

# AMPLIFY: Obedience

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## Lesson 1: Obedience that Leads to Life

**What we want students to learn:** That the foundation of our relationship with God is built on obedience to His commands.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To come to grips with the tension between knowing that there is freedom in obedience, and still desiring to live by our own rules and not God's.

**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Psalms 119:89-93; Psalm 119:15-16, 18, 24

**Overview:** Obedience. It's an easy concept to understand, but it's pretty tricky to live out! Every teenager struggles at some point with disobedience—to God, to parents, to teachers—some more so than others. Many times, when they disobey, teenagers are simply rebelling against the rules and the system that seeks to box them in. But in the Bible, we see that obedience isn't about rules, it is about a relationship. We obey God not to impress Him with our rule-keeping ability, but to walk closer and closer with Him. As students walk closer and closer with God through obedience, they'll actually realize they come to know God more and more intimately. Instead of obedience being restrictive or confining, obedience to God can be freeing. This lesson will help your students begin to understand why obedience to God is vital and how they might begin to see freedom in living according to God's ways.

## Lesson 2: Jesus, the Perfect Son

**What we want students to learn:** That Jesus was the Son who perfectly obeyed His Father and that our obedience to God must be motivated by our love for Christ.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To encourage students to flesh out any legalistic motivations they have for obeying God, encouraging them to embrace obedience as an expression of love.

**Scripture Focus:** Romans 5:15-21, Hebrews 5:8-10, Hebrews 4:14-16, John 14:23-24

**Overview:** Obedience is a daily struggle, yet it is a struggle that Jesus faced and overcame. Jesus did what we can never do. He perfectly obeyed God the Father. Because of Jesus taking our place on the cross, when God looks at us, He sees Jesus' perfect obedience despite our constant disobedience. Jesus' obedience purchased our salvation, and now, He sits in heaven working in and through us and encouraging us to obey. But the reason why we obey is the heart of this lesson. We have to move beyond thinking that our obedience somehow makes God love us more. Our sinful natures create discord between God, and us regardless of our most obedient intentions. Only through Christ are we able to be seen as good in God's eyes. No, our obedience must be motivated by something else. And Jesus supplies that answer for us: love. We must help students understand that we will only ever obey God out of love for Christ and love for the sacrifice He willingly made on our behalf.

### **Lesson 3: Free to Obey**

**What we want students to learn:** That disobedience and sin defined their lives before Christ but because of Jesus, they've been set free from sin to live lives of obedience.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To help students understand that they have been set from to pursue obedience, and what this looks like in their day-to-day lives.

**Scripture Focus:** Romans 6:15-22, Galatians 5:13

**Overview:** As Christ-followers, we live in tension. It's the tension between being saved from the punishment of our sins through the work of Christ on the cross, and still striving to be obedient. The tension comes from knowing that through God's grace, we won't be condemned for our weakness. But this freedom can sometimes lead us to strive less to be holy and Christ-like. Put simply: the tendency for us, and our students is not to get too worried about obeying Christ because we know we're "covered." This is an important issue that strikes at the heart of obedience. As Christ-followers, your students are called to live in a way that's different than others around them because of Jesus. While addressing the topic of being different, Paul called the church to freely obey because Jesus was now their Master. Paul calls us to be people who strive to pursue obedience in our daily lives as a result of our freedom.