

La Familia de Dios

9 - Obedience

Open by asking: “How is everyone doing?”

Introduction: “We’re taking a look at what life is like in la Familia de Dios. Families are all about relationships, so each week we’re taking a look at different passages from the Bible that talk about how we relate to God and to each other. Our own families shape how we relate to God--good, bad, or ugly--and it’s easy to assume that a relationship with God is just like our relationships with others in our lives. God calls us family, so the point of our discussion is to find out what God himself says about what exactly that means...how it can be similar to and different from what we experience in our families.”

“Last week we talked about how the family that spends time together grows closer. This week we’re talking about obedience in la familia de Dios: Good parents put rules in place for their kids’ own good. How did you experience this growing up? Who in your family did you really want to obey? Why did you **want** to obey them? Why did **they** want **you** to obey?”

Transition to the Scriptures: “Let’s look at what the Bible says about why God wants us to obey him.”

Read Romans 6:11-23. After you read it, discuss these questions together:

Questions for discussion:

- Can anyone sum up what this passage is saying?
- What reasons does this give to obey God?
- The writer, St. Paul, uses a metaphor of slavery. What point do you think he’s trying to get across? Who are the different “masters” a person can have, and what are they like? [Note: Paul is NOT saying slavery is a good thing...Verse 19 suggests that he’s using it as hyperbole (exaggeration to make a point). The idea is that we don’t “own” our lives, but instead we all belong to someone--either to God or to sin. Even those who think they are in charge of their own lives are influenced and controlled by desires and forces beyond their control.]
- In verse 17, it says “you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.” What do you think that teaching is? [It’s the teaching that we are saved by what Jesus did for us, not by what we did for him.]
- Read verse 23. What does “wages” mean? What’s the difference between “wages of sin” and a “gift” from God?

“This was a pretty revolutionary idea! People in God’s family don’t obey because they are afraid of being punished, but because they have been set free from sin and have a new master--not a tyrant but a Master who is good!”

Read John 14:15-27. After you read it, share these notes with the group: “Jesus said these words to his disciples on the last night before his death.”

Questions for discussion:

- Can anyone sum up what this passage is saying?
- What does Jesus say should be our motivation in obeying God?
- Verses 16-17 and 26 talk about the Holy Spirit. What does Jesus say about him? What does this have to do with obedience? If the Holy Spirit is living inside of you, how do you think that will affect your ability to obey?
- Read verse 27 again. Talking about obedience doesn’t usually give people peace. How does this message give peace, though? [This is a great chance to help them understand the Gospel--it doesn’t have to be a mystery to us whether we please God or not. If we ask Jesus to forgive us and trust him to help us, we can have confidence before God!]

Apply it to Life:

- When you think about obeying God, which do you feel more--fear/uncertainty or peace/confidence?
- Are there any areas of life where you feel like you’re a slave to sin and not to God?
- Is there anyone in your life who you think could relate to what we’re talking about here? Can you talk to them this week about it?

Pray Together: “Let’s wrap up our time by praying for each other and asking God to help us experience these truths more this week.”