

WHAT HAVE *YOU DONE?*

unit 10 | session 2



CHRIST CONNECTION

God's laws are meant to show us our need for a Savior. Disobeying in the slightest degree is sin and reveals our sinful nature. That's why we need Jesus, who obeyed God perfectly, to be our substitute for the penalty of sin.

SIGNIFICANT DISOBEDIENCE

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

1 Samuel 11—1 Samuel 13

OUR WAY SEEMS BETTER

1 SAMUEL 13:6-9

6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, 7 and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 8 He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. 9 So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.

GOD'S WAY IS BETTER THAN OURS

1 SAMUEL 13:10-14

10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. 11 Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, 12 I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." 13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

MAIN POINT.

Depending on ourselves
will always lead to failure.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

SIN AS REBELLION

Because the Bible portrays people as responsible beings, called to respond in faith and obedience to God's revelation, the Bible often portrays sin in terms of defiance and rebellion toward God the King.

Isaiah 1:2 is one of many passages that describes sin in terms of rebellion against God: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me." Seen in this light, sin is personal and willful disobedience, the raising of a clenched fist toward the One who made us.

DISCUSSION

OUR WAY SEEMS BETTER

1 SAMUEL 13:6-9

- What does it mean to take matters in our own hands?
- How did fear and impatience drive Saul's actions? What does this help you understand?
- Why was Saul's sacrifice considered disobedience? What does this show you about doing good things for the wrong reasons?

GOD'S WAY IS BETTER THAN OURS

1 SAMUEL 13:10-14

- What kind of leader did God want for His people?
- What were Saul's excuses? What does it reveal about our hearts when we make excuses too?
- What is a time when you realized God's way was better than your own?



**HOW COULD YOUR OWN IMPATIENCE AND RUSHING
AHEAD OF GOD AFFECT THOSE AROUND YOU?**

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Are some acts of disobedience worse than others? For example, is letting profanity slip just as bad as stealing or cheating? First, even asking this question reveals something about our hearts: We tend to categorize sin. We compare one sin with another, ranking them in an effort to justify them. The reality is that all sin holds the same consequence: death (Rom. 6:23). Just one sin—even one we may consider minor—is enough to warrant our death and our need for salvation because all sin separates us from God. In this sense all disobedience to God is on equal ground. So, why do some sins feel worse than others? Because the effects and consequences in our daily lives may differ. For example, cheating on a test may lead to a failing grade while committing a crime could lead to jail time and other lasting consequences. In reality, both actions are sin; both actions are enough to warrant spiritual death and separation from the Lord. But in the here and now, the effects are certainly heavier for one than the other.



DAY ONE

PSALM 27:14

Do you ever talk to yourself? Many of us might do this in stressful situations or when we need to push through something physically difficult. We may even talk ourselves through a problem or to get ready for a big game.

In this psalm, David spoke to himself. He reminded himself to wait on the Lord, even twice repeating the phrase. He desperately needed the reminder that it was better to wait on God than to rush ahead of Him. David reminded himself to take courage and to be strong in the waiting. We can and should apply this to our lives today. We often need to whisper godly truths to ourselves too. We often need to remind ourselves of who God is—of His character and His love for us. When we walk through difficult seasons, what we inwardly speak to ourselves matters greatly. Those seasons are opportunities for us to either embrace truth or to accept Satan's lies. And we could all benefit from the reminder to wait on the Lord. It's tempting to rush ahead of His timing in seasons of waiting. We long for what's next; we long to get out of our current circumstances. This only causes us to miss the moment we're in, which could teach us how to rely on the Lord.

- **EXAMINE YOUR INNER THOUGHTS. ARE THEY BASED IN GODLY TRUTH OR IN SATAN'S LIES?**
- **WHAT SPECIFIC TRUTHS DO YOU NEED TO RECITE TO YOURSELF TODAY?**

PRAY

LORD, I WANT TO SPEAK YOUR TRUTH TO MYSELF IN DIFFICULT SEASONS. HELP ME TO CENTER MY MIND AND HEART ON TRUTH INSTEAD OF LIES.





DAY TWO

PROVERBS 14:12

This week, we read about Saul taking matters into his own hands and rushing ahead of God's instructions. The prophet Samuel had told Saul to wait on his arrival to complete a sacrifice, but Saul, driven by fear, offered the sacrifice instead. In a sense, there was a way that seemed "right" to Saul. After all, how could making a sacrifice to God be a bad thing? But in the end, that way was actually an act of disobedience to God's instructions.

We're really good at justifying our disobedience; we twist it into seeming like the right thing to do in the moment. Maybe we continue to hang out with people who lead us into sin because we don't want to be alone. Maybe we rush ahead of God's timing when He has told us it's better for us to wait. Maybe we fill our calendars with all the right church events, but we leave little time for our personal relationship with the Lord. So many ways appear right to the world—chasing fame, money, success, and so on—but in the end, these things don't lead to meaningful life. In fact, these things often drag us into sinful disobedience. It's important for us to take everything, even all the things that seem right, to the Lord and measure them against His Word. When we seek wisdom from the Lord, He will be faithful to show us which way is truly the best way.

- **WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'RE CURRENTLY JUSTIFYING EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW IT ISN'T GODLY?**
- **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN SEEKING WHAT IS GODLY OVER WHAT IS "RIGHT"?**

PRAY

GOD, SHOW ME THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT SEEMS RIGHT AND WHAT IS GODLY. HELP ME TO TRUST IN YOU INSTEAD OF RUSHING AHEAD OF YOU. HELP ME TO BRING EVERYTHING BEFORE YOU.



