

BECOME *Disciples*

BE ONE • MAKE ONE •

Session: The First Mark of a Disciple:
Loving God

OBEDIENCE

Participant Guide

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and Become Disciples



1. Getting Started - The Greatest Command

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mark 12:29-30

The greatest commandment is not first about serving God, but about loving God.

According to Jesus, **love is not only a feeling; love is obedience.**

“If you love me, you will keep my commands.” John 14:15

Love equals obedience.

We do not prove our love for God by how deeply we feel, but by how faithfully we follow.

2. Obedience Is an Expression of Trust

Many people think obedience is about rules, restrictions, and control.

But biblical obedience is not primarily about rules; it is about trust.

Obedience is love expressed through trust.

We do not obey to earn God’s love.

We obey because **we trust the God who loves us.**

3. Love of God vs Love for God

The Bible teaches a very important order:

First: The love of God

(God loves us)

Then: The love for God

(We love Him in response)

“We love because He first loved us.” - 1 John 4:19 CSB.

Discipleship begins when the love of God becomes the love for God.

4. The Pattern of Discipleship

You can summarise discipleship like this:

The love of God reveals our identity.
Repentance restores our relationship.
Obedience expresses our love.

Revelation → Restoration → Expression

Christianity is the response of loved people loving God back.

5. God Demands Total Obedience

Partial obedience is still disobedience.

“To obey is better than sacrifice.” - 1 Samuel 15:22 CSB.

God does not measure obedience by **intention**, but by **surrender**.

Partial surrender is not surrender.

Jesus does not ask for partial surrender; He calls for **complete trust, complete love, and complete obedience**.

6. God Demands Costly Obedience

Obedience is not always difficult because we do not know what to do. Often it is difficult because **we do know what to do**.

God's commands are often simple, but they are rarely easy.

7. God Demands Continuous Obedience

“If you love me, you will keep my commands.” - John 14:15 CSB.

This means **ongoing obedience**, not occasional obedience.

Jesus obeyed the Father completely, even to death.

“He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death.”- Philippians 2:8 CSB.

Obedience led to **exaltation** for Jesus, and it will lead to reward for us.

“To the one who conquers I will give the right to sit with me on my throne.”

Revelation 3:21 CSB.

God calls us not to momentary obedience,
but to a **life of continuous obedience**.

Personal Reflection

Take time to pray and answer honestly.

- 1.**Start:** What is God asking you to start doing in obedience right now?
- 2.**Stop:** What is God asking you to stop doing that is hindering your walk with Him?
- 3.**Stay:** Where is God asking you to stay faithful, even if it feels unseen or costly?

Closing Prayer

Lord,

Thank You for loving me first.

Teach me to love You through obedience.

Help me trust Your ways above my own.

Give me the courage to obey completely,

the strength to obey when it is costly,

and the faith to obey continuously.

Amen.

