join with generations that have gone before them. Obedience has a history. And, that history has proven over and over and over the benefits of following the design of the Designer.

Questions Ben opened up with:

- Are there things in your life you **don't know** keeping you from the life you wish you had?
- What if there was something out there that knew better than you and was available for your use for free?
 - If we had a free resource that promised a better life, would you use it?
 - This is exactly the way we should see the **Bible and its instructions.**

- “With a biblical memory, we have two thousand years of experience from which to make off-the-cuff responses that are required each day in the life of faith.” Eugene Peterson

DISCUSSION:

1. Read Psalm 132: 11-12. Notice that the people are instructed that IF they keep the covenant, THEN God will deliver on his promises. Ben stated “God’s promises are dependable, but they are also conditional.”
 - a. Is this statement something you agree with in your relationship with Jesus this far?
 - b. What are some ways that your disobedience has hindered God’s promises to you and/or your family?
 - c. What are some examples of everyday actions that make us challenge our obedience to God?
2. Read Hebrews 6:18-20. Many of us don’t fully know the promises of God. Many others of us, as evidenced by the way we live our lives, have forgotten the promises of God.
 - a. How do we identify the promises of God in our lives?
 - b. How can we help push one another toward those promises?
 - c. Do you know someone who has been obedient to God and their lives are a reflection of that?
3. It’s easy to fall into the mindset of “I haven’t been obedient, so I will not see the promises of God”, but that’s the beauty of Grace. Hit “reset” today, and watch how he works in YOU.
 - a. What are some habits that can help you “reset” your mindset?
 - b. How can we hold each other accountable in our obedience to God that gives us Hope for the future?

TAKE AWAY & ACTION ITEMS:

- **Don’t restart, reset!**
 - Have you failed? Don’t quit. Don’t send yourself back to start!
 - This is not what God requires of you! Follow his structure, not yours.
 - Here’s another way to think about it based on the language of Psalm 132: stay in the “if.”

- Even if you lose your way for a moment, stay in the if of obedience. Jump back in where you left off.
- The only people we love to send back to start more than ourselves are the people closest to us who fail.
- Don't do this either.
 - It would be impossible to count how many people we have known that desired to get back in the game, to stay in the if, but didn't they quit because their family and friends forced them back to start.
- Sending people back to start turns their journey into jail. This isn't loving. It's debilitating.

RESOURCES used on Sunday:

- The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. **If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them**, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne." Psalm 132:11–12 (ESV)
- We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up his permanent post Hebrews 6:18-20 (MSG)
- *"When suddenly you seem to lose all you thought you had gained, do not despair. You must expect setbacks and regressions. Don't say to yourself "All is lost. I have to start all over again." This is not true. What you have gained you have gained....When you return to the the road, you return to the place where you left it, not to where you started."* Henri Nouwen, The Inner Voice of Love
- *"If we are going to live adequately and maturely as the people of God, we need more data to work from than our own experience can give us."* Eugene Peterson, A Long Obedience
- "Learning is a serial incompetence on our way to getting better." - Seth Godin