DAY THREE

1 JOHN 1:9

How do you react when you're caught doing something wrong? Do you instantly make up an excuse? Do you blame someone else? Do you not care at all? Let's face it: getting caught is not pleasant. When someone points out the ways we've messed up or failed, we sometimes feel shame, embarrassment, or even anger. In those moments, we face a choice: we can either own up to what we've done, or we can deny it. Those are really our only options.

When we sin, we often respond to the Holy Spirit's conviction in similar ways: we hide from the Lord out of shame and withdraw from spending time with Him; we deny that we've done anything wrong; or we become angry for getting caught. All of these responses put distance between us and God. But we can choose to respond another way: confession. The verse today tells us that if we simply confess our sin, God is faithful to make us clean. So when we sense the Holy Spirit telling us that what we're doing, saying, or thinking goes against God's Word, this means we stop right then and confess it. We admit to God, "I know this doesn't please You. I admit that I chose the wrong thing. Help me to choose to obey You instead." If we sincerely pray like this when we've sinned, God is absolutely faithful to forgive us.

- **WHY DO YOU THINK WE OFTEN AVOID CONFESSING OUR SIN?**
- **WHAT SIN DO YOU NEED TO FACE AND CONFESS TODAY?**

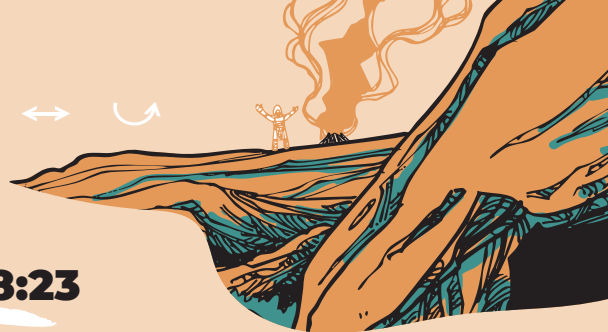
PRAY

LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE PROMISE THAT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME WHEN I CONFESS MY SIN AND REPENT OF IT. HELP ME TO FACE MY SIN INSTEAD OF AVOIDING IT OR JUSTIFYING IT.



DAY FOUR

PROVERBS 28:23



Have you ever had to have a difficult conversation with someone about something they did wrong? Maybe they hurt you, or maybe they sinned in some way. Either way, having to point out someone else's failure can be really uncomfortable. We worry they'll think we're judging them or that we'll harm the relationship by speaking up. We often avoid the issue and hope they'll realize their mistakes without our help. But Scripture encourages us to hold one another accountable.

This week, we've been learning about the importance of confessing our sin. One of the ways we sometimes realize our sin is through other people helping us see it. We get to be on both sides of this situation. At times, we're the ones in need of accountability. We're the ones who need someone to love us enough to tell us hard truths. At other times, we are the ones responsible for speaking hard truths. Both positions can be uncomfortable, but we can be thankful in both situations too. When people lovingly point out our sin, we can be thankful they love us enough to do so. We can be grateful they aren't willing to watch us slip further away from the Lord. And when we are the ones having to speak hard truth, we can do so in love. We can help point people back to Christ rather than telling them what they want to hear. We have the ability to speak life into others. This week, ask God to help you do this even when it's difficult.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU AVOIDED HOLDING SOMEONE ELSE ACCOUNTABLE? WHY?**
- **WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN GRATEFUL FOR SOMEONE ELSE POINTING OUT YOUR SIN?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF ACCOUNTABILITY. WHEN OTHER PEOPLE POINT OUT MY SIN, HELP ME TO RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE INSTEAD OF BEING OFFENDED. HELP ME TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.



DAY FIVE

PSALM 51:16-17

Do you know someone who is really good at fixing things? Maybe they can fix a car when it breaks down, or maybe they always fixed the toys you broke as child. You may even know someone who, in a sense, is good at helping to mend your broken heart. That person's presence and love comfort you. But some of us are the fixers. We are the ones people come to when they need help or a solution. We are the ones who quickly figure out how to make a situation better. Fixing can be a great quality, but it can also lead us into the trap of thinking we can fix any situation, especially our sin.

Here's the deal with sin: We can't do enough good things to fix it. We can't perform all the right rituals or sacrifices. We can't do enough good works. David realized this too. He knew that simply offering a sacrifice out of duty and obligation couldn't earn his forgiveness. Nothing could. God desired a broken, repentant heart—a heart that grieved over sin. What pleases the Lord is our brokenness over our sin instead of simply trying to modify our behavior. We often try to fix our behavior instead of feeling the pain of our sin. We'd rather be numb to it and move on. But that pain we feel after we sin leads us to repentance. The sorrow we feel over our sin reminds us that sin can never satisfy us. So, instead of simply trying to fix it, bring the sorrow you feel to the Lord. Instead of busying yourself with doing the right works, bow before God in repentance.

- **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU DO TO AVOID FEELING SORROW OVER YOUR SIN?**
- **WHY ARE WE OFTEN NOT BROKEN OVER OUR SIN?**

PRAY

GOD, I PRAY FOR MY HEART TO BREAK OVER MY SIN. HELP ME TO SEE IT THE WAY YOU DO. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIX IT, HELP ME TO BRING MY BROKENNESS TO YOU.