

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has lasting impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

Joseph

We are chosen by God to be His children, part of His forever family, if we decide to follow Jesus. But what would it be like to be picked by God for something special, something that would change the world? Joseph was hand-picked by God to do that very thing. What was it about Joseph that caused God to pick him? God chose Joseph because he was obedient. Read Matthew 1:18-25.

Why is obedience so important to God, and how did Joseph model it?

1. Obedience to God proves our love.

In the book of Matthew, we read that Joseph set aside his own desires and did what the Lord had told him to do. Most men would leave the marriage if they found out that their wife was pregnant before they had intimate relations with her. Describe what it means to fully obey God. How can the act of obedience show our love for the Father?

1 John 5:2-3; Matthew 22:37-39

2. Obedience to God demonstrates faith.

Faith is believing in what is not seen. By faith Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt when God told him to. He didn't ask why, or demand to know all the details. By the same faith he returned to Israel but not to his own town. You can't separate faith from obedience. Have you ever stepped out in faith? Describe the experience and the outcome.

Hebrews 11:17-19; James 5:8

3. God rewards obedience.

We read in the Bible that God blesses and rewards obedience. God's love is unconditional. God's blessings are conditional. Obedience, not intention, determines blessings. What are some of the things we do that we consider "no big deal," that God would consider disobedience?

Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19

4. Obedience is an act of worship.

Joseph did everything according to the law of God. He made sure that Jesus was circumcised, and he made sure that they went to the Passover feast every year. This was an act of worship. Salvation is the ultimate gift. Describe what drives you to obey God: is it fear? love? an uncontrollable desire to please Him? Give some examples of worship.

Luke 2:21-24; Romans 12:1; Proverbs 3:5-6

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Make it Real

- Admit your disobedience
- Spend time in God's Word every day
- Apply God's Word immediately
- Find at least one serving opportunity this Christmas season