



THAT'S WHAT HE SAID

AUGUST SERMON SERIES

Discussion Guide

Obedience

Matthew 5:17-20 / Pastor Nick Engle / August 16, 2026

Session Overview

This week, we talked about obedience. Our next segment of the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus commanding us to follow the Law, but not how the Pharisees had been following it. Jesus tells us to follow the Law with love because the Law *is* love. We will be reflecting on obedience, our experience with following the Law, and how we can transform our obedience into our everyday behavior.

Session Flow (60-75 minutes)

Welcome and Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Do you remember what it was like learning how to drive? Did you feel overwhelmed, scared, or something else? Is there anything else that made you think, *how in the world can I do all of these things at once?*

Purpose: This will get us thinking about obedience and how following the Law begins as something hard to follow, but turns into habits as we grow.

Scripture Reading

Read Matthew 5:17-20 aloud together.

Leader Coaching Sidebar

- In the discussion guide, we talk about the Law (with a capital 'L'). Remind the group that this is different from the laws we have to follow in society; these are the commands God gives us in the Bible. The Law of the Bible helps to keep us accountable and love one another better.
- Obedience may be something that brings up many different emotions within the group. Be sure to create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings about the word, 'obedience.'

Discussion (40-50 minutes)

- 1. Would you consider yourself more of a rule-follower, a rule-breaker, or something in between?**

Leader Note: This is another warm-up question to get people talking about their general habits when it comes to the laws of the world.

- 2. Is there something within the Law in scripture that you once struggled with, but now feels like second nature?**

Leader Note: Connecting with the driving analogy, this will help the group start to think about how the Law may have once felt an impossible task but now is part of who we are.

- 3. What does the word 'obedience' make you think or feel? Do you have a positive or negative association with obedience?**

Leader Note: This will give a framework of how to adjust the discussion. We all have a different experience with obedience based on our past.

- 4. What does Jesus mean when he said, "Do not think I have come to abolish the Law but to fulfill them"?**

Leader Note: Encourage the group to dig into both what was talked about in the sermon and what they were thinking as they read the scripture.

- 5. In Matthew 5, Jesus warns against caring more about the Law rather than the heart behind it. Have you ever found yourself in this position?**

Leader Note: The goal of this question is to see if we have ever done this and to correct ourselves going forward. This also can help shift our view on the Law.

- 6. We often think that the Law and love are opposites, but we learned that the Law *is* love. In what ways do you think following the Law helps us love others?**

Leader Note: This can connect with the last question, getting the group to think about the Law as being a guideline of how following the Law turns us into people who love well.

- 7. What are some of the social constructs and worldviews that go against the Laws we learn in the Bible?**

Leader Note: For example, be your own boss or do what feels right to you. This goes against our command to follow God and the commands to do what is right in God's eyes.

- 8. Pastor Nick contrasts passion and emotion when it comes to guiding our relationship with Jesus. What would you say is the difference between passion and emotion?**

Leader Note: If this is a harder question to answer, start with thinking about the difference between passion and emotion and how using each as a guide through life can be different.

- 9. How can passion help us to be obedient to the Law where emotions can work against it?**

Leader Note: Passion is something deeper that affects our values whereas emotions can be fleeting and cause us to be focused on ourselves and how we feel.

- 10. How can our obedience be a way to minister to the people around us?**

Leader Note: Think about the phrase, "actions speak louder than words," and how we are able to show others Jesus by following the commands the Lord gives us.

Application and Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Where is God asking you to obey even when it doesn't feel good? Where do you need to lay down your comfort, your emotions, your preferences, in response to how much He's loved you?

Closing Prayer Suggestion

God, we lift up all our struggles in obeying you and we ask that you fill us with the passion to follow your Laws. You have these commands in place because we are a holy people, called to be set apart. Lord, give us the strength, confidence, and power to follow your commands and live how you want us to live. Let us be a living example to others and show Christ to the world through our obedience. Amen.