



SERMON DISCUSSION LEADER'S GUIDE

Obedience | Keith Simon | November 30, 2025

Experiments Review

- How did it go? What was challenging?
- What did you learn? About yourself and about God?
- What would you like to incorporate into your life going forward?

Sermon Discussion

1. It's one thing to know information *about* a person, and another altogether to really know them. Who is someone you admire from afar but don't personally know? Was there ever a time in your spiritual journey when knowing *about* God shifted to actually knowing Him—and what's that like for you now?
2. Most of us long to experience more of God—His presence, joy, and perspective—but we often miss the connection between experiencing Him and obeying Him. Read John 14:23 and 1 John 2:4–6. How do these passages show that seeking "secret" spiritual experiences without obedience is incompatible with truly knowing God?
3. List some reasons why it's easier to prioritize mystical and private divine experiences over outward obedience?
4. Obedience and experiencing God aren't at odds with each other; in fact, they go together. But obedience starts with surrender. What's an area of your life right now that's difficult to surrender to God, and why?



- Keith highlighted that, when tested (see Genesis 22), Abraham had predetermined in his heart that he was going to obey God. He asked us, "Have you determined that whatever God puts in front of you, that you will say yes to him?" How does one know when God is asking something hard of him/her?
- In 2017, Tim Farron, leader and political spokesperson, said this in his resignation letter to his party:

"I want to say one more thing: I joined our party when I was 16, it is in my blood, I love our history, our people, I thoroughly love my party. Imagine how proud I am to lead this party. And then imagine what would lead me to voluntarily relinquish that honour. In the words of Isaac Watts it would have to be something 'so amazing, so divine, (it) demands my heart, my life, my all'.

He believed that obedience, though costly, was best because God's will is always better than our will. Earlier, we discussed some obstacles that keep us from obeying; now take a moment to imagine and list the better outcomes that come from obedience. How does this better vision of obedience help us to predetermine to follow God, even when it costs us?

Sharing and Prayer

Have group members share one area where they're struggling to surrender to God. Lead them in the following prayer exercise:

Leader: Say: "Take two deep belly breaths. Quietly thank God that he loves you and His plans for you are good, even when you don't understand them."

Give 10-20 seconds of silence.

Leader: Say: "Invite God to reveal any area of your life where you're holding back or finding it difficult to surrender."

Give 10-20 seconds of silence.

Leader: Say: "Acknowledge your weakness in the situation and inability to trust and obey on your own. Imagine yourself holding your burden in your hands and then handing it over to your heavenly Father. Tell God you're giving it to him, and you need his help."

Give 10-20 seconds of silence.



Leader: Say: “Thank God that his plans are better than your plans. Thank him that he is all-loving—he loves you enough to do what’s best for you... that he’s all-knowing—and knows what’s truly best for you, and that he’s all-powerful—he’s able to do what’s best for you. Receive his assurance that his ways are better, that he loves you, and you can trust him.

Give 10-20 seconds of silence.

Leader: Say: “Father, we confess that we’re content to know about you without really knowing *you*. We keep you at arm’s distance because we don’t want to give up our bad habits and bad beliefs in our lives. We see the cost and think we’d prefer to be in control. Thank you for your constant forgiveness through Christ, and for new mercies each day, to trade our disobedience for a better path. As we surrender to you, we ask you to reveal yourself to us in new ways that draw us close.

All: Amen.

What to practice for next time...

Week of Dec. 7: Enchantment

Week of Dec. 14: Petition

To access a digital copy of the experiments, use this QR code.